

Derrick R. Connell

Melbourne, FL
(321) 802-5038
dconnell@forthepeople.com

EDUCATION

Stetson University College of Law, Juris Doctor

Certificate of Concentration in Advocacy

Trial Team

Moot Court Board, Associate Judge

Leadership Development Certificate

Stetson University, Master of Business Administration

Valdosta State University, Bachelor of Arts - Political Science

Honors Program

Derrick R. Connell is the managing partner of the Melbourne and Titusville, Florida offices of Morgan & Morgan, P.A. Derrick's primary practice focuses on representing clients injured in serious automobile collisions, wrongful death, premises liability, general personal injury cases, and other forms of negligence. Derrick believes that everyone deserves the best possible representation no matter how big or small their case. Each of his cases is handled with the same focus and care.

Over the years, Derrick has obtained millions of dollars in verdicts and settlements for his clients. He is no stranger in the courtroom. Some of Derrick's recent verdicts include: $1.6 million (motor vehicle crash); $1.14 million (motor vehicle crash), $150,000 (trip and fall), $327,000 (auto negligence), $106,000 (motor vehicle crash), $75,000 (pedestrian accident), and $550,000 (auto negligence). Additionally, in what was said to be the first successful trial of its nature, Derrick helped his client prevail in a multi-week complex product liability trial against a major corporation. Derrick has secured excess verdicts in numerous motor vehicle collision trials. In addition to trial victories, Derrick has recovered millions of dollars in settlements for his deserving clients.

Derrick has been named Top 40 under 40 by The National Trial Lawyers for six straight years; named a "Rising Star" by Florida Super Lawyers magazine— an annual publication that recognizes the top 2.5% of the state's young lawyers; and given an AV Preeminent Rating by Martindale-Hubbell – this rating signifies that his peers rank him at the highest level of professional excellence for his legal knowledge, communication skills and ethical standards. In 2018, he was selected as a Top Ranked Lawyer by American Lawyer Media and Martindale-Hubbell.

Derrick is a member of the Brevard County Bar Association and the Florida Justice Association. He is a recipient of the Bronze Eagle Award, presented by the FJA; recipient of the Judge T. Mitchell Barlow Young Lawyer Professionalism Award; and is a past BCBA Young Lawyers Board Member.

Derrick, a Lanier County Georgia native, earned his Bachelor's degree from Valdosta State University, his Master of Business Administration from Stetson University, and his Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law with a Concentration in Advocacy. While in law school, Mr. Connell was a teaching



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assistant, Stetson Ambassador, Student Bar Association Member and recipient of the William F. Blews Pro Bono Service Award. Mr. Connell was honored as a recipient of the Victor O. Wehle Trial Advocacy Award, inducted into The National Order of Barristers and awarded the prestigious Edward D. Foreman Most Distinguished Student Award. In 2015, Valdosta State University presented Derrick with the prestigious Distinguished Alumnus award. As a member of Stetson's nationally ranked Trial Team, Mr. Connell was a two-time National Trial Champion. He first won the AAJ STAC, beating over 240 teams from law schools around the country. Then in 2009, Mr. Connell won the National Civil Trial Competition, where he was named the Best Advocate in both the preliminary and final rounds – a first for this event. He was also a Moot Court Board Associate Justice – winning the 2009 E. Earle Zehmer Moot Court Competition.

Mr. Connell was a Judicial Intern to the Honorable Judge D. Horrox and the Honorable Judge D. Demers, a Certified Legal Intern in The Sixth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office and a Legal Intern for the United States Attorney's Office, Middle District of Florida. Derrick is married to Kelly R. Connell and together they have two sons and daughter.

MEMBERSHIPS

- The Order of Barristers
- Florida Justice Association
- American Association for Justice
- American Bar Association
- Brevard County Bar Association
- The Stetson Lawyers Association

PRACTICE AREAS

- Car Accident Lawyers & Auto Accident Attorneys
- Wrongful Death Attorneys
- Defective Product Lawyer
- Personal Injury Lawyer

RESULTS

- Barnes v. Fitzpatrick, Car Accident (2015), $1,140,000
- Edwards v. Kyle, Car Accident (2017), $327,497



