

PENNY W. SCHMIDT

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A distinguished civil trial attorney and full-time mediator with over 30 years of litigation experience and nearly 20 years in mediation and arbitration. Known for judicial temperament, discretion, and the ability to quickly analyze and simplify complex civil disputes. Founder of Jax Mediation Center, delivering high-level dispute-resolution services statewide. Recognized for calm leadership, exceptional case-management skills, and professionalism in high-stakes negotiations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

OWNER & PRINCIPAL MEDIATOR — Jax Mediation Center — Jacksonville, Florida (Current)

- Conducts mediations and arbitrations across Florida, both virtually and in person.

PARTNER — Schutt, Schmidt & Noey — Jacksonville, Florida (1997-2021)

- Directed civil litigation matters with emphasis on trucking, personal injury, and insurance disputes and served as lead trial counsel managing cases from inception through resolution.

PARTNER — Minor & Schmidt, P.A. - Ft. Myers, Florida (1995-1997)

- Managed a broad civil litigation caseload; active in local legal and professional organizations.

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY — Fuller & Minor, P.A. - Ft. Myers, Florida (1992-1995)

- Handled litigation involving insurance, contracts, and personal injury.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, with Honors — St. Thomas University School of Law (1992)

Bachelor of Arts — University of Florida (1989)

LICENSURE & CERTIFICATIONS

- Admitted to The Florida Bar (1992),
- Admitted to the U.S. District Court — Middle & Northern Districts of Florida
- Certified Florida Circuit-Civil Mediator (2003-present)
- Certified Mediator, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida (2005-present)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP, LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

- AV Preeminent Rated, Martindale-Hubbell (since 1997)
- Jacksonville Bar Association — Former Chair, ADR Section
- Florida Bar ADR Section
- National Association of Distinguished Neutrals
- Florida Academy of Professional Mediators
- Florida Circuit-Civil Mediators Society
- Advisory Board Member, Jacksonville University College of Law (2025–present)
- Chester Bedell American Inn of Court (2023–present)
- Member, Judicial Nominating Commission for Florida Judges of Compensation Claims (2024–present)
- Fundraising Chair, Chester Bedell Inn of Court (2025–2026)
- Board Member, Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association (2019–present)
- Director, JWLA Judicial Reception (2022–2024)
- Volunteer Mediator & Arbitrator — Florida Bar Grievance Program
- Recipient, Jacksonville Bar Association President’s Award (2025-2026)

TEACHING, SPEAKING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Adjunct Professor of ADR – Jacksonville University College of Law (Fall 2026)
- Adjunct Professor of ADR — Florida Coastal School of Law (2008–2018)
- Speaker — Florida Bar Trial Lawyers Section Retreat, Amelia Island (Nov. 2025)
- Assistant Trainer for Florida Circuit Civil Mediators (2015-present)
- Speaker – Jacksonville Bar Association Annual ADR Seminar (2014-present)

PERSONAL

Resides in Jacksonville with husband, John; they have one adult daughter.