



KATIE A. EDWARDS- WALPOLE

COUNSEL

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SERVICES

Land Use
Regulatory Compliance and
Government

INDUSTRIES

Cannabis Law
Food and Beverage
Construction
Real Estate
Agribusiness

Katie Edwards is counsel in the firm's Ft. Lauderdale office. She brings an extensive and respected background in agribusiness to the firm's practices in real estate, energy, and environment and natural resources. She also manages the firm's satellite office in Okeechobee.

Katie's representative clients include a publicly traded liquid petroleum distribution and logistics corporation, real estate developers, farmers, ranchers, aquaculture operations and equestrian businesses. Katie assists clients by performing due diligence in multi-million dollar real estate acquisitions and securing land use entitlements for their projects. She has successfully negotiated franchise fee agreements with local governments and exchanges of real property interests.

Katie has successfully represented clients before South Florida Water Management District by negotiating cattle grazing lease agreements for ranchers, assisting clients in the purchase of surplus government lands, design-build contracts to complete environmental and water infrastructure projects, Water Use and Right of Way permit transfers and applications, and exchanges of interests in real property. She also represents agricultural land owners before county property appraisers and Value Adjustment Boards on property classification and taxation matters throughout the state with successes in Miami-Dade, Broward and Hillsborough counties.

She previously served from 2002-2010 as Executive Director of Dade County Farm Bureau where she advocated for farmers and nursery growers on land use, regulatory and legislative issues at the federal, state and local levels. A Broward native, Katie served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2012-2018. As a state representative, Katie sponsored and passed significant legislation, most notably in the areas of criminal justice reform, private property rights protection and medical marijuana.

Katie graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in Agricultural and Applied Economics. She has a law degree from Florida International University. She and her husband, Brad, are actively engaged in agriculture and reside in Okeechobee County.

HONORS

Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Linda C. Cox Champion of Justice Award Recipient (2013 and 2014)

Florida Association of Counties Champion of Counties Award Recipient (2015)

Named the Florida Farm Bureau Federation Lawmaker of the Year (2015)

Named the Florida Farm Bureau Federation Champion of Agriculture (2013, 2014 and 2015)

Florida Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Advocate Award Recipient (2015)

Named the Florida Health Care Association's Champion of the Elderly (2013)

Recognized in the United States House of Representatives by Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart with a tribute from the floor and a flag flown over the Capitol (April 2007)

Received American Agri-Women LEAVEN Award, President's Award (November 2006)

Awarded a Florida House of Representatives Tribute from Rep. Juan Zapata (January 2005)

Awarded a Proclamation from Miami-Dade County Commission (February 2005)

Named the Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce's Agriculturist of the Year (January 2005)

Received the Proclamation of Katie Edwards Day from Commissioner Katy Sorenson (November 2009)

Received a Tribute from Florida Senator Larcenia Bullard (April 2008)

Awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from Rep. Dwight Bullard (November 2009)

Received the Award from Miami-Dade County Farmworker Jobs and Education Project (November 2009)

Named to the Dade County Farm Bureau Hall of Honor (April 2008)

Received a Certificate of Appreciation from City of Homestead (November 2009)

EDUCATION

J.D., Florida International University, 2012

B.S., Clemson University, 2002

BAR ADMISSION

Florida