

David M. Snyder
Adjunct Professor
Attorney & Counselor at Law
Certified Mediator & Arbitrator

Teaching:

2006, Adjunct Professor, Media/Communications Law, USF-SP
2011-2013 Department of Journalism & Digital Communications (f/k/a Journalism &
2016-date Media Studies
2013-2016 Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, USF-SP, Dept. of Journalism &
Media Studies

MMC 2100 Writing for Mass Media
MMC 4200 History and Principles of Communications Law
MMC 4203 Communications Ethics
MMC 6612 Media Law Seminar
JOU 4950 Senior Seminar
JOU4181/6107 Public Affairs Reporting/News Coverage of Public Life
JOU 6709 Digital Media Law
MMC 6936 Digital Media Law and Ethics

2000-2013 Adjunct Professor, Communications Law, **University of Tampa**
Designed and taught 200-level law course 2000-2005
Re-designed course to 300-level communications degree credit and
taught twice yearly 2006-2013, save for Fall 2011.
1999-2005 Adjunct Professor, Communications Law, **Florida Southern College**
Designed and taught 400-level required law course for communications
majors
1986-87 Adjunct Professor, Appellate Advocacy/First Year Moot Court, **Stetson
University College of Law**

Clinical Experience Media Law:

Trial & Appellate Litigation

Rated A/V Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell.

Public Access litigation (lead counsel):

Weekly Planet, Inc. v. Hillsborough Aviation Authority, Hillsborough Circuit Court.
Media client sought disclosure of economic benefit to private developer of lease public
land.

Weekly Planet, Inc. v. Harry Lee Coe, State Attorney, Hillsborough Circuit Court.
Successful public records suit for copies of wiretap reporting statistics compiled and
submitted to FBI.

Ribaya v. The Board Of Trustees of the City Pension Fund for Firefighters and Police Officers in the City of Tampa, Hillsborough Circuit Court, open meetings law challenge to exclusion from public meetings based on false allegations of disrupting meeting.

Media libel/privacy defenses (lead counsel unless otherwise noted):

Kompothecras v. Bloomberg L.P. et al.: (Florida counsel for Willkie Farr & Gallagher, NYC), Sarasota Circuit Court, Sarasota County, Florida. Defense of libel, tortious interference, misappropriation of trade secrets and conspiracy claims filed by owner of 1-800-ASK-GARY lawyer referral service and chiropractic clinic, including Florida Journalist's Shield Law challenge.

Stem v. Kompothecras, et al., Florida Second District Court of Appeal, Petition for Writ of Certiorari challenging order to produce unpublished images protected by Journalist's Shield Law.

Winholtz v. Hordeyczuk, Pinellas Circuit Court. Defense of libel by Facebook claim, asserting novel issues of public figure status through social media and common law privilege defenses.

Emerson v. Weekly Planet, Inc. and Sugg: U.S. District Court District of Columbia dismissed on jurisdictional grounds, refiled in Circuit Court, Hillsborough County Florida; libel claim against Creative Loafing subsidiary and editor dismissed by plaintiff following discovery and related motion practice (I believe to avoid certain court dismissal on writ of certiorari for failure of condition precedent--retraction notice--and/or failure to provide discovery). (D.C. local counsel: Levine Sullivan, etc.). Carrier: ERC.

Collins v. Creative Loafing Atlanta: Georgia State Court, libel and privacy based on cover illustration resembling plaintiff. Summary Judgment for Defendant on grounds that publication was non-defamatory/protected opinion. (Cynthia Counts, GA local counsel). Carrier: Media Professional.

Callaway v. Creative Loafing Atlanta: Georgia State Court, libel action by public official. Dismissed by plaintiff after publication of additional articles correcting error in original report and reporting additional inappropriate conduct by official. (Cynthia Counts, GA local counsel). Carrier: Media Professional.

Waas v. Washington City Paper and Creative Loafing, Inc., Wemple & Cherkis, D.C. Superior Court/U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Columbia, libel and privacy suit by freelance journalist against parent company, publishing subsidiary based on profile and sidebar. Judgment of dismissal and award of attorneys' fees for plaintiff's failure to provide discovery. (DC local counsel: Levine Sullivan) Carrier: CNA

Millen v. Creative Loafing & Washington City Paper, D.C. Superior Court and U.S. Bankruptcy Court, M.D. Fla./U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, libel claim by former Georgetown basketball player dismissed from bankruptcy court as time-barred, dismissed as res judicata from D.C. Superior Court. Bankruptcy appeal dismissed for lack of jurisdiction. Carriers: SwissRe, AXIS-Pro. (DC local counsel: Levine Sullivan, etc.)

