



HALICZER
PETTIS &
SCHWAMM
Attorneys At Law



Eugene K. Pettis

Co-Founder and
Senior Partner

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Eugene K. Pettis is the Co-Founder and Senior Partner of Haliczer Pettis & Schwamm, residing in the Fort Lauderdale office. For 37 years, Eugene has represented an impressive number of individual clients in civil trial matters and has also represented many corporate and public sector clients. He handles a range of complex cases, with a primary focus on representing plaintiffs in the areas of medical malpractice, personal injury and commercial litigation.

Eugene has the historic and laudable designation as the [first African American President of The Florida Bar](#). In his role at the helm of The Florida Bar, which governs nearly 100,000 attorneys, he provided visionary leadership and brought a passion for giving back to his profession and his community. Eugene spearheaded an assortment of initiatives while President, including the conceptualization of the still active [William Reece Smith Leadership Academy](#), a multi-session training program designed to help a diverse and inclusive group of lawyers become better leaders.

Eugene is a highly sought-after speaker who has used his engaging and enthusiastic style to motivate thousands. He is also the host of the [Can We Talk? 360° podcast](#). Eugene's "Can We Talk 360°" interview sessions and "Motivational Moments" solo sessions are podcasts created to "provide a safe space where we can openly, honestly, candidly and authentically discuss different perspectives and viewpoints on an array of topics that impact humanity."

He has two daughters, the oldest a litigation attorney in Orlando and the youngest recently received her doctoral degree in child psychology.

Admissions

- Florida
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

Honors

- Listed, [The Best Lawyers in America](#) (2010-2025)
 - Lawyer of the Year, Plaintiff Medical Malpractice (2017 & 2023)
 - Lawyer of the Year, Personal Injury Defense (2018)
 - Lawyer of the Year, Employment Law - Individuals, Miami (2013)
- Listed, Florida [Super Lawyers](#) (2006-2024)
- Rated, [Martindale-Hubbell](#), AV Preeminent®
- Listed, [Boca Raton Observer](#), Top Lawyer (2024)
- Recipient, T.J. Reddick Legacy Achievement Award, T.J. Reddick Bar Association (2023)
- Recipient, University of Florida Levin College of Law, UF Law Distinguished Service Award (2020)
- Recipient, [Attorney at Law Magazine](#), Legal Legend Award (2019)
- Recipient, The Florida Bar, Henry T. Latimer Inclusion Award (2018)
- Listed, Florida Trend Magazine, Florida 500
- Listed, [South Florida Legal Guide](#) (2013-2022)
- Listed, [Florida Trend Magazine](#), Florida Legal Elite (2020-2022)
- Listed, [Fort Lauderdale Illustrated](#), Top Lawyers of 2022
 - Medical Malpractice Law
 - Personal Injury Litigation
- Recipient, [South Florida Business Journal](#), Ultimate CEO Award (2014)
- Recipient, Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), Trial Lawyer of the Year (2013)
- Recipient, Urban League of Broward County, Margaret Roach Humanitarian Award (2012)

Professional Associations

- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
- Member, American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)
- Member, The Florida Bar, Special Committee on Opportunity in the Practice of Law
- Member, The Florida Bar, Trial Lawyers Section
- Member, Broward County Bar Association
- Past President, The Florida Bar

Community and Civic Organizations

- Member, University of Florida Foundation, Executive Board and Life Member
- Member, University of Florida Levin College of Law, Board of Trustees

- [Member, ClubCorp, Board of Governors](#)

Education

- [University of Florida Levin College of Law, JD \(1985\)](#)
- [University of Florida, BS \(1982\)](#)

