

Michelle Anchors

A graduate of Vanderbilt University and the University of Florida College of Law, Michelle is certified by the Supreme Court of Florida as a Circuit Court Mediator. In addition to serving as a mediator throughout Northwest Florida, Michelle also provides counsel to local businesses and community associations. She has received the highest rating offered by her professional peers in the Martindale-Hubbell peer review system and has been honored as one of Florida's "Legal Elite" by *Florida Trend* magazine.

Michelle's depth of government and administrative knowledge, combined with her experience in the private sector, allows her to match the needs of her clients with the most efficient and effective solutions. After graduating from law school, Michelle served as a law clerk to Justice Parker Lee McDonald of the Florida Supreme Court. She subsequently served as Deputy General Counsel to former Governor Lawton Chiles and was a member of his staff when he served in the United States Senate. Michelle is serving her second term as a member of the Florida Commission on Ethics, and has previously served as the commission's chair.

Michelle and her family have been leaders in the Okaloosa and Walton communities for generations. In addition to serving as pro bono counsel to a number of local non-profit organizations, Michelle is personally and actively involved with a number of organizations and issues. Former Governor Jeb Bush and former Governor Charlie Crist both appointed Michelle as the chair of the Committee for a Sustainable Emerald Coast, in an effort to bring a more regional approach to issues facing Northwest Florida. In 2007 Michelle was named "Best Corporate Citizen" by *Emerald Coast Magazine*. In 2012, she was honored to serve as one of the founding members and first President of IMPACT 100 of Northwest Florida, which raises and provides significant grant funding for deserving local non-profit organizations. Michelle also formerly served as chair of the Okaloosa County School Readiness Coalition, president of the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, and on the boards of directors for the University of West Florida Foundation and the Fort Walton Beach Medical Center.

Michelle, her husband Steve, and their two teenage children are active members of St. Simon's Episcopal Church. She is a long-distance open water swimmer, is struggling to learn the cello, and enjoys reading and backpacking with her family.