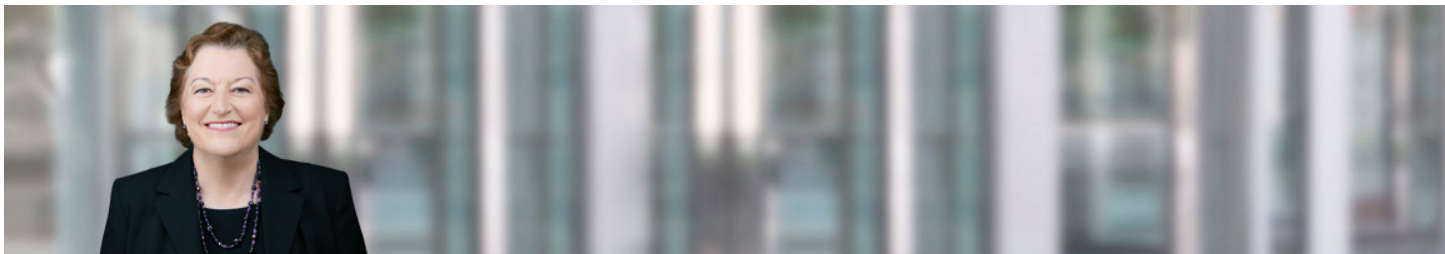


## Patricia A. Conners



Shareholder

Tallahassee Office

tconners@stearnsweaver.com

Phone: 850-354-7622

### PRACTICE AREAS

State Attorneys General

Antitrust, Competition &

Consumer Protection

Litigation & Dispute Resolution

Government and Administrative

Class Actions

Government Affairs

### OVERVIEW

Patricia “Trish” Conners is a nationally-renowned litigator and creative legal strategist, with particular expertise in antitrust and competition law. For 36 years she served seven attorneys general in various senior executive positions in the Florida Attorney General’s Office, including as Chief Deputy.

As Chief Deputy, she supervised over 1,100 employees and engaged in a wide array of matters, representing the State of Florida on both sides of the “v”. As Deputy Attorney General for Enforcement she oversaw the Office’s Antitrust and Complex Enforcement, Civil Rights, Consumer Protection, False Claims and Lemon Law Arbitration Divisions. For the last two decades of her extensive career in public service, Trish was also the Director of the Antitrust and Complex Enforcement in addition to her other responsibilities. In 2001, she was the first woman to be appointed to be Chair of the Multistate Antitrust Task Force of the National Association of Attorneys General, serving in that capacity until 2005.

Trish’s practice includes advising clients, both plaintiffs and defendants, regarding antitrust, competition, and consumer protection enforcement issues, investigations, or litigation, both in single-state and multistate matters; providing cutting-edge and timely compliance counseling and training to clients to minimize potential antitrust or consumer protection exposure; and providing clients with strategic counsel regarding investigative, litigation and settlement strategies as well as creative options for effective case resolution. A particular focus of her work is enforcement by state attorneys general.

Through her time with the Attorney General’s Office, Trish gained extensive knowledge of state and federal agency antitrust and consumer protection enforcement practices and policy decisions as well as many other aspects of government and regulatory practice. The insights culled from this knowledge as well as her extensive substantive enforcement experience are a valuable resource to companies confronting potential multistate or multi-agency exposure as well as to state attorneys general and private plaintiffs contemplating antitrust actions.

Trish has been credited with helping obtain billions of dollars in recoveries on behalf of the State of Florida and its citizens. She has led or co-led countless notable multistate and state-federal investigative and litigation efforts, concentrating on both litigation and settlement strategy and creative case resolution. Her antitrust work includes many successful enforcement actions involving such diverse products as areas as pharmaceuticals, financial services, banking, health care products and services, telecommunications, dairy and other food products, and a wide variety of consumer products. Her work led Trish to regularly interact with opposing counsel, private plaintiffs' counsel, other state attorneys general offices as well as counterparts at the Federal Trade Commission, U.S. Department of Justice and sometimes even European agencies. Trish is Board Certified by The Florida Bar in Antitrust and Trade Regulation.\*

*\*With less than 7% of eligible members certified in Antitrust and Trade Regulation, board certification is The Florida Bar's highest level of evaluation of a lawyer's competence and experience in a particular area of practice. It identifies lawyers with "special knowledge, skills and proficiency, as well as a reputation for professionalism and ethics." To achieve certification, a lawyer must endure rigorous examination and testing and be evaluated by their peers.*

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## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

As Chief Deputy Attorney General: managed 1,100 employees, including 450 attorneys. Managed the daily operations of the entire agency, including directly supervising the entire executive team and all senior managers within the Office.

