Education

J.D., University of Florida

B.S., Mercer University

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Real Estate Law, 2014-Present

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Real Estate Law, 2018-Present

Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rated

The Florida Bar
Board Certified Specialist, Real Estate, 2011-Present

Education

J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law, graduated with High Honors
Order of the Coif

B.S., Wake Forest University, *cum laude*

Admissions

The Florida Bar
The State Bar of Georgia

About

About Larry

Larry Alexander has been a Florida Bar Board Certified specialist in Real Estate Law since 1989. As the Firm's **Real Estate** Practice Group Chair, Larry concentrates his practice in the areas of real estate acquisitions, dispositions, development, and financing. His significant experience in a broad range of matters results in a high level of efficiency when developing strategies on behalf of his clients. Larry has unique insight into each practice group having served as Chairman of the firm from 2006 to 2024, enabling him to provide clients with comprehensive solutions to support their commercial goals.

Larry represents sophisticated developers, purchasers, sellers, and lenders. He serves as a trusted adviser to owners of undeveloped land, residential developments, shopping centers, office buildings, condominiums, and agricultural properties. Larry has extensive experience advising purchasers and sellers of commercial properties and large-scale residential development projects. Additionally, Larry represents country clubs, charitable foundations, and property owners associations.

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Real Estate Law, 1995-Present
Lawyer of the Year, West Palm Beach, Real Estate Law, 2014, 2019

South Florida Legal Guide
Top Lawyers, 2004–2022

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Real Estate Law, 2018-Present

Florida Super Lawyers
2006-2009, 2011-2012

Florida Trend
Legal Elite, 2004

Martindale-Hubbell
AV® Peer Review Rated

Affiliations

The Mary Alice Fortin Foundation



Honors & Distinctions

Best Lawyers in America
Land Use and Zoning Law, 2022-Present
Municipal Law, 2022-Present

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Land Use and Zoning Law, 2022-Present

Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rated

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
City, County and Local Government Law Section, Member, 1986-Present
Environmental & Land Use Law Section, Member, 1986-Present

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Member, 1993-Present
North County Section, Member, 1996-Present

American Planning Association Florida Chapter
Member 1996-Present

American Institute of Certified Planners
Member, 2000-Present

Palm Beach County League of Cities
Member

State Attorney Addiction Recovery Task Force
Member, 2016-Present

Roger Dean Stadium
Advisory Board, 1988-Present

American Planning Association Treasure Coast Section
President / Vice President / Board of Directors 1996-2002

Third Federal Savings and Loan Association of Cleveland MLTC and TFS Corporation
Director, 2005-2010
Compensation Committee, Vice-Chair, 2005-2010
Director & Secretary

William H. Pitt Foundation
Secretary

Rosarian Academy Charitable Trust
Trustee

Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative
General Counsel

Experience Highlights

Commercial Real Estate

Representation of local, regional and national developers, equity investors and entrepreneurs in their acquisition, development, financing, leasing and sale of retail, office, medical, industrial, and residential projects throughout Florida and the Southeastern United States.

Corporate Transactions

Handling of corporate transactions for developers, equity investors and entrepreneurs, including company formations, joint venture agreements, mergers and acquisitions.

Secured Financing

Representation of local, regional, and national lenders in connection with mortgage loan and other secured financing transactions.

High-End Residential Real Estate

Representation of high-end residential purchasers and sellers.

Affiliations

Palm Beach Day Academy
Board of Trustees, Vice President, 2019-Present
Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, 2014-Present

Royal Poinciana Chapel
Board of Directors, 2012-2022
President, 2017-2019
Vice President, 2016-2017
Secretary, 2014-2016

The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach
Treasurer, 2015-2021

Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches
Board of Directors, 2009-2012

Treasure Coast Region Planning Council
Appointed by Governor Chiles, Member, 1993-1996

Leadership Palm Beach County
Graduate, 1998

Education

M.P.A., Florida Atlantic University

J.D., Nova University

B.A., Heidelberg University

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Elder Law, 2024
Trusts and Estates, 2024

Florida Super Lawyers
Elder Law, 2023

The Florida Bar
Elder Law Section, Member of the Year, 2020

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Elder Law, 2018, 2021-Present

Florida Trend
Legal Elite, 2010, 2012, 2014-2022

Education

J.D., Nova Southeastern Shepard Broad Law Center

B.S., Florida State University

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

University of Florida Real Estate Advisory
Board of Directors, 2013-2017

Experience Highlights

The following representative cases involve the representation of municipalities, condemning authorities, individuals, property owners, and developers.

Land Use & Zoning

Statewide Zoning for Multinational E-commerce C ompany
Retained by a global internet commerce corporation to represent in regards to the interpretation and application of zoning codes associated with the location of Warehouse/distribution facilities in multiple cities and counties in Florida.

Residential Subdivision & Mixed-Use Development Zoning
Represented a local developer to obtain Martin County zoning approvals for the residential and the mixed-use development projects.

Martin County Land Holdings and 6,0000 Acre Development of Regional Impact (DRI)
Advised Fortune 500 company on planning issues associated with the development of its vast landholdings in southern Martin County and Hutchinson Island.

Land Use & Zoning in Large-Scale Palm Beach County Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Projects
Served as Regional Planner responsible for the review of numerous DRIs in Palm Beach County, including the expansion of Palm Beach International Airport, the Gardens Mall, Motorola, the Palm Beach Park of Commerce, PGA National, and the Vista Center.

Implementation of Redevelopment Master Plans for Community Redevelopment Agencies
Continuing representation of three community redevelopment agencies in the implementation of their redevelopment master plans. This continuing representation requires the review of planning documents and the creation of zoning regulations to facilitate the development of mixed use districts, and to encourage infill residential development, and incentives for economic development.

Comprehensive Planning Land Development Regulations and Zoning Codes for Municipality
Provided counsel to planning and zoning staff and consultants on several ambitious amendments of the Town of Jupiter's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations for Abacoa, Indiantown Road, U.S. Highway One/Intracoastal Waterway, and the Scripps Florida Bio-Science Overlay Zoning Plans. Developed in conjunction with the Town's planners, a form-based mixed-use code and two Development Order for the Abacoa DRI,

Education

LL.M., University of Florida

J.D., Ohio Northern University

B.A., Olivet College, *cum laude*

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Tax Court

Honors & Distinctions

Florida Super Lawyers
Rising Star, Estate & Trust Litigation, 2023-Present

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Trusts and Estates, 2023-Present

Education

J.D., University of Miami School of Law, *cum laude*

B.A., Florida Atlantic University

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida
U.S. District Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

Education

J.D., Vanderbilt University Law School

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles, *magna cum laude*

Admissions

The Florida Bar

and mixed-use land development regulations for the Jupiter Inlet Village.

Municipal Review of Utility Sale
Document review on behalf of the City of Clewiston, who as part of a municipal consortium of cities, approved the proposed sale of the City of Vero Beach's electric utility to Florida Power & Light.

Eminent Domain – Condemnation Authorities

South Florida Port District Condemnation
Representation of the Port of Palm Beach District in the Skypass condemnation, a project to unite Port property east and west of U.S. Highway One, permitting safer and faster rail and road connections to the Port.

Eminent Domain Proceedings in FDOT Expansion Project
Representation of the Town of Jupiter, a defendant in multiple eminent domain proceedings, as the result of FDOT-initiated taking of properties fo the expansion of the Indiantown Road bridge and improvements to U.S. Highway One and Coastal Way.

Representation of the Palm Beach County School District Condemnation Matter
Representation of the Palm Beach County School District, the Port of Palm Beach District, and the Westgate/Belvedere Homes Community Redevelopment Agency in matters relating to the condemnation of properties for public usage.

Inverse Condemnation

Successful Defense Against Zoning and Inverse Condemnation Claims by Car Dealership
Defense of the Town of Jupiter in regard to the Town's Indiantown Road Overlay Zoning District which prohibits, among uses, auto dealerships. All told, two property owners challenged the Town in six different cases in federal and state courts and administrative law proceedings. The Town prevailed in all of these cases.

Successful Defense of Municipality in DRI Zoning and Land Use Dispute
Representation of the Town of Jupiter in a 52-count Complaint in federal court by developer involving constitutional challenges of takings, equal protection and due process seeking damages, a consistency action, and zoning claims of arbitrary and capriciousness. The Town prevailed on a Summary Judgment, subsequently affirmed by the 11th Circuit Court of appeals.

Defense of Municipality in Landowner Taking Claim
Representation of the Town of Jupiter in state court against a landowner's claim of a temporary taking of a 12-acre spoil island in the Jupiter River due to the Town's refusal to timely issue a clearing permit for the island. A trial court held in favor of the Town; however, the Fourth District reversed and

Honors & Distinctions

Best Lawyers in America
Real Estate Law, 1999-Present

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, 2021-Present

South Florida Legal Guide
Top Lawyers, Real Estate, 2022

Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rated

Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County
Pro Bono Award, 2013

St. Luke's School
Athletic Hall of Fame, New Canaan, CT

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Member

The Benjamin School
Past Member, Board of Trustees

Education

J.D., Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law

B.A., Muskingum University

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Real Estate Law, 2015-Present
Lawyer of the Year, West Palm Beach, Real Estate, 2020

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, 2020

Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County
Pro Bono Award, 2013

Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rated

remanded the case for further determination as to elements of the taking claim. On remand, the Circuit Court found a taking; however, on appeal, the 4th District Court of Appeal reversed the trial court's order finding a temporary taking and remanded the case for entry of a final judgment in favor of the Town.

Successful Representation of Landowner Against Water Control District
Representation of large landowner in dispute against water control district concerning the existence of an easement over client's property for recreation trails and canal maintenance. Obtained summary judgment in favor of client, in which the court concluded that a Special Act of the Florida Legislature could not be applied retroactively against landowner, preventing the water control district and municipality from acquiring an easement over client's property.

Planning & Zoning | State Circuit Court Cases and Administrative Proceedings

Municipality Prevailed in Adult Entertainment Business Closure
Successful representation of the Village of North Palm Beach in a two-count complaint seeking injunctive and declaratory relief prohibiting the operation of an adult entertainment business. A counterclaim was filed seeking a declaratory judgment declaring the Village's adult entertainment regulation unconstitutional. The trial court held that reasonable avenues for communication for adult entertainment were available under the Village' regulations. The court entered a Final Judgment upholding the constitutionality of the Village's regulations and requiring the business to immediately cease operation as an adult dancing business within the Village. The Fourth District Court of Appeal affirmed the trial court's Final Judgment.

Municipality Prevails in Zoning Challenge
Representation of Palm Beach County following a zoning approval for a mini-warehouse facility, after which an adjacent property owner challenged the approval as being inconsistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan. The County prevailed at trial and on appeal to the Fourth District Court of Appeal.

County Prevails in District Court Appeal over Zoning Challenge
Representation of Palm Beach County in property owner appeal in the Circuit Court following denial of rezoning from residential to commercial. The Court reversed the County Commission's denial of the rezoning. The County appealed and the Fourth District Court of Appeal reversed the Circuit Court. An appeal of the Fourth District Court of Appeal's opinion was taken to the Florida Supreme Court and the County prevailed.

