

## Grasford W. Smith

Shareholder

### Contact

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### Location

505 South Flagler Drive

Suite 1100

West Palm Beach

Florida 33401

### Honors & Distinctions

**Legacy South Florida Magazine,**  
Corporate Executive of the Year, 2019

**Best Lawyers in America,** Commercial  
Litigation, 2019

**Martindale-Hubbell,** AV® Peer Review  
Rated, 2013-Present

**South Florida Legal Guide,** Top Up and  
Comer, 2018

**NYU Law Alumni of Color Association,** 40  
Under 40 Rising Stars, 2018

**Anquan Boldin Foundation,** Service Award,  
2018

**Florida Super Lawyers,** Rising Star, 2011-  
2016

**Daily Business Review,** Rising Star, 2015

**National Black Lawyers,** Top 100 Lawyers,  
2015

**Legacy Palm Beach Magazine,** South  
Florida's Most Powerful Black  
Professionals in Business, 2013

**National Bar Association,** Nation's Best  
Advocates, 40 Under 40, 2011



Grasford Smith concentrates his practice on complex commercial litigation, intellectual property litigation, cybersecurity and transactional matters. He has represented a diverse clientele, including Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, athletic leagues, technology companies, and a United States Congressman, in addition to a variety of small and medium-sized businesses. Grasford approaches dispute resolution as an opportunity to further his clients' business goals. He develops comprehensive yet practical legal solutions by first understanding his clients' businesses as opposed to focusing solely on specific legal needs.

Grasford gained extensive dispute resolution experience at prestigious international law firms in New York and Washington, D.C. He handles local and national disputed matters concerning corporate governance, government enforcement actions, non-compete and confidentiality agreements, trade secrets, real estate matters, construction defects, franchises, products liability, intellectual property, eminent domain, and disciplinary/admission matters before the Florida Bar. Grasford also lectures at a local university on business law.

While a student on a Dean's Scholarship at New York University School of Law, Grasford served as a Summer Associate on Wall Street for a leading global investment bank where he developed recommendations and drafted revisions for firm-wide policies and procedures. He served as a Judicial Intern on the Bronx Supreme Court for Judge Troy K. Webber (who currently serves as the Associate Justice for the Appellate Division First Judicial Department) where he assisted in drafting published opinions on commercial cases. He also served as the Founding Executive Editor of the NYU Journal of Law & Business and a Staff Editor of the NYU Journal of Legislation & Public Policy in addition to serving as Teaching Assistant for Constitutional Law and Lawyering. While at Florida State University on a full academic scholarship, Grasford served as the President of the Management Information Systems Association, received the College of Business Achievement Scholarship, and was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest, largest, and most

**F. Malcolm Cunningham Sr. Bar Association**, Member of the Year, 2011

**Legacy Magazine**, South Florida's 40 under 40 Leaders of Today and Tomorrow, 2011

**ICABA**, Rising Star in Law, 2009

## **Affiliations**

### **The City of West Palm Beach**

Mayor's Transition Team Committee, Economic Development & Jobs Policy subcommittee, 2019

### **The Florida Bar**

15th Circuit Grievance Committee 15E, Vice Chair, 2019-Present  
15th Circuit Grievance Committee 15E, Member, 2017-Present  
Civil Procedure Rules Committee, Member, 2014-2017  
Leadership Academy, Inaugural Graduate, 2013-2014

### **Palm Beach County Bar Association**

Board Member, 2016-2021  
Diversity Committee, Co-Chair, 2016-2017  
Transaction Law Committee, Chair, 2013-2014

### **Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter National Bar Association**

President-Elect, 2018-2019  
Vice President, 2017-2018

### **Black Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County**

President-Elect, 2019  
Board Member, 2014-Present

### **Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity**

President, Epsilon Lambda Boule, 2019-Present

### **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity**

National Associate General Counsel, 2018-Present

### **Palm Beach County School District**

Sales Tax Oversight Committee Member, 2017-Present

selective honor society for all academic disciplines.

