

KAREN J. CULLEN, ESQUIRE

Karen J. Cullen was born in Miami, Florida. She obtained her Bachelor's degree from Stetson University in 1993, where she majored in mathematics, and graduated from the University of Miami, School of Law with a Juris Doctorate degree, *Cum Laude*, in 1996. Ms. Cullen was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1997. She is also admitted to practice before the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Cullen was awarded a rating of AV-preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, which is the highest possible rating in both legal ability and ethical standards.

Ms. Cullen joined the law firm in June, 1997 and became a partner in January, 2001. She is Board Certified in the area of workers' compensation law. Ms. Cullen has tried a substantial number of workers' compensation claims before judges in the Central Florida area. She has prepared briefs and presented oral argument before the First District Court of Appeal on workers' compensation matters. She and the firm also have experience perfecting the recovery of third-party liens pursuant to Section 440.39, Florida Statutes.

Ms. Cullen has gained significant experience in the defense of cases involving Sections 112.18 and 112.181, Florida Statutes (the statutory presumptions applicable to Firefighters, Law Enforcement Officers, Correctional Officers and/or Emergency Rescue or Public Safety Workers). Ms. Cullen's experience with presumption claims ranges from the initial 120 day investigation stage all the way through the trial and appellate phases. She has also lectured extensively on the handling of claims involving the statutory presumptions.

She is a member of the planning committee for the annual Florida Bar Workers' Compensation Forum, a member of the Orange County Bar Association, the Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers (CFAWL), the Risk and Insurance Management Society, Inc. (RIMS) and Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA). Ms. Cullen has been selected to serve as executive council member of the Workers' Compensation Section of the Florida Bar from July 2014 – July 2017.