District Court Affirms Town Council Authority to Rehear Appeal
Representation of a Town Council in a matter involving a resident's permitting request. The Town Council considered a resident's appeal of a determination by the Town's Community Development Director that the

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Member, RPPTL

Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce
Past Member

Education

J.D., Stetson University College of Law

B.A., Auburn University

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Real Estate Law, 2022-Present

South Florida Legal Guide
Top Lawyers, Real Estate, 2015-2022
Top Up and Comer, 2013

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Real Estate Law, 2019, 2022-Present

Florida Super Lawyers
Rising Star, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014

Martindale-Hubbell AV® Rated

Education

J.D., University of Florida

B.S., University of Florida

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation, 2024

resident's construction of a boat canopy was a major amendment to the Planned Unit Development which included a marina. The Town Council initially disagreed with the Director's decision, which meant that a building permit had to be issued for construction of the boat canopy. Upon being presented with further information, the Council elected to conduct a rehearing. Before a date for the rehearing was set, and a Final Order was entered by the Council, the property owner filed suit alleging in his Writ of Prohibition that the Town was prohibited from reconsidering its decision. The Trial Court determined the Council had the authority to rehear the appeal and the Fourth District Court of Appeal affirmed.

Experience Highlights

Veteran's Spouse Deemed Eligible for Government Benefits

Representation of a veteran's widow to obtain government benefits. Eligibility for Medicaid and a VA Widows Pension were established, allowing the individual to supplement her living expenses with government benefit funds received from both Medicaid and the VA at an assisted living facility while protecting and preserving assets.

Assets Preserved, Medicaid Benefits Obtained for Long-Term Care

Representation of an elderly individual to obtain Medicaid. Nursing home expenses totaled $8,000 per month, however, factors involving a disabled child allowed for protection and preservation of assets without creating ineligibility or penalties.

Estate Planning Tools Utilized to Avoid Interstate Probate

Representation of a married couple seeking to avoid probate in multiple states with multi-property ownership and substantial liquid assets. A revocable living trust was created to allow them control of their monies during their lifetime but upon death, a transfer of assets to a trust eliminated multiple probate proceedings in different states.

Asset Transfer Allows Couple Eligibility for Medicaid Benefits

Representation of a married couple paying $9,000 per month for nursing home care. Assets were protected between the husband and wife in order to establish Medicaid eligibility.

VA Benefits Obtained for Disabled Veteran

Representation of a disabled veteran living at home alone, unable to afford the required daily assistance with activities of daily living, including medication management and bathing. Strategies were employed to establish eligibility for monthly VA benefits to cover home care/health aid expenses.

Affiliations

Ones to Watch, Real Estate Litigation, 2024

Education

J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law, *magna cum laude*

B.S., Psychology, University of Florida, *cum laude*

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Education

J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law, *cum laude*

B.A., University of Florida, *cum laude*

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Honors & Distinctions

Best Lawyers in America
Ones to Watch, Litigation - Construction, 2022

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Construction Law, 2022-Present

Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association
Silver Pro Bono Award presented by The Supreme Court of Florida

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Member, Labor and Employment Section
Member, Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section

American Bar Association

The Florida Bar
Editor of The Advocate, a Florida Bar Elder Law Section Publication, 2018-Present
Chair, Elder Law Section Publication Committee, 2020-Present
Co-Chair, Elder Law Section Publication Committee, 2018-2020
Past-Chair, 15th Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee E
Former Annual Update and Review Course Instructor, Elder Law Section
Member, Elder Law Section, 2004-Present
Member, Real Estate, Probate & Trust Law Section, 2004-Present

Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Palm Beach County
Co-Chair, Board Certification Committee, 2020-2021
Member, 2018-Present

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Member, 2000-Present

National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA)
Member

Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys (AFELA)
Member

Craig S. Barnard American Inns of Court
Member, 2018-Present

Experience Highlights

Multi-Generational Family Corporation Dispute and Reorganization

Representation of a large, multi-generational family corporation in a family dispute, resulting in redemption of family shareholders and establishing a tax-free reorganization to shift the disputing family members into separate organizations.

Estate Tax Return Audits

Representation of numerous estates in connection with audits of their estate tax returns and settlement of complex issues regarding partnerships, limited liability companies, and applicable discounts.

Sale of Physician Groups to Publicly Traded Companies

Representation of numerous physician groups in the sale of their practices to publicly traded companies and hospitals.

Corporate Contracts for Medical Groups

Representation of numerous medical groups in connection with employment, outsourcing, and vendor contracts with hospitals and medical personnel, including radiologists, pathologists, and emergency room physicians.

Member, 2017-Present

Palm Beach County Fair Housing/Equal Employment Board
Vice-Chair, 2023-Present
Member, At-Large, 2023

Associated General Contractors of America East Coast Chapter
Member, 2022-Present

United Way of Palm Beach County
Campaign Cabinet Industry Lead, 2022-Present

Claims and Litigation Management Alliance
Member, 2017-2022

Education

LL.M., Securities & Financial Regulation, Georgetown University

J.D., New York Law School

B.A., University of Florida

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

About

About Erica

Erica Haft is a member of both the Private Wealth, Wills, Trusts & Estates team and Corporate & Tax team at Jones Foster, and concentrates her practice on tax-oriented estate planning, estate and trust administration, and transactional corporate law.

Erica works with clients to create customized estate plans to minimize federal gift taxes, estate taxes, and generation-skipping transfer (GST) taxes. Erica's

Manufacturing Firm Allocation of Purchase Price to Intellectual Property

Representation of a large, out-of-state family manufacturing firm acquired by a publicly traded corporation involving allocation of purchase price to goodwill and intellectual property.

Estate Tax Planning to Protect Retirement Funds

Representation of numerous clients with large retirement plan accumulations; plan for the distribution of retirement assets to minimize taxes and increase creditor protection for their children and grandchildren.

Acquisition of a $15 Million Car Dealership

Representation in the acquisition of a $15 million South Florida car dealership that involved complex tax allocation and real estate issues.

Estate Tax Consequences for Beneficiaries of Non-U.S. Citizen

Representation of beneficiaries of a non-U.S. citizen's domestic estate involving cross-border tax consequences, including foreign trust issues.

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Corporate Law, 2023-Present
Trusts & Estates, 2007-Present
Tax Law, 1999-Present
Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law, 1995-Present
Lawyer of the Year, West Palm Beach, Tax, 2014

Florida Super Lawyers
Business/Corporate, 2006-Present

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Business/Corporate, 2023-Present
Top Lawyers, Tax Law, 2018, 2020-Present
Top Lawyers, Trust & Estates, 2018, 2021-2022
Top Lawyers, Labor & Employment Law, 2019

The Florida Bar Tax Section
Gerald T. Hart Outstanding Florida Tax Attorney of the Year, 2016-2017

South Florida Legal Guide
Top Lawyers, 2010, 2015, 2016, 2017

Florida Trend
Legal Elite, Tax Law, 2013, 2022

Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rated

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient
Olivet College, 2022

experience with corporate law allows her to provide strategic solutions for a client's business succession goals. She also has experience structuring purchases anonymously to maintain a client's privacy when acquiring assets.

Erica devotes a significant portion of her practice to corporate law transactions such as mergers and acquisitions, corporate sales, and corporate restructuring. She also handles corporate governance matters such as state relocation and internal affairs.

Education

LL.M., Estate Planning, University of Miami

J.D., University of Miami, *cum laude*

B.A., Northwestern University

Admissions

The Florida Bar

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Intellectual Property Litigation, 2020, 2024
Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Real Estate Litigation, 2021
Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Environmental Litigation, 2019
Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Land Use & Zoning, 2016
Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Intellectual Property, 2013
Commercial Litigation, 2003-Present
Real Estate Litigation, 2011-Present
Land Use & Zoning Litigation, 2011-Present
Environmental Litigation, 2011-Present
Intellectual Property Litigation, 2011-Present
Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2010-Present

Florida Super Lawyers
The Top 100: Florida, 2023
The Top 100: Miami, 2021-Present
Business Litigation, 2006-Present

Affiliations

Florida Tax Institute
Operating Board Member, 2014-Present
Past Chair, Operating Board

The Florida Bar Tax Section
Member, Executive Council, Present
Chair, Employee Benefits Subcommittee of the Taxation of Business Organizations/Individuals Committee, Present
Co-Chair, Law College Scholarship Committee, Present
LL.M. Liaison to the University of Florida, Present
Member, Long Range Planning Committee, Present
Chair, 1999-2000
Chair, Tax Law Certification Committee, 1999-2000
Member, Tax Law Certification Committee, 1992-2002
Member, 1984-Present

Palm Beach Tax Institute
Past President

East Coast Estate Planning Council
Member, 2019-Present

University of Florida Law Center Association
Florida Alumni Tax Advisory Committee, Chair 2018-Present
Florida Alumni Tax Advisory Committee, Member, 2016-Present
Board of Trustees, 2012-2017

Rehabilitation Center for Children and Adults
Professional Endowment Committee, Chairman, 2018-Present

Dreyfoos School of the Arts Foundation
Board Member, 2002-2006

Palm Beach County Fringe Benefit Council
President, 1986-1989

About

About Alex

Alex Brams is a member of Jones Foster's Complex Litigation & Dispute Resolution and Private Wealth, Wills, Trusts & Estates practice groups. He focuses his practice on the areas of probate, trust, guardianship, and fiduciary litigation, as well as commercial litigation, throughout Florida's state and federal courts. Alex represents fiduciaries and individuals in all probate, trust, and guardianship settings, including will and trust contests, breach of trust actions, personal representative and trustee removal and accounting actions, will and trust reformation and modification proceedings, contested guardianships, exploitation and tortious

South Florida Legal Guide
Top Lawyers, 2005, 2019-2022

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Business Litigation, 2022-Present
Top Lawyers, Environmental Law, 2019-2022
Top Lawyers, Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2021, 2023
Top Lawyers, Land Use & Zoning Law, 2019, 2020
Top Lawyers, Municipal Law, 2018

Florida Trend
Legal Elite NOTABLES - Managing Partner, 2023
"People to Know" in the Palm Beaches, September 2023 issue
Legal Elite, Commercial Litigation, 2004, 2010-2012, 2015-2017, 2022

Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Rating

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Judge Edward Rodgers Diversity Award, 2016
Sidney A. Stubbs Professionalism Award, 2014

University of Florida Levin College of Law
Distinguished Service Award, 2019

Christian Legal Society
Laura Mall Justice Award, 2019

Florida Association for Women Lawyers
Friend of FAWL Award, 2012

Sigma Chi Fraternity
Significant Sig Award, 2017

Palm Beach Atlantic University
American Free Enterprise Day Companion Medal, 2003

Florida Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section
Most Productive Young Lawyer, 1995

Center for Family Services
Palm Beach County, Shooting for the Stars Award Legal, 1995

interference litigation. Alex also represents personal representatives, trustees, court-appointed administrators, beneficiaries, and creditors in all facets of probate, trust, and guardianship administration.