## **Experience Highlights**

### **Eminent Domain Dispute in \$4 Billion Redevelopment Project**

Representation of a New York state development corporation in connection with the exercise of its eminent domain power to help clear the way for a \$4 billion redevelopment project in Brooklyn, New York.

### **Congressman Election Challenge**

Representation of a congressman in an election challenge which resulted in the congressman's election to the U.S. House of Representatives.

### **Online Travel Agency Breach of Contract Dispute**

Representation of a major online travel agency in a breach of contract dispute with a gift card vendor resulting in a favorable settlement.

### **Marine Lighting Company Trial Court Injunction and Appeal**

Representation of a marine lighting company in obtaining an injunction at trial court for violation of a non-compete agreement which was then successfully defended on appeal.

### **Construction Defect Cases of Equestrian Facility**

Representation of an equestrian facility's owner in settling a construction defect case of a horse rink at mediation.

### **Multi-Million Dollar Buyout for Defense Contractor Shareholder**

Representation of a defense contractor shareholder in a dispute with another shareholder regarding the purchase of shares, resulting in a multi-million dollar buyout for the client.

### **Marine Industry Retailer Trademark Dispute**

Representation of a marine industry retailer and manufacturer in settling a trademark dispute.

### **Major University 501(c)(3)**

Representation of a major university in establishing a 501(c)(3) for a foundation.

### **Major League Baseball Team Breach of Contract Dispute**

Representation of a major league baseball team in a breach of contract dispute against a national hotel chain resulting in a favorable settlement.

### **501(c)(3) Purchase of For Profit Assets**

Representation of a 501(c)(3) in the purchase of all the assets of a for profit corporation.

### **City Manager Employment Contract Dispute**

Representation of a city manager in an employment contract dispute with a city resulting in a favorable settlement.

### **Multiple Third-Party Contract Disputes for South Florida Hotel**

Representation of South Florida hotels in numerous third-party contract disputes resulting in favorable settlements.

### **NYU Law Alumni of Color Association**

Advisory Board, 2017-Present

Board Member, 2006-2016

### **Economic Council of Palm Beach County**

#### **Emerging Leaders**

Member, 2016-Present

### **Anquan Boldin Foundation**

Board Member & General Counsel, 2015-

Present

### **National Bar Association**

Minority Partners in Majority Law Firms

Division, Vice-Chair, 2014-Present

Parliamentarian, 2014-2015

### **Urban League of Palm Beach County**

General Counsel, 2013-Present

Board Member, 2013-Present

### **Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County**

Board Member, 2011-Present

### **F. Malcolm Cunningham Sr. Bar**

#### **Association**

President, 2010-2011

## **Education**

J.D., New York University School of Law (Vanderbilt Medal Recipient)

Executive Education, Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government

Cybersecurity Certificate, Harvard University, Harvard's Office of the Vice Provost for Advances in Learning

Business Strategy Certificate, Cornell University

B.S., Florida State University, *summa cum laude*

## **Admissions**

The Florida Bar

New York State Bar

The District of Columbia Bar (Inactive)

U.S. Supreme Court

### **Dismissal of Americans with Disabilities Act Claim**

Representation of South Florida hotel in defense of an Americans with Disabilities Act claim resulting in a dismissal.

### **Eviction of Commercial Tenants**

Representation of commercial building owners in eviction of commercial tenants.

### **Charter School Dispute Against Donor**

Representation of a charter school in a dispute against a donor resulting in favorable settlement.

### **Multiple Bar Grievance Matters**

Representation of attorneys in multiple bar grievance matters resulting in no probable cause findings.

### **Law Firm Dispute with National Bank**

Representation of law firm in dispute with national bank regarding payment of attorney fees resulting in a favorable settlement.

*\*Some matters handled prior to joining Jones Foster*

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of  
New York

U.S. District Court, Southern District of  
New York

U.S. District Court, Middle District of  
Florida

U.S. District Court, Southern District of  
Florida

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