



ROBERT W. MEAD, JR.

HEALTH CARE LAW ORLANDO

When it came time for attorney Robert Mead to decide what to do with his life, he says he figured he could venture down one of two paths: medical school or law school. With several relatives on his mother's side of the family already well-established attorneys, his choice seemed clear cut. But Mead would nevertheless embark on a legal career that would immerse him in the healthcare industry—and today is regarded as one of the top business attorneys in the Southeast representing health care professionals.

“Ninety percent of my clients are physicians,” says Mead, one of the founding shareholders of Dean, Mead, Egerton, Bloodworth, Capouano & Bozarth, P.A. “My practice is devoted to helping them with their business matters.” It can be anything from drafting and reviewing hospital contracts, buy-sell agreements and employment contracts and advising on licensure issues to employee benefits matters, practice mergers and acquisitions and dissolving partnerships. Mead says he works within a true niche practice, one that he's been carving out for over 40 years.

So how does an attorney become so specialized? For Mead, it was a bit like being in the right place at the right time; he was a young attorney at Carlton Fields in the early 1970s when a partner approached him about taking on a handful of physician clients who wanted to incorporate in the state. “The Florida statute governing professional corporations was passed in 1961, but physicians were not incorporating because the Internal Revenue Service was challenging medical P.A.'s in court,” says Mead. “When the IRS finally conceded in late 1969, doctors started forming corporations left and right.” He recalls that he incorporated two or three physician practices a month for nearly a decade.

Today, Mead represents some 200 medical groups around the state and country. “People say I'm a workaholic, but I don't think I am,” he says. “I enjoy the challenge.” 🏠