Alex earned his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law, attending as the recipient of a Dean's Merit Scholarship and graduating *cum laude*. Prior to earning his law degree, Alex served as a student research assistant, focusing on constitutional law and federal appeals, and interned for The Honorable Judge Joseph Marx of The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida.

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Member, Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section, 2022-Present

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Member, Probate/Guardianship Practice Committee, 2022-Present
Member, Estate/Probate CLE Committee, Member, 2022-Present
Board Member, Young Lawyers Section, 2023-Present
- Member, Adopt-a-School Committee, 2023-Present
Member, Young Lawyers Section, 2022-Present

Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches
Leadership West Palm Beach, Class of 2024

Armory Art Center
Member, Advisory Board, 2023-Present
Member, Governance Committee, 2023-Present

About

About John

John Campo is a member of Jones Foster's Real Estate team.

John earned his Juris Doctor from Vanderbilt University Law School where he served as Managing Editor of the Vanderbilt Journal of Entertainment and Technology Law. A member of the international legal honor society, Phi Delta Phi, he was also a Dean's Scholar. During his law school studies, John gained valuable experience working as a Real Estate Specialist for a Los Angeles-based AmLaw 100 firm and as a Summer Associate at Jones Foster.

Honors & Distinctions

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Real Estate Law, 2023-Present

Affiliations

Price Waterhouse
Finalist, Up and Comers Award, 1993

International Rotary Foundation Scholar, 1984-85

Education

J.D., University of Florida

B.S.B.A., University of Florida, *cum laude*

M.B.A., University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

Court Appointments

Arbitrator

Mediator
Franchise disputes
Trade secret disputes
Real estate disputes
Commercial landlord tenant disputes
Commercial development disputes-ACLF

Court Appointed Receiver
Commercial Real Estate Development
Corporate Dissolution
Law Firm Litigation

Court Appointed Trustee
Law Firm Dissolution

Court Appointed Special Master
Trade Secret Disputes
Discovery Disputes

Statutory Investigator
Newly appointed by circuit court in a corporate derivative case

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Member, Young Lawyers Section, 2021 - Present

Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition
Member, Literacy Links Golf Tournament Committee, 2022-Present
Volunteer, Adult Essay Initiative, 2022 - Present

Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches
Graduate, Leadership West Palm Beach, Class of 2023

Experience Highlights

Regional Developer Shopping Center Expansion
Representation of a regional developer in the acquisition, financing and redevelopment of a Publix-anchored shopping center located in suburban Palm Beach County, together with the separate acquisition of an adjacent vacant parcel and onto which the shopping center was ultimately expanded.

Acquisition and Financing of Miami Beach Waterfront Retail Shopping Center
Representation of a regional developer in connection with the closing of the acquisition and purchase money financing of a waterfront retail shopping center consisting of approximately 234,000 square feet of leasable area in North Miami Beach.

Commercial Planned Unit Development in Vero Beach
Representation of a real estate developer in connection with the acquisition, construction financing, subdivision, and lease-up of a three lot commercial planned unit development in Vero Beach, Florida.

Simultaneous Sale of Two Separate Publix-Anchored Shopping Centers
Representation of a local investor in the simultaneous sale of two separate Publix-anchored shopping centers totaling nearly 200,000 square feet of leasable retail space.

Acquisition of Premiere Retail Shopping Center in Orlando
Representation of a developer in connection with the purchase of a 300,000+ square foot premiere retail shopping center in Orlando, including the assumption of the existing securitized mortgage loan.

Affiliations

Fidelity National Title Insurance Company Commercial Real Estate
Council Member

The Florida Bar Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section
Member

Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Real Estate Law, 2011-Present

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Real Estate Law, 2018, 2023

Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rated

Education

J.D., Vanderbilt University

B.A., Lehigh University

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court

Education

J.D., Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center

B.A., Florida State University

Admissions

The Florida Bar

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Commercial Litigation, 2022-Present

Florida Super Lawyers
Business Litigation, 2006-Present

Florida Trend
Legal Elite, Commercial Litigation, 2006, 2009, 2012-2015, 2018, 2019, 2022

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Commercial Litigation, 2022-Present

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Trustee, 2022-Present

About

About Travis

Travis Foels is a Jones Foster Shareholder and member of the firm's Complex Litigation & Dispute Resolution practice group. He represents businesses, individuals, and municipalities in civil litigation with an emphasis on commercial litigation, real estate litigation, product liability premises liability, and personal injury matters.

Travis is actively involved with the Palm Beach County Bar Association and The Florida Bar. He also serves on the Law Alumni Council for the University of Florida Levin College of Law and is a volunteer and committee member for the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County. In addition, Travis was recognized on the *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America* 2024 list fo commercial litigation and real estate litigation. The *Ones to Watch* award is given to attorneys who demonstrate outstanding professional excellence early in their careers.

Travis graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Florida Levin College of Law and was awarded membership in the prestigious Order of the Coif. While earning his law degree, Travis served as a teaching assistant for Trial Practice, Legal Writing, and Appellate Advocacy, and as an articles editor for the *Florida Law Review*. Travis received the Gertrude Brick Law Review Award for the best Note of his law review class and was also the recipient of book awards in Appellate Advocacy, Legal Research, Electronic Discovery, Land Use Planning and Control, and Medical Malpractice.

Experience Highlights

Defense of Municipality in Antitrust Lawsuit
Successful defense of municipality in antitrust lawsuit resulting in a voluntary dismissal of all claims.

Summary Judgment for Butane Canister Distributor in Product Liability Action
Obtained summary judgment for a butane canister distributor in a product liability lawsuit involving a portable butane stove explosion and severe burn injuries.

Defense of Municipality in FLSA Dispute
Defeated two attempts at conditional certification of a collective action in FLSA lawsuit leading to a favorable settlement for municipal client in an amount less than 5% of initial demand.

Defense of CEO in Breach of Contract Dispute
Defended company CEO against claims including breach of contract and unjust enrichment.

You've Been Served Award, 2017

Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rated

Education

J.D., University of Florida
B.A., University of Florida

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Lawyer of the Year, West Palm Beach, Litigation - Trusts & Estates, 2023
Trust and Estates Litigation, 2017-Present

Florida Super Lawyers
The Top 100: Miami, 2023
Estate & Trust Litigation, 2013–Present
Rising Star, 2010-2012

Florida Trend
Legal Elite, 2017, 2018
Up and Comer, 2011-2013

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Trusts & Estates, 2018-Present
Top Lawyers, Alternate Dispute Resolution, 2019-2021, 2023

Martindale-Hubbell AV® Peer Review Rated

Education

J.D., University of Florida

B.S., University of Florida

Admissions

The Florida Bar

Honors & Distinctions

Palm Beach Illustrated

Representation of Commercial Landlord in Lease Dispute
Obtained favorable settlement for commercial landlord in lease dispute with tenant.

Dismissal of Administrative Complaint Against Equestrian League
Obtained dismissal of complaint against equestrian league before national governing body for equestrian sport.

Dismissal of Trade Secret Misappropriation Claim
Obtained dismissal with prejudice of trade secret misappropriation claim brought against energy drink startup.

Representation of Underground Utility Locating Company
Represented underground utility locating company in multiple matters with claims totaling millions of dollars in personal injury and property damage.

Summary Judgment in Breach of Contract Arbitration
Successfully obtained summary judgment for national dental care provider in arbitration of breach of contract lawsuit.

Dismissal of Defamation and Tortious Interference Lawsuit
Successfully obtained dismissal of lawsuit brought by former director of cancer research against cancer research and treatment center, including claims of defamation and tortious interference.

Summary Judgment in Medical Malpractice Lawsuit
Obtained summary judgment for physician and medical practice which was per curium affirmed by Florida's Fifth District Court of Appeal, *Savelli v. Hubsher, et al.*, 2021 WL 218703 (Fla. 5th DCA Jan. 19, 2021).

Crisis Standards of Care Analysis
Counseled cancer research and treatment center during COVID-19 on crisis standards of care and formulation of guidelines to avoid liability exposure.

Medical Marijuana Risk Analysis
Analyzed current political and regulatory climate and advised insurance company client on risks associated with insuring businesses involved in the medical marijuana industry.

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

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Member, Florida Bar Journal/News Editorial Board, 2023-Present
Member, Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section, 2022-Present
Member, Business Law Section, 2023-Present

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Member, Business Litigation CLE Committee, 2023-Present

Top Lawyers, Corporate Governance and Compliance Law, 2021-Present
Top Lawyers, Business/Corporate, 2020-2021, 2023
Top Lawyers, Venture Capital Law, 2021
Top Lawyers, Mergers & Acquisitions Law, 2018-2020

Martindale-Hubbell AV® Peer Review Rated

Who's Who in American Law, 1996-2012

Florida Super Lawyers, 2006

Outstanding Lawyers of America, 2002-2005

Massachusetts Super Lawyers, 2004

U.S. Attorney General's Honors Scholar, 1983

Education

J.D., Washington & Lee University

B.A., Washington & Lee University

Admissions

The Florida Bar
Massachusetts Bar Association
The District of Columbia Bar
Virginia State Bar
U.S. Supreme Court

Education

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

B.A., Florida Atlantic University

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Honors & Distinctions

Co-Chair, Business Litigation Session, 2024 Bench Bar Conference
Member, Young Lawyers Section, 2021-Present

Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce
Member, Young Professionals, 2023-Present

University of Florida Levin College of Law
Member, Law Alumni Council, 2021-Present

Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County
Member, Literacy Links Golf Tournament Committee, 2022-Present
Volunteer, Read with Me program, 2022-Present

Education Foundation of Palm Beach County
Member, Young Professionals Group, 2024-Present

About

About Lainey

Lainey W. Francisco is a member of the Complex Litigation & Dispute Resolution and Land Use & Governmental practice groups. She represents clients in matters involving commercial litigation, governmental litigation, municipal law, land use and zoning.

Lainey is actively involved in industry organizations including the Palm Beach County Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, and she currently serves as Treasurer of the St. Lucie County Bar Association.

Lainey graduated *cum laude* with a Juris Doctor from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where she served as a Managing Editor of the *Florida Law Review* and Vice President of the Law College Council. She was elected by her peers to serve as Law School Senator for the UF Student Government and was selected to be a member of Florida Blue Key. Lainey was also recognized with Book Awards for Florida Rules of Judicial Administration and Criminal Procedure: Police Practices.

While attending law school, Lainey gained valuable experience as a Jones Foster Summer Associate, as a judicial extern for U.S. Magistrate Judge Bruce E. Reinhart of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, and as a Certified Legal Intern for the 19th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office.