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- C. Bartley vs. LM General Insurance Company, Car Accident (2018), $160,000
- Valerie Cooper vs. Danielle White and State Farm Mutual Insurance Company, Car Accident (2019), $62,000
- Linda E. Bergen vs. Ted Landgraff, Car Accident (2018), $1,619,088
- Private Settlement, Car Accident (2019), $500,000
- Sluder vs. Smith and Health First, Inc, Car Accident (2021), $750,000
- Jessica Brassard vs. Travelers Insurance, Car Accident (2021), $987,820.50
- Private Settlement, Car Accident (2020), $1,000,000
- Jarvis Bush vs. City Electric, Car Accident (2021), $2,005,664.32
- Gonzalez vs. Kipp Cooper and Classic Plumbing of Brevard LLC, Car Accident (2021), $897,760
- Ricardo Madrigal vs. City of Palm Bay, Car Accident (2021), $416,000
- Richardson, Melissa-Jo vs. City of Melbourne, Car Accident (2021), $1,300,000
- Timothy Rubin vs. Grills Riverside, Car Accident (2021), $305,493
- Manuel Vieira vs. Dennis Payne and Seal Tight Roofing Experts, LLC, Car Accident (2019), $4,624,467
- Richard Moronez v. Walmart Stores East, LP, Personal Injury (2021), $164,764.96
- Nicole Kylin vs. Grills Riverside , Car Accident (2021), $357,979
- Carolin Adams vs. Guy Halgren, Car Accident (2019), $297,000
- Alec Moore vs. Sentry Management, Inc. and The Association at Royal Palms, Slip and Fall (2021), $898,720
- Moore, Alec v. Sentry Management, Inc., Slip and Fall (2021), $898,720
- Gordon, Vivian v. Jean Whittle, Car Accident (2022), $606,000



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- Wilson, Milton vs. Home Depot USA, Inc., Personal Injury (2022), $7,167,345
- Gabriel, Scott v. Rhonda Scofield and Sandra Burton, Car Accident (2023), $1,554,311.79
- Jessica Brassard v. Travelers Property Casualty Company of America, Car Accident (2021), $987,000
- Andres Gonzalez vs. Erick Sanz and State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, Car Accident (2021), $742,000
- Gordon, Vivian v. Jean Whittle, Car Accident (2022), $606,000
- Gail Pressley v Janelle K Galasso, Car Accident (2024), $1,100,000
- Chaires v. Cocoa Expo, Slip and Fall (2016), $150,000
- LAZARUS WRIGHT v. WAL-MART STORES EAST, LP AND JANNET WILKS, Slip and Fall (2023), $2,387,906.54
- Castillo, Angelica v.s. State Farm Mutual Auto Insurance Comp, Car Accident (2024), $1,964,725
- Spears, Nathan, Car Accident (2024), $250,000
- Alexis Hernandez v. Charles Rainier, Jr., Dog Bite (2024), $1,730,872
- Avraham, Ayala vs. Shaw, William, Car Accident (2024), $404,131.54
- Donnelly Jr., Patrick v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Ins. Co, Car Accident (2024), $574,162.97
- Lum, Randall v. Tammy Jester Johnson and Donnie Lee Johnson, Car Accident (2024), $2,144,511.16
- Maria Teresa Sanchez Bello, Slip and Fall (2024), $1,348,546
- Joseph Bunch v. Brevard Feed and Seed, Slip and Fall (2025), $500,000
- White, William vs. Amezquita, Jennifer, Car Accident (2025), $4,132,480.41
- Grant, Jonathan vs. Mariana Jr., Miguel, Trucking Accident (2025), $1,500,000
- Harp, Ronald vs. Arnoldy, Michael Allen, Car Accident (2025), $2,200,000



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- Manes v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, Car Accident (2025), $3,676,749.52
- Renfro, Laura v. Wal-Mart, Personal Injury (2023), $416,000
- Gillette, Danielle v. Archway International, Inc., General Liability (2025), $175,000
- Passley, Iona vs VF Kipling Warehouse, Personal Injury (2024), $1,250,000
- Carvajal, Alexander vs. Javiar Parra et al., Car Accident (2025), $5,460,072.51
- Helmes v. State Farm Automobile Insurance Company, Car Accident (2025), $1,729,082.33
- Manning v. State Farm, Car Accident (2025), $2,422,561.48
- Rattansingh, Bibi vs SDM Transport Solutions, Trucking Accident (2026), $4,713,327.31
- Phillippe, Kimberly vs CVMA Trucking, Car Accident (2026), $9,036,481.62
- Samet v. Kahn, Car Accident (2026), $1,824,040.11
- Campbell, Teshanna Vs. Williams, Rhett, Williams Paula & Williams, Zoe, Car Accident (2026), $1,188,757.80

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Top 40 Under 40 should have 2014, 2015, 2016
- Super Lawyers Rising Star 2015, 2016
- 2015 Distinguished Alumnus Award: Valdosta State University
- 10 Best in Client Satisfaction: American Institute of Personal Injury Lawyers – 2015
- AV Preeminent: Martindale-Hubbell
- National Association of Distinguished Counsel, Top One Percent - 2015
- The National Trial Lawyers: Top 40 Under 40
- Judge T. Mitchell Barlow Young Lawyer Professionalism Award, 2014
- Lawyer to Legacy 2011 Bronze Eagle Award, Florida Justice Association



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- Edward D. Foreman Award
- Victor O. Wehle Trial Advocacy Award
- 2009 National Civil Trial Competition: National Champion & Overall Best Advocate
- 2009 AAJ Student Trial Advocacy Competition, National Champion
- 2009 E. Earle Zehmer Moot Court Competition, Champion
- William F. Blews Pro Bono Service Award
- 2018 Top Ranked Lawyer, American Lawyer Media and Martindale-Hubbell