



# John J. Upchurch

**Upchurch Watson White & Max**



## **Principal**

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## **Professional Education and Qualifications**

J.D. University of Florida Levin College of Law  
The National Judicial College, Basic and Advanced Programs  
Harvard University Law School, Negotiations Program

- ◆ Certified Florida Circuit Court Mediator
- ◆ Certified U.S. District Court Mediator, Middle District of Florida
- ◆ Certified Appellate Mediator, Fifth District Court of Appeal

## **Background**

Mr. Upchurch was elected as the youngest Circuit Judge in Florida history in 1976, serving as Chief Judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit beginning in 1979. He received the "Most Outstanding Jurist" award from The Florida Bar in 1981. He was appointed by the Supreme Court of Florida as a charter member of the Supreme Court Committee on Mediation and Arbitration in 1989 and to the Panel of Distinguished Neutrals of the Center for Public Resources in 1993. In 2005, he was selected for membership in the Academy of Court Appointed Masters, the only national organization for special masters.

Following his service on the bench, Mr. Upchurch served as president and managing partner of Cobb Cole & Bell of Daytona Beach, before founding the mediation firm, Upchurch Watson White & Max, in 1996.

## **Practice Experience**

*Including but not limited to...*

- ◆ Complex Commercial Litigation
- ◆ Construction Defect Litigation
- ◆ Tort / Products Liability
- ◆ Medical Malpractice
- ◆ Probate Litigation
- ◆ Health Law
- ◆ Insurance Disputes
- ◆ Bad Faith

## **Memberships, Professional and Civic Associations**

- ◆ Founding Fellow, American College of Civil Trial Mediators
- ◆ Diplomate, Florida Association of Professional Mediators
- ◆ Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution
- ◆ CPR / Georgetown Commission on Ethics and Standards of Practice in ADR
- ◆ Member, Academy of Court Appointed Masters
- ◆ Author, "*Product Liability Disputes*" Mediating Legal Disputes, (Little, Brown, 1996).  
(Winner of the CPR Book Prize, given annually to the best book published in the field of dispute resolution.)
- ◆ Author, "*Alternative Dispute Resolution*" The Florida Healthcare Professional's Medico-Legal Guide, (D.C. Press, 2003)
- ◆ Author, "*Preparation for and Presentation during Alternative Dispute Resolution*" Alternative Dispute Resolution, The Litigator's Handbook (ABA Section of Litigation, 2000.)
- ◆ Presentations (partial listing): ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution, The Florida Bar, Florida Academy of Trial Lawyers, Defense Research Institute.

**Daytona Beach**

**Orlando / Maitland**

**Miami**

**Birmingham**