

Melody B. Lynch

SHAREHOLDER

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Melody Lynch focuses her practice on probate, trust & fiduciary litigation, contested guardianships, healthcare and complex business disputes. Her MBA complements her law degree when she analyzes financial statements and handles other complicated issues involving assets.

A significant portion of Melody's practice is devoted to resolving conflicts among family members and other estate beneficiaries, fights over missing assets and property ownership, claims by or against fiduciaries, guardianship challenges, and other proceedings requiring the interpretation of wills and trusts. She frequently helps charitable organizations, foundations, trustees and other institutional beneficiaries of large estates navigate the probate process. Whether in or out of the courtroom, Melody handles these delicate – and often emotional – issues not just with legal proficiency but with compassion as well.

Melody's experience extends to other business disputes too, particularly in the employment law arena with matters involving restrictive covenants as well as non-compete and non-disclosure agreements. She has protected employers in a wide range of industries, including medical devices, pest control, physicians and physician practices.

In addition, she is a Guardian ad Litem for the Legal Aid Society where she represents the interests of abused and neglected children. She also is a pro bono attorney for Seniors First where she represents the interests of indigent elderly wards.

The court room isn't the only stage on which Melody has appeared. Before pursuing her career in law, Melody attended college on a ballet scholarship and was an apprentice dancer with a professional ballet company. A native of Orlando, her passion for both the arts and the area informs her leadership roles in the Central Florida community. She serves as president of the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, was named to the prestigious *Orlando Business Journal's* "40 under 40" list, and was awarded the Presidential Leadership Award by the Orange County Bar Association.

Practices & Industries

Probate & Estate Litigation

Labor & Employment Law

Healthcare

Guardianship

Business Litigation

Arts & Cultural Institutions

Litigation

Private Wealth

Trade Secrets

Intellectual Property

Admissions

Florida

District of Columbia

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Education

- Stetson University College of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2007
- Stetson University, M.B.A., 2007
- Butler University, B.S., *cum laude*, 2002

Experience

Employment

- Represents large privately held, family-owned company with over 2,000 employees in labor and employment matters pertaining to non-competition agreements, non-solicitation agreements, and other contractual disputes.
- Represented a medical device sales executive in a non-competition dispute with former employer, achieving a favorable resolution that permitted client to continue working for new employer in same territory during restrictive covenant period.

Guardianship

- Represented out-of-state family member in contested guardianship dispute that resulted in client being appointed as plenary guardian for duration of ward's life.
- Established minor guardianship for child suddenly orphaned by tragic loss of parent and later assisted with relative adoption for the family.

Healthcare

- Successfully defended major hospital system in \$100-plus million litigation related to partnership dispute concerning ambulatory surgery center.
- Negotiated amicable resolution of non-compete litigation involving specialist physician involving former hospital group employer.
- Defended emergency room physician and hospital system in defamation lawsuit, leading to complete dismissal of all claims by plaintiff without recovery.

Probate & Trust

- Represented a major hospital foundation and achieved a favorable resolution in a probate dispute concerning an end-of-life caregiver who made changes to the deceased's accounts in an attempt to alter the disposition of his assets from the hospital foundation to the caregiver.
- Successfully defended personal representative and co-trustees in one of the largest trust and estate litigation matters in Florida history involving hundreds of millions of dollars in assets owned by a well-renowned and highly accomplished entrepreneur, restaurateur, and developer.

Recognitions

- Notable Women Leaders in Law, *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite, 2023
- *The Best Lawyers in America* guide, Commercial Litigation, 2024; Litigation - Trusts and Estates, 2024
- Women Who Mean Business, *Orlando Business Journal*, 2022
- Awesome Attorneys, *Orlando Family Magazine*, Trust & Estate Law, 2019, 2022
- Rising Star, *Florida Super Lawyers*, 2010-2021
- Elizabeth Susan Khoury Guardian ad Litem Award of Excellence, Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, 2019

- Presidential Leadership Award, Orange County Bar Association, 2018
- Emerging Leader, AFP National Philanthropy Day, 2017
- 40 Under 40, *Orlando Business Journal*, 2016
- Florida Legal Elite Up & Comer, *Florida Trend Magazine*, 2011-2012, 2014, 2016
- New Attorney Award of Excellence, Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, 2012
- Young Lawyer Pro Bono Award of Excellence, Orange County Bar Association, 2011
- National Order of Barristers
- Federal Judicial Intern, Honorable Mark A. Pizzo, U.S., Magistrate Judge Middle District of Florida
- Anthony Battaglia Excellence in Leadership Award, Stetson University College of Law
- Moot Court Board, Stetson University College of Law
- Trial Team, Stetson University College of Law
- Ninth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Merit Award

Community Activities

- Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, President, Board of Directors, Executive Committee
- Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Former President, Board of Directors
- Children's Home Society (Central Florida Region), Former Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, Past Donor Relations Committee Chair
- Lake Highland Preparatory School, Elevate Highlanders Campaign Cabinet, Alumni Board of Visitors, Co-Chair, Heart of a Highlander
- Frederick Leadership Initiative, Former Chair
- Legal Aid Society, Guardian ad Litem
- Seniors First, Pro bono guardianship attorney and guardianship of the property instructor
- Leadership Orlando, Class 94
- First Presbyterian Church of Orlando, Elder
- College Park Methodist Church, Child Development Center, Board of Directors
- Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Circle Member
- Central Florida Partnership, Young Professionals Advisory Council, Inaugural Member
- United Arts of Central Florida, SmARTboards Graduate