Honors & Distinctions

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Municipal Law, 2023-Present

Affiliations

Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Rating

Education

J.D., University of Florida

B.A., Cornell College

Admissions

The Florida Bar

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Ones to Watch, Real Estate Law, 2024

Education

J.D., University of Florida, *magna cum laude*

B.S., Nova Southeastern University, Legal Studies with Distinction

Admissions

The Florida Bar

Honors & Distinctions

Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Rating

Education

J.D., Florida State University

B.S., Florida State University

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court

Honors & Distinctions

Florida Super Lawyers
Business Litigation, 2010-Present
The Top 50: Women (Florida), 2021
The Top 100: Miami, 2021
Rising Star, 2009

The Best Lawyers in America
Commercial Litigation, 2013-Present

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Co-Chair, Federal Session, 2024 Bench Bar Conference
Member, Young Lawyers Section, 2022-Present

St. Lucie County Bar Association
Treasurer, 2023-Present
Member, Young Lawyers Section, 2022-Present

Federal Bar Association Palm Beach County Chapter
Co-Chair, Civil Service and Outreach Committee, 2023-Present
Member, 2023-Present

Florida Association for Women Lawyers
Member, Palm Beach County Chapter, 2022-Present

Rupert J. Smith Law Library of St. Lucie County Florida
Board of Trustees, 2023-Present

Wild Gamette Charity Event
Committee Member, 2022

Experience Highlights

Construction Company Noncompete Dispute
Representation of the seller of a construction company in a noncompete lawsuit involving a multimillion-dollar sale of the business, resulting in a favorable walk-away settlement.

Successful Defense of General Contractor and Subcontractor in Discrimination Action
Representation of both the general contractor and subcontractor in claims brought by several employees asserting race and national origin discrimination. Favorable global settlement for less than 10% of initial demand.

Defense of Municipality in FLSA Dispute
Lead counsel in collective action brought by approximately 60 employees against a municipal client, resulting in a favorable settlement for the client in an amount less than 5% of initial demand.

Defense of Florida Subdivision
Representation of public owner in marine construction contract dispute involving allegations of delay, design defects, and breach of contract which resulted in a favorable settlement for the client.

Representation of Design Professionals in Construction Defect Litigation
Representation of design professionals in numerous complex litigation matters involving claims of negligence regarding the construction of high-rise condominiums.

Successful Defense of Employer in Dispute Over Post-Termination Commissions

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Appellate Practice, 2023
Top Lawyers, Municipal Law, 2023
Top Lawyers, Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2022
Top Lawyers, Commercial Litigation, 2018-Present
Top Lawyers, Business Litigation, 2018, 2019, 2021-2022

Florida Trend
Legal Elite Notable - Women Leaders in Law, 2023
Legal Elite, Commercial Litigation, 2011, 2018-2022

South Florida Legal Guide
Top Lawyers, 2010-2022

Chambers USA
Florida's Leading Lawyers in Litigation, 2010-2011
Up and Comer, 2007-2009

Martindale-Hubbell AV® Rating

Education

J.D., Tulane University, *summa cum laude*

M.A., University of Florida

A.B., Duke University, *cum laude*

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
U.S. Supreme Court

Education

J.D., University of Florida

B.S., University of Florida

Summary judgment in favor of the employer and against the employee who brought claims for post-termination commissions pursuant to an alleged oral agreement.

Successful Defense of Employer in Overtime Claim
Successfully defended overtime claim against an employer by way of employee's voluntary dismissal.

Employment Policy Drafting and Formulation
Representation of numerous corporate clients in the formulation and adoption of written employment policies and handbooks in accordance with state and federal employment laws, including FLSA, FMLA, ADA, and newly-enacted laws such as the FFCRA.

Employment Law Compliance Training
Customization, presentation, and on-site training for management-level employees to ensure compliance with state and federal employment laws.

Successful Dismissal of Whistleblower Complaint in School Principal Investigation Case
Dismissal of Complaint with prejudice in the matter of *Pinkos v. The Schoo Board of Palm Beach County*, whereby the Plaintiff brought claims under Florida's Public Whistleblower's Act.

Successful Recovery in Investor Fraud Case
Recovered $15 million in the representation of an investor defrauded by the general partner.

Negotiation of Executive Employment Agreements & Separation Agreements
- Representation of global conglomerate in the termination of executive-level employees, including the negotiations of separation and release agreements.
- Representation of publicly-traded company in an executive employment agreement and compensation package.

Corporate Investigations
Hired to conduct neutral third-party investigations into employee claims of a hostile work environment.

Disability Discrimination and Retaliation Lawsuit*
Defeated summary judgment attempt by Fortune 500 company on federal and state discrimination and retaliation claims in federal court.

Defense of Businesses in Website Accessibility Claims
Representation of businesses in website accessibility cases where a plaintiff alleges that aspects of website functionality are not ADA compliant.

Representation of Investor in Securities Law Violation Suit
Lead counsel in representation of investor against broker-dealer in

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court
Florida Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Lawyer of the Year, West Palm Beach, Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants, 2023
Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants, 2022-Present
Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs, 2022-Present
Commercial Litigation, 2020-Present

Florida Super Lawyers
PI General: Defense, 2009, 2017-Present

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Commercial Litigation, 2023-Present
Top Lawyers, Personal Injury Litigation, 2023-Present
Top Lawyers, Product Liability Litigation, 2023-Present

Florida Trend
Legal Elite, Commercial Litigation, 2022

Martindale-Hubbell
AV® Peer Review Rated

Education

J.D., Florida State University College of Law

B.S., Florida State University

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

fraud/churning case, which resulted in a $850,000 settlement.

Securities Law Violations by Wall Street Firms*
Helped investigate and prosecute some of the largest Wall Street firms for securities law violations during the 2008 financial crisis.

* *Matters handled prior to joining Jones Foster.*

Honors & Distinctions

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Tax Law, 2023-Present
Top Lawyers, Trusts and Estates, 2023-Present

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Member, RPPTL Section
Member, Tax Section

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Member, Young Lawyers Section

East Coast Estate Planning Council
Board of Directors, 2023-Present
Member, 2020-Present

Palm Beach Tax Institute
Member, 2020-Present

Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County
Business and Professionals Division Cabinet, 2021-Present
Working Women's Task Force, 2021-Present

Women's Foundation of Florida
Member, Raise the Bar Committee, 2023-Present

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts
Young Friends Executive Committee, 2022-Present

The Norton Museum of Art
Young Friends of the Norton, 2022-Present

Historical Society of Palm Beach County
Young Friends of HSPBC, 2023-Present

Northwestern University
Alumni Mentor, Legal, Chicago Field Studies Program, 2022-Present

Experience Highlights

Commercial Litigation

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Ones to Watch, Trusts and Estates Litigation, 2023-Present
Ones to Watch, Trusts and Estates, 2023-Present
Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation, 2023-Present

Florida Super Lawyers
Rising Star, Estate & Trust Litigation, 2021-Present

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Trusts and Estates, 2023-Present

South Florida Legal Guide
Up and Comers, 2022

Education

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

B.S., University of Florida

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Education

J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law, *magna cum laude*

B.A., University of Florida

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

Education

J.D., Duke University

High Tech Start-Up and Automation Conglomerate Data Transmission Dispute
Representation of telecommunications start-up and principals against international automation conglomerate in a multibillion-dollar claim involving multiple technology issues related to data transmission.

Trade Secrets Multimillion-Dollar Claim
Representation of multiple power generation start-ups and various personnel involving a multimillion-dollar claim of alleged misappropriation of trade secrets, including issues associated with the national transmission grid.

Injunctive Relief in Trade Secrets Matter
Successfully obtained temporary injunctive relief for a staffing agency in misappropriation of trade secrets matter.

Defense of Former Officers of a Florida Utility Company
Representation of former officers of a Florida utility company in action for breach of fiduciary duties, tortious interference, misappropriation/theft of trade secrets, unfair competition, and commercial bribery.

High-Tech Start-Up Billion Dollar Dispute
Representation of principals of a high-tech start-up company in a billion-dollar dispute over alleged theft of trade secrets and breaches of fiduciary duties.

Multimillion-Dollar Dispute Over Royalties of Dietary Supplement
Representation of developers of dietary supplements in federal court and before the American Arbitration Association in a multimillion-dollar dispute over royalties against international dietary supplement retailer.

Trademark Infringement Actions
Handled multiple trademark infringement actions relative to the marine industry and the eyewear industry.

Local Counsel Prevailed in Jury Trial Before Southern District Court
Representation of a national manufacturer of electric motors in IP matters concerning unpaid royalties, patent infringement, and the misappropriation of trade secrets by an internationally recognized furniture brand.

Local Counsel in National IP Litigation Case
Representation of medical products manufacturing company in a patent infringement case involving medical device technology. Case proceeded in the Southern District Court before a global settlement was reached.

Local Counsel in Securities Fraud Lawsuit
Representation of publicly held company providing specialty contracting services to the telecommunications and infrastructure industry in putative class action under federal securities laws.

B.A., Emory University, *cum laude*

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

Education

J.D., Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law, *cum laude*

B.A., University of Florida

Admissions

The Florida Bar

Education

J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law, *cum laude*

B.A., University of Florida, *cum laude*

Admissions

The Florida Bar

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Corporate Law, 2024
Trusts and Estates, 2024

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Tax Law, 2022-Present
Top Lawyers, Trusts and Estates, 2023-Present

Education

LL.M., University of Florida

J.D., University of Florida, *magna cum laude*

B.A., B.B.A., Stetson University, *summa cum laude*

Expert Witness

- Expert on the subject of legal duty of care.
- Expert regarding attorneys fees in the context of prevailing party determination (litigation, arbitration, "fees for fees".)
- Expert in the determination of legal fees as primary damages.
- Expert in the determination of legal fees as sanctions.

Fees Counsel

Fees Counsel Representing Municipality in Extended Litigation
Representation of municipality in Sears v. City of Palm Beach Gardens in extended litigation associated with substantial claim to prevailing party attorney fees arising from underlying land use dispute.

Attorney's fee expert accepted by courts in multiple state and federal matters.

Mediation and Arbitration

Mediation of Multi-Agency Dispute
Handled environmental and land use dispute involving ERM permitting. Multiple environmental agencies, a large residential condominium complex, and a marina facility were parties in the matter.

Resolution of Multiple Lawsuits through Consolidated Mediation
Resolution of 4 separate lawsuits through consolidated mediation with prominent landowner & developer, government body, and a condominium complex, involving issues of land use, property rights, and condominium rights.

Dissolution of Medical Practice
Successfully mediated dissolution of medical practice with complex valuation issues and culminating in a buyout.

Arbitrator
Chair of Arbitration Panel in multiday arbitration regarding real estate, long-term lease, and multiuse facility.

Governmental & Municipal

Municipality Dispute Regarding Scope of a Service Territory
Representation of municipality in a dispute over the scope of a service territory for the delivery of potable water service.

Permit Challenge Regarding Surficial Wells
Representation of municipality challenging permits and installation of surficial wells.

Municipality Dispute with Public Environmental Control District
Representation of municipality in a multimillion-dollar case against a public environmental control district over the installation of certain utility

Admissions

The Florida Bar

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Ones to Watch, Trusts and Estates Litigation, 2024

Education

J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law, *cum laude*

B.A., Quinnipiac University, *cum laude*

Admissions

The Florida Bar

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2007-2021
Commercial Litigation, 1987-2021
Bet-the-Company Litigator of the Year, 2009, 2010

Florida Super Lawyers
Business Litigation, 2006-Present

Daily Business Review
Professional Excellence Award,
Distinguished Leader, 2020

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2023

Florida Trend
Legal Elite Lifetime Hall of Fame Award, 2012-Present
Legal Elite, Commercial Litigation, 2004-2011

South Florida Legal Guide
Top Lawyers, 2002-2022

The Forum Club of the Palm Beaches
Outstanding Public Service Award, 2014

Chambers USA

services.

