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Rennert Vogel Mandler & Rodriguez Partner Thomas S. Ward Earns Appellate Board Certification from The Florida Bar

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021



Thomas S. Ward

Accomplished appellate attorney and commercial litigator now distinguished as board certified specialist in practice area

Rennert Vogel Mandler & Rodriguez, P.A. Partner, **Thomas S. Ward**, obtained his board certification in Appellate Practice from The Florida Bar. The prestigious certification identifies Ward as a lawyer with special knowledge, skills and proficiency, as well as a reputation for professionalism and ethics.

To become board certified in the area of Appellate Practice, a lawyer must have practiced for at least five years, served as lead counsel in at least 25 appellate actions and five appellate oral arguments during the five years immediately preceding application, completed at least 45 hours of approved continuing legal education in the area of appellate practice, obtained favorable peer review from appellate judges and practitioners, and pass a rigorous written examination.

“I am extremely proud to have achieved board certification and plan to continue serving the Appellate Practice Section of The Florida Bar,” Ward said. “This is a significant milestone in my career. I take the responsibilities that come with the certification to heart and look forward to setting a positive example for other appellate lawyers in the state.”

Ward focuses on commercial litigation and appeals and is admitted to practice law in Florida, New York, the District of Columbia, United States Supreme Court, United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and federal district courts for the Southern, Middle and Northern districts of Florida. He has authored appellate briefs that have been filed in the Eleventh Circuit, Florida’s Supreme Court and all five of Florida’s District Courts of Appeal. Ward has also argued before the Eleventh Circuit in Atlanta and Florida’s First, Third, and Fourth District Courts of Appeal.

Accordingly, he has many published opinions to his credit, including 14 over the past year. One thing that separates Ward from many other appellate attorneys is his experience as a trial lawyer in both state and federal court, having successfully first-chaired trials, argued dispositive hearings (evidentiary and otherwise) and taken countless depositions. This attribute provides significant additional value to his clients when handling commercial litigation cases. He is always preparing and laying the groundwork for a successful appeal, if one should become necessary.

Beyond the courtroom, Ward is currently serving as President of the Third District Court of Appeal Historical Society. Ward is also active with the Florida Bar’s Appellate Practice Section, having handled 11 pro bono appeals for its Pro Bono Committee. In those appeals, Ward represented guardians *ad litem* who had been appointed to represent the best interests of children in

“termination of parental rights” cases wherein the parents were deemed unfit. Ward concluded his second consecutive three-year term with The Florida Bar’s Appellate Court Rules Committee (“ACRC”) last year, having served his last two years as its Vice Chair. The ACRC is responsible for proposing new appellate rules and revising its current rules. Prior to entering private practice, Tom interned for the former Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, the Honorable R. Fred Lewis.

Ward earned his Juris Doctor at the University of Miami School of Law.

About Rennert Vogel Mandler & Rodriguez:

Rennert Vogel Mandler & Rodriguez is a Miami-based law firm in its third decade of operation. The firm’s attorneys are trusted advisors to their clients and zealously represent them in their daily business operations, including complex real estate transactions, commercial and real estate litigation, joint ventures, securities offerings, securities litigation and ad valorem taxation matters. Clients retain RVMR attorneys to develop practical solutions to their complex legal needs and the delivery of results in a cost-efficient and timely manner.