

Bio of John Stemberger



John Stemberger is an AV Rated Orlando attorney who has been an advocate for life, marriage and family for over 30 years. As a native Floridian, he attended Florida State University where he studied political science and philosophy before obtaining a Juris Doctorate of Law at the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. In 1987 he founded the Institute for Conservative Studies (ICS), a permanent student led think-tank at Florida State University.

After internships in both the Florida House and Senate, Stemberger worked with attorney Ken Connor in Tallahassee for several years and then served as the lobbyist for Florida Right to Life with Connor in 1989. Stemberger has a unique understanding of law, government, and the media from his extensive political background having served as a consultant to state, federal, and presidential campaigns. In 1992, he was appointed as the Political Director of the Republican Party of Florida during the final campaign of former

President George H. W. Bush. Stemberger's legal, political and family advocacy has appeared on ABC News Nightline, Fox News, C-SPAN, MSNBC, and Court TV, and he has been quoted in the New York Times, The Economist and on National Public Radio. Starting in 2001, Florida Governor Jeb Bush twice appointed Stemberger to the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) for the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida, where he served for eight years screening and recommending new judge candidates in Central Florida.

A sought after speaker around the country, John Stemberger is also a member of the Council for National Policy, the Arlington Group in Washington, DC and the Marriage Co-Mission. In a feature article on his work, the Miami Herald called him, "One of the most interesting and influential people you've *never* heard of." In 2009, Orlando Magazine named him one of the top 50 most powerful people in Central Florida.

In addition to the private practice of law, Stemberger became the President of the Florida Family Policy Council (FFPC) in 2004. Since starting the FFPC he lead the successful campaign to amend Florida's Constitution to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman which was adopted by 61.9% of Florida voters in 2008. He also launched the "Florida Judicial Accountability Project" by filing a federal lawsuit against the Florida Bar and Judicial Qualifications Commission to strike down Florida's gag order which prohibits judges candidates from addressing issues during their campaigns and creating a judicial voter guide. Under his leadership the FFPC also launched Strong Marriages Florida, a statewide coalition campaign, to reduce the divorce rate and strengthen marriages across Florida in 2009.

Most recently in 2009, Stemberger received international media attention for representing Rifqa Bary, the Muslim teenager from Columbus, Ohio, who fled to Florida after she was threatened to be killed for not renouncing her faith after her conversion from Islam to Christianity was discovered.

Most importantly, he has been married to his wife Olivia for seventeen years and they have four younger children, Joseph, Benjamin, Hannah and Rachel.



John T. Stemberger
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Orlando, Florida 32806
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EDUCATION

Juris Doctorate of Law, Cumberland School of Law,
Samford University; Birmingham, Alabama

Honors and Activities

First Place, National Moot Court Competition of
Duke University; The Rabbi Seymour Seigel Memorial
Competition on Legal Ethics
Finalist, Robert Donworth Appellate Argument Competition
Finalist, Gordon Saad Moot Court Competition
Order of the Barrister
Who's Who Among American Law Students
Member, Mock Trial Advocacy Board
Member, Henry Upson Sims Moot Court Board
President, Christian Legal Society
Chairman, Cordell Hull Speakers Forum, Student Bar Association

Bachelor of Science, Political Science/Philosophy,
Florida State University; Tallahassee, Florida

Honors and Activities

First Speaker Award, Southeastern CEDA Debate Circuit, FSU
Forensics Team
Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges
Gold Key Leadership Scholarship award
President, FSU College Republicans
Founder and President, FSU Institute for Conservative Studies
State Supervisor of Elections Scholarship

Associate of Arts, Public Administration,
Daytona Beach Community College

Honors and Activities

State President, Florida Junior Colleges Student Government
Association (FJCSGA)
Student Body President, Daytona Beach Community College
Congressman Claude Pepper State Leadership Award
University of Florida Blue Key Leadership Award
Who's Who in American Junior Colleges
Outstanding Young Men of America; U.S. Jaycees
Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Fraternity
Rotary Club International, Area Scholarship

EDUCATION Cont'd.

Architectural Drafting Certification

Daytona Beach Community College, 1982

United States Air Force, JROTC

Completed three year program, Florida 42nd Squadron
Daytona Beach, 1980

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner/ Principal, Law Offices of John Stemberger, P.A., Orlando, Florida, 1997-Present

Partner, Heindl & Stemberger, Attorneys and Counselors at Law, 1997

Associate Attorney, Billings, Cunningham, Morgan & Boatwright, Orlando, Florida, 1994-1997

Commercial Litigation Attorney, Pennington & Haben, P.A., Tallahassee, Florida, 1993-1994

Political Director, Republican Party of Florida, 1992-1993

Executive Political Assistant, Kenneth L. Connor, Principal, Connor & Associates, P.A. 1990-1992

Judicial Externship, Judge James Hard, Jefferson County Criminal Court, Alabama, 1990

Law Clerk, Kenneth L. Connor and Associates, P.A., Tallahassee, Florida, Summer of 1989-1991

Lobbyist, Florida Right to Life, 1988

Legislative Internship, Representative David Troxler, Florida House of Representatives, 1987