Heekin v. CBS, (local counsel for Levine, Sullivan, etc.) Florida State Court, defamation action styled “false light” invasion of privacy claim by lawyer based on 60-Minutes segment. Judgment of dismissal reversed on appeal; judgment on the pleadings for defendant affirmed on appeal. CBS award \$26,000+ from plaintiff for discovery abuses.

Anderson v. Gannett, (Florida counsel with Levine, Sullivan, etc. for Amicus Curiae, for Appellants: The Florida Press Association; ABC, Inc.; CBS Broadcasting, Inc.; The E.W. Scripps Company; The Hearst Corporation; Media General, Inc.; The New York Times Company; and Tribune Company, Inc.). Amicus brief in Florida District Court of Appeal in defamation action styled “false light” privacy claim resulting in reversal of \$18+ million judgment and setting up conflict with Heekin decision resulting in Florida Supreme Court refusal to recognize false light tort.

Supervised insurance defense counsel and/or advised the client regarding the litigation in the role of corporate counsel in connection with the following defamation matters:

Snyder v. Washington City Paper & McKenna, New York Supreme Court/ D.C. Superior Court, Washington Redskins owner (no relation) libel claim based on “Cranky Redskins Fan’s Guide to All The Things We Hate About Dan Snyder.” Stipulation of dismissal following anti-SLAPP motion; defendant agreed not to seek recovery of fees from plaintiff. Insurance defense counsel: New York; Floyd Abrams, Cahill Gordon & Reindel; D.C.; Seth Berlin, Levine Sullivan, etc.; Carrier: Chartis.

Grigsby v. Creative Loafing Atlanta, California Superior Court, bond broker sued for defamation based on articles relating to Atlanta airport financing. Dismissed pursuant to California anti-SLAPP law. Insurance defense counsel: Davis Wright Tremaine; carrier: Chartis.

Rakofsky v. Creative Loafing, Washington City Paper & Smith, New York Supreme Court, libel suit by lawyer arising out of report of his withdrawal/disqualification as defense counsel in murder case. Jurisdictional/fair report privilege motion to dismiss pending. Defense counsel: Davis Wright Tremaine; carrier: Chartis.

Copyright infringement defense:

Yellow Pages Photos, Inc. v. User-Friendly Phonebooks, LLC., U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida. Alleged infringement of copyrighted photos; initial damage

demand: \$599,000,000.00; settled following summary judgment motion demonstrating plaintiff could not recover statutory damages. Carriers: CNA (Pro Open and General Liability), Tokyo Marine.

Waterproof Gear, Inc. v. Leisure Pro, LTD., U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida. Alleged infringement of copyrighted photos; settled following unsuccessful challenge to jurisdiction/motion to transfer.

First Amendment/Media Law counsel to Creative Loafing group alternative weekly websites & newspapers: Washington City Paper, Chicago Reader, Creative Loafing Atlanta, CreativeLoafing Tampa, Creative Loafing Charlotte.

Admissions, Activities & Honors:

- Admitted to practice law in New York, Florida, U.S. Districts Court (New York: Southern & Eastern; Florida: Middle, Southern); U.S. Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals
- A/V rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Member, American Bar Association Forum on Communications Law, Subcommittee on Teaching Media Law 2001-date
- Member, Media Law Resource Center Defense Counsel Section
- Florida Bar Media & Communications Law Committee (former chair, media law conference chair, reporter's workshop chair, media law awards judge/committee chair)
- Sunshine Attorney, Florida First Amendment Foundation
- Certified Mediator: Florida Supreme Court Appellate, Circuit & County Court; U.S. District Court M.D. Fla. Mediator
- FINRA Certified Arbitrator;
- Master, Tampa Bay Inn of Court

Professional Affiliations (Law):

- 1995-date David M. Snyder, P.A., Tampa
- 1993-1995 Silverstein & Snyder, P.A., Tampa
- 1985-1993 Shareholder (1988-1993), Trenam, Simmons, Kemker, Scharf, Barkin, Frye & O'Neill, Tampa
- 1982-1985 Associate, Cahill Gordon & Reindel, New York, NY
- 1981 Summer Associate, Legal Dept., The New York Times Company, New York, NY

Journalism:

- 1975-1979 Staff Writer, The St. Petersburg Times (n/k/a Tampa Bay Times)
 - Reported and wrote hundreds of daily news stories on deadline concerning civil and criminal courts, local government, health care, public

utilities, police, education. Spot news photography. Depth investigative reporting and analysis on public issues: transportation, tax assessment, criminal justice facilities, water supply, wastewater disposal. Investigative series on double profits by private utilities followed by overwhelming public support of bond referendum to finance public takeover of water distribution.

