

## MATTHEW R. WYKES

ASSOCIATE

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### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Automobile Liability  
Premises & Retail Liability  
Product Liability  
General Liability  
Commercial Litigation

### CONTACT INFO

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Orlando, FL 32801

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### ADMISSIONS

Florida  
2024

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### EDUCATION

Florida A&M University  
College of Law (J.D.,  
2023)

University of Central  
Florida (B.S., 2017)

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### YEAR JOINED

2024

### OVERVIEW

Matthew R. Wykes is an associate in the Casualty Department, dedicating his practice to representing clients' insurance defense coverage claims, specifically personal injury defense, premises liability, motor vehicle accidents, catastrophic injury and wrongful death actions.

Before joining Marshall Dennehey, Matthew worked as an associate at a national defense law firm, where he initially served as a law clerk for nearly two years. In his role as an associate, Matthew was responsible for various tasks including creating trial expert packages, drafting settlement evaluations and litigation plans, attending depositions, and conducting legal research and investigations.

He currently manages civil litigation and personal injury law cases from inception to resolution. Additionally, Matthew's experience with a national insurance provider has endowed him with valuable insights, enabling him to efficiently handle property and casualty insurance issues through thorough research, meticulous attention to detail, and effective communication.

Matthew earned his bachelor's degree in legal studies from the University of Central Florida in 2017, followed by his *juris doctor* from Florida A&M College of Law.

He is licensed to practice law in Florida.

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

### **From 'Brownish' to Baseless: Florida Court Reinforces Slip-and-Fall Standards**

**Orlando**

**Premises & Retail Liability**

**June 1, 2025**

Key Points: Defense Digest, Vol. 31, No.

### **Marshall Dennehey Bolsters Florida Casualty Practice With Addition of Litigation Trio in Orlando**

Automobile Liability

Premises & Retail Liability

General Liability

Product Liability

July 25, 2024

A trio of attorneys – two with extensive trial experience in casualty litigation matters – has joined Marshall Dennehey's Orlando office.

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## RESULTS

### Sex Trafficking and Abuse Claims Against Hotel Successfully Dismissed

#### **Catastrophic Claims Litigation**

#### **Premises & Retail Liability**

**July 25, 2025**

We were successful in having all claims against our client's hotel dismissed. This case involved deeply distressing allegations of sex trafficking and abuse by the plaintiff's mother, occurring when the plaintiff was a minor. The claims against our client's hotel were brought under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) and Florida law.

### Summary Judgment Secured in a Slip-and-Fall Premises Liability Case

#### **Premises & Retail Liability**

**June 19, 2025**

We were granted final summary judgment in a slip-and-fall premises liability case. The plaintiff alleged she slipped and fell on an unidentified wet substance while waiting in line at the defendant's convenience store. The plaintiff admitted she did not see the substance prior to her fall and did not know what it was, where it came from or how long it had been there. She testified that the wetness appeared to have been tracked in by other customers, noting their shoes were wet. We moved for summary judgment, arguing that the plaintiff could not meet her burden under § 768.0755, Fla.

### Victory Obtained at Trial in Case Involving Negligent Sidewalk Design

#### **Premises & Retail Liability**

**February 12, 2025**

We won a premises liability case involving allegations of negligent sidewalk design. The plaintiff, a quadriplegic who has been in a wheelchair since 1984, entered our client's convenience store using the designated wheelchair ramp without issue. However, upon leaving the

store, he inexplicably failed to use the same ramp and, instead, attempted to go directly over the curb, resulting in a fall and a fractured leg. During his deposition, the plaintiff admitted he successfully navigated the wheelchair ramp upon entering the store.