News

- ["Season 2, Episode 7 Eugene Pettis," Athena Rising: The Power of the Female Lawyer podcast \(September 2024\)](#)
- ["Healthcare Equity - Pastor John White, Attorney Eugene Pettis," Good Morning Miramar \(April 2023\)](#)
- ["Lawyer, advocate, judge reflect on diversity as Lee's only Black judge leaves office," *News-Press* \(December 2022\)](#)
- ["How to Combat Healthcare Disparity?," *South Florida Times* \(October 2022\)](#)
- ["How Can You Combat the Issue of Healthcare Disparity?," *Westside Gazette* \(October 2022\)](#)
- [Service To Others, The Secret To Success, Legal Talk Network Podcast \(December 2021\)](#)
- ["Special Committee On Opportunity in the Practice of Law Sets its Path," *The Florida Bar* \(October 2021\)](#)
- ["Broward school district joins lawsuit against vaping companies," *SunSentinel* \(July 2020\)](#)
- ["Maintaining Legal Decorum in the 'New Normal'," *Florida Bar News* \(April 2020\)](#)
- ["Point of View: A diverse Florida Supreme Court if Worth the Wait," *The Palm Beach Post* \(February 2020\)](#)
- ["Building a Gold Reputation," LegalFuel Practice Resource Center for The Florida Bar Speaker Series \(May 2019\)](#)
- [Eugene Pettis Speaks About the Firm, HPS Video Series \(February 2019\)](#)
- ["RX Warning: Quitting Diversity Efforts Too Soon May Result in Harmful Relapse," *The Florida Bar Journal* \(June 2018\)](#)
- ["Broward board pushes for straw vote on assault rifle ban," *SunSentinel* \(March 2018\)](#)
- ["New lawsuit claims Hollywood nursing home was negligent," Local10.com \(September 2017\)](#)
- ["Failing to Protect Our Elderly: Blame for All After Hollywood Deaths," *Daily Business Review* \(September 2017\)](#)
- ["Haliczer, Pettis & Schwamm, P.A.: The Plaintiff's Firm That Understands the Defense," *South Florida Legal Guide* \(September 2017\)](#)
- ["Visionary Man: Eugene Pettis' plan to lift others up the ladder," *Florida Super Lawyers Magazine* \(June 2017\)](#)

Events

- [Can We Talk? 360° \(ongoing podcast\)](#)
- [Bias Awareness Within the Legal Profession, 44th Annual Legislative and Case Law Update Seminar, The Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar, July 2024](#)
- [Maintaining Our Fight While Living in a Lawless Society, What's at Stake Political Forum, July 2024](#)

- [Judicial Harmony: Meeting Lawyers' Desires with Courtroom Finesse](#), Advanced Litigation Excellence Conference, Nova Southeastern University, March 2024
- [The Litigator's Playbook: Winning Moves in Civil Litigation](#), Advanced Litigation Excellence Conference, Nova Southeastern University, March 2024
- [Healthcare Disparity in Our Community: A Black History Month and Beyond Conversation](#), New Mount Olive Baptist Church Facebook Live, February 2024
- [The Role of the Black Church in Eradicating Health Disparities in the Black Community](#), The Celebrated Central District Conference, February 2024
- [General Body Meeting Featured Speaker](#), Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association, January 2024
- [Building a Gold Reputation](#), Broward SAO Leadership Academy, December 2023
- [2nd Boys in Bowties with B.R.A.I.N.S. Event](#), McArthur High School, October 2023
- [Mountmentum & HPS Presents: How Can You Combat the Issue of Healthcare Disparity in Your Community?](#), New Mount Olive Baptist Church, October 2023
- [Kingdom Konversation - Healthcare Equity w/Attorney Eugene Pettis](#), The Immanuel Temple, May 2023
- [The Black Male Think Tank Series: Breakthrough to Excellence](#), T.J. Reddick Bar Association, April 2023
- [What's Happening in Florida Civil Courts - Hear from Civil Administrative Judges from Around the State](#), Miami Dade Bar Florida Law Con, March 2023
- [Healthcare Disparity Breakfast Community Discussion](#), HPS and Mt. Olive Baptist Church, January 2023
- [Inclusion, Diversity and Engagement](#), Florida Bar Association Elder Law Annual Update 2023, January 2023
- [New "Improved Resolution" Rules](#), 2022 Bench & Bar Convention, May 2022
- [Diversity & Inclusion Empower Hour](#), OCBA and the Young Lawyers' Section, October 2021
- [Curated Discussions with Bar Leaders](#), The Florida Bar Leadership Academy's Limited Liability Leadership Podcast, July 2021
- [Equity & Equality Within our Legal Practice, Community and Beyond](#), Broward County Bar Association, February 2021
- [Looking Back, Moving Forward: Conversations with Past & Present Florida Bar & Young Lawyer Leaders](#), The Florida Bar, June 2020