

JONATHAN L. WILLIAMS

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Office Location:



Overview

Jonathan L. Williams handles complex trial and appellate litigation in courts around the country, from state trial courts to the U.S. Supreme Court. He has litigated across diverse areas of law, including state and federal administrative and constitutional law, product liability, environmental, tax, gaming, and consumer protection. His work has led to successful client outcomes and national recognition.

Before joining the firm, Jonathan served as Deputy Solicitor General in the Florida Office of the Attorney General. There, he worked closely with senior agency personnel on strategic, communications, and litigation issues, with a primary focus on the environment, economic issues, taxation, and consumer protection. Jonathan drafted several merits and certiorari-stage briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court, and his work garnered a 2017 Supreme Court Best Brief Award from the National Association of Attorneys General. He also successfully argued two high-profile cases before the Florida Supreme Court.

Jonathan began his career with Williams & Connolly LLP in Washington, D.C., where he practiced business, environmental, and nationwide product liability litigation. Super Lawyers twice recognized him as a litigation Rising Star in the D.C. market.

Following graduation, cum laude, from the Duke University School of Law, Jonathan clerked for Judges Lee H. Rosenthal of the Southern District of Texas and E. Grady Jolly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. At Duke, he was an articles editor for the Duke Law Journal and a member of the moot court team. Jonathan received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University.

Education:

- Duke University School of Law
 - Juris Doctor, *cum laude*
- Princeton University
 - Bachelor of Arts

Admissions:

- Florida, District of Columbia, and North Carolina
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. District Courts for the Middle, Northern, and Southern Districts of Florida, District of the District of Columbia
- U.S. Courts of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Fifth, Ninth, and Eleventh Circuits

Honors / Accreditations:

- Presenter, The Endangered Apalachicola – A National River Conference (2018)
- Presenter, Florida Bar’s Practicing Before the Supreme Court seminar (2018)
- National Association of Attorneys General Supreme Court Best Brief Award (2017)
- Member, First District Appellate Inn of Court (2015-Present)
- District of Columbia Rising Star, Super Lawyers (2014, 2015)

Illustrative Recent Representations:

- Obtained unanimous reversal from the Florida Supreme Court of a lower-court opinion invalidating the Communications Services Tax and subsequently defended the decision in briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court. The challengers sought more than \$1 billion in tax refunds. *Fla. Dep’t of Revenue v. DIRECTV, Inc.*, 215 So. 3d 46 (Fla. 2017).
- Argued and won high-profile case involving the legality of slot machines outside Miami-Dade and Broward Counties before the Florida Supreme Court that, as one legislator told the Miami Herald, “could have had far reaching negative impacts to the state.” *Gretna Racing, LLC v. Fla. Dep’t of Bus. & Prof’l Regulation*, 225 So. 3d 759 (Fla. 2017).
- Successfully defended constitutional challenge to state law

prohibiting local minimum wages. *City of Miami Beach v. Fla. Retail Fed., Inc.*, No. 3D17-705, 2017 WL 6346787 (Fla. 3d DCA Dec. 13, 2017).

- Oversaw outside counsel in dispute between Florida and Georgia before the U.S. Supreme Court over Georgia water consumption's harming Florida's Apalachicola Bay.
- Led multistate coalition challenging EPA regulation before the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, leading to agency's reexamination of the regulation.
- Represented Florida Department of Revenue in effort to prohibit taxpayers from seeking refunds through consumer class-actions against businesses required to collect sales taxes.
- Represented multinational pharmaceutical company in product liability litigation in courts across the country and before the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation.
- Represented global manufacturer in environmental litigation.