1975 Staff Writer, The Clearwater Sun
-Wrote daily news stories on deadline concerning Pinellas County government, police, spot news and news features. Spot news photography.

Government Public Information/Public Relations:

1969-71 U.S. Navy Journalist 3d Class
1971-2001 U.S. Navy Public Affairs Officer
-varied assignments throughout the U.S. and overseas from the Mideast & Europe to the Philippines
-Commanded three Naval Reserve public affairs units
-U.S. Navy Spokesman for Multinational Peacekeeping Forces, Beirut, Lebanon, Feb.-Jun. 1984, U.S. Sixth Fleet Letter of Commendation

Education:

1982 J.D., *summa cum laude*, Stetson University College of Law
Editor-in-Chief, Stetson Law Review
Class Rank: 1 of 66
-Dean's List
-Editor-in-Chief, Stetson Law Review, Vol. XI
-Charles A. Dana Scholar
-Best Appellate Brief, Freshman Moot Court
-Merit Scholarships: Freshman Academic Achievement, Faculty Fund for Student Scholars
-J. Ben Watkins Law Review Grant
-Cecil C. and Augusta Bailey Scholarship for character, academic achievement and capacity for meritorious leadership in the field of law
-Book Awards for highest grades in Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law, Evidence, Federal Income Tax, Trusts

1971 B.A. (English), University of South Florida
-Department of Mass Communications Distinguished Service Award (Managing Editor, The Oracle, at that time a twice-weekly student newspaper, which won All American awards in all categories.)

Military

- 1967-2001 Seaman Recruit (E-1) to Captain (O-6), United States Naval Reserve (Retired)
- Meritorious Service Medal (3 awards)
 - Navy Commendation Medal
 - Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal
 - Navy Expeditionary Medal
 - National Defense Medal (2 awards)
 - Armed Force Reserve Medal (3 awards)
 - Marksmanship Medal – Rifle (Sharpshooter)
 - Marksmanship Medal – Pistol (Expert)

Publications:

- Ethics Corner: Florida Leads the Way to Regulate Attorney Websites, MLRC MediaLawLetter (December 2007).
- Note, Voting Rights: Stuck Inside of Mobile with the Voting Blues Again. Vote Dilution Claims Confined, 10 Stetson L. Rev. 363 (1980).
- Rahdert & Snyder, Rediscovering Florida's Common Law Defenses to Libel & Slander, 11 Stetson L. Rev. 1 (1981) (cited by the Florida Supreme Court in Nodar v. Galbreath, 462 So.2d 803 (Fla. 1984)).
- Snyder, Life After Law School: The Placement Search, 21 Stetson L. Rev. 775 (1983).
- Snyder, Habeas Corpus: Stoned But Not Dead, 19 Crim. L. Bul. 197 (1983).

Lectures and Presentations:

- Panel Moderator: Journalism in the World of Social Media, Twitter & Facebook, Florida Bar Reporters' Workshop, Libel & Privacy Law Lecturer, 2007-2019
- Media Law Lecture, Florida First Amendment Foundation Sunshine Seminar, Sarasota Herald Tribune, Sarasota, Florida, October 2013
- Lecturer & Panelist, Libel & Privacy Law, Florida Bar Reporters' Workshop, September 2011, 2012
- Moderator, "The Elephant Comes to Tampa; Will It Step on the First Amendment? Newsgathering Challenges for the 2012 GOP Convention." Florida Bar Media Law Conference, June 2012
- Media Law Lecture, Florida First Amendment Foundation Sunshine Seminar, The Ledger, Lakeland, Florida, October 2012
- Panelist (Sunshine Law Remedies), Florida First Amendment Foundation Sunshine Litigation Seminar, USF Tampa, October 2012

Current Professional Memberships and Continuing Education:

- Media Law Resource Center Media Law Conference, Reston VA, September 2018;
- University of Kansas Media Law Conference, Kansas City MO, May 2021

- American Bar Association Forum on Communications Law Annual Conference
Miami, FL February 2021
- University of Kansas Media Law Conference, Kansas City MO, May 2013
- Practicing Law Institute, Communications Law in the Digital Age, New York, NY,
November 2017

Grants:

Attorney for Sunshine Litigation Grant Recipient, Knight Foundation Freedom of Information: *Ribaya v. Board of Trustees of the City Pension Fund for Firefighters and Police Officers in the City of Tampa*, Hillsborough County Circuit Court Case No. 12-CA-013928

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