

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE LAW



By: Steven D. Kramer

## > HOW DO WE RECOGNIZE GREAT ATTORNEYS?

The reality is that there are a variety of factors that determine the greatness of an attorney. Some factors are objective, such as trial experience, results in past cases, test scores, or grades. Most factors are subjective such as the quality or persuasiveness of an argument in court, the attorney's skill at negotiating or giving legal advice, the reputation of the attorney, or in asking another attorney- would you be likely to refer a client to attorney X?

Orlando Style has given careful thought to selecting and recognizing some of the best attorneys in Central Florida. Orlando Style has combed through numerous curriculum vitae and resumes to evaluate the objective criteria that make for a great attorney, but they have also not lost sight of the subjective criteria. In order to capture the intangibles that make for a great attorney, Orlando Style has interviewed lawyers, examined client feedback and reviews, polled other professionals and colleague and sought to gain a comprehensive picture in order to select some of the best attorneys in Central Florida.

Orlando Style's list of attorneys represents a wide range of legal practice areas, but they share one thing in common, dedication the practice of law and zealously representing their clients.

Before you hire an attorney, do your homework. Make sure that the attorney you are considering has a good reputation in the legal community and the community at large. Remember the most important community is the location where your case is pending. Be sure that the attorney is familiar with the local rules and the local players, as this can have a significant impact on the success of your case. It is always a good idea to meet with a prospective attorney in person. By meeting with the attorney in person, you can gain a feel for their demeanor, ensure that their office is well-run and organized, and look them in the eyes to make sure that they are the right attorney for you. Be sure to discuss how the attorney handles communication such as phone calls or meetings, their expectations and strategy in your case, and be wary of promises or guarantees. Finally, find out whether you will be dealing with an attorney or a staff member or case managers. Once you have all of the evidence before you, then make the call on hiring a lawyer. <

*Mr. Kramer is a leader in the Central Florida Community. He currently serves as President of the prestigious William's Inn of Court, previously served as President of the Seminole County Bar Association, President of the Seminole County Legal Aid Society, Co-Founder and Director of the Seminole County Young Lawyers Division, and is a Member of the Florida Council of Bar Association Presidents and other organizations.*