As Deputy for Enforcement and/or Director of the Antitrust and Complex Enforcement Division: led or co-led countless notable multistate and state-federal investigative and litigation efforts including, most recently, the multi-billion dollar multistate opioids settlement negotiations as well as the following matters:

Co-represented the State of Florida, helping achieve the \$2 billion Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill settlement.

Represented the State of Florida, helping to obtain the \$26 billion multistate mortgage servicing settlement, and separately negotiating multi-billion guarantees for the benefit of distressed Florida homeowners, a result only one other state was able to achieve.

Represented the State of Florida in the investigation of and the multidistrict litigation against the three major infant formula manufacturers for price fixing, resulting in a \$13 million Florida-only settlement.

Represented the State of Florida in the investigation of and the multidistrict litigation against the major disposable contact lens manufacturers for price fixing, resulting in an \$84 million global settlement.

Represented the State of Florida in the investigation of and the multidistrict litigation against the major makers of commercial tissue for price fixing, resulting in a nearly \$3 million Florida-only settlement.

Represented the State of Florida in negotiating several settlements resolving multistate litigation alleging "pay-for-delay" antitrust violations by major pharmaceutical companies, including one on behalf of the states and the Federal Trade Commission totaling over \$100 million.

Co-represented the State of Florida in the investigation and litigation against the major milk processors in Florida

for rigging bids on school milk, resulting in a \$34 million state bid-rigging recovery settlement.

Led the multimillion-dollar settlement negotiations on behalf of the State of Florida with a large residential home developer to resolve complaints regarding alleged construction defects in certain developments.

Worked on behalf of the State of Florida to help obtain a creative case resolution with a major Florida mortgage servicer to resolve certain servicing and other related concerns.

Successfully negotiated on behalf of the State of Florida a settlement with a major global investment firm to resolve potential claims regarding the collapse of Florida's Local Government Investment Pool.

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## PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

American Bar Association, Government and Public Sector Lawyers' Division, Executive Council, 2020-Present

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tallahassee, Inc.  
Board of Directors, 2023

Bond Elementary School, Classroom Connection Mentor, 2022-2023

University of Florida, Adjunct Professor, Antitrust Law, Spring 2023

American Bar Association, Antitrust Law section, 2001-Present  
Compliance and Ethics Co-Chair, 2023-Present

State Antitrust Practice and Statutes (6th Edition) Treatise, Editorial Board, 2021-Present

Leadership Development Committee, Co-Chair, 2019-Present

Nominating Committee, 2007-2008; 2019-2020

Consumer Protection Committee, Co-Chair, 2015-2019

Consumer Protection Conference, Co-Chair, 2016-2017

Long Range Planning, 2014-2015

Section Reach Task Force, 2012-2014

Controlling the Costs of Antitrust Enforcement and Litigation Task Force, 2011-2012

Section Reserves, Advisory Board, 2009-2012

Presidential [U.S.] Transition Report Task Force, 2008-2009

Fuel & Energy Industry Committee, Council Liaison, 2006-2009

State Antitrust Enforcement Committee, Council Liaison, 2006-2009

Membership & Equal Opportunity Committee, Co-Chair, 2005-2007

Executive Council, 2002-2009

National Association of Attorneys General, 2002-2005

Litigation Outreach Task Force, 2004-2005

Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund Advisory Council, 2023

American Bar Association, Life Fellow

American Antitrust Institute, Advisory Board, 2002-Present

Florida Association of Women Lawyers (FAWL), 1985-Present

Tallahassee Women Lawyers (TWL), 1985-Present

The State Center, a 501(c)(3) that helps provide training to State Attorney General Antitrust and Consumer Protection enforcement staff, Board of Directors, 2021

National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), Multistate Antitrust Task Force, Chair, 2001-2005

The Florida Bar, Antitrust and Trade Regulation Certification Committee, 2001-2004  
Chair, 2003-2004

Vice Chair, 2001-2003

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## RECOGNITION

*The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2023-Present

*Florida Trend's* Florida Legal Elite

NOTABLE – Women Leaders in Law, 2023

Antitrust & Trade Regulation, Hall of Fame, 2020-2022

Government & Non-Profit Attorneys Section, 2016-2020

Florida Attorney General's Office "Trish Conners Award", 2020

Established by Attorney General Ashley Moody to honor Trish's 36 years of service. Presented annually "to recognize the [Office of Attorney General] lawyer who exemplifies excellence, professionalism, and demonstrated dedication, to the mission of the Department of Legal Affairs."