Municipality Dispute Regarding Provision of Potable Water
Representation of municipality in a dispute over the application and construction of a long-term bulk sale agreement for the provision of potable water.

Real Estate, Land Use & Zoning

Real Estate Developer Land Use & Zoning Dispute Resolution
Representation of real estate developer in numerous disputes with governmental bodies, including approval denials, permit denials, resulting appeals, and negotiated resolutions to the foregoing.

Real Estate Developer Multi-Layered Land Use Negotiations
Representation of real estate developer in multi-layered negotiating strategies with various governmental bodies associated with particular land use approvals.

Eminent Domain Disputes
Representation of landowners in numerous eminent domain disputes with various governmental bodies.

Contested Orders of Taking
Representation of private landowner in successfully contested orders of taking.

Successful Resolution of Development Rights Disputes
Successful representation of real estate developer in development rights issues, including governmental acquisition interference, challenges to building moratoriums, and government approval denials.

Administrative and Regulatory Challenges

Litigation experience includes federal and state law claims and administrative law challenges, as well as the resolution of regulatory disputes involving environmental agencies at all levels:

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
South Florida Water Management District
Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management
Dade and Broward County Environmental Review Agencies
Florida Ethics Commission
U.S. EPA - Federal Debarment Proceedings – alleged Clean Water Act Violations
State of Florida Department of Labor
State of Florida Department of Community Affairs
Palm Beach County Health Department
State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection

America's Leading Business Lawyers

Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rated

Education

J.D., University of Florida

B.S., Florida State University

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Commercial Litigation, 2015-Present

Florida Super Lawyers
Business Litigation, 2010-Present

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Business Litigation, 2023-Present
Top Lawyers, Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law, 2018-Present

South Florida Legal Guide
Top Lawyers, 2010-2022

Martindale-Hubbell AV® Peer Review Rated

Education

J.D., Florida State University

B.S., Georgetown University

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

Honors & Distinctions

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
President, 2011-2012
Chair, Executive Director Search Committee, 2017
Board of Governors, 2004-2012
Past Director, The Florida Bar Foundation
Past Vice-Chair, Budget Committee, Board of Governors
Past Vice-Chair, Disciplinary Procedures Committee
Past Member, Special Committee on Florida Constitutional Amendment Process
Past Member, Special Committee on Judicial Independence, Founding Committee Judicial Independence Standing Annual Florida Bar Convention, Boca Raton, 2008
Past Vice-Chair for Legislation, 2008

Palm Beach County Bar Association
President, 2000-2001
Past Chair, Bar Revitalization (increased bar participation, diversity, and opened the election)
Past Chair, Environmental and Land Use Law Committee
Past Chair, Professionalism Council, 2009
Past President, Young Lawyers Division

Florida Supreme Court
Judicial Management Council, Court Workgroup on Improved Resolution of Civil Cases, 2019-Present

Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals
Trustee, Historical Society

United States District Court Southern District of Florida
Member, West Palm Beach Federal Courthouse Committee, 2018-2021

American Bar Association
Past Member, House of Delegates, National Conference of Bar Presidents

Florida Supreme Court Historical Society
Trustee, 2014-Present

Economic Council of Palm Beach County
Board of Directors, 2017-Present
Member At Large, Executive Committee, 2024-Present
Member, Executive Committee, 2019-2023
Chair, Political Action Committee, 2023-Present
Chair, Policy Committee, 2021-2022
Chair, Governance Committee, 2019

University of Florida
Board of Trustees, University of Florida Law Center Association, 2002-Present



The Best Lawyers in America
Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law, 2007-Present

Florida Super Lawyers
General Litigation, 2006-2022

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law, 2018-Present
Top Lawyers, Land Use & Zoning Law, 2018-2020

Florida Trend
Legal Elite, 2004

Martindale-Hubbell AV® Peer Review Rated

Education

J.D., University of Florida

B.A., University of Florida

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
U.S. Courts of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Commercial Litigation, 2013-Present

Florida Super Lawyers
Business Litigation, 2007, 2010-2011, 2014-Present

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Business Litigation, 2022
Top Lawyers, Commercial Litigation, 2021-Present
Top Lawyers, Alternate Dispute Resolution, 2019, 2023

Florida Trend
"People to Know" in the Palm Beaches, September 2023 issue

Chair, Board of Trustees, University of Florida Law Center Association, 2016-2017
Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees, University of Florida Law Center Association, 2015-2016
Member, Council of Advisors, Bob Graham Center for Public Service, 2016-Present
Member, University of Florida College of Medicine Leadership Council, 2018-Present
Member, Board of Directors, University of Florida Foundation, 2004-2016
Chair, Board of Directors, University of Florida Foundation, 2014-2016
Vice Chair, Board of Directors, University of Florida Foundation, 2012-2014
Dean's Search Committee, 2013
President, University of Florida National Alumni Association, 1998-1999
President, University of Florida College of Law Alumni Council, 1989-1991

Palm Beach Atlantic University
Trustee, 1994-Present
Chair, Board of Trustees, 2013-2015

Florida's Children First
Palm Beach County Committee, 2006-2009

Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition
Past Member, Steering Committee

Leadership Palm Beach County
Graduate, 1994

About

About Spencer

Spencer Keyser, a Jones Foster Shareholder and member of the firm's Complex Litigation & Dispute Resolution practice group, focuses his practice in the areas of complex civil litigation, commercial litigation, and personal injury. Spencer has extensive litigation experience representing clients in both state and federal courts as well as state administrative and regulatory proceedings.

Spencer is an active member of the Palm Beach County Bar Association and was named a Best Lawyers in America "Ones to Watch" honoree for 2021 and 2022.

Spencer graduated from Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law where he was a member of the Nova Trial Association and recipient of the merit-based Goodwin Scholarship. While earning his law degree, Spencer served as a judicial law clerk for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida and performed a clerkship at a preeminent Florida civil defense law firm.

Honors & Distinctions

Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rated

Education

J.D., Albany Law School

B.S., Michigan State University

Admissions

The Florida Bar
New York State Bar
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Education

LL.M., Estate Planning, University of Miami School of Law

J.D., University of Michigan Law School

B.A., Hobart College

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Florida

The Best Lawyers in America
Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation, 2023-Present
Ones to Watch, Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2024
Ones to Watch, Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants, 2021-Present

Florida Super Lawyers
Rising Star, Business Litigation, 2023-Present

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Member, Young Lawyers Section, 2014-Present

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Co-Chair, 2024 Bench Bar Conference
Member, Civil Rules Committee, 2022-Present
Member, Law Related Education Committee, 2022-Present
Board Member, Young Lawyers Section, 2023-Present
Member, Young Lawyers Section, 2014-Present

Affiliations

Palm Beach County Bar Association
President, 2004-2005
Board of Directors, 1999-2006
Member, 1986-Present
North County Section, Board of Directors, 1994-2004
North County Section, President, 1998-1999
North County Section, Member, Current

The Florida Bar
Member, 1984-Present
Liaison Committee, Former Chairman
Law Day Committee, Former Member
Trial Lawyers Section, Former Member

Regent Bank
West Palm Beach Advisory Board, 2014-2017

Speak Up For Kids
Co-Founder, Winterfest, 1996-Present

Lighthouse for the Blind of the Palm Beaches, Inc.
Board of Directors, Chair Emeritus, 2021-Present
Board of Directors, Chair, 1997-2014
Board of Directors, Member, 1994-1997

Gulfstream Goodwill Industries
Board of Directors, Chair
Board of Directors, 2007-2014

Craig S. Barnard American Inn of Court
Mentoring Committee, Co-Chair, 2002-2004
Member, 1999-2005

Friends of Abused Children
Past Vice President

Experience Highlights

Invalidated Purported Last Will and Testament Due to Undue Influence
Representation of testator's children at trial and in appellate proceedings, whereby the purported last will and testament was successfully invalidated on grounds of testator's incapacity and undue influence exerted by testator's surviving spouse.

Corporately Held Real Estate Ownership Dispute
Representation of successor trustee in appellate proceedings before the Fourth District Court of Appeal and the Florida Supreme Court in trust litigation concerning the ownership of $1.5 million of corporately held real estate.

Breach of Trust Litigation Concerning Administration of Trust
Representation of corporate trustee in breach of trust litigation concerning the administration of trust in excess of $100 million in assets.

Interim Trustee for Trusts Totaling $30 Million in Assets
Appointed as special fiduciary to serve as interim trustee for 9 separate trusts totaling $30 million in assets.

Successful Defense Against Objections to Petition of Discharge
Successful defense of personal representative against objections to their petition for discharge, final accounting, and plan of distribution, including obtaining a judgment of fees and costs in excess of $250,000.

Will Contest Involving Ademption
Representation of guardian in a will contest involving ademption of a specific devise.

Contested Guardianship Incapacity Proceedings
Representation in numerous contested guardianship proceedings concerning issues of incapacity and the appointment of guardians.

Successful Defense of Multi-Million Creditor Claim
Successful defense of personal representative against a multi-million creditor claim.

Successful Defense of Claims of Breach of Trust and Fiduciary Duty
Successful defense of testator's daughter and attorney in fact at trial and in appellate proceedings against claims of breach of trust and breach of fiduciary duty associated with the administration of the testator's multi-million dollar revocable trust.



Successful Defense of Validity of Last Will and Testament

Representation of personal representative in successfully defending the validity of the decedent's Last Will and Testament against claims of undue influence and lack of testamentary capacity.

Affiliations

American College of Trust and Estate Counsel

Fellow, 2023-Present

The Florida Bar

Chair, Florida Probate Rules Committee, 2018
Member, Florida Probate Rules Committee, 2007-2014, 2018-2021
Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section (RPPTL)
- Executive Council, 2012-Present
- Chair, Probate Law and Procedure Committee, 2022-Present

Member, Elder Law Section

Palm Beach County Bar Association

President, 2014-2015
President, Young Lawyers Section, 2009-2010

Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches

Trustee, 2009-2021
Board of Directors, 2006-2009
Graduate, Leadership West Palm Beach, 2006

University of Florida Levin College of Law

Board of Trustees, Law Center Association, 2019-Present
President, Law Alumni Council, 2017-2018

Experience Highlights

Multi-Billion Dollar Sale of Global Commodities Company

Negotiated and structured the sale of a globally recognized commodities company with an original transaction value of approximately $2 Billion.

$250+ Million Credit Facility

Lead U.S. Counsel for borrower in connection with a complex $250+ million multi-lender offshore loan facility.

Private Equity Firm Portfolio Acquisitions & Sales

Representation of a private equity investment firm in a $214 million sale of portfolio companies to a publicly-traded corporation. Previously represented client in initial acquisitions.

