

Knopik Varner Moore

Trial Attorneys

Joseph H. Varner, III

Joseph H. Varner, III, is a founding member of KNOPIKVARNERMOORE, a small firm of trial lawyers in Tampa, Florida. Mr. Varner is experienced in complex commercial litigation, business torts, personal injury litigation, medical negligence litigation, and wrongful death litigation. Mr. Varner has litigated complex liability and medical issues ranging from corporate shareholders disputes to wrongful death arising from medical malpractice. He has obtained significant jury verdicts and settlements in commercial and personal injury litigation and has conducted numerous jury trials in state and federal court.

Mr. Varner graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 1983 and has specialized in civil trial practice in Florida for his entire career. He has been continuously Board Certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the Florida Bar Board of Legal Education and Specialization since 1993. He is recognized in The Best Lawyers in America in the categories of Business Litigation and Bet-The-Company Litigation, and has been listed in Best Lawyers in America for ten years. He is also listed in Leading American Attorneys & Law in two categories, Personal Injury Law: Medical and Professional Negligence and Commercial Litigation. Mr. Varner has also been honored by his peers as part of Florida Trend's Legal Elite in Civil Trial Law since the inception of that program. In 2006, Mr. Varner was honored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association's Trial Lawyers Section with the Michael A. Fogarty Memorial In The Trenches Award for excellence in civil litigation. Mr. Varner is also a member of the prestigious Million Dollar Advocates Forum, an organization whose membership is limited to trial attorneys who have achieved verdicts or settlements in the amount of one million dollars or more. Mr. Varner has received the highest possible legal and ethical rating ("AV") from Martindale-Hubbell, the nation's leading attorney rating service. Mr. Varner has also been recognized by Florida SuperLawyers as one of the 100 lawyers in Florida for his accomplishments as

a trial lawyer from 2006 through the present.

Mr. Varner is admitted to the bars of the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida and the State of Florida. He is an active member of the Hillsborough County Bar Association and served as Trial Lawyers Section Director, 2000-2008, 1991- 1992; Judicial Liaison Committee, Chairperson, 2000-2002; Professional Courtesy Committee, 1991-1994; Young Lawyers Division President, 1990-1991, and Director, 1988-1990. He is an active member of the Federal Bar Association and served as President, 2001-2002, President-Elect, 2000-2001; Vice-President, 1999-2000; Treasurer, 1998-1999; and Secretary; 1997-1998. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the American Association for Justice, the Florida Justice Association, and is a Master in the J. Clifford Cheatwood Inn of Court.

Mr. Varner has twice been appointed to positions of service by the Federal Judges of the Middle District of Florida, serving on the Merit Selection Panel for U.S. Magistrates in 1999 and as a member of the Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Group for the Middle District of Florida from 1994-1996. Mr. Varner has been invited to attend the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals Judicial Conference in 1995, 1996, and 2003. Mr. Varner was also appointed as Special Counsel for the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission in 1998.

Mr. Varner is committed to the betterment of the legal profession and has authored the following articles published in the Hillsborough County Bar Association Lawyer Magazine: "A Trial Lawyer By Any Other Name" (February 2007), "Expert Testimony In Federal Court: The Trial Judge's Role In Weighing Credibility" (June 2004), and "The Sad Case of the Kurzban Brothers" (November 2000). He also wrote "A Practitioner's Introduction to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure," appearing in the Florida Bar Journal in December, 1989. Mr. Varner is a frequent lecturer at continuing legal education seminars throughout the state of

Florida, including “Taking And Defending Effective Depositions In Florida: Expert Depositions,” sponsored by Lorman Education Services, April 2008; “Taking And Defending Effective Depositions In Florida: Expert Depositions,” sponsored by Lorman Education Services, April 2007; “Expert Witnesses In State And Federal Court: Daubert, Frye, and Beyond,” sponsored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association, April 2004; “Commercial Litigation: Litigation of Dissenters Rights Issues,” sponsored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association, September 2002; “Basic Discovery Practice-Topic: Discovery Abuses-Compliance, Sanctions, and Remedies,” sponsored by The Florida Bar in September 2002; “Trial Techniques-Topic: Cross-Examination of Expert Witnesses,” sponsored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association Trial Lawyers Section, April 2002; “Fifth Annual Bench/Bar Conference-Organizer, Moderator and Panel Speaker on Civil Practice and Procedure,” sponsored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association in November 2001; “Fourth Annual Bench/Bar Conference-Organizer and Panel Speaker on Civil Practice and Procedure,” sponsored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association in November 2000; “Basic Discovery Practice-Topic: Discovery Abuses-Compliance, Sanctions, and Remedies,” sponsored by The Florida Bar in September 2000; “Mass Torts and Class Action Litigation,” at the annual meeting, of the Tampa Bay Chapter of American Association of Legal Nurses in September 2000; and “The Emerging Frontier in Trial Practice-Moderator,” sponsored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association Trial Lawyers Section in September 2000. In November of 1999, he delivered “Stetson College of Law Closing Argument Competition-Judge,” at the Stetson College of Law; and in June, 1999, presented “State Court Trial Seminar-Topic: Closing Arguments,” at the Hillsborough County Bar Association. Other speeches have included “Basic Discovery Practice-Topic: Discovery Abuses-Compliance, Sanctions, and Remedies,” sponsored by The Florida Bar, February 1999; “The Evolution of Trial

Technology in the New Millennium-Topic: Caselaw Update,” sponsored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association, Clearwater Bar Association, St. Petersburg Bar Association in September 1999; “Top Ten Ways to Improve Your Trial Practice-Topic: Pleadings and Discovery,” sponsored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association Trial Lawyers Section, October 1998; “Civil Litigation in the 90's-Topic: Discovery Abuse and Sanctions,” sponsored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association, Clearwater Bar Association, St. Petersburg Bar Association, May 1998; “Back to the Future: The Latest Developments in Recurring Trial Practice-Topic: Medical Malpractice: A Perfunctory Primer on Pre-suit Requirements,” sponsored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association Trial Lawyers Section, May 1997; “The Monsters that Ate Torts: The Economic Loss Rule and Beyond-Topic: The Economic Loss Rule,” also sponsored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association Trial Lawyers Section, May 1996.

Mr. Varner is active in the community and has been recognized for his charitable contributions as a member of the United Way Keel Club. Mr. Varner’s firm, KnopikVarnerMoore has been the title sponsor for local charities and organizations such as Voices For Children, Metropolitan Ministries, and the Gasparilla Film Festival. Mr. Varner has also served as a member of the United Way of Tampa Bay Campaign Cabinet and Community Service Youth Development Team. He served on the board of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Tampa Region, and chaired the Sixth Annual Skins Challenge Golf Classic in 1995. He participated in Leadership Tampa in 1992-1993 and has been involved in Leadership Tampa Alumni since 1993. He was named Man of the Year by the Leukemia Society/Brooks Brothers in 1992-1993. Mr. Varner has also served on the University of Tampa Board of Counselors, University of Tampa Institutional Advancement Committee, and The Tampa Connection.

Mr. Varner and his wife, Monica, have two young sons, Evan Joseph and Eric Harrison.

*“We are absolutely committed to providing the best legal representation available.
We determine our client’s objective and make it our own.”*

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