Legislative Internship, Senate Republican Office, Senator Richard Langley, Minority Leader, 1986

State President, Florida Junior Colleges Student Government Association. 1994-1995

CIVIL TRIAL CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

2002 Trial Advocacy Institute, AFTL
2002 Jury Trial Case Workshop, ATLA
2002 Auto Negligence Seminar, AFTL

2001 The Art of Jury Selection & the Craft of Presenting Damages, FB
2001 Advanced Evidence, FB
2001 Proving and Defending Damages, FB
2001 *Instructor*, Taking and Defending Depositions, LRM

2000 Wrongful Death and Catastrophic Injuries, FB
2000 Florida Labor and Employment Law, NBI
2000 Commercial Litigation, FB
2000 Offers of Judgment and Attorneys Fees, FB
2000 *Instructor*, Legal Ethics, PIP Seminar, OPPA
2000 *Instructor*, Taking and Defending Depositions, LRM

1999 Trial Strategies for High Dollar Cases in Florida, NBI
1999 Advanced Trial Skills, AFTL
1999 Insurance Bad Faith Seminar, AFTL
1999 Advanced Evidence for Trial, FB
1999 Endoscopic Carpel Tunnel Release- Robert Roberts, M.D., MMG
1999 Emergency Neurological Procedures- Julian Bailes, M.D.,MMG
1999 Auto Negligence Update, AFTL

1998 Proving and Defending Damages in Catastrophic Injury Cases, FB
1998 Trial Advocacy Workshop, FB
1998 Insurance and Litigation, AFTL
1998 Florida PIP Suits and Auto Law Seminar, AFTL
1998 MRI Studies & Trauma to the Spine, MMG

1997 Insurance Liability Claims Conference, FLC
1997 Structured Settlements in Significant Awards, RIA
1997 Professional Malpractice, FLM

1996 Depositions: Strategies, Tactics and Mechanics, PESI
1996 Jury Selection Made Easy,
1996 Florida and Federal Trial Evidence Seminar, ICLEG
1996 Trustworthy Trust Accounts Training, FB
1996 Assisting as Guardian Ad Litem, OCBA

1995 Auto Negligence & Insurance Seminar, AFTL
1995 Florida No Fault & UM Auto Insurance Cases, AFTL
1995 Trial Lawyers Workhorse Seminar, AFTL
1995 The Ultimate Settlement Workbook, AFTL

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AV Rated by Martindale Hubble

Member, Million Dollar Advocates Forum

Chairman, Judicial Nominating Commission, Ninth Judicial Circuit, 2003-04

Barrister Member, First Central Florida Inns of Court, Orlando Chapter

Admitted, United States Supreme Court

Admitted, United States Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeal

Admitted, United States Federal Court- Middle District of Florida

Admitted, Florida Bar

Member, Trial Lawyers Section, Florida Bar

Member, Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers

Member, Association of Trial Lawyers of America

Member, Christian Legal Society

Member, Federalists Society

Member, Orange County Bar Association

Member, Volusia County Bar Association

REPORTED CASES

Marsh v. Valyou, 940 So. 2d 1125 (Fla. 2006)

Konikov v. Orange County, No. 04-10481, 2005 U.S. App. LEXIS 10176, June 3, 2005.

Jacobs et al., v. The Seminole County Canvassing Board, et al., 773 So. 2d 517 (Fla. 2000)

Taylor v. Martin County Canvassing Board, 773 So. 2d 517 (Fla. 2000)

Yeung v. Saylor, ___ So.2d ___ (Fla. App. 2 Dist. 1998)

State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. v. Isom, 681 So.2d 1170 (Fla. App. 5 Dist. 1996)

Ferrari N.. AM. v. Coral Gables, 661 So.2d 1278 (Fla. App. 1 Dist. 1995)

CIVIC / COMMUNITY

President and General Counsel, Florida Family Policy Council, Inc

Orange County Bar, Legal Aid Guardian Ad Litem, 1985 to Present

Chairman, WIN Family Services, Baltimore, MD, 2000 to Present

Member, Metro Life Church, 1985 to Present

Precinct Committeeman, Leon County Republican Executive Committee, 1991-1993

Boy Scouts of America, Halifax District, Central Florida Council

Eagle Scout Advancement Review Board, 1995

Eagle Scout Award, 1980

Vigil Honor Member, Order of the Arrow, 1981

Assistant Scoutmaster, 1981-1984

United Way Representative, BSA, 1984

Member, Seven Step Society-Sibling Support Group- Straight, Inc. Drug Rehabilitation Program, St. Petersburg 1984-85

Member, Chemical People, Daytona Beach Community Drug Abuse Task Force, 1983

American Red Cross, Campus Blood Drive Coordinator, 1982-84

Easter Seals Society, Gala Auction Staff, 1983-85

Halifax Urban Ministries, Food Collection, 1983-85

PERSONAL

Born: September 12, 1962, Daytona Beach, FL

Married: October 15, 1994 to Evelyne "Olivia" Weadon of Dothan, Alabama

Children: Joseph; Benjamin, Hannah, and Rachel

Interests: Exercise, Theology, Cooking and Art