

# STEVEN J. GARD

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## **Current Position**

**Owner – Gard Mediation, LLC**

**Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Court Mediator**

Certificate No. 38032 R

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## **Previous Positions**

**Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of Attorney General, State of Florida**

Consumer Protection Division, North Florida Bureau (Jacksonville, Florida)

Enforcement of Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act and other Florida statutes in state and federal court. My duties included investigation and prosecution of civil actions seeking remedies that include restitution, civil penalties, attorney's fees, and temporary and permanent injunctive relief that also included asset freezes and the appointment of a receiver. In performing these duties, I supervised other attorneys, investigators, investigative analysts, paralegals, law clerks, and interns. I retired from the Office in 2020.

**Co-founder and Partner, Page & Bacek, Atlanta, GA and Jacksonville, FL.**

*Page & Bacek* was a "boutique" Atlanta, Georgia and Jacksonville, Florida litigation firm focusing its practice in the areas of securities arbitration and securities litigation representing individual and institutional investors. The firm later became *Gard, Smiley, Bishop and Dovin*. The firm grew in size and stature, developing a national reputation in the areas of securities litigation and arbitration.

As a partner in the firm, I participated in Congressional hearings and helped in the drafting and passage of state and federal legislation targeting "penny stock" fraud and insider trading. In 1990, my firm helped establish the Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association, which now has over 300 members from 44 states, Puerto Rico and Japan. I was a founding member of this organization and remained a member for 25 years.

During my tenure with this firm, I tried over 200 cases, argued before the Georgia Court of Appeals as well as the Third, Fourth and Eleventh U. S. Circuit Courts of Appeal, obtained injunctive relief and damages totaling millions of dollars, and won a jury verdict in excess of \$1 million in a federal court trial in Atlanta. I also supervised, trained, and managed junior partners, associate attorneys, paralegals and staff in all aspects of a complex civil litigation law practice and practice management, including participation in the management of the firm's information technology, employee benefits, recruiting, pension plan, human resources, case management, trial strategy, and budgeting decisions and processes. I retired from the firm after 20 years.

**U. S. Securities & Exchange Commission, Atlanta, GA.**

Division of Enforcement, Enforcement Attorney  
Enforcement of the federal securities laws and SEC rules and regulations in federal court and before SEC administrative law judges. My expertise at the SEC was in the area of government-backed debt securities sold to institutional investors.

**Assistant Attorney General, State of Missouri, St. Louis, MO.**

Enforcement of Missouri's consumer protection, antitrust and securities laws under John Ashcroft during his term as Missouri's Attorney General.

**State Bar Memberships**

Florida 2006-Present; Board Certified by the Florida Bar in Business Litigation 2010-2021;  
member of the Florida Bar Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Committee  
Georgia 1978-Present  
Missouri 1976-Present (inactive)

**Education**

**Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, Missouri**  
*Juris Doctor, 1976*

**University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan**  
*Bachelor of Arts, with distinction, Political Science, 1972; Honors College*

**Training and Teaching Experience**

**In addition to my passion for the courtroom, I enjoy teaching and training younger lawyers and law students in the art of zealous representation while maintaining**

**professionalism and ethical conduct. This is some of my training and teaching experience:**

**National Association of Attorneys General Training and Research Institute (NAGTRI), 2017-present**

NAGTRI is the training arm of the National Association of Attorneys General. In 2017, I was invited to join the NAGTRI faculty to assist in the education and training of attorneys in other state Attorney Generals' offices in trial skills, strategy, and investigation and litigation techniques. I have since taught programs in Trial Skills, Motion Practice Skills, Settlement Strategies, Deposition Taking, and Mediation in New York, West Virginia, Illinois, Rhode Island, Florida, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, and Missouri.

**Florida Attorney General, 2014-2020**

I developed written materials and conducted presentations to Consumer Protection Division Attorneys and Investigators on topics of interest to our Division at the Division's annual conferences and periodic "Lunch & Learn" webinars.

**National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) – Atlanta, Georgia, 1995-2005**

I served as an adjunct faculty member at Emory University Law School's trial advocacy skills program sponsored by NITA for second-year law students over a two-week period each year in May. These programs focused upon developing presentation skills, understanding the rules of civil procedure, rules of evidence, and making, arguing, and overcoming objections.

**Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association (PIABA) Annual Meetings, 1995-2005**

As a member of the program committee, I designed training and continuing legal education programs to be presented at annual meetings of my organization, prepared written materials for those presentations, and conducted seminars using these materials at PIABA's annual meetings.

**PUBLICATIONS**

*Securities Arbitration--Shortcut to Justice*

Financial Planning magazine

*Securities Disputes after McMahon v. Shearson*

Connecticut Law Tribune

*A Message to Mediators*

Securities Arbitration Commentator  
*When Private Companies Invite the Public Inside*  
Atlanta Business Chronicle

### **Certifications, Awards and Honors**

Elected to the Board of Directors of the Florida Academy of Professional Mediators 2022  
Board Certified by The Florida Bar in Business Litigation 2010-2021.  
“AV” Rated by Martindale Hubbell for more than 25 years.  
Named one of the “Top Lawyers in Jacksonville” by *Jacksonville Magazine* – 2012  
Member of the Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association 1991-2015.

### **Civic and Social Organizations**

*Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, Inc.*, 501(c)(3) non-profit, Past-President and a Director since 2011.  
*University of Michigan Jacksonville, FL Alumni*, Past-President  
*Southern Junction--Jacksonville, Florida Blues and Rock band*; General Counsel, booking agent, manager and drummer  
*Ashlar Lodge # 98 Free and Accepted Masons*, St. Augustine, FL. Member since 2014.  
*American Legion Post 250, Middleburg, FL.*

### **Linked In Profile**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/atllawr/>

**References can be provided upon request.**