

Judge John F. Lakin
12th Judicial Circuit Court
Sarasota, Florida

Florida Circuit Court Judge John F. Lakin was elected (unopposed) in 2012, to the 12th Judicial Circuit Court for Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto Counties. Judge Lakin started his legal career in Boston, Massachusetts in 1990, working for a Boston area criminal defense firm. Thereafter, Judge Lakin was with the Andover, Massachusetts law firm of Broadhurst, Lakin and Lakin where he was partners with his brother Kenneth A. Lakin and then State Representative, Arthur J. Broadhurst until 2000.

Judge Lakin relocated to Florida in 2000 and worked at the law firm of Barnes Walker, in Bradenton, Florida, from 2001 until 2007 where he became a partner in 2003. In 2007, Judge Lakin and Attorney Randolph Smith opened the Law Firm of Lakin Smith, P.A. in Bradenton, Florida, where he worked until November of 2011. During 2012 Judge Lakin worked as a partner at the Law Firm of Lakin & Lakin, P.A. in Sarasota, Florida.

In 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010, Judge Lakin was selected as one of the Florida Super Lawyers. Only 5% of the attorneys in the State of Florida are selected for inclusion. The attorneys selected have to have a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Judge Lakin was a Board Certified Civil Trial lawyer by The Florida Bar Association.

Judge Lakin has extensive experience in insurance litigation, representing policy holders in coverage disputes and the appraisal process, and in breach of contract and bad faith claims in both state and federal courts, including handling reinsurance, cedant/reinsurance discovery disputes in domestic, London markets and other international markets. Judge Lakin has also represented clients in complex business and commercial litigation for many years. In addition, he has litigated numerous condominium cases and represented condominium associations throughout Florida. He has extensive experience in criminal defense work, representing clients in serious felonies for many years in Florida and Massachusetts.

Judge Lakin has appeared as a guest on Court TV (Now TruTv), CNN Headline News and MSNBC as a legal analyst for criminal trials. He has been interviewed on BBC international radio regarding the American legal system. Judge Lakin is a frequent lecturer for numerous organizations, including the American Bar Association. In May 2009, he was a speaker at the Bermuda Bar Association discussing insurance litigation. Judge Lakin will be speaking in October 2013 to the Northern Ireland Law Society in Belfast.

Judge Lakin is a former adjunct professor at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida where he taught business law and constitutional law for seven years. He has also taught criminal law at Manatee Community College.

Judge Lakin was admitted to practice in Florida, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia and is a member of the Florida, Massachusetts and District of Columbia Bar Associations, and the American Bar Association. Judge Lakin is currently a member of the Judicial Division of the ABA, active in the Criminal Justice and International Law committees. Judge Lakin received his A.B. from Boston College and his J.D. from Massachusetts School of Law.