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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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12 to Watch in 2012

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Wendy Lumish

Carlton Fields Attorneys At Law



Passion is the driving force behind Wendy Lumish's success as an appellate lawyer. She leads Carlton Field's Appellate and Trial Support Practice Group, a team of 18 attorneys devoted exclusively to appellate and trial support work.

Her group is the single largest of its kind in Florida and members bring a wide array of expertise to the table. Lumish is nationally ranked by Chambers USA in the area of product liability, which has been her primary area of focus for many years. In 2012, Lumish expects to handle anywhere between eight and 10 high exposure, multi-million dollar cases.

She represents manufacturers of a wide variety of products, including automobiles, chemicals, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals. The cases her team works on are often issues of national significance with far reaching impacts.

"In the past few years we've been fortunate enough to be successful and have some very significant wins," Lumish said. "I think that has been leading to more recognition for the cases we do. I am being sought out more and more to handle additional significant cases and I think 2012 promises to be an exciting year."

She's the point person for Carlton Fields when it comes to making sure lawyers go into trial with their A-game intact. Lumish works on general trial strategy, motions in limine and dispositive motions and frequently attends trials to argue motions and handle post-trial briefing and arguments.

Lumish became interested in appellate work during her clerkship for Judge Joseph Nesbitt after graduating from the Law School at University of Miami. That interest quickly grew into a passion as she learned more about writing and appellate advocacy over the course of three years.

When the clerkship ended, Lumish accepted a position working for a product liability firm with offices throughout the state.

"During my interview the senior partner asked me if I would argue motions in trial court and asked if I was willing to go up against the best of the plaintiffs bar and go toe to toe arguing motions in court," Lumish said. "I thought: sure that sounds like fun. I'm happy to do that – it was the beginning of the trial support role that I took on."

By the time Lumish joined Carlton Fields, she had been practicing appellate trial support since 1984, long before most law firms had attorneys dedicated strictly to that role. Today, she leads a successful team offering appellate trial support at every district in the state and the Florida Supreme Court. Her team also assists with trial support and appeals throughout the country. She's eager to pass on that experience and keep Carlton Fields ahead of the curve in the courtroom.

"I love being able to mentor less experienced lawyers in our group and have the opportunity to lead this amazing group of lawyers," Lumish said. "Everyone in our group is talented. We believe the key to success is collaboration. We work together on projects, share ideas and build on those ideas. I find the whole exchange to be very rewarding. I'm training younger lawyers and they are teaching me as well. I don't know how many people get the opportunity to do that."

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