Imaging Clinics Sold to Publicly Traded Healthcare Corporation in Cross-Border M&A

Seller representation in an international M&A valued in excess of $39 million involving six separately held physician-owned South Florida freestanding,

fixed-site outpatient diagnostic imaging clinics sold to a publicly traded Canadian healthcare corporation.

Sale of U.S. Company to Canadian Private Equity Firm
Representation of a multi-office family-owned regional pump business in its sale to a Canadian-based private equity firm.

Cross-border Restructuring and Sale of Canadian Company
Served as Special Corporate Counsel in connection with cross-border restructuring and sale of the largest Canadian-based provider of sales and data collection solutions.

Corporate Transactions for Nonprofit, Global Multimedia Company
Representation of a globally recognized nonprofit multimedia company in connection with several corporate transactions and creditors rights' matters.

Sale of Interest in Hedge Fund
Represented former general partner in $15 million multi-tiered sale of majority membership interest in nationally-recognized hedge fund.

National Security Company Acquisition by Private Equity Firm
Representation of a nationally prominent security firm in its acquisition by a U.S. based private equity firm.

Natural Health Company Acquisition by Global Enterprise
Representation of a privately held natural supplements and products company in its acquisition by an overseas international leader in the health and nutrition industry.

Sale of Multi-Office Home Healthcare Company to Private Equity Firm
Representation of principals in the sale of a home healthcare services company with multiple locations to a Chicago-based private equity firm. Handled the initial acquisition of the company in addition to the subsequent sale.

Corporate Sponsorship of National Car Racing Series
Representation of Grain & Barrel Spirits brand, Dixie Vodka, in a multi-year sponsorship and licensing deal with NASCAR.

Worldwide Spirits Supply and Distribution Deal
Representation of established global beverage platform in the negotiation of an exclusive worldwide supply and distribution agreement with an award-winning regional craft spirit company, further expanding their core brand offerings.

Spirits Company Acquisitions and Licensing Deals
Representation of an emerging wine and spirits company in numerous acquisitions and in licensing negotiations with a national media production company.

Corporate Transactions for Spirits Distributor



Representation of two leading regional beverage wholesalers/distributor ir general legal corporate matters.

Acquisition of Multinational Furniture Care Corporation
Representation of a multinational corporation in the acquisition of one of the largest U.S. furniture care product and warranty businesses.

Private Equity and Venture Capital Portfolio Investments and Dispositions
Representation of numerous private equity and venture capital clients in connection with diverse portfolio investments and dispositions.

Creditor Representation in the Reorganization of U.S. Computer Company
Representation of the second largest creditor and major supplier in the reorganization of one of the largest U.S. computer companies.

Contested Acquisition of Major New England Resort Complex
Representation of a New York-based private equity company in the contested acquisition of the largest resort complex on Cape Cod.

Multinational Aerospace Company
Representation of a multinational aerospace company in connection with the U.S. reorganization of several domestic and international air carriers.

Reorganization of 165-Unit Fast Food Restaurant Chain
Representation of the indenture trustee for subordinated bondholders in the reorganization of a 165-unit chain of fast food restaurants.

Restructuring of Steel Company
Representation of a Boston-based insurance company in connection with loans and corporate governance matters related to the restructuring of a U.S.-based steel company.

**Some matters handled prior to joining Jones Foster*

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Member, Senior Lawyers Committee, 2022-Present

Palm Beach Civic Association
Board of Directors, 2008-Present
Member, Public Safety Committee
Member, Port of Palm Beach Committee

Palm Beach Day Academy
Trustee Emeritus, 2020-Present
Board of Trustees, 2011-2020
Capital Campaign Steering Committee, 2010-2012

Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County
Board of Directors, 2007-2018
Executive Committee, 2011-2018



Angel Forum of Florida
Past-Director, 2010-2014

Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce
President, 2012-2014
Board of Directors, 2007-2015

Washington & Lee University Alumni Association
Director, 2009-2013

Experience Highlights

Significant Recovery for Real Property Owner in Inverse Condemnation Lawsuit
Representation of a real property owner in an inverse condemnation lawsuit for the taking of submerged land by Palm Beach County without permission or compensation that resulted in reduced ability to develop the property. A seven-day jury trial resulted in an award of $425,700 – a valuation approximately 27 times higher than the County's valuation of $15,700.

Successful Representation in Residential Jointly Owned Partition Lawsuit
Brokered successful buyout of a portion of jointly owned residential property.

Landlord-Tenant Representations
Successful representation of Landlords and Tenants in commercial and residential eviction lawsuit.

Obtained Emergency Injunction
Prevailed in obtaining an emergency injunction preventing an HOA from interfering with private property owner's access to and from property after private property owner lost only alternate access point.

Summary Judgment in Former Employee's Commission Claim
Obtained summary judgment for employer whose former employee sought commission in perpetuity for the life of client accounts.

Successful Representation of Mobile Homeowner
Procured a Court order directing the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue title to a mobile home for client who did not obtain valid title at the time of purchase.

Dismissal of Derivative Lawsuit
Successfully obtained dismissal of a derivative lawsuit brought by 32 plaintiffs against members of the board of corporate entity.

Successful Enforcement of Employee Noncompete Clause
Successfully enforced noncompetition provision of two former employees for the relevant geographic market after former employees went to work for employer's competitor.

Affiliations

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Member, Civil Rules Committee, 2023-Present
Member, Young Lawyers Section

Palm Beach County Sport Commission
Member, Hall of Fame Committee, 2023-Present

About

About John

John Martyn, a member of Jones Foster's Private Wealth, Wills, Trusts & Estates and Real Estate teams, concentrates his practice in the areas of estate planning, estate and trust administration, wills, and real estate. As a Jupiter native with decades of experience in his areas of focus, Jack has built authentic relationships with clients and colleagues alike, serving as a trusted counselor and preeminent legal advisor.

About

About Carlee

Carlee Mattison is a member of Jones Foster's Real Estate team and focuses her practice in the areas of acquisitions, dispositions, and commercial leasing.

Carlee's additional experience includes probate and trust litigation, as well as fiduciary litigation. She has served as trusted counsel to individuals, families, trustees, personal representatives, and beneficiaries in trust and estate administration matters.

Carlee earned her Juris Doctor degree and graduated *magna cum laude* from The University of Florida Levin College of Law, where she was named to the Order of the Coif. She was the recipient of Book Awards in Criminal Law and Family Law, received the DT Smith Outstanding Associate Editor Award from the Florida Law Review, and was a member of the Phi Delta Phi Legal Honor Society. While at the University of Florida, Carlee gained valuable experience as a Research Assistant to two law school professors, and as a Summer Associate at Jones Foster.

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Member, RPPTL Section, 2019-Present

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Member, Young Lawyers Section, 2019-Present

Florida Association for Women Lawyers Palm Beach County
Member, 2019-Present

Food Pantry of Broward County, 2015-2016

Make-A-Wish Foundation, 2012-2016

Affiliations

American Bar Association
Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Division, Member

The Florida Bar
Business Law Section, Member
Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section, Member

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Member

Experience Highlights

Defendants' Liaison Counsel in Zantac Products Liability Multidistrict Litigation
Local counsel for drug manufacturer, Sanofi, and appointed by Judge Robin Rosenberg , U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, as defendants' liaison counsel in Zantac products liability MDL involving claims that the active ingredient, ranitidine, contains low levels of NDMA, a cancer-causing chemical. Summary judgment was granted in favor of the brand-name drugmakers, dismissing all claims by the more than 2,450 plaintiffs and 150,000 additional claimants.

Defense of $65 Million Claim Against Financial Services Chairman & CEO
Representation of publicly held financial services corporation and its chairman and chief executive officer in defense of $65 million claim brough by minority shareholders of wholly owned subsidiary alleging breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract, fraud and civil theft in two-week hearing before AAA arbitration panel.

Successful Defense of $50 Million Claim Against Laboratories
Secured early dismissal of RICO and fraud claims brought by the largest for-profit managed health care company in the world, seeking in excess of $50 million, on behalf of a half dozen laboratory defendants as well as their general partners and officers.

Successful Defense of National Law Firm in Legal Malpractice Claim
Obtained directed verdict, affirmed on appeal, on behalf of national law firn sued for damages in excess of $20 million for alleged legal malpractice in drafting limited partnership documents.

Local Counsel in Securities Fraud Lawsuit
Representation of publicly held company providing specialty contracting services to the telecommunications and infrastructure industry in putative class action under federal securities laws.

Insurance Brokerage TCPA Class Action Defense

Representation of insurance brokerage in defense of consumer class action alleging violation of Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA") by sending unsolicited facsimile advertisements. Negotiated settlement and oversaw class administration.

Printing Manufacturer TCPA Class Action Defense

Representation of nationwide print services company in defense of consumer class action alleging violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA") by sending 2,500 facsimile advertisements. Negotiated class action settlement and class administration.

Palm Beach County State-of-the-Art Scientific Research Institute

Served as counsel to The Scripps Research Institute in establishing Scripps Florida, a new state-of-the-art scientific research institute, in Palm Beach County, Florida against a variety of legal challenges from environmental and non-profit organizations.

Real Estate Broker Recovery of Commission

Representation of real estate broker suing to recover commission due on sale of $10.6 million home at buyer's full asking price pursuant to exclusive listing agreement. Negotiated favorable settlement after early mediation.

Municipality Prevails in U.S. Court of Appeals in Case of First Impression

Representation of the Town of Palm Beach in a matter of first impression in the area of land use and constitutional law. A longtime resident argued that the Town's architectural review commission violated his constitutionally protected First Amendment right to freedom of expression and his Fourteenth Amendment rights to due process and equal protection when it denied his application to demolish his traditional-style home and construct a new international/modern-style home on the oceanfront lot. The commission denied the application because the proposed mansion was "excessively dissimilar" from other nearby homes in accordance with various architectural design criteria. The Southern District of Florida granted summary judgment in the Town's favor and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit affirmed in June 2021. The federal appellate court held that although the resident may have intended to communicate a message through his proposed home, there was no great likelihood that a reasonable viewer would understand it to convey some sort of message where the residence was set back from the street and obscured by dense landscaping there was no evidence that residential architecture has been historically used or understood to convey a message. The court also rejected the resident's attempt to void the Town's architectural review ordinance. The resident petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court for review, but the court ultimately declined to hear the appeal in March 2022.

Successful Defense of Class Certification Involving Underground Utility Project

Lead Counsel in the representation of a municipality in defense of putative class actions challenging the bond referendum and special assessment

criteria involved in the Town of Palm Beach's $90 million underground utility project. Trial court's order denying class certification after evidentiary hearing was affirmed on appeal.

Successful Defense of Injunctive Relief

Resident of oceanfront municipality composed several large paintings, described by Plaintiff as "satires" or "lampoons", criticizing town officials on the exterior walls of his home following the town's denial of his variance application. Following an evidentiary preliminary injunction hearing, the federal court preliminarily denied resident's attempt to stop the town from enforcing its ordinance regulating exterior wall colors and found no constitutional violation and suit was voluntarily dismissed with prejudice.

