

Agenda

Understanding Florida Personal Injury Law *S. Aronfeld*

- The development of personal injury law in Florida
- Statutes and regulations that affect liability law
- An overview of liability law in different types of personal injury cases
- The law of damages
- Recent developments and anticipated changes in Florida law

Investigating and Evaluating a Personal Injury Claim *C. Goraczko
M. Levine*

- Obtaining information from/about the plaintiff
- Using (and not using) investigators
- Identifying and locating parties and witnesses
- Investigating/documenting the incident
- Interviewing witnesses
- Obtaining information on damages
- Identifying and obtaining other relevant information
- Helpful resources

Alternative Dispute Resolution and Mediation *P. Wechsler*

Litigating Personal Injury Cases *B. Galione*

- Drafting, filing and serving initial pleadings
- Participating in the discovery process
 - Drafting admissions, interrogatories and requests for production of documents
 - Responding to discovery requests
- Deposition practice: preparing for, attending and reviewing
- Working with expert witnesses
- Preparing for and assisting at trial

Handling Ethical Issues in Personal Injury Practice *K. Wagner*

- Maintaining client confidentiality
- Avoiding conflicts of interest
- Avoiding the unauthorized practice of law
- Communicating with clients, the court and opposing counsel



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Florida Personal Injury Practice for Paralegals
Live, Interactive Webinar - Monday, March 10, 2025

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Florida Personal Injury Practice for Paralegals

Live, Interactive Webinar - Monday, March 10, 2025

- Learn** about the development of personal injury law in Florida
- Understand** how to investigate and evaluate personal injury claims
- Work** on drafting initial pleadings and responding to discovery requests
- Get tips on** working with medical records and medical experts
- Identify** and avoid common ethical issues in personal injury cases

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Webinar Information

Online - Monday, March 10, 2025

Log into Webinar

8:00 - 8:30 am EDT

Break

11:45 am - 12:15 pm EDT

Morning Session

8:30 - 11:45 am EDT

Afternoon Session

12:15 - 4:00 pm EDT

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Faculty

Spencer Aronfeld, Esq. *Founder, Aronfeld Trial Lawyrs, Coral Gables, FL*
Spencer Aronfeld was born in Chicago, Illinois, and raised in Wichita, Kansas. Mr. Aronfeld graduated *cum laude* from the University of Miami School of Law in 1991. Upon graduation, he founded his own firm in Coral Gables, Florida. He has dedicated his life to representing individuals against corporate giants. Mr. Aronfeld is Board Certified as a Civil Trial Lawyer by both The Florida Bar and the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Board Certification was established in 1982 by the Supreme Court of Florida. It provides clients with the assurance in the selection of legal counsel. Mr. Aronfeld is an active and prominent member of The Florida Bar and has substantial experience in his areas of specialty cruise ship passenger accidents, car and truck accidents, slip and falls, personal injury cases, defective products, dangerous medical devices, and recalled prescription drugs. He has been recognized as one of Florida’s Super Lawyers and was named one of the “20 Most Intriguing Floridians” by *Florida Magazine*. In addition to The Florida Bar, he is admitted to practice in Federal Court, the Southern and Northern District of Florida, the District of Columbia and the United States Supreme Court. He is a member of American Justice Association, Miami-Dade Justice Association, Trial Lawyers for Public Justice and an Eagle Member of the Florida Justice Association. His firm is AV rated by Martindale Hubbell.

Carol Goraczko
Paralegal Manager with Stewart Tilghman Fox Bianchi & Cain, P.A., Miami, FL
Carol Goraczko has worked on civil litigation cases from inception through trial. Ms. Goraczko started her legal career doing medical malpractice defense, and found her home in plaintiffs’ personal injury working with clients who have been catastrophically injured or who have lost a loved one as a result of malpractice. In her more than 15 years of experience doing catastrophic personal injury, she has honed her skills and utilized her tech savviness to create compelling damage presentations that have contributed to the resolution of cases in the eight figures. Ms. Goraczko is the president of the Broward Chapter of the Paralegal Association of Florida, and she is a member of the Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section of the Florida Justice Association.

Michael Levine *Shareholder with Stewart Tilghman Fox Bianchi & Cain, P.A., Miami, FL*
Michael Levine represents people and families across Florida in catastrophic injury and wrongful death cases. Prior to joining Stewart Tilghman Fox Bianchi & Cain, he was a law clerk to US District Court Judge Paul C. Huck and an associate in the litigation group at Bilzin Sumberg. Mr. Levine graduated, with honors, from the University of Florida and *summa cum laude* from the University of Miami School of Law. During his eight and a half years with STFBC, he has secured over \$125 million in recoveries for his clients. Mr. Levine has served on the Board of Governors of the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, as co-chair of the Personal Injury Committee for the Miami Dade Bar Association and on The Florida Bar’s Civil Procedure Committee. In 2022, he was elected to the American Law Institute, a leading national organization producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and otherwise improve the law. He was proud to have played a part in drafting Andrew’s Law, an anti-hazing bill that made hazing a third-degree felony and included lifeline provisions, with the hope of preventing future deaths. He has lectured to college students across the state to educate them on the bill, which was passed unanimously by the Florida Legislature.

Peter L. Wechsler *Attorney and Founder of The Wechsler Law Group, LLC, Miami, FL*
Peter L. Wechsler is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil Mediator and practices in Pinecrest (Miami), Florida. Mr. Wechsler is also a Florida Supreme Court Qualified Arbitrator and concentrates his practice in civil litigation, mediation, e-discovery, electronically stored information (ESI), product liability, personal injury and wrongful death, insurance disputes, complex commercial litigation, motor vehicle crashworthiness, and accident reconstruction, and has been appointed by the courts numerous times as a Special Master in e-discovery disputes. He earned his J.D. degree from Suffolk University Law School in Boston. Mr. Wechsler is board-certified in civil trial advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy, and he is a member of The American College of Board Certified Attorneys. He has been consistently selected by his peers as a Florida Super Lawyer®, including 2016 - 2020 in personal injury and products defense. Mr. Wechsler finished his five-year term on the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, and is now an emeritus member. He has been appointed to the Professionalism Committees of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, and is a member of the Florida Supreme Court Standard Jury Instructions-Civil Committee. Mr. Wechsler is a fellow in the American College of e-Neutrals, a life member of the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine (AAAM), the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), the Florida Defense Lawyers Association (FDLA), the Brain Injury Association of Florida, the Society of Automotive Engineers of Japan (JSAE), and many other societies and organizations.

William P. Galione *Attorney with The Galione Law Firm, P.A., in Gainesville, FL*
William P. Galione has been in practice for more than 25 years. He practices in the areas of child injury, including child abuse and neglect, defective toys and equipment, and pediatric medical malpractice, in addition to personal injury, auto collisions and slip and fall accidents. Mr. Galione is a member of The Florida Bar (former member of Continuing Legal Education Committee, former member of Solo & Small Firm Section, former member of Trial Lawyers Section). He earned his B.S. degree from the University of Florida-Warrington College of Business and his J.D. degree from the University of Florida-Fredric G. Levin College of Law.

Kasey Wagner *Attorney, Farah & Farah, Jacksonville, FL*
Kasey Wagner is an experienced trial lawyer who has represented people injured by the negligence of others for more than 20 years. Specifically, she takes on nursing home neglect and abuse cases, along with medical malpractice and other catastrophic personal injury cases. Ms. Wagner has obtained multiple 7-figure verdicts, and her favorite part of her job is being in the courtroom. She earned her B.A. degree, *magna cum laude*, from Wake Forest University and her J.D. degree from Wake Forest School of Law.

Credit Information

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