

Derek K. Mountford

Associate

Jacksonville
dmountford@gunster.com
(904) 350-7179



Practice & Industry Areas

- Business Litigation
- Banking & Financial Services Litigation
- Class Action Defense

Education

- University of Florida Levin College of Law, Gainesville, FL, J.D., *cum laude*, 2016
- Harding University, Searcy, AR, B.A., Public Administration, *cum laude*, 2013

Bar & Court Admissions

- Florida Bar, 2017
- Middle District of Florida, 2017
- Southern District of Florida, 2017
- Northern District of Florida, 2017
- Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, 2019
- All Florida District Courts of Appeal, 2017

Overview

Derek Mountford is a litigator and problem solver in Gunster's Business Litigation practice group. Businesses face a variety of legal disputes, each requiring a different approach that balances the need for efficiency with the need for a specific outcome. Derek understands these nuances and helps clients navigate complex cases nationwide.

Derek has experience working on bet-the-company cases for business in a variety of industries and handles cases involving alleged antitrust violations, corporate governance disputes, breaches of contract, and other major commercial matters. He also represents financial institutions in cases concerning all aspects of their business, including those arising under the Uniform Commercial Code, allegations of fraud, and consumer finance

laws such as the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (“FDCPA”), Telephone Consumer Protection Act (“TCPA”), and others.

Prior to joining Gunster, Derek spent time with regional and national law firms where he worked in complex commercial litigation and appellate advocacy practice groups. He also served as a judicial law clerk for two U.S. District Judges in Jacksonville, opportunities that broadened his perspective and enhanced his advocacy skills. The lessons learned along the way inform his practice now and offer a unique lens through which Derek assesses cases.

Outside the office, Derek is an active member in the community. He serves as an officer on the board of multiple nonprofits, participates in professional and leadership organizations, and has organized community service events to improve the lives of those in need.

Representative Matters

- Obtained dismissal of all claims against a financial institution related to electronic funds transfers under U.C.C. Article 4A
- Represented multiple energy cooperatives in mass actions involving their retention of excess revenues and capital credit policies
- Managed nationwide portfolio of contested consumer finance matters for large auto finance company

Professional Associations & Memberships

- Florida Bar Association
 - Consumer Protection Committee, 2019-present
 - Vice chair, 2021-present
- Federal Bar Association, Jacksonville Chapter, 2017-present
- Jacksonville Bar Association, 2017-20
- Chester Bedell American Inn of Court, associate member, 2017-18

Civic & Community Service

- United Community Outreach Ministry (UCOM), board of directors, 2018-present
 - President, 2022
 - President-elect, 2021
- Police Athletic League of Jacksonville (JaxPAL), board of directors, 2020-present
 - Vice President, 2022
 - Governance Chair, 2022
- Jaguars Foundation, JaxMVP, Class of 2019
- San Jose Church of Christ, 2016-present

