

**MICHAEL V. HARGETT**

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**WORK ADDRESS:**

Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A.

401 East Jackson Street, Suite 1500

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**DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT PRACTICE:**

I serve as general counsel for businesses and business owners. My more than two decades of experience support me in meeting each of my client's business legal needs and long and short-term objectives. I am dedicated to serving as the consummate corporate counselor who practices primarily in the areas of business litigation and dispute resolution and corporate transactional law, with a focus on real and intellectual property issues.

I reported to the Florida Bar on May 8, 2023, that over the prior five (5) year period 58.4 percent of my billable hours were in the practice of Florida real estate law, primarily in the areas of (a) Real Estate Litigation, (b) Commercial Real Estate Transactions, and (c) Commercial Leasing.

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

University of Florida Levin College of Law, J.D., 2007 *cum laude*, serving as competitor, coach and final four champion on the Justice Campbell Thornal Moot Court Team.

Clemson University, M.B.A., 1989.

University of Florida, B.S., Chemical Engineering, 1983.

**BAR MEMBERSHIPS AND DATES:**

Reg. Attorney, United States Patent and Trademark Office, 2012;

U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Florida, 2012;

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida, 2012;

U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Florida, 2009;

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida, 2009;

U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Middle District of Florida, 2007;

U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, 2007; and

Reg. Agent, United States Patent and Trademark Office, 2005.

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:**

Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A., October 2022 to present, Shareholder.

Successor in interest by merger to: Barnett, Bolt, Kirkwood, Long & Koche, August 2007 to October 2022, Shareholder.

I started my professional career in 1983 with Milliken & Co., a global manufacturer of chemicals, composites, floor coverings, and performance materials. I served as Plant Manager of several operating locations and as Director of Development of laminate composites. Following my career working in business management, I was V.P. of Operations of a worldwide tier-one automotive supplier and responsible for more than 2,000 employees. I gained direct experience in buying and selling companies and business units, making me uniquely qualified to overcome the complex legal challenges businesses face today.

**SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:** CLE - The 2024 Amendments to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure: The new Civil Rules Are Ready, are You? A seven-hour CLE produced by the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar, planner, moderator and speaker. Planning and preparation time spent was far in excess of 40 hours. [The 2024 Amendments to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure: The new Civil Rules are ready, are you? \(inreachce.com\)](https://www.inreachce.com/cle-the-2024-amendments-to-the-florida-rules-of-civil-procedure-the-new-civil-rules-are-ready-are-you/)

Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar, Speaker, Annual Legislative Update:

2024 “Synopsis of the 2024 Amendments to the Rules of Civil Procedure”

2022 “Change is Coming! The Supreme Court Workgroup on Improved Resolution of Civil Cases”

2020 “Florida’s Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act: Off Ramp on the Partition Highway”

2019 “Florida’s Adoption of the Uniform Interstate Depositions and Discovery Act”

Each of the above presentations ran from 20 – 30 minutes, planning and presentation time was typically 8 – 10 hours.

CLE “Advanced Topics Affecting Easements” November 2022, Presentation topic – “Adverse Possession of Easements” 11 hours planning and presentation time. Problem Study Committee of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar. [Advanced Topics Affecting Easements \(inreachce.com\)](https://www.inreachce.com/cle-advanced-topics-affecting-easements/)

CLE “The Practical Aftermath of the Florida Supreme Court Hayslip Opinion: What “Touches & Concerns” the Land?” February 2022 Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar. [The Practical Aftermath of the Florida Supreme Court’s Hayslip Opinion: What “Touches & Concerns” the Land? \(inreachce.com\)](https://www.inreachce.com/cle-the-practical-aftermath-of-the-florida-supreme-court-hayslip-opinion-what-touches-concerns-the-land/)

CLE “The Virtual Law Office” RPPTL Convention, June 2021, Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar.

Florida Bar Advanced Level CLE: “Piercing the Homestead Veil: Does New Case Law Expand Equitable Remedies Available to Creditors“ May 2017. Real Property Litigation Committee of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar. [The Florida Bar RPPTL Section - CLE Archives](#)

CLE “Landlords and Tenants in Bankruptcy” Landlord Tenant Law – Leases, Evictions, Litigation, and Settlements, Tampa Florida – Sterling Education Services, Inc., 2013, 2014.

LEGAL PUBLICATIONS:

“Piercing the Homestead Veil” ActionLine Summer 2017, a publication of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar, co-author.

