



Molly J. Durso

Associate

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Molly J. Durso has devoted her legal career to defending personal injury and wrongful death claims. Her defense practice includes claims of medical negligence, long-term care facility/nursing home negligence, wrongful death, automobile negligence and premises liability. Molly's clients include insurance companies, government entities, private companies and individuals in civil lawsuits regarding medical negligence, wrongful death, bodily injury and insurance disputes. Molly also has experience handling first-party property insurance claims.

In addition, Molly has a breadth of real estate E&O defense experience managing and resolving claims on behalf of large national property management and brokerage firms as well as litigating disputes throughout the United States on behalf of real estate brokers, appraisers, title abstractors, home inspectors, insurance brokers, managing agents and broker-dealers. In addition to efficiently managing claims, she assists our real estate professionals in licensing and regulatory matters as well as navigating complex contractual issues, leases and agency agreements; performing due diligence related to acquisitions; helping to ensure fair housing and other applicable statutory and/or local code and regulatory compliance. Molly's experience in the insurance and real estate industries results in spot-on analysis of liability and exposure and effective resolution strategies.

A native of southwest Florida, Molly graduated from the University of Central Florida with a degree in Legal Studies with a specialization in Litigation and Advocacy. While in law school, Molly worked full time as a paralegal and earned three book awards before graduating with honors. She also participated in the Guardian *ad Litem* Clinic, and continues to volunteer as a guardian *ad litem* in juvenile dependency matters.

Long-Term Care Facilities and Nursing Homes

Molly represents owners and operators of long-term care facilities, assisted-living facilities

Services

- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Construction
- Long-Term Care
- Medical Malpractice & Health Care
- Specialty Professional Risks
- Product Liability, Prevention & Government Compliance
- Transportation

and nursing homes throughout Florida in lawsuits involving allegations of medical negligence, corporate negligence, administrative negligence, inadequate staffing, wrongful death and statutory violations of residents' rights.

Medical Malpractice

Molly's practice focuses on the defense of physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, medical groups, ambulatory surgical centers and hospitals in medical malpractice cases arising in all areas of medical specialty. She has developed innovative strategies for handling these cases from inception, which are designed to obtain the best possible outcome for her clients.

General Liability

Molly represents clients in various general liability matters ranging from automobile accidents to slip-and-falls. She assists clients in preventing, mitigating and managing exposure through risk, crises, and claims and litigation management, scrupulously attending to every detail in preparing to defend her clients.

Complex Tort

Molly has experience handling complex tort matters and catastrophic events. Complex tort litigation can touch on difficult or new legal issues and Molly is prepared to handle many pre-trial motions, large amounts of evidence and numerous parties. Molly works closely with each client to plan and prepare for the potential crisis, including developing a litigation plan and establishing 24/7 communications with the client.

Education

- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University College of Law (J.D., 2011)
 - cum laude
- University of Central Florida (B.A. Legal Studies, 2007)

Bar Admissions

- Florida

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Professional Affiliations

- Orange County Bar Association
- Florida Defense Lawyers Association

Publications

November 21, 2024

APA's In Session With Allied World Newsletter Features Sheehan and Durso Article on Red Flag Laws Targeting Mental Health Issues in Applying/Acquiring Firearms

In Session with Allied World for APA

May 3, 2022

Florida Supreme Court Rules on Admissibility of Plaintiff's Entitlement to Past Medicare Benefits in Personal Injury Cases

Client Wins

Sheehan and Durso Secure Summary Judgment for Hotel Franchisee in Trip and Fall Case

Noelle Sheehan (Partner-Orlando) and Molly J. Durso (Associate-Orlando) obtained summary judgment in the Second Judicial Circuit Court, Leon County, Florida, on behalf of Wilson Elser's client, a franchisee of a national hotel chain. In this protracted premises liability case, the plaintiff alleged that the steps at the hotel's main entrance constituted an unreasonably dangerous condition, causing her to trip and fall. Using the plaintiff's own deposition testimony, Noelle and Molly argued that the steps were not a dangerous condition but rather were an open and obvious feature of which the plaintiff was well aware, and that the subject incident was caused by the plaintiff's negligence rather than that of our client. The court was persuaded by Wilson Elser's arguments and granted the motion for summary judgment, ending more than 2.5 years of contentious litigation.