

# Ciara C. Willis

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## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

Florida Bar  
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

October 2016  
December 2016

## **EXPERIENCE**

**Bush Ross P.A.**, Tampa, FL

*Associate Attorney*

January 2019 – Present

- Practices in civil litigation in state, federal and administrative courts, primarily in matters involving business and contract disputes, community associations, real estate, employment litigation, franchise disputes, and other general commercial litigation matters.

**Dean Mead P.A.**, Tampa, FL

*Litigation Associate Attorney*

September 2016 – January 2019

- Handled a variety of complex commercial and trust & probate litigation matters in state, federal and administrative courts, with an emphasis on employment matters, non-competition, non-solicitation and confidentiality agreements, trademarks, copyright law, probate litigation, and a variety of contract disputes.
- Experience in all phases of litigation. Effectively represented clients in negotiations and court hearings, and assisted at mediations and depositions. Substantially assisted in trial preparations, substantive motions, and research of evidentiary issues in a successful two-week jury trial; responsible for getting a key document into evidence at trial. Drafted complex summary judgment motions and other successful motions in business and trust litigation cases.
- Developed new engagements with clients and took lead on several projects for major firm clients.

**Raymond James**, St. Petersburg, FL

*Law Clerk*

May 2015 – May 2016

- Conducted legal research on various topics, including FINRA and SEC matters, cyber security, trust and estates, contracts, employment law, bankruptcy, arbitration matters, property law, international law, and other matters.
- Drafted internal memoranda, letters to clients, and other documents, reviewed contract clauses, participated in meetings, office inspections, and conference calls. Responsible for updating FAQs and other company documents regarding the *Obergefell* and *Windsor* decisions on same-sex marriage.

**Florida Supreme Court**, Tallahassee, FL

*Judicial Intern to The Honorable Justice Barbara J. Pariente*

January 2015 – April 2015

- Worked forty hours a week at the Florida Supreme Court and primary duties included making recommendations on petitions for discretionary review and preparing memoranda on pending cases.
- Assisted in the editing process of opinions and orders, conducted legal research, summarized records of death appeals, and assisted with other various assignments.

**Bankers Financial**, St. Petersburg, FL

*Law Clerk*

September 2014 – December 2014

- Conducted legal research regarding labor and employment law, corporate compliance, mergers and acquisitions, trade secrets, insurance and annuities, and other various topics. Assisted in drafting contracts, legal correspondence, and policies.
- Under the supervision, effectively conducted a simple merger of the company and one of its subsidiaries.

**Florida 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit General Civil Business Court Division L**, Tampa, FL

*Judicial Intern to The Honorable Paul L. Huey*

May 2014 – June 2014

- Assisted in researching complex business questions & issues for Judge Huey and his staff attorney.
- Observed business court procedures and hearings, as well as general criminal and civil court proceedings.

## PUBLICATION

- Ciara C. Willis, Note, *Age is Just a Number; Not a Reason to Force Retirement*, 11 J. Int'l Aging L. & Pol'y. (forthcoming Spring 2019).

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

- April 2018, *Panelist*, Courtroom Etiquette Panel hosted by The Florida Bar YLD Law Student Division, Stetson Chapter.
- May 2018, *Moderator*, The Florida Bar YLD Basic CLE for Estate Planning & Probate.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors	2017 – Present
Law Student Division, <i>Co-Chair</i> , 2018 – Present	
Webinar Committee, 2018 – Present	
CLE Committee, 2017-2018	
Law Student Division Committee, Stetson Liaison, 2017 – 2018	
Legal Accelerator Committee, 2017-2018	
Federal Bar Association, Tampa Bay Chapter, <i>Member</i>	2017 – Present
Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers (HAWL)	2016 – Present
Young Lawyer Division, <i>Chair</i> , 2017 – Present	
Hillsborough County Bar Association	2016 – Present
Young Lawyer Division, Membership Committee, <i>Co-Chair</i> , 2017 – 2018	
Young Lawyer Division, Law Week Committee, <i>Member</i> , 2016-2017	
Stetson University College of Law Tampa Bay Alumni Leadership Committee, <i>Member</i>	2016 – Present
Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Emerging Leaders of Tampa Bay, <i>Member</i>	2016 – Present
Tampa Bay Business Journal Elite, <i>Member</i>	2016 – Present
Florida Association for Woman Lawyers (FAWL), <i>Member</i>	2013 – Present
Tampa Bay Inn of Court, <i>Pupil</i>	2014 – 2015

## EDUCATION

<b>Stetson University College of Law</b> , Gulfport, FL	May 2016
Juris Doctor, <i>cum laude</i>	
GPA: 3.5/4.0 Class Rank: 38/228 (top 17%)	
Honors: Dean's Full Tuition Merit Scholarship	
William F. Blews Pro Bono Service Award	
Activities: Alternative Dispute Resolution Board, 2014 – 2016	
Semifinalist, Robert R. Merhige, Jr. National Environmental Negotiation Competition 2016	
Second Place, William & Mary Negotiation Competition 2014	
Calvin Kuenzel Student Bar Association, 2L Representative, 2014 – 2015	
The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Law Student Division, Board of Governors	
Public Relations Chair, Executive Board, 2014 – 2016	
President, Stetson College of Law Chapter 2015 – 2016	
Treasurer, Stetson College of Law Chapter 2013 – 2015	
Florida Association of Woman Lawyers at Stetson (FAWLS), member	
<i>Journal of International Aging Law and Policy</i> , 2014 – 2016	
Editor-in-Chief, 2015 – 2016	
Stetson Ambassadors, Senior Ambassador, 2014 – 2016	
Study Abroad: The Hague, Netherlands, 2014	

## Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Bachelor of Science, <i>cum laude</i> , Finance	May 2013
Bachelor of Science, <i>cum laude</i> , Applied Economics	May 2013
Activities: Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, Scholarship Chair, 2012	
Rho Gamma Leadership Class, 2012	