National Association of Attorney General Recognitions

Outstanding Senior Staff Award, for leadership role in the multistate opioids case, 2018

Outstanding Chief Deputy Award, for contributions to the NAAG community as Chief Deputy, 2018

Outstanding Senior Staff Award, for service to NAAG as the appointed Chair of the NAAG Multistate Antitrust Task Force, 2005

Nelson Award, American Bar Association, 2017

Davis Productivity Award, 20 Years of Sustained Achievement on Behalf of the State of Florida, 2015

AV Preeminent®, Martindale-Hubbell®

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## PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

**Events:** Antitrust Ethics: Old And New Issues

American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section, Spring Meeting | | April 2024

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**Events:** Briefing with State Enforcers

2023 Antitrust Spring Meeting | | March 2023

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**Events:** The “New” Antitrust Paradigm: Predilections, Pitfalls and Predictions

Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) | | February 2023

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**Events:** Fast Cars & Slow Rules: Name, Image, and Likeness post Alston

Tallahassee Bar Association CLE Luncheon | | September 2022

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**Events:** Villainy Gone Viral: The Many Faces of Fraud in a Pandemic

American Bar Association Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division | | May 2021

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**Events:** Old Price Gouging Laws, New Applications

American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section, Spring Meeting Webinar | | March 2021

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**Events:** Antitrust and CP Ethics Meet Hollywood Squares

American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section, Spring Meeting | | April 2020

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**Events:** Enforcement Issues and Opportunities for Antitrust Practitioners

Practicing Law Institute, Developments in Antitrust Law & Regulation 2020 | | April 2020

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**Events:** Antitrust Counseling and Competitor Collaboration and Price Gouging During COVID-19

American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section, Consumer Protection Conference | | April 2020

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**Events:** Bid-Rigging Detection

American Bar Association Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division/Section of Antitrust Law | | November 2019

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**Events:** Enforcement Issues and Opportunities for Antitrust Practitioners

Practicing Law Institute, Developments in Antitrust Law & Regulation 2019 | | April 2019

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**Events:** Last Year Today—The Year in Consumer Protection

American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section, Spring Meeting | | March 2019

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**Events:** The Government Perspective: Consumer Protection and Enforcement in Evolving Markets

American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section, Consumer Protection Conference | | February 2019

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**Events:** Sinking Your Teeth into NC Dental

American Bar Association Antitrust Law Section, Spring Meeting | | April 2018

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**Events:** Competition and Innovation in Online Markets  
Conference of Western Attorneys General || August 2017

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## NEWSROOM

**Firm Announcements:** [Three Stearns Weaver Miller Shareholders Selected as Florida Trend’s Legal Elite NOTABLE – Women Leaders in Law](#)  
| November 2023

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**In the Media:** [States are quietly stepping up antitrust enforcement to ensure fair competition](#)  
American Bar Association Journal || October 2023

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**Firm Announcements:** [Stearns Weaver Miller Expands Tallahassee Office Space and Offered Services](#)  
| February 2022

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**In the Media:** [TLH Briefcase: Jan. 6, 2022](#)  
Tallahassee Democrat || January 2022

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**In the Media:** [Sunburn — The morning read of what’s hot in Florida politics — 12.9.21](#)  
Florida Politics || December 2021

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**Firm Announcements:** [Former Florida Chief Deputy Attorney General Patricia “Trish” Conners Joins Stearns Weaver Miller](#)  
| December 2021

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## EDUCATION

J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law, 1982

B.S., with Highest Honors, University of Florida, 1979

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## ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

Florida

The Supreme Court of the United States

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## CERTIFICATIONS

Board Certified by The Florida Bar in Antitrust and Trade Regulation