

LAURA J. VARELA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Phillips, Cantor & Shalek, P.A., Hollywood, Florida

August, 2009 to August, 2015

Litigation:

Commercial and business litigation, including real estate, commercial foreclosures, contract disputes, creditors rights in bankruptcy, business torts, employment, administrative, construction, injuries to reputation and business relations, trade secret and non-competition agreements, general corporate litigation including shareholder disputes (direct and derivative actions), officer and director liability and minority shareholder suits, personal injury and wrongful death. Responsible for all facets of litigation from initial client interview through filing and/or defending complaints, motion practice, discovery and depositions, arbitration, mediation, trial and appeal. Extensive client counseling in both litigation strategy and risk management.

Berman, Kean & Riguera, P.A., Fort Lauderdale, Florida

April, 2006 to August, 2009

General Commercial Litigation practice similar to above.

Proskauer Rose LLP, Boca Raton, Florida

May, 2004 to March, 2006

Associate Attorney

Employed in Boca Raton, Florida offices of 700 plus attorney national law firm, with offices in New York City; Newark, New Jersey; Washington, D.C.; Boston, MA; New Orleans, LA; and Los Angeles, CA.

Law Offices of Fred W. Mattlin, P.A., Boca Raton, Florida

March, 2003 to May, 2004

Associate Attorney

Litigation:

General civil litigation including construction, commercial, real estate, injuries to reputation, administrative, personal injury, contract disputes and business relations. Involved in all facets of litigation from initial client interview through filing and/or defending complaints, motion practice, discovery and depositions, mediation, trial and appeal. Lateral hire to Proskauer Rose with Fred Mattlin.

Brent G. Siegel, P.A., Gainesville, Florida

July, 1995 to April, 2003

Associate Attorney

Litigation:

Commercial litigation practice as outlined above, with a portion of practice representing plaintiffs in personal injury matters.

General Legal:

Contract review and revision, including real estate contracts, construction contracts, and insurance contracts, non-competition agreements, joint venture agreements, settlement agreements, trusts and corporate documents including articles of incorporation, shareholder agreements, pre-emptive rights and dissolution documents.

Office Management:

Assisted partner attorney with all facets of staff hiring and management, including analysis of office staff needs, salary/benefit options, individual job duties/responsibilities and time management. Primary

manager of daily office functions and reporting to partner attorney regarding same.

Keller, Houck & Shinkle, P.A., Miami, Florida
Staff Attorney

March, 1995-June, 1995

Litigation:

Maritime and admiralty law practice. Assisted senior associate and partner attorneys with discovery and hearing preparation, witness interviews and general review, organization and maintenance of client files. Prepared status reports and other correspondence to clients.

EDUCATION:

University of Florida College of Law
Juris Doctor

August 1991 to May 1994

University of Florida
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, with Honors
Elected member of Phi Beta Kappa

August 1987 to May 1991

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS:

Licensure:

Member of the Florida Bar

Certification:

Certified to practice in Federal Court (including Bankruptcy Court)
Northern, Middle and Southern Districts of Florida
Certified to practice in numerous Bankruptcy Courts throughout United States

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Member of Board of Directors of Broward County Bar Association (July, 2012 to present)
Co-Chair of the 2015 BCBA Bench/Bar Convention to take place October 23, 2015
Stephen R. Booher American Inn of Court (August, 2009 to May, 2015)
Justice Teaching Project (2007-2009)
Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, Board of Directors (June, 1999-June, 2002)
Young Lawyers Division, Former Vice President of Gainesville Chapter (2000-2001)
Young Lawyers Division, Former Treasurer of Gainesville Chapter (1997-2000)
Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers-member (1996-2002)
James C. Adkins, Jr., American Inn of Court, member (1999-2002)
“BV” Rating in Martindale Hubbell (May, 2000-2014)
“AV” Rating in Martindale Hubbell (2014-present)