



OVERVIEW

Joshua Higgins is a Partner and Business Unit Leader at Kelley Kronenberg where he focuses his practice on workers' compensation defense. He has previous experience handling employment law matters, Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) issues, police professional litigation, correctional healthcare, and civil rights claims.

The team that Joshua leads comprises of nine (9) people (attorneys, paralegals, and legal assistants), which collectively have over 100 years' experience handling workers' compensation matters in Florida. Joshua handles workers' compensation claims for a wide array of industries, for a clientele that ranges from multi-billion companies to small employers.

One of the primary industries Joshua handles workers' compensation claims for is the construction industry. He represents general contractors and subcontractors of all sizes, and is enmeshed in the construction industry of South Florida. He is an active member of the Construction Association of South Florida (CASF), where he has been on the Young Leaders Committee for several years (and the firm is the legal advisor to), he is involved in the Associated General Contractors (AGC), for which he was instrumental in having the Fort Lauderdale office of Kelley Kronenberg designated as the host for the meetings in South Florida, and he is the legal advisor to the Safety Alliance for Excellence (SAFE) since its inception. He assists his clients daily in all aspects of claims handling, both prior to and after litigation has begun, and has handled complex matters through trial on numerous occasions, with a high percentage of success.

Joshua is a popular and frequent writer and presenter on various workers' compensation issues, both in Florida and on a national level. For his success and reputation, he has been named a Florida Super Lawyers Rising Star for 2020 – 2023 (bestowed on less than 2.5% of attorneys in Florida), was named a 2020, 2021, and 2022 Top Lawyer in workers' compensation by *Fort Lauderdale Illustrated* (one of only two defense attorneys on the list), and was named a 2022 and 2023 Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch by *U.S. News & World Report*. Joshua is also rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, based upon peer reviews, which indicates that he has achieved the highest professional and ethical standards and is the highest rating a lawyer can receive.

Joshua is also the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of *In the Know*, a monthly workers' compensation newsletter, providing up-to-date "KK Takeaways" from recent 1st DCA and JCC Final Compensation Orders.

Prior to joining the firm, Joshua worked as an Assistant State Attorney at the State Attorney's Office, 17th Judicial Circuit, in both the felony trial unit and county court division. While there, Joshua tried more than 30 bench trials and 22 jury trials, with his last trial featured on local Fox news.

During law school at Nova Southeastern University, Joshua served for two years as the Chairperson of Administration for the Moot Court Honor Society, a Staff Member for the Inter-American Center for Human Rights, and the Secretary for the National Security and Law Society. He received a perfect score from the Chief Justice in the first round of the

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Workers' Compensation

ADMISSIONS

- Florida

EDUCATION

- Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center, J.D., 2011
- State University of New York at Buffalo, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2008

ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition, and placed in the top 8 out of more than 125 students in the Feinrider Moot Court Competition. Further, Joshua was one of 40 law students selected nationwide as a summer fellow for the Florida Bar Foundation, which resulted in him working at Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida doing foreclosure defense for indigent elderly citizens.

Prior to entering law school, Joshua obtained his undergraduate degree *magna cum laude* from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he was selected for induction into the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa Society, received English Departmental Honors, and was listed in Who's Who Among American College Students. Additionally, Joshua was chosen as a Renaissance Scholar, an award bestowed on less than 4% of graduates that year (only 82 students out of a class size of more than 2500), for those exhibiting scholarly excellence in at least two widely disparate areas of study.

ASSOCIATIONS

Professional Associations

- Broward County Bar Associations (BCBA), Member
- Legal Advisor, Safety Alliance For Excellence (SAFE), Member
- South Florida Public Risk Management Association (SF PRIMA), Member
- Construction Association of South Florida (CASF)
 - Young Leaders Committee
- The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), Member
- The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), Member
- Human Resources Association of Broward County (HRABC), Member
- Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, Member
- Emerge Broward, Member

Community

- Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Event Coordinator, 2015
 - Thomas Tang Moot Court Competition, 2014, Judge
 - Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center's ABA National Moot Court Team, 2014, 2015, Honorary Judge
 - Moot Court tryouts, Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center, Judge
 - Nova Trial Association tryouts, Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center, Judge
 - 1L Mark Dobson Closing Argument Competition, Judge
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AWARDS

- *The Boca Raton Observer*, "Top Lawyers," 2023
- *Super Lawyers Magazine*, Florida "Rising Stars," Workers' Compensation, 2020-2023
- *Martindale-Hubbell*, AV® Preeminent™
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*, Workers' Compensation – Employers, 2022-2023

- *Fort Lauderdale Illustrated*, "Top Lawyer," Workers' Compensation Law, 2020 – 2022
- Phi Beta Kappa Society, Omicron Chapter, University at Buffalo
- Florida Bar Foundation, Summer Fellow
- Book Award, Criminal Pre-Trial Practice, Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center
- Dean's List, Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center
- English Department Honors, University at Buffalo
- Honor Thesis, "Idealism in Nature: The Films of Terrence Malick," University at Buffalo
- Renaissance Scholar, University at Buffalo
- Dean's List, University at Buffalo
- Selected for inclusion in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges



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Best Lawyers
ONES TO WATCH

Super Lawyers
RISING STARS



SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker: "*Valuing Claimants: Categories, Components, and Calculations*" November 2023
- Speaker: "*Florida Workers' Comp 101*," July 2023
- Speaker: "*2023 Law & Ethics Update*," September 2023
- Speaker "2022 WC Law and Ethics Update," September 2022
- Speaker, "Catastrophic Injuries in the Construction Industry," 76th Annual Workers' Compensation Educational Conference, August 2022
- Speaker, "FL Worker's Compensation 101," July 2022
- Speaker, "The Challenges of the One Time Change Statute," July 2022
- Speaker, "Arising Out Of " and "Course and Scope" – What, How, & Why are JCC's Analyzing Them Now," July 2022
- Speaker, "2021 5 HR Law and Ethics Update," September 2021
- Speaker, "Return to Work Policies Make Cents," July 2021
- Speaker, "Covid-19 In 2021" Webinar, May 2021
- Speaker, "Arising Out Of " and "Course and Scope": What Are They, Why Do They Matter, and How Are Judges of Compensation Claims Analyzing Them Now", September 2020
- Speaker, "Top Ten Workers' Compensation Cases of 2020" Webinar, August

2020

- Speaker, "Personal Brand Development – A Quick Guide for Young Professionals", December 2018
 - Panelist, "Legal News & Review", MoneyTalk Radio, July 2018
 - Speaker, "Effective Strategies for Managing Workers' Compensation Risk", June 2018
 - Speaker, "Building Your Own Brand: Strategies for More Effective Professional Development", Construction Association of South Florida (CASF), December 2017
 - Speaker, "Workplace Violence & Active Shooters: Maintaining a Safe Work Environment & Limiting Liability", July 2017
 - Speaker, "Workplace Violence & Active Shooters: Maintaining a Safe Work Environment & Limiting Liability", May 2017
 - Speaker, "Managing Workers' Compensation Risks in the Construction Industry", January 2017
 - Speaker, "Florida's Workers' Compensation System and the Changes That Will Take Place Due to Recent Court Rulings", May 2016
 - Speaker, "Safety First: The Ramifications of Safety Violations on the Jobsite", May 2016
 - Speaker, "Workers' Compensation Fraud", May 2016
 - Speaker, "Safety First: The Ramifications of Safety Violations on the Jobsite", March 2016
 - Speaker, "Managing Workers' Compensation Risks in the Construction Industry", January 2016
 - Speaker, "Criminal Prosecution for Safety Violations", December 2015
 - Speaker, "Managing Workers' Compensation Risk in the Construction Industry", November 2015
 - Speaker, "Practicing for Professionalism", 2014
 - Speaker, Nova Southeastern, Shepard Broad Law Center 1L Orientation, 2014
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MEDIA

- Featured, "The Florida Bar Workers' Compensation Section", *News & 440 Report*, February 2023
- Quoted, "Workers' Compensation Fraud Comes in Many Forms", *Society for Human Resource Management*, August 2022
- Quoted, "Workers' Compensation Liability for COVID-19 Vaccine Side Effects May Be Limited", *Society of Human Resources*, December 2021
- Quoted, "Yes, employees required to get vaccinated for COVID-19 can file a workers' compensation claim for vaccine adverse effects", *Verify This*, June 2021
- Quoted, "Does Workers' Comp Cover an Employee's Reaction to a COVID-19 Vaccine?", *HR Magazine*, March 2021
- Featured, "Message 15: Joshua T. Higgins", *America Will Be Back*, April 2020
- Quoted, "Better Not Call Saul: South Florida Litigators Discuss the Accuracy – or Lack Thereof – of AMC's Hit Show", *Daily Business Review*, September 17, 2018
- Featured, "Senior-level hires and promotions for the week of Oct. 24, 2017", *Miami Herald*, October 23, 2017

- Featured, "Kelley Kronenberg Promotes Joshua T. Higgins to Partner", *Sun-Sentinel*, October 17, 2017
- Featured, "Kelley Kronenberg Promotes Joshua T. Higgins to Partner", *Attorney at Law Magazine*, October 13, 2017
- Featured, "Talk of the Town", *Attorney at Law Magazine*, Vol. 4 No. 3
- Featured, "News and Notes", *Florida Bar News*, July 15, 2015
- Featured, "Kelley Kronenberg Fort Lauderdale Attorney Joshua T. Higgins appointed Legal Advisor of SAFE", *News Wire*, May 29, 2015
- Featured, "Kelley Kronenberg Fort Lauderdale Attorney Joshua T. Higgins appointed Legal Advisor of SAFE", *Attorney at Law Magazine*, May 29, 2015
- Featured, "Kelley Kronenberg Fort Lauderdale Attorney Joshua T. Higgins appointed Legal Advisor of SAFE", *SunSentinel*, May 28, 2015
- Featured, "Kelley Kronenberg Fort Lauderdale Attorney Joshua T. Higgins Appointed Legal Advisor of SAFE", *CityBizList South Florida*, May 28, 2015
- Featured, "Alumni Connections", *NSU Law*, February 2014
- Featured, "Class Actions – News & Notes About Alumni", *NSU Law*, January 29, 2014
- Featured, "Alumni Achievements", *Nova Lawyer*, 2014
- Quoted, "Adverse Possession Lesson", *WSVN 7 News*, August 28, 2013
- Featured, "People on the Move", *South Florida Business Journal*, December 9, 2013
- Featured, "Law Students Selected to Florida Bar Foundation's Summer Fellowship", *NSU Law*, June 14, 2010
- Featured, "Albany, Hudson Valley Residents Inducted Into Phi Beta Kappa", *UB News*, May 22, 2008

Publications

- Author, Workers' Comp Claims for COVID-19 Likely to Fail, *South Florida Business and Wealth*, March 2020
- Author, Good News for Florida Companies: Workers' Compensation Rate Decreasing, *Daily Business Review*, December 11, 2017

Case Law Updates

- Editor, December 2021
- Editor, November 2021
- Editor, October 2021
- Editor, September 2021
- Editor, August 2021