

## PEGGY SMITH BUSH

SHAREHOLDER



### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Automobile Liability  
Premises & Retail Liability  
Product Liability  
General Liability  
Trucking & Transportation Liability  
Environmental & Toxic Tort Litigation  
Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation  
Amusements, Sports & Recreation Liability

### CONTACT INFO

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### ADMISSIONS

Florida  
U.S. District Court Middle District  
of Florida  
U.S. District Court Northern District  
of Florida  
U.S. District Court Southern  
District of Florida  
U.S. Court of Appeals 11th Circuit  
U.S. Supreme Court

### OVERVIEW

Peggy is a shareholder in the Casualty Department and an accomplished litigator, advocate, and counselor with more than 23 years of experience. She focuses her practice on defending corporations, large self-insureds, and public entities in cases involving negligence, transportation and trucking liability, and premises liability. Born and raised in North Alabama, Peggy is known for pairing strategic, results-oriented litigation with professionalism, civility, and a practical approach to problem-solving.

Peggy routinely defends claims arising from motor vehicle accidents, premises liability, product liability, negligent security, and general liability. Her broad experience also extends to commercial matters—such as breach of contract and indemnification—as well as code compliance, environmental toxic torts, crisis management, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, negligent hiring and retention, and ADA accessibility claims, including complex website accessibility disputes. She also brings more than a decade of experience in public entity defense, with extensive knowledge of Florida's Public Records Act, Sunshine Law, sovereign immunity, statutory limitations, fee-shifting provisions, and compliance and enforcement issues. She regularly works alongside risk management professionals on investigations, litigation, and risk avoidance strategies.

### EDUCATION

Dwayne O. Andreas School of  
Law (J.D., cum laude, 2002)  
University of North Alabama (B.S.,  
1984)

Peggy began her career at a respected Orlando defense firm, gaining valuable trial experience before becoming a founding shareholder of Southern Trial Counsel | PLC in 2010, where she also served as managing partner. Her legal career is rooted in a broader 40-year career working with and for businesses, which began in television and radio before moving into the financial industry, where she held Series 7, Series 6, and Series 63 licenses as a stockbroker. While working her way through law school, Peggy clerked for the in-house general counsel of an international restaurant company headquartered in Orlando. Today, she is recognized with Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating (5.0/5.0 Preeminent®), and is also a Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator and a Certified Claims and Litigation Management Professional.

Outside of the courtroom, Peggy has been married to her husband, Stephen, since 1985. They live in Orlando with their twin boys, Jack Hunter and Finn, and their calico cat, Harlie. Peggy treasures family time, enjoys music, cooking, and reading, and is dedicated to mentoring the next generation of attorneys.

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## HONORS & AWARDS

AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell®

The Best Lawyers in America®,  
Personal Injury Litigation -  
Defendants  
2023-2026

Florida Trend Legal Elite  
NOTABLE Women Leaders in Law  
2024

Barry University School of Law  
Outstanding Achievement Alumni  
Award, 2017

Florida Elite-Civil Trial by Florida  
Trend Magazine  
2013

Florida Super Lawyers Rising Star  
2010-2012

Florida Supreme Court Certified  
Circuit Court Mediator

Litigation Management Institute,  
Graduate 2013 (CLMP)

University of North Alabama 2023  
Alumni Award for Public Service

WTS International Executive  
Signature Leadership Program

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

### 98 Marshall Dennehey Attorneys Recognized in the 2026 Editions of The Best Lawyers in America® and the Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America

August 20, 2025

Marshall Dennehey is proud to highlight the firm's 98 attorneys who have been recognized in the 2026 editions of The Best Lawyers in America® and the Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America. Less than 6% of all practicing lawyers in the U.S.

[Read More](#)

### Marshall Dennehey Shareholders Recognized as Florida Trend Legal Elite NOTABLE Women Leaders in Law

Premises & Retail Liability

Product Liability

Workers' Compensation

December 2, 2024

Marshall Dennehey is pleased to announce that two of its Florida shareholders, Peggy Smith Bush and Heathie

[Read More](#)

### Marshall Dennehey Announces 2024 Shareholder Class And Special Counsel Promotions

December 19, 2023

Marshall Dennehey is pleased to announce that 10 attorneys have been elected shareholders of the firm effective January 1, 2024. Additionally, three attorneys have been promoted from associate to special counsel.

[Read More](#)

### How to Get Your Business Relationships – and Yourself – Back on Track After a Year of Isolation

Orlando

General Liability

February 23, 2021

## CLASSES/ SEMINAR TAUGHT

*Mock Trial, Trial Run, Tabletop Role Playing – Guilty or Not Guilty?*, Bus Industry Safety Council (BISC) Annual Summer Meeting, Orlando, FL, July 22, 2024

"Current Employment Law Issues in Trucking & Transportation Litigation," *AM Best Insurance Law Podcast*, June 4, 2024

*Rules of the Trucking Industry: Staying on Track!*, Transportation Lawyers Association (TLA) Annual Conference - Virtual, June 24th, 2021

## PUBLISHED WORKS

"How to Get Your Business Relationships - And Yourself - Back on Track After a Year of Isolation," *Orlando Business Journal*, February 23, 2021

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## **ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**

Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs (AFWC), 1992-Present

American Bar Association

Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers - Awards Chair (2019-2020)

Florida Association for Women Lawyers

Florida Bar Association - Standing Committee on Mental Health & Wellness of Florida Lawyers, Senior Lawyers Committee (2017-2025), Animal Law Section

The George C. Young First Central Florida American Inns of Court - Master Level

GFWC du Midi Woman's Club, 1992-Present

GFWC Oviedo Woman's Club, 2025-Present

International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) - In-House and Law Firm Management Committee; Product Liability Committee; Transport Committee

National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms

Orange County Bar Association - In-House and General Counsel Committee, Professionalism Committee, Mentorship Program

Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA)

Transportation Lawyers Association (TLA) - Co-Chair of Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee; Executive Committee

WTS International, Central Florida

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## **YEAR JOINED**

2020