BAR ACTIVITIES:

Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar, 2007-present:

Executive Council, 2016-present;

Working Group Leader, Strategic Planning Committee 2024;

Chair, Communications Committee 2022-present;

Co-Chair, Ad Hoc Rules of Civil Procedure Committee 2023-present;

Chair, Ad Hoc Rules of Civil Procedure Committee 2022-23;

Co-Vice Chair, Legislation Committee, 2023-present;

Co-Vice Chair, Ad Hoc Hayslip Committee, 2021-22;

Real Property Problem Studies Committee 2015-present;

Chair, Real Property Litigation Committee, 2018-22;

Co-Vice Chair, Real Property Litigation Committee, 2016-18;

Real Property Litigation Committee, 2015-present.

Examples and highlights of my tasks and accomplishments include:

- Evaluation, analysis and presentation of the Uniform Heirs Property Act, working closely with the Florida Legislature, the Uniform Law Commission, and Sponsoring Professor providing technical assistance in the revision and adoption of the Act in the State of Florida.
- Drafted legislation on multiple issues that became Section initiatives and were passed into law.

- Led Section analysis and responses to the Workgroup’s recommendations related to Amendments to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, drafted the Section’s Comments to the Florida Supreme Court, proposed amendments, spoke quarterly and presented at multiple CLEs related thereto.
- Identified, mentored, and developed multiple attorneys who have assumed leadership roles within the Section.
- Provided technical advice to the Florida legislature annually as a subject matter expert on behalf of the Section.

The Florida Bar, Business Law and Real Property Sections 2007-present.

The Florida Land Title Association, 2018-22

Hillsborough County Bar Association, Business Law and Real Property Sections, 2007-present

PROFESSIONAL RATINGS: The Best Lawyers in America®, 2020-25  
 Commercial Litigation  
 Litigation – Real Estate  
 Real Estate Law  
 Florida Super Lawyers, Rising Star, 2015-17

TEACHING ACTIVITIES: See Speaking Engagements Section above.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PRO BONO ACTIVITIES: See Bar Activities Section above for support of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar (“RPPTL”). I record hours supporting RPPTL in our firm’s billing system and such hours have averaged well over 400 hours annually for the past five years, with several years exceeding 500 hours.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES: Member, REAL-PAC, political action committee dedicated to real property issues in the State of Florida, 2015-present.  
 Board of Directors, RPPTL-PAC, political action committee dedicated to real property issues in the State of Florida, 2024.

OTHER MEMBERSHIPS: Member 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment - Rough Riders, Inc., Tampa Florida. This organization was formed for the purpose of creating and perpetuating a living memorial to the unique accomplishment of President Theodore Roosevelt and the members of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment known as "The Rough Riders."

**HONORS:**

Board Certified by The Florida Bar in Real Estate Law, 2013-present.

Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section, John Arthur Jones Annual Service Award Recipient, 2021-22, The JOHN ARTHUR JONES ANNUAL SERVICE AWARD is presented annually to one or two Section members who rendered dedicated and significantly outstanding service to the Section, and its varied programs, throughout the current year. In selecting the recipient of this annual award, the Section considers both the character and magnitude of the service furnished by the nominee throughout the year, and particular emphasis is given to the benefits which accrue to the Section and the lawyers of Florida as a result of such service. John Arthur Jones, past chair of the Section, embodies the outstanding service recognized by this Award. The name "John Arthur Jones" is synonymous with the term "Section Service."

The Best Lawyers in America®, 2020-25

- Real Estate Law
- Litigation – Real Estate
- Commercial Litigation

Florida Super Lawyers, Rising Star, 2015-17

**ATTACHMENTS:**

"Piercing the Homestead Veil" ActionLine Summer 2017, a publication of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar.

**PERSONAL:**

I was born on May 19, 1959, and live in Tampa with my wife, Holly. We have three children, Lora, William and Elizabeth, all of whom graduated from the University of Florida. Holly and I are parishioners of Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church in Tampa, Florida. I enjoy outdoor activities, whether in the Florida Keys or the mountains of Wyoming, and college sports, particularly the Florida Gators.

**WRITTEN MATERIALS:**

"Piercing the Homestead Veil" ActionLine Summer 2017, a publication of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar, co-author. [ActionLine-Summer-2017-Piercing-The-Homestead-Veil.pdf \(flprobatelitigation.com\)](#)

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