



James J. Kennedy III

Carlton Fields



James Kennedy's passion for the law has developed over a life time; although there was a brief period he thought he wanted to become a priest. While that goal subsided rather quickly, the thought of being a lawyer gripped Kenney from a young age and never let go.

"I decided to become a lawyer in 7th grade or so," Kennedy remembers. "I thought of lawyers as crusaders for justice who could right any wrong by simply standing up and giving a great speech. I guess I watched too much Perry Mason."

While attending law school at DePaul University, Kennedy was drawn toward the area of health law and decided that area would be a good fit.

"I was lucky enough to get a job during law school with the U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services as a law clerk and that opened the door for me to get a job at a prestigious Chicago law firm that specialized in healthcare," Kennedy said. "I knew I would return to Florida after gaining some experience and I joined Carlton Fields in 1984."

Today, Kennedy is Carlton Fields' leading health care attorney focusing on the representation of hospitals, physicians, clinics and other health care providers.

He's one of very few attorneys certified as a specialist in Health Law by The Florida Bar.

"Healthcare is a highly regulated, complex field," Kennedy said. "It requires a thorough understanding of the business needs and objectives of the clients so we can craft meaningful solutions that comply with the infinite state and federal rules and regulations that are applicable to so many aspects of our clients' businesses. Hospitals and physicians face enormous legal, regulatory, and financial challenges and we are there to support them in finding workable and compliant solutions."

While the challenges are many, Kennedy says his clients have kept him going throughout his career. As some of the largest employers and economic engines, hospitals and the health care industry are increasingly complex institutions with highly regulated methods of transactions.

"But each and every day, they look to the community and do everything possible to do the very best job for every patient who walks in or is brought in for care," Kennedy said. "They care for all of us from cradle to grave. They truly try to deliver the best care and serve as a vital community resource."

That dedication to clients has helped Kennedy develop a leading practice. He's able to counsel clients in several areas, including business transactions, joint ventures, risk management and fraud, to name a few.

Kennedy's wife is also involved in the healthcare industry; she's a veterinarian. The couple has two St. Bernards that keep them busy. To unwind, Kennedy enjoys reading spy novels, watching episodes of "The Andy Griffith Show" (the Barney Fife years) and playing his Taylor guitar.

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