



John Elliott Leighton

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Serious lawyers for serious cases.™

John Elliott Leighton is the managing partner of Leighton Law, P.A., a Miami and Orlando boutique trial law firm. He is a board certified civil trial lawyer who specializes in catastrophic injury, maritime, Resort Torts™, inadequate premises security/violent crime, motor vehicle, medical malpractice, product liability and brain injury litigation. He is an accomplished author, having published numerous articles, books and book chapters on a variety of personal injury and trial skills topics. His writings have been featured articles in *Trial* magazine seven times. He is a frequent national lecturer at legal programs and conventions and has spoken and taught at seminars, colleges and conventions in over a dozen states.

Mr. Leighton regularly chairs trial skills colleges and seminars for the National College of Advocacy/American Association for Justice (formerly Association of Trial Lawyers of America [ATLA]). He is a member of the National College of Advocacy Board of Trustees and past Chairman of ATLA's Motor Vehicle, Highway and Premises Liability Section. He is the current Chairman of the Inadequate Security Litigation Group, which he has chaired since 1996. He also currently serves as the Chairman of the Academy of Trial Advocacy, a national invitation-only organization of the country's leading catastrophic injury trial lawyers. Mr. Leighton sits on the Advisory Board of the National Crime Victim Bar Association.



A nationally recognized advocate for crime victims, Mr. Leighton has been a leader in the field of inadequate premises security litigation for over twenty years and is the author of the two volume book, *Litigating Premises Security Cases* (Thomson-West Publishing, 2006, supplemented 2008). It is the most comprehensive treatise on investigating, preparing, litigating and trying inadequate premises security cases and representing crime victims.

His trial in *Jeffery v. Publix Super Markets*, a landmark inadequate security case in Florida, was the subject of an entire chapter in the book *Persuasive Jury Communication: Case Studies from Successful Trials*, Chapter 10 (Shepard's/McGraw-Hill, 1995). In addition to lecturing nationally to attorney and general public audiences, Mr. Leighton has led training programs for crime victim advocates and lawyers throughout the country. He recently received the "Advocate of Justice Award" from the National Crime Victim Bar Association for his work on behalf of crime victims.

Having obtained some of the state's largest verdicts and settlements in major personal injury and wrongful death cases, Mr. Leighton continues to represent families throughout Florida and selectively around the country. His medical malpractice verdict in *Shoaf v. Geiling* of \$24.1 million was the largest verdict in Seminole County history. The arbitration award of \$8 million he obtained in *Seetaram v. United Rentals* is the largest known single death award in Broward County for a minor. He is often called upon to handle catastrophic and complex matters in other states, and has litigated and tried complex cases in Texas, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Georgia, New York and North Carolina. Mr. Leighton's victories on behalf of families who have lost loved ones to negligence have resulted in record setting wrongful death verdicts and settlements.

Mr. Leighton has been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*, voted as one of the "Top Lawyers" in the *South Florida Legal Guide* for the last eight years, has been named a Florida SuperLawyer™ (and voted as one of the top 100 of all the state SuperLawyers), and has been elected to the *Florida Trend* magazine "Legal Elite" Top Lawyers in Florida by peer selection. He is rated as "10.0/10 - Superb" by AVVO.com and holds an AV rating (highest possible) by Martindale-Hubbell.

Mr. Leighton received his undergraduate and law degrees with honors from the University of Florida, where he was an editor of the *Florida Law Review*, competed on the Trial Team, and taught first year jurisprudence.