

Cristobal A. Casal

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Office Location: Fort Myers

Cristobal A. Casal is the managing partner of the firm's Fort Myers office. Cris has worked in the civil defense field for the entirety of his career. His practice focuses in the following areas: Premises Liability, Automobile Litigation, Trucking Litigation, Construction Litigation, Products Liability, General Liability & Casualty, First-Party Property & Coverage and Intentional Torts. Licensed to practice in Florida and Illinois, Cris has successfully tried numerous cases to verdict in the fields of premises liability, motor vehicle accident liability and product defect litigation. He also has experience with rental car liability claims. Cris is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Northern, Southern and Middle Districts of Florida.

Cris also serves as a member of Conroy Simberg's Diversity & Inclusion Committee. He is fully fluent in Spanish as he was born in Ecuador but migrated to Miami at an early age. As part of his international background, Cris has visited more than twenty-five countries in four continents.

Cris earned his undergraduate degree in History and International Relations, from Northwestern University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Miami School of Law.

Practice Areas:

- Premises Liability
- Automobile Litigation
- Trucking Litigation
- Construction Litigation
- Products Liability
- General Liability & Casualty
- Intentional Torts
- First Party Property and Coverage

Admitted to Practice:

- Florida, 2005
- Illinois, 2005
- U.S. District Court, Southern District in Florida
- U.S. District Court, Middle District in Florida
- U.S. District Court, Northern District in Florida

Education:

- University of Miami School of Law, Juris Doctorate, 2004
- Northwestern University, Bachelor of Arts in History and International Relations, 2001

Professional Affiliations:

- Trucking Industry Defense Association (TIDA), Member
- Cuban American Bar Association



- American Bar Association
- DRI, Voice of the Defense Bar

Speaking Engagements:

- "Keep the Faith," Co-Presenter, October 2019
- "5 Hour Law and Ethics Adjuster Update Course," Co-Presenter, May 2019
- "Technology in Trucking Litigation: a Two-Edged Sword," Co-Presenter, Conroy Simberg Webinar, February 2018

Honors & Awards:

- Book Award in Contract Law at University of Miami, 2001

Representative Experience:

- *Karen Jones v. Freedland Moore, Inc. d/b/a Harbor Nissan*
Obtained a defense verdict in a premises liability case tried over 4 days in Charlotte County, Florida. Plaintiff alleged that the dealership allowed a dangerous condition consisting of an unidentified liquid to exist in the service area where customers would routinely drop off their vehicles for service. Defendant contended that it had a well-established set of policies and procedures in place for patrolling, inspecting, and maintaining the service area free and clear of any potential slip or trip hazards. The jury deliberated for less than 90 minutes before rendering its verdict of no liability against the Defendant.
- *Norma Brown v. Deer Creek Condominium Association:*
First chaired a jury trial in Broward County representing the landowner and property manager against allegations of a negligently maintained property in which Plaintiff suffered a bodily injury from a trip and fall event. The jury returned a defense verdict within thirty minutes of closing.
- *Rachel Vancelette v. Parc Place Development, LLC:*
Allegations of negligent maintenance and failure to warn of the existence of a dangerous condition as a result of a trip and fall over a decorative curb located in Miami-Dade County. The trial court granted summary judgment in favor of the Defendant which was subsequently affirmed by both the Third District Court of Appeals and the Florida Supreme Court.
- *Karma Cowan v. CFH Group, LLC:*
Allegations of negligent maintenance and installation of smoke detectors and fire alarms against the landowner and property management company after a fire in which the Plaintiff suffered severe bodily injuries. The trial court granted summary judgment on behalf of both Defendants prior to trial.
- *Lissette Juarez as Personal Representative of the Estate of Manuel Juarez v. Florida Power and Light, et. al.:*
Allegations of negligent maintenance and instruction on the use of scaffolding equipment used on a project site where decedent was electrocuted resulted in the trial court granting summary judgment on behalf of the client prior to trial.
- *Sandra Lewis v. Sun Time Corp.*

A five-day jury trial in Miami-Dade County representing the property owner/landlord. The jury returned a defense verdict within three hours of closing. The verdict was affirmed on appeal by the Third District Court of Appeals.

- *Lytrees Monroe v. Otto Industries, Inc.*

Five day jury trial in Miami-Dade County representing the manufacturer of an oversized plastic waste basket that alleged to have been negligently manufactured by his client. The jury returned a defense verdict within 20 minutes of closing. The verdict was affirmed on appeal by the Fourth District Court of Appeals.

Community Involvement:

- Casa Hispana at Northwestern University, Vice President, 1998

Languages:

- Spanish