

Kenneth L. Connor



Biographical Sketch

Ken Connor is an experienced civil trial attorney based in Leesburg, Virginia and practicing around the nation. He has been included among *The Best Lawyers in America*. In 2004, he was recognized by *Florida Trend* as one of Florida's "Legal Elite"—among the top 1.6% of Florida attorneys, and in 2007, he was recognized by the *Washingtonian* magazine as one of the D.C. area's top attorneys.

Ken has represented clients in a wide variety of legal matters against major automobile manufacturers, railroad companies, nursing homes, and other healthcare enterprises. His clients have included members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, corporate executives, professional athletes, lawyers and doctors, as well as the unemployed and impoverished, and the demented and disabled.

Ken has long been in the foreground of issues involving the sanctity and dignity of human life. Highlights of his lifetime of advocacy include his past service as President of the Family Research Council, and his current chairmanship of [The Center for a Just Society](#), a non-profit organization whose mission is to advance and defend the Judeo Christian principles of human dignity and social justice in law, policy and the public square. He was a member of Florida's Task Force on the Availability and Affordability of Long Term Care; a member of the Florida Governor's Constituency for Children; a Commissioner on Florida's Constitution Revision Commission, where he was recognized as "Most Effective in Debate"; and Chairman of the State of Florida Commission on Ethics. Ken has testified before House and Senate committees in the U.S. Congress on a variety of matters relating to long term care.

In 1994 he ran as a Florida gubernatorial candidate with running mate and long-time friend, Mel Martinez, who now represents Florida in the U.S. Senate. During the campaign, Ken was featured in an article by The Miami Herald, "[Ken Connor: He Wins Big and He Gives Big.](#)"

Ken was the lead attorney representing Gov. Jeb Bush in defense of "Terri's Law," the legislation named for [Terri Schiavo](#). Governor Bush also appointed Ken to serve as a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging, a conference that meets every 10 years to make policy recommendations to the President and to Congress for additional research and action in the field of aging. Additionally, Ken served as a member of the panel in the discussion of [Ethics in America](#), a feature presentation shown on PBS (click on the VoD button beside the program titled, "Three Farewells: Medicine & the End of Life." "Three Farewells" is a production of Fred Friendly Seminars, at www.FredFriendly.org).

Throughout his professional life Ken has been a voice in the nation's media, including appearances on ABC's "Nightline," "Primetime," and "World News Tonight," NBC's "Nightly News," CBS' "Evening News," PBS' "Newshour," as well as many cable programs such as FOX's "O'Reilly Factor," "Hannity & Colmes," "On the Record with Greta van Susteren," CNN's "Inside Politics," MSNBC's "Hardball with Chris Matthews," and many others.

In addition to his book, [*Sinful Silence: When Christians Neglect Their Civic Duty*](#), Ken has written many articles on law, theology and public policy, which have appeared in a variety of publications such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Washington Times, USA Today, Miami Herald, and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and he has been quoted in articles by newsmagazines such as Newsweek, TIME, and Business Week.

Professional Background

Shareholder, Marks Balette & Giessel, January 2009 - present

Of Counsel/Associate, Wilkes & McHugh, P.A., March 1998 - October 2008

President, Family Research Council, September 2000 - July 2003

President, Kenneth L. Connor, P. A.. January 1979 – present; d/b/a Connor & Gwartney, 1996-1998; d/b/a Connor & Associates, 1988-1996

Partner, Connor & Martinez, 1986-1988

Partner, Gibson, Connor, Lilly & Dodson, 1973-1985

Admissions

Admitted to The Florida Bar (September 1972)

Admitted to State Bar of Texas (October 1999)

Admitted to Tennessee Bar (July 2000)

Admitted to Mississippi Bar (November 2003)

Admitted to District of Columbia Bar (January 2004)

Admitted to State Bar of Arizona (June 2004)

Admitted to Virginia State Bar (November 2004)

Admitted to Pennsylvania Bar (July 2005)

Admitted to State Bar of Georgia (February 2006)

Admitted to Kentucky Bar (August 2007)

Admitted to Massachusetts Bar (November 2007)

Board Certifications

Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer, Florida Bar, 1984-present

Board Certified Civil Trial Advocate, National Board of Trial Advocacy, 1999-present
Virginia has no procedure for verifying certifying organizations.