Municipality Sued Over Adoption of Waterfront Setback Line

Representation of the Town of Jupiter Island in pending challenge to the Town's adoption of a revised waterfront setback line as set forth in its supplemental land development regulations. Challenge asserts Town failed to meet statutory notice requirements and asserts ordinance of this type was subject to heightened notice under Florida law.

Florida's Public Records Act & Public Records Requests

Defense of more than 3 dozen lawsuits brought against municipality under Florida's Public Records Act resulting in numerous non-jury trials. Advise municipality on response to more than 2,000 public records requests.

Interpretation of Perpetual Parking Easement

Representation of property owner in suit relating to interpretation and application of perpetual parking easement negotiated as part of sale of several West Palm Beach office buildings for approximately $70 million. Dispute concerned expenses attributed to a multi-million dollar parking garage constructed after the easement was negotiated.

Constitutionality of Proposed Ballot Initiative

A property-use agreement between municipality and owners of historic 60-year-old playhouse limited playhouse's use as theater of performing or visual arts and for lectures or other special events. Political action committee sought to amend municipality's charter to incorporate portions of the agreement's covenants. For municipality, obtained declaration that proposed amendment was unconstitutional as in conflict with state comprehensive planning law and did not have to be put to a vote. Defended declaration through appeal to the Fourth District and Florida Supreme Court decision declining jurisdiction.

Successful Defense of Motion to Disqualify Attorney for Alleged Conflict of Interest

Successful defense of attorney against claim that attorney's representation of Plaintiff years prior in wholly unrelated matter created a disqualifying conflict of interest.

Successful Defense of Florida-Based Law Firm in Federal Court

Successful defense of motion for sanctions in Federal Court against South Florida law firm following disqualification.

Breakup of Law Firm Valued in Excess of $7 Million
Representation of minority owner of law firm with over 200 employees and offices in Florida and New York. Dispute on key decisions requiring super majority vote under operating agreement resulted in New York operation being formed as a new entity by minority shareholder.

Appointment of Independent Forensic Examiner
Client moved to appoint an independent forensic examiner to inspect and copy computer storage devices in dispute over medical practice breakup. Following an evidentiary hearing, the court granted client's motion.

National Builder Subsidiary Violates Florida Not-for-Profit Corporation Act When Operating South Florida Luxury Country Club
Representation of South Florida country club and golf course in suit against a Fortune 500 company, one of the nation's leading builders of luxury homes, and its subsidiary entity that controlled and operated the club prior to turnover to its equity members. Suit alleged the builder's entities improperly profited from operating surpluses and membership payments of the luxury community's nonprofit club. Received favorable summary judgment, finding that the builder's subsidiary violated Florida's Not-for-Profit Corporation Act by retaining in excess of $4 million in operating surpluses.

Successful Defense of Surgeon Against Claims of Tortious Interference
Representation of surgeon against claims up to $16 million by anesthesiologist that surgeon and hospital conspired to tortiously interfere with anesthesiologist's business relationship, resulting in complete defense judgment including award of more than $100,000 in attorneys' fees and costs.

Affiliations

Federal Bar Association, Palm Beach County Chapter
Board Member, 2020-2022
President, 2019-2020
Vice President / President-Elect, 2018-2019
Secretary, 2017-2018
Treasurer, 2016-2017

United States District Court Southern District of Florida
West Palm Beach Federal Courthouse Committee, Member, 2018-Present
Federal Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel, Dec 2016- May 2017
- Appointed by Chief U.S. District Judge K. Michael Moore

The Florida Bar
Business Litigation Certification Committee, Immediate Past Chair, 2022-2023

Business Litigation Certification Committee, Chair, 2021-2022
Business Litigation Certification Committee, Member, 2018-Present
Federal Court Practice Committee, Vice Chair, 2023-Present
Co-Chair, Federal Judicial Roundtable & Reception, 2023 Florida Bar Convention
Federal Court Practice Committee, Member, 2019-Present
Professional Ethics Committee, Member, 2007-2011
Business Law Section, Member, Current

15th Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "A"
Chair, 2017-2018
Member, 2015-2018

15th Judicial Circuit
Local Professional Panel, Member, 2024-2026
- Appointed by Chief Judge Glenn Kelley

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Committee for Diversity & Inclusion, 2022-Present
Diversity Internship Program (DIP), Co-Chair, 2022-Present
Professionalism Committee, Co-Chair, 2015-2016
Professionalism Committee, Chair, 2014-2015
Judicial Relations Committee, Chair, 2013-2014
Annual Bench Bar Conference 2013, Co-Chair (approx. 800 attendees)

Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches
Board of Directors, 2018-2021

Forum Club of the Palm Beaches
Director, 2011-2014
Member, 2009-2014

Duke University Alumni Association
Vice President, 2015-2017
Director, 2012-2018

Leadership Palm Beach County
Youth Leadership Committee, Co-Chair, 2014-2016
Youth Leadership Committee, Member, 2008-2016
Graduate, 2008

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Municipal Litigation, 2011-Present
Municipal Law, 2011-Present

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Municipal Law, 2018-2019, 2022-Present

Top Lawyers, Administrative/Regulatory Law, 2022

South Florida Legal Guide
Top Lawyers, Governmental, 2007-2022

Florida Trend
Legal Elite, 2015

The Florida Bar
City, County and Local Government Law Section
Ralph A. Marsicano Award, 2009

Florida Municipal Attorneys Association
Paul S. Buchman Award
Municipal Attorney of the Year, 2006

Alpert Jewish Family Service of Palm Beach County
Honored at the "Never Again" Holocaust Survivors Benefit, 2020

Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews
First recipient of the annual John C. Randolph Award, 2004

Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Rating

Affiliations

Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians and Jews
Chairman, 1993-2003, 2006-Present

Florida Municipal Attorneys Association
President, 2001-2002

Rehabilitation Center for Children and Adults
President & BOD, 1987-1990

Royal Poinciana Chapel
Past President, 1994-1996, 2006-2007

Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches
Past President

Experience Highlights

- Represented an 88-year-old man with terminal cancer who sued for the return of funds that were stolen by his attorney. Following a non-jury trial, the court found in favor of the client on all counts, ordered that all disputed funds be returned, and reserved jurisdiction to award attorneys' fees, pre-judgment interest, and costs.

- Obtained summary judgment for a butane canister distributor in a product liability lawsuit involving a portable butane stove explosion and

severe burn injuries.

- Following a four-day trial, a jury awarded $1.22 million to the personal representative of a decedent's estate. The case involved promissory notes between the decedent and his ex-spouse and life insurance policy proceeds that were paid to the ex-spouse in excess of the debt owed. Following trial, the court entered a final judgment for the full amount requested by the client at trial.

- Multimillion-dollar catastrophic damage cases involving physical and psychological injuries, burns, amputations, paralysis, traumatic brain injuries, and death.

- High-stakes litigation experience in complex product liability matters across product industry sectors.

- First-party and third-party claims involving home, auto, commercial, and business liability insurance, including COVID-19 business interruption and extra expense matters.

- Claims of injury due to mold exposure and indoor air quality deficiencies.

- "Slayer Statute" cases involving claims to inherit a decedent's estate by a person responsible for the death.

- Nursing home negligence claims involving injury and death.

- Defamation (libel and slander) and tortious interference with business relationships.

- *Johnson v. Davis* claims involving fraudulent nondisclosure of residential defects.

- Equine litigation involving horse ownership and conversion and matters relating to the promotion and operation of equine events.

- Losses due to crop, nursery, and tree damage.

Affiliations

American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)
Past President, Palm Beach Chapter, 2023-2024
President, Palm Beach Chapter, 2022-2023
President-Elect, Palm Beach Chapter, 2021-2022
Vice President, Palm Beach Chapter, 2021
Board of Directors, Palm Beach Chapter, 2021-Present
Member, Remote Jury Trials Committee, Palm Beach Chapter, 2020-

Present

Presidential Estates HOA
Board Member, 2020-Present

About

About Zack

Zack Rothman, a Jones Foster Shareholder and member of the Complex Litigation and Private Wealth teams, represents clients in litigation involving estates, trusts, guardianships and fiduciary disputes, as well as commercial litigation matters. He also counsels personal representatives, trustees, court-appointed administrators, beneficiaries and creditors in all facets of probate, trust and guardianship administration.

Zack holds leadership positions in state and local bar associations, serving as a member of The Florida Bar's Probate Rules Committee, Code & Rules of Evidence Committee, Abuse Neglect & Exploitation Committee, and the Undue Influence Codification Subcommittee, as well as the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Probate/Guardianship Committee and the Estate/Probate CLE Committee. He is a graduate of the Florida Fellows Institute of The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and has been recognized by *Florida Super Lawyers* as a Rising Star.

Zack earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Florida and his J.D. from the University of Florida Levin College of Law. While earning his law degree, he was honored for outstanding achievement with book awards in the areas of Elder Law and Electronic Discovery and served as a judicial law clerk for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida.

Experience Highlights

Trial Victory in Lawsuit for Return of Funds Misappropriated by Attorney
Represented an 88-year-old man with terminal cancer who sued for the return of funds that were stolen by his attorney. Following a non-jury trial, the court found in favor of the client on all counts, ordered that all disputed funds be returned, and reserved jurisdiction to award attorneys' fees, pre-judgment interest, and costs.

Jury Award of Over $1.2 Million in Probate Lawsuit
Following a four-day trial, a jury awarded $1.22 million to the personal representative of a decedent's estate. The case involved promissory notes between the decedent and his ex-spouse and life insurance policy proceeds that were paid to the ex-spouse in excess of the debt owed. Following trial, the court entered a final judgment for the full amount requested by the client at trial.

Victory for Decedent's Estate at Trial
Represented the personal representative in a dispute in which the decedent's stepdaughter objected to the plan of distribution and sought

damages exceeding $1 million against the estate. Following a trial, the court denied the stepdaughter's objections, awarded no damages, and ruled that the estate is entitled to recover its attorneys' fees and expenses from the stepdaughter.

Successful Defense of Summary Judgment Motion Against Trustees
Represented the trustees of family trusts where a beneficiary sued the trustees for breach of fiduciary duty, trust accountings, damages, and removal. The beneficiary's summary judgment motion was denied as to all relief requested.

Creditor Claims Against Estate Stricken
Represented a personal representative in connection with having hundreds of thousands of dollars of creditor claims stricken and denied.

Favorable Resolution Secured in Wrongful Death Allocation Proceedings
Represented a father, one of two survivors of his deceased daughter. After the daughter's tragic death, the mother brought a wrongful death action as personal representative of the daughter's estate and obtained a substantial settlement. The mother sought to allocate the entirety of the settlement proceeds to herself and none to the father. The matter was litigated and resolved by a mediated settlement agreement favorable to the father.

Validity of Decedent's Will and Trust Upheld
Represented a caretaker named as the sole beneficiary of a decedent's estate and trust. After his death, the decedent's family sought to invalidate the will and the trust. The matter was resolved in favor of the caretaker and the validity of the will and trust were upheld.

