

THOMAS F. BROWN

ASSISTANT OFFICE MANAGING ATTORNEY
CO-CHAIR, RIDESHARE LIABILITY PRACTICE GROUP
SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Rideshare Liability
Amusements, Sports & Recreation Liability
Property Litigation
General Liability
Product Liability
Trucking & Transportation Liability
Construction Injury Litigation
Catastrophic Claims Litigation

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Orlando, FL 32801

ADMISSIONS

Florida
2001

U.S. District Court Southern
District of Florida
2008

EDUCATION

University of Miami School of Law
(J.D., cum laude, 2001)

Rollins College (A.B., 1998)

HONORS & AWARDS

The Best Lawyers in America®,
Personal Injury Litigation -
Defendants
2023-2025

ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Florida Bar - Member, Workers'
Compensation Section

International Amusement and
Leisure Defense Association, Inc. -
Member

Orange County Bar Association

OVERVIEW

Tom is a member of the Casualty Department and serves as the Assistant Managing Attorney of the Orlando office. He devotes his practice to civil litigation defense, advocating for corporations in claims of premises liability, wrongful death and product liability. He has handled hundreds of cases on behalf of a variety of corporations, many involving catastrophic injuries. During his career, he also has handled cases involving employment law, labor law, negligent security, trucking and transportation, motor vehicle accidents, sexual abuse and workers' compensation. He also has experience handling cases involving allegations of mold resulting in personal injury and/or property damage. As part of his amusement and entertainment practice, Tom represents venues including theme parks, golf courses, water parks and retail stores. Tom is an active member of the International Amusement and Leisure Defense Association (IALDA).

Tom co-chairs the firms [Rideshare Liability](#) practice where he represents some of the nation's leading ridesharing companies, their independent drivers and insurance carriers. In this capacity, he assists in managing the unique legal issues that often arise with rideshare claims, including insurance coverage, direct and vicarious liability and statutory compliance challenges.

Tom began his career at a civil litigation firm in Miami where he worked with one of the presidents of the Florida Bar. In 2006, he moved to Orlando where he joined a statewide defense litigation firm. Tom continues to dedicate his practice to defending corporations in civil litigation here at Marshall Dennehey.

Tom obtained his undergraduate degree from Rollins College where he made Dean's List and President's List. In 2001, he graduated cum laude from the University of Miami School of Law. As a law student, he made Dean's List and earned the Dean's Certificate of Achievement as well as the CALI Excellence for the Future Award.

Tom is a member of the Florida Bar and is admitted to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Florida Court Holds Uber Is Not Vicariously Liable for Driver's Negligence in Fatal Accident

Orlando
Rideshare Liability
April 1, 2025

Florida's Third District Court of Appeals affirmed summary judgment for Uber Technologies, Inc. and affiliated defendants (collectively Uber), holding Uber could not be held vicariously liable for a driver's negligence. Case Law Alerts, 2nd Quarter, Apri

Federal District Court in California, Applying Florida Law, Dismisses Multiple Causes of Action Against TNC for Alleged Sexual Assault.

Orlando
Rideshare Liability
October 1, 2024

The plaintiff, a resident of Florida, claimed she was sexually assaulted by a Lyft driver in Florida. Case Law Alerts, 4th Quarter, Octo

Federal District Court in Florida Grants Summary Judgment for Insurer, Finding that Transportation Network Company's Policy Did Not Provide UM and UIM Coverage for the Driver

Orlando
Rideshare Liability
July 1, 2024

The defendant insurance company brought a declaratory judgment action to determine whether the policy it wrote to a Transportation Network Company (TNC) provided UM and UIM coverage to a TNC driver. Case Law Alerts, 3rd Quarter, July

Florida Senate Passes Bill Regulating Food Delivery Apps

Orlando
Rideshare Liability
April 1, 2024

The Florida Legislature unanimously passed a bill to regulate food delivery platforms such as Uber Eats and DoorDash.

Federal Court Dismisses Wrongful Death Action Against an Online Food Delivery Platform

Orlando
Rideshare Liability
October 1, 2023

The parents of a pedestrian brought an action for wrongful death and negligent infliction of emotional distress against DoorDash, alleging that a delivery driver negligently struck and killed the pedestrian while making a food delivery requested t Case Law Alerts, 4th Quarter, October 2023 is prepared by Marshall Dennehey to provide information on recent developments of interest to our readers.

CLASSES/SEMINARS 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

Sharing Economy: Carshare and Rideshare Litigation, Florida Defense Lawyers Association (FDLA) webinar, February 9, 2023

The Complexity of Rideshare Claims, AM Best Insurance Law Podcast, June 2021

Defending Catastrophic Injury Claims - How to Stack the Deck in Your Favor, Marshall Dennehey Florida Claims Symposium – Casino Royale, Tampa, FL, September 20, 2018

Legal RoundTable, Amusement Industry Manufacturers & Suppliers International Conference, Orlando, FL, 2015

Blitz on Damages: Challenging Medical Bills, Marshall Dennehey Florida Claims Symposium - *The Best Defense is a Good Offense*, Orlando, FL, September 17, 2014

Analyzing Slip and Fall Claims, Gallagher Bassett Services, April 2014, co-presenter

Legal Round Table, IAAPA Convention, 2012

Reducing The Risk & Severity of Claims, Athletic Business Conference, 2011

Roller Skating Association and International Laser Tag Association Convention, 2011

Legal Round Table, IAAPA Convention, 2011

PUBLISHED WORKS

"Defending Ride-Hailing and Car-Sharing Claims: Handling Accident-Related Lawsuits in a Shared Economy," *CLM Magazine*, January 2022

RESULTS

Successfully Resolved Highly-Publicized Wrongful Death Action in Florida

Amusements, Sports & Recreation Liability April 27, 2024

In a case that attracted international media attention, we successfully resolved a wrongful death action involving a 14-year-old boy who tragically fell from an attraction at a major entertainment complex in Orlando. Representing the ride's owner/operator, we were able to navigate the complexities of a concurrent criminal investigation, a State of Florida administrative review, and widespread media coverage.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Successfully resolved a wrongful death action involving a 14-year-old boy who tragically fell from an attraction at a major entertainment complex in Orlando, FL. Representing the ride's owner/operator, Tom was able to navigate the complexities of a concurrent criminal investigation, a State of Florida administrative review, and widespread international media coverage.

Obtained Judgment on the Pleadings on behalf of plaintiff's employer in a matter involving alleged intentional tort where demand was \$250,000.

Successfully argued a Motion to Dismiss for Fraud on the Court in a matter involving alleged electric shock where demand was over \$100,000.

Played an active role in the investigation, discovery, and motion phases of a product liability case that settled during deliberations in the second phase of trial where demand to jury was over \$500,000,000 but award against client after first phase of trial was less than \$50,000.

Prepared a successful Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on a negligent hiring and negligent supervision in a matter involving an employee that shot an innocent bystander, and the matter settled shortly thereafter.

Obtained defense verdict in workers' compensation case involving alleged permanent total disability.

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

O'Rourke v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., 65 So.3d 529 (Fla. 5th DCA 2011)

Edwards v. Cornelius, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 79587 (M.D. Fla. June 8, 2012)