Professional Certifications & Memberships

- ABA Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section's Ethics and Malpractice Committee, Vice Chair
- Ninth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee, Chair
- Federal Bar Association, Orlando Chapter, Board of Directors, Past Vice President of Programs
- American Bar Association
- The Florida Bar
- Orange County Bar Association, Bench Bar Board of Directors

- Stetson Lawyers Association Advisory Council

News

Three Lowndes Attorneys Recognized Among *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite Notable Women Leaders in Law
12.02.2023 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Best Lawyers Recognizes 49 Lowndes Attorneys in 2024, Three Named Lawyer of the Year
08.17.2023 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

46 Lowndes Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers* in 2023
08.18.2022 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

14 Lowndes Attorneys Named to *Orlando Family Magazine's* "Awesome Attorneys 2022"
02.15.2022 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Melody Lynch Featured on *Second Act Stories* about Her Journey from Ballet to Law
07.07.2021 | MEDIA MENTION

Lowndes Attorney Melody Lynch Named President of Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra
07.06.2021 | PRESS RELEASE

22 Lowndes Attorneys Named 2020 Florida Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
06.04.2020 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Lowndes Advises Property Markets Group on \$200+M Tri-tower Project in Downtown Orlando
05.07.2020 | PRESS RELEASE

29 Lowndes Attorneys Named 2019 Florida Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
05.29.2019 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Melody Lynch Nominated to Serve As Chair of the Ninth Circuit Pro Bono Committee
12.05.2018 | PRESS RELEASE

Tower Tiff: Appeal Over Proposed \$200M+ Downtown Project Reaches Conclusion
11.29.2018 | MEDIA MENTION

Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra Board of Directors Names Dr. Mary Palmer President
07.16.2018 | MEDIA MENTION

Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed Attorneys Rated 2018 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
06.18.2018 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Melody Lynch Named Vice President and President-Elect of the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra
06.05.2018 | PRESS RELEASE

Shareholder Melody Lynch Speaks at American Bar Association's Business Law Section Spring Meeting
04.19.2018 | PRESS RELEASE

Seven Lowndes Attorneys Honored With Inaugural Ninth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Merit Award
09.23.2017 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Association of Fundraising Professionals Names Melody Lynch a 2017 National Philanthropy Day Emerging Leader
08.22.2017 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Shareholder Melody Lynch Named President of the Orange County Bar Association Legal Aid Society
06.20.2017 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed Attorneys Rated 2017 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
06.01.2017 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Publications

Protecting Elderly Loved Ones: The Role of Guardianship Practices
04.03.2024 | ARTICLE

Florida Senate Considers Proposal Mandating Disclosure of Employment Contracts to Employees
10.09.2023 | ARTICLE

All Eyes on Oher: The Crucial Role of Quality Legal Counsel for Proposed Wards in Guardianship Cases
08.16.2023 | ARTICLE

NLRB Has “No Chill” When it Comes to Non-Competes
06.01.2023 | ARTICLE

FTC Seeks Ban on Non-Competes
01.13.2023 | THE EMPLOYER LAWYERS BLOG

President Biden Signs Executive Order Targeting Non-Competes
07.15.2021 | ARTICLE

Biden Administration Targets Non-Competes
07.08.2021 | ARTICLE

Florida’s Elective Share: Just What the Disinherited Spouse Needed
05.25.2021 | ARTICLE

Florida’s Consumer Privacy Law Fails to Pass
05.03.2021 | ARTICLE

Update Your Privacy Policy Now to Avoid Costly Penalties
04.05.2021 | LOWNDES TECH BLOG

Florida Privacy Bill and Your Consumer Data
03.31.2021 | LOWNDES LEGAL TALK

Handling a Virtual Deposition
09.30.2020 | LOWNDES LEGAL TALK

Preparing for a Virtual Deposition
09.16.2020 | LOWNDES LEGAL TALK

A Dangerous Curve Ahead: Access to Florida Guardianship Proceedings at Risk
09.09.2020 | ARTICLE

Facial Recognition: What You Need to Know Now
07.15.2020 | ARTICLE

5 Advantages to Mediation by Video Conference

06.25.2020 | ARTICLE

Three Documents You Must Have to Protect Your Family During the COVID-19 Crisis and Beyond

06.08.2020 | ARTICLE

Protecting Your Trade Secrets in a COVID-19 World

04.16.2020 | ARTICLE

Department of Elder Affairs Issues Guidance for Guardians in Light of COVID-19

03.31.2020 | ARTICLE

Are Employment Agreements Still Valid During a Pandemic?

03.27.2020 | ARTICLE

Top 3 Tips to Protect Your Loved Ones in the Wake of the Rebecca Fierle Guardianship Scandal

09.04.2019 | ARTICLE

Worried That a Sizeable Estate or Trust Gift Was Procured by Undue Influence?

05.30.2019 | ARTICLE

Mental Capacity: An Easy Challenge Or A Tough Road?

05.15.2019 | ARTICLE

Life Changing Alzheimer's Or Dementia Diagnosis? 3 Ways Guardianships Can Bring Stability to Your Family

02.07.2019 | ARTICLE

Step-Parent Adoption – Time to Take the Plunge?

01.31.2019 | ARTICLE