Education

Florida State University College of Law, Juris Doctor, cum laude (1972)

Florida State University, B. A. (1969)

Chipola Junior College, A. A., cum laude (1967)

Professional Contributions

Delegate, White House Conference on Aging (2005)

Member, Florida Task Force on the Availability and Affordability of Long-term Care (2000-2001)

Member, Florida Constitution Revision Commission; Chairman, Select Committee on Sovereign Immunity; Vice-Chairman, Declaration of Rights Committee (1997-1998)

Member, Governor's Partnership for Adoption, Florida (1996-1998)

Member, Federal Judicial Advisory Commission of Florida, 1989-1992

Member, Civil Trial Law Certification Committee of The Florida Bar (1989)

Member, Florida Justice Task Force (1988-1992); Special Counsel (1988-1989)

Member, Governor's Constituency for Children, State Council, Florida (1988-1990)

Faculty, Florida State University College of Law, Adjunct Professor (1983, 1986, 1987);
National College of Trial Advocacy, Association of Trial Lawyers of America (1988)

Member, State of Florida Commission on Ethics (1984-1986); Chairman (1985-1986)

President, Polk County Trial Lawyers Association (1982-1984)

Member, Continuing Legal Education Committee of The Florida Bar (1979-1984)

Member, Board of Governors, Young Lawyers Section of The Florida Bar (1977-1980)

Notable Verdicts and Settlements

STATE BAR RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT REQUIRE ALL ATTORNEYS TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AND DISCLAIMER TO THEIR CASE RESULTS.

SETTLEMENTS AND VERDICTS IN ALL CASES DEPEND ON VARIOUS FACTORS AND CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH ARE UNIQUE TO EACH CASE. THEREFORE, PAST RESULTS IN CASES ARE NOT A GUARANTEE OR PREDICTION OF SIMILAR RESULTS IN FUTURE CASES WHICH MARKS BALETTE & GIESSEL MAY UNDERTAKE.

Myers v. NHC Healthcare/McMinnville (02/21/07) \$32,737,298 (reduced post trial to \$4,265,700; appeal pending)

Richards v. Beverly Enterprises, Inc. (05/04/06) \$20 Million

Edwards v. Mariner Health Care, et al (12/18/03) \$6.5 Million (reversed; retrial pending)

Collins v. Perry Health Facility (03/31/00) \$12 Million

Crook v. Mariner Post-Acute Network (03/11/04) \$10 Million

Groves v. Beverly Enterprises, Inc. (09/16/04) \$9.7 Million

Butler v. Brian Health Care Center, et al (03/22/99) \$15 Million

Lowe v. Beverly Enterprises, Inc. (05/21/96) \$2.7 Million

Campbell v. Payton Health Care Facilities, Inc., \$2,200,000

Docherty v. Field, \$1,700,000

H. Mauk & Sons, Inc. v. Mid-State Truss Company, Inc., et al, \$1,281,993

Bradley v. Daniel L. Lee, et al, \$1,250,000

Pawlicki v. Bylsma, \$2,500,000

Sanchez v. Hernandez and Costello, \$4,025,000

Conner v. Kenyon, \$1,023,939

Stanley v. Leon County School Board, \$1,413,254

For more information about these cases, click on [Our Results](#).

Publications

Sinful Silence: When Christians Neglect Their Civic Duty, co-authored with John Revell, Ginosko Publishing, Inc. (2004)

Magazines/Journals

“Reaching Conservative Jurors,” *Trial* (October 2007)

“Connor on Schiavo,” *Stetson Law Review* (Fall 2005)

“That Chart Can Say Volumes: Nursing Home Documentation is Key to Exposing Abuse and Neglect,” *The Legal Times* (June 27, 2005)

“Shattered Myths, Lessons Learned,” *NRB Magazine* (November 2001)

“Morality and the Rule of Law,” *The Journal of the James Madison Institute* (March/April 1999)

“A Bad Idea Gets Worse,” *The Journal of the James Madison Institute* (September/October 1998)

“Improving the Legislators’ Vision,” *Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers Journal* (January 1996)

“Republican Tort Reform: Politics over Principle,” *Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers Journal* (December 1995)

“Truth: Guardian of Liberty,” *Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers Journal* (November 1995)

“The Founding Fathers Speak for Themselves,” *Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers Journal* (October 1995)

“Bashing of Religious Conservatives Undermines Democracy,” *Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers Journal* (September 1995)

“Helping the Injured after the Revolution,” *Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers Journal*, (August 1995)

“But Lord, My Lawyer Said It Would Be Okay,” *Tabletalk*, April 1993; *Playing God*, Baker Books (1997)

“Why Americans Really Hate Politics” (a series of five articles), *The Christian American* (1991-1992)

“Nursing Home Tort Victims: Rights and Remedies,” *Florida Bar Journal*, Vol. LXIII, No. 22, with H. Glenn Boggs (February 1989)

“Ethics and Law,” *Tabletalk* (August 1985)

