William "Bert" McBride

Shareholder

Tampa
101 E. Kennedy Boulevard
Suite 2700
Tampa FL 33602

Direct Line: (813) 227-7475

Fax: (813) 227-0475
Email: bmcbride@trenam.com



Alternate Contact

Linda A. Behr
Legal Assistant
(813) 202-7815
LBehr@trenam.com

Practice Areas

- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Class Actions

Education

- J.D., *cum laude*, University of Florida Levin College of Law, 2014
  - Dean's List, 2011-2014
  - Book Awards:
    - Insurance Law
    - Torts
    - Medical Technology
- B.A., Economics, Stanford University, 2010
  - Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Member
  - Cardinal Highland Athletic Club, Co-Founder
  - Stanford Football, Three-time Letterman

Admissions

- Florida
- United States District Court, Southern and Middle District of Florida

Overview

Bert McBride is a Shareholder and Co-Leader of the firm's Litigation and Dispute Resolution Group. He represents individual business owners, companies and partnerships both small and large, and property owners in a variety of complex matters in both Federal and State courts. He has substantial experience in representing partners, shareholders, and companies in partnership and shareholder dispute matters sometimes referred to as "business divorce" cases. He combines legal acumen and proficiency with business insights and analytical skills to provide his clients with balanced, reasoned, and judicious recommendations and solutions both pre-trial and in trial matters.

Prior to law school, Bert served as an Intern in Washington, D.C., for Congresswoman Kathy Castor's office and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

An avid sports fan, Bert was a Tampa Bay football standout, having won two state-football titles before moving to the offensive line at Stanford University, where he was a three-time Letterman.

Representative Matters

Shareholder/Partnership Disputes

- Represented family-owned company in negotiating pre-suit resolution of claims by minority shareholder family member against the other shareholders/family members via a favorable buy-out of the minority shareholder's interest in the company.
- Represented minority shareholders in litigation with majority shareholders over actions being taken by the company resulting in a favorable buy-out of the minority shareholders' interest in the company and a resolution of all claims against them.
- Represented company in negotiating the pre-suit resolution of dispute with a minority member regarding his right to be bought out from the company resulting in the successful removal of the minority shareholder from the company and the purchase of his interest in the company's landlord at a favorable price.
- Represented minority member of limited liability company in dispute with the company and its other members regarding her buy-out from the company, resulting in a negotiated buy-out far above the original offer.

Commercial Litigation

- Represented international wine maker and associated individuals and entities in defending breach of fiduciary duty, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, breach of contract, and unjust enrichment claims seeking multi-million dollar disgorgement damages. After a multi-week trial in Miami-Dade County's complex business division, a full defense verdict was entered by the court. After this ruling, the case, and the clients' claims for attorneys' fees and costs from the plaintiff, ultimately settled favorably.
- Represented individual client in breach of contract action that culminated in a multi-day jury trial where the jury ultimately awarded client the full amount requested which, after a further judgment awarding client his attorneys' fees,

equated to more than $800,000.
- Successfully represented a large financial services and banking company operating in several states, in a multi-million dollar fraudulent transfer avoidance litigation brought by a trustee in bankruptcy court.
- Successfully represented former owners of a healthcare company in state court litigation involving a multi-million dollar earn-out provision.
- Successfully represented a high end residential home builder seeking damages for breach of an interior design agreement by sophisticated homeowners. After a multi-day trial involving complex evidentiary and contract interpretation issues, the trial court awarded the full damages sought and attorneys' fees.
- Successfully defended local government entity from multi-million dollar equal protection claims brought by a taxi company relating to the operation of transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft.

Federal Court Class Actions

- Successfully defended class action claims relating to home and condominium owners association debts and collections. Plaintiff moved for class certification and was denied.*SeeWilmington Sav. Fund Soc'y, FSB v. Bus. Law Group, P.A.*, 319 F.R.D. 386 (M.D. Fla. 2017). The case was favorably resolved on an individual basis shortly thereafter.
- Served as local counsel for a national discount brokerage defending class action claims related to a client's data breach. The claims were eventually dismissed with prejudice once the case was transferred to a favorable jurisdiction.

State Court Class Actions

- Secured dismissal of class action claims, including Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act (FDUPTA) claims, brought against a restaurant chain relating to the number of wings provided per customer order.
- Successfully defended class action claims, including Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act (FDUPTA) claims, in a matter initially filed in state court, removed to federal court, and ultimately remanded to and resolved favorably on an individual basis in state court, relating to condominium association dues and collections pursuant to Florida Statutes.

Real Property Disputes

- Successfully represented purchaser of commercial property in an arbitration proceeding seeking specific performance of a real estate contract resulting in the arbitrator directing that seller proceed with the sale of the real property to purchaser.
- Represented an Orlando-based commercial shopping center landlord in securing the urgent and time-critical evictions of multiple delinquent tenants, some of whom attempted to file for bankruptcy protection.
- Represented a commercial landlord located in Tallahassee, Florida in evicting and pursuing damages against delinquent tenant and guarantor.
- Successfully represented a commercial landlord, through its property management company, in securing the eviction of multiple delinquent tenants who attempted various litigation tactics, including attempting to contest service of process, in order to remain in the premises.

Honors and Distinctions

- *Tampa Magazine's Top Lawyers List*, 2025
- *Florida Super Lawyers*, *Rising Stars*, Business Litigation, 2019-2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America*
  - Commercial Litigation, 2027
  - *Ones to Watch*, 2021-2026
- *Florida Trend's Legal Elite*, Up & Comer, Commercial Litigation, 2017-2022
- New Leaders Council Tampa Bay, Fellow, 2015

Professional Involvement

- Hillsborough County Bar Association
- New Leaders Council (NLC), Fellow, 2015
- The Florida Bar

Community Involvement

- Leadership Tampa Class of 2025
  - "Best One-Liner Award"
- Hillsborough Education Foundation, Board Director, 2025
- Stanford University Club, Tampa Bay, Co-Founder
- University of Florida College of Law, Law Alumni Council
- American Cancer Society, 2020 Tampa Cattle Baron's Ball,Co-Chair

Thought Leadership

- Author, "Playing Football Made Me A Better Lawyer," *Law360*, April 2025
- Bert McBride Discusses Class Action Lawsuits in the Daily Business Review, *Daily Business Review,* September 2023
- "Foreclosing Bartram," Author, The Florida Bar Journal, Volume 91, No. 2, February 2017