Lectures/Panel Discussions

“How to Motivate Conservative Jurors,” Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association, 2009

“Motivating Your Jury from Day One,” New Jersey Association of Trial Lawyers, 2009

“Persuading the Conservative Juror,” PESI Absolute Litigators Conference, 2009

“The Nursing Home Case - Establishing the Theme, Communicating the Message, Closing the Deal in Changing Times,” PESI Absolute Litigators Conference, 2009

“Medicare Payment for Never Events,” Health Watch, USA, (2008)

“Valuing the Elderly—The Important Role of Nursing Home Litigators,” Tennessee Association for Justice (2008)

“Connecting with the Values of the Conservative Juror in Personal Injury Cases,” American Association for Justice (2008)

“Obtaining Damages: Wrongful Death of Nursing Home Patients,” American Association for Justice (2007)

“The Winning Message in your Opening Statement and Closing Argument,” American Association for Justice (2007)

“Persuading Conservative Juries,” American Association for Justice (2007)

“Voir Dire – Deselecting Jurors,” American Association for Justice (2007)

“Sending a Message – Effective Trial Themes,” American Trial Lawyers Association (2006)

“Framing the Debate – Winning in the Court of Public Opinion,” Southern Trial Lawyers Association (2006)

“Consumer Perspectives on Medical Errors,” Harvard University, The Quality Colloquium – an Advanced Executive Education Course on Patient Safety, Healthcare Quality Enhancement and Medical Errors Reduction (2006)

“Tort Reform and the GOP,” American Trial Lawyers Association (2005)

“Voir Dire in Nursing Home Cases,” Georgia Trial Lawyers Association (2005)

“Reflections on and Implications of Schiavo,” Stetson University College of Law Symposium, St. Petersburg, Florida (2005)

“Dynamic Demonstrative Evidence,” Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers (1999)

“Strategies to Avoid Lawsuits and Avoiding Legal Liability: Interactive Discussion,” VA Medical Center/Continuing Medical Education, University of Florida (1998)

“Medical Malpractice in Florida,” National Business Institute (1993)

“Preliminary Motions and Opening Statement Techniques,” The Florida Bar (1993)

“Emerging Issues in Biomedical Ethics,” Reformed Theological Seminary (1993)

“Procedural Technicalities: Filing Suit and Discovery, and Trial Techniques–Part II: Plaintiff’s and Defendant’s Perspective, Medical Malpractice in Florida,” National Business Institute, with Scott E. Gwartney (April 1993)

“The Government Made Me Do It–Preemption and Government Contractor Defense,” Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers (1989)

“Effective Opening Statements,” Association of Trial Lawyers of America (1988)

“Discovery Abuse Case Law Update in Product Litigation,” Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers (1987)

“Civil Trial Practice,” The Florida Bar (1987)

“Demonstrative Evidence in Medical Malpractice Cases,” Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers (1986)

“Demonstrative Evidence: Innovations in Proving Damages,” Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers (1986)

“Products Liability–Crashworthiness,” Stetson University College of Law (1985)

“New Frontiers in Products Liability–Air Bag Litigation,” Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers (1985)

“Intra-family Immunity,” Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers (1984)

“Handling the Crashworthiness Case,” Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers (1984)

“The Psychology of Persuasion,” Florida State University College of Law (1983)

“Federal Rules of Evidence–A Potpourri of Problems,” The Florida Bar (1983)

“Art of Advocacy–Preparation of the Case,” Hampton Seminars, Inc. (1982)

“Trial Techniques: A Nuts & Bolts Approach,” Current Practice Seminars, Inc. (1982)

“Preparation of the No-Fault Case–Plaintiff’s Point of View,” The Florida Bar (1982)

“Applicable Damage Statutes,” The Florida Bar (1980)

“Demonstrative Evidence,” Polk County Trial Lawyers Association (1979)

“Statutes of Limitation & Laches,” The Florida Bar (1978)

“Opening Statements and Demonstrative Evidence,” The Florida Bar (1977)

Panelist, discussion of Ethics in America, “Three Farewells: Medicine and the End of Life,” a Fred Friendly Seminars feature presentation shown on PBS (2006)

Panelist, White House Conference on Aging (2005)

Panelist, Bioethics Seminar, Schiavo Case Study, American Bar Association, Real Property Probate & Trust Law Section (2004)

Participant, Masters in Trial program, American Board of Trial Advocates (1999)

Panelist, "End of Life Care in Nursing Homes," Florida Commission on Aging with Dignity (1999)

Panelist, "Autonomy & Dependence, an Ethic of Care for the Elderly," Florida Bioethics Network (1998)