Successful Action Against Trustee of Sons' Trusts
Represented a trustee's sons, the beneficiaries of the trusts, in an action against the trustee for breach of fiduciary duty, damages, and removal. The action resulted in judgments that the trustee breached her fiduciary duties and would be removed, and awarded damages to the sons, including their attorney's fees and expenses.

Summary Judgment for Decedent's Mother in Federal Court
A decedent who was rendered a quadriplegic in a work-related accident prior to his death was awarded annuity contracts from worker's compensation claims and named his mother as the beneficiary. Days prior to his death, the decedent's ex-wife attempted to have the decedent change the beneficiary of the annuities to herself. The matter was litigated and resolved by entry of summary judgment finding that the decedent's mother was the sole and rightful beneficiary and awarding the mother her attorneys' fees and expenses.

Successful Representation of Guardian in Contested Appeal
Represented the guardian in an appeal concerning whether a guardian, upon the death of the ward, may retain guardianship assets to pay

guardianship expenses. The appellate court ruled in favor of the guardian, authorizing the guardian to retain assets after the ward's death to pay expenses, and awarded the guardian's appellate attorneys' fees and costs

Administration of Estate as Court-Appointed Administrator Ad Litem
Appointed as Administrator Ad Litem of a complex, highly contested estate and successfully performed administration of the estate for the benefit of the beneficiaries.

Administration of Trust as Trustee
Served as trustee of a grandchild's trust and successfully performed its administration, which included numerous estate, gift, and generation-skipping tax issues.

Some matters handled prior to Jones Foster.

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Probate Rules Committee
- Secretary, 2022-Present
- Member, 2020-Present
- Co-Chair, Style Subcommittee, 2022-Present

Abuse Neglect & Exploitation Committee, Member, 2019-Present
Undue Influence Codification Subcommittee, 2019-Present
Code & Rules of Evidence Committee
- Education Subcommittee, 2022-Present
- Liaison to Florida Probate Rules Committee, 2021-Present
- Member, 2018-present

Elder Law Section, Member
Trial Lawyers Section, Member
Real Property Probate Trust Law Section, Member

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Probate/Guardianship Practice Committee, Member, 2020-present
Estate/Probate CLE Committee, Member, 2020-present
Co-Chair and Moderator, Probate and Guardianship Session, 2023 Bench Bar Conference
Co-Chair and Moderator, Probate and Guardianship Session, 2024 Bench Bar Conference

Florida Fellows Institute of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel
Graduate, 2022

Police Athletic League of West Palm Beach
Board Member, 2018-2021

About

About Hanna

Hanna Rubin is a member of Jones Foster's Complex Litigation & Dispute Resolution team. Hanna represents businesses, individuals, and municipalities in matters involving commercial litigation and governmental litigation.

Hanna is involved in industry and non-profit organizations, serving in leadership roles as the National Delegate for the Federal Bar Association Palm Beach County Chapter and as an Advisory Board Member for Camp Kesem's Nova Southeastern University chapter. She is an active member of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers Palm Beach County Chapter and the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section.

Hanna graduated *magna cum laude* with a Juris Doctor from the University of Florida Levin College of Law where she served as a *Florida Law Review* Articles Editor and received a *Florida Law Review* Judicial Panel appointment. Hanna was recognized with Book Awards in constitutional law, legal writing, legal research, and social justice lawyering, received the merit-based Governor's Scholarship, and was named to the Order of the Coif. She was a member of the Immigration Law Association and an Advisory Board Member for Camp Kesem at the University of Florida.

While at the University of Florida, Hanna gained valuable experience as a judicial intern for the Honorable Bruce E. Reinhart, Magistrate Judge, Southern District of Florida, and as a Summer Associate at Jones Foster.

Affiliations

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Co-Chair, Federal Session, 2023 Bench Bar Conference
Member, Young Lawyers Section, 2021-Present
Member, North County Section, 2021-Present

Federal Bar Association, Palm Beach County Chapter
Secretary, 2023-Present
National Delegate, 2022-2023
Member, 2020-Present

Florida Association of Women Lawyers
Chair, Grant Writing Committee, 2023-2024
Mentee, Mentorship Program, 2022-Present
Member, Palm Beach County Chapter, 2021-Present

Kesem
Member, National Alumni Leadership Board, 2023-Present
Member, Mission Delivery Committee, 2023-Present
Member, Advisory Board, NSU Chapter, 2021-Present
Member, Advisory Board, University of Florida chapter, 2019-2021

Order of the Coif
Member, 2022-Present

Experience Highlights

Successful Defense of Publicly Traded Company in Defective Product Dispute
Representation of a publicly traded company in the oil and gas industry in jury trial and appellate proceedings against international shipping company in a multimillion-dollar claim relating to the supply of allegedly defective products and services.

$70 Million Trust Contest
Representation of surviving spouse in $70 million trust contest against children of first marriage, which resulted in client receiving over 90% of the trust residue.

Multiple Charitable Organization Defense of $100 Million Estate Proceeding
Representation of seven charitable organizations in a $100 million estate proceeding in defending a claim which would have resulted in the charities receiving no residuary distributions. The claim was settled, resulting in the charities receiving an amount in excess of $30 million, almost 95% of the residue.

Undue Influence and Return of Funds in Will Dispute
Representation of two siblings as personal representatives of their father's $25 million estate. Successfully defended an attack of the decedent's will by his surviving spouse, resulting in a judgment finding the surviving spouse guilty of undue influence and ordering the return of funds misappropriated by her during the final months of the decedent's life.

$7 Million in Damages Awarded for Improper Sale of Annuity Contracts
Representation of trustees in successfully prosecuting a claim against a brokerage firm for the improper sale of $30 million in annuity contracts to an elderly couple, receiving a jury award of over $7 million in compensatory and punitive damages.

Successful Defense of Claims of Breach of Trust and Fiduciary Duty
Successful defense of testator's daughter and attorney in fact at trial and in appellate proceedings against claims of breach of trust and breach of fiduciary duty associated with the administration of the testator's multi-million dollar revocable trust.

Successful Defense of Validity of Last Will and Testament
Representation of personal representative in successfully defending the validity of the decedent's Last Will and Testament against claims of undue influence and lack of testamentary capacity.

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America

Commercial Litigation, 2019-Present
Trust and Estates Litigation, 2011–Present
Lawyer of the Year, West Palm Beach, Trusts & Estates Litigation, 2020

Florida Super Lawyers
Estate & Trust Litigation, 2006–Present

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Trust & Estates, 2018, 2021-Present

Florida Trend
Legal Elite, 2012

Martindale-Hubbell AV® Peer Review Rated

Affiliations

American College of Trial Lawyers
Attorney-Client Relationship Committee, Chair, 2017-Present

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Circuit Civil Practice Committee, Member, 2006, 2017-Present
Estate & Probate CLE Committee, Member, 2010, 2017-Present
Probate & Guardianship Practice Committee, Past Member

Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County
Board Member, 2020-Present

Trustbridge Hospice Foundation
Board of Directors, 2021-2023
Planned Giving Committee, Chair, 2016-Present

Alzheimer's Community Care
Board of Directors, 2018-Present

The Florida Bar
Civil Procedure Rules Committee, Past Chair
Probate Rules Committee, Past Chair
Probate & Trust Litigation Committee, Past Member

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
Ad Hoc Committee on Rules and Procedures Committee, Member, 2004-2012

Center for Children in Crisis
Director, 2002-2005

Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches
Board of Directors, Chair, 1999-2000

Leadership Palm Beach County
Graduate, 1992

About

About Rachel

Rachel Sears is a member of both the Corporate & Tax and Private Wealth Wills, Trusts & Estates practice groups. She concentrates her practice in the areas of estate planning, trust and estate administration, and corporate law.

Rachel works with clients on estate planning matters, including wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and advance healthcare directives. In addition, she provides counsel to personal representatives, trustees, and beneficiaries in probate and trust administration, guiding them through the legal and personal challenges that can be involved in administering an estate.

Rachel also advises clients on corporate transactions, including transfers of business interests, LLC creation, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate restructuring, and handles the drafting of comprehensive legal documents to ensure that her clients' interests are protected at every stage of the transaction process.

Rachel earned her Juris Doctor degree from Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law, where she graduated *cum laude*. While at Nova Southeastern University, she was the Executive Editor for the *Nova Law Review;* a pupil of the Craig S. Barnard American Inn of Court; the Director of Operations for the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Society; and an active member of the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity. Rachel gained valuable experience as a judicial intern for both U.S. Circuit Judges David A. Haimes and Keathan B. Frink at the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as a Research Assistant for a law professor, and as a Summer Associate and Law Clerk at Jones Foster.

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Member, Young Lawyers Division, 2022-Present
Member, Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section, 2022-Present
Member, Business Law Section, 2024-Present

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Member, Young Lawyers Section, 2022-Present

American Bar Association
Member, Young Lawyers Division, 2023-Present
Member, Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section, 2023-Present

East Coast Estate Planning Council
Member, 2023-Present

Palm Beach Tax Institute

Member, 2023-Present

Young Friends of the Historical Society Palm Beach County
Member, 2023-Present

About

About Melanie

Melanie Skenian is a member of the Complex Litigation & Dispute Resolution practice group, and focuses her practice in the areas of probate litigation and trust litigation.

Melanie graduated *cum laude* with a Juris Doctor from the University of Florida Levin College of Law. She received a CALI Book Award for Federal Income Taxation and was awarded the Fredric G. Levin Ethos of Excellence Scholarship. During her studies, she served as a research assistant and was an active member and coach of the Florida Moot Court Team. Melanie gained valuable experience as an intern for Judge Michael G. Williamson of the United States Middle District Bankruptcy Court.

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Member, Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section, 2022-Present

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Member, Young Lawyers Section, 2022-Present

Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce
Member, Palm Beach Young Professionals, 2023-Present

Florida Association for Women Lawyers
Member, Palm Beach County Chapter, 2023-Present

Experience Highlights

Transfer of Closely Held Corporation
Representation of family-owned business in the redemption of the sole shareholder's stock in exchange for a secured promissory note, passing ownership and control of the business from the mother to her children, and providing a stream of payments to supplement the mother's retirement.

Transfer of Business with Secured Note
Counseling of a closely held engineering firm through the redemption of its founding shareholder's stock for cash and a secured promissory note, effectively passing ownership and control of the business to the other shareholders.

Establishment of Supplemental Needs Trust
Representation of trustee in obtaining a judicial modification of an irrevocable trust to establish a supplemental needs trust.

Acceleration of Inheritance to Beneficiaries

Representation of the surviving spouse trustee in obtaining a judicial termination of an irrevocable trust to accelerate the inheritance to multi-generational family members and numerous charity beneficiaries.

Removal of Corporate Trustee Requirement

Representation of trust beneficiary in obtaining a judicial modification of ar irrevocable trust to remove the trust's corporate trustee requirement, obtaining consent of the resigning trustee and all qualified beneficiaries.

Nonjudicial Termination of Uneconomic Trusts

Representation of trustees in obtaining nonjudicial termination of uneconomic trusts, and distribution of assets to beneficiaries.

Second Marriage Estate Planning

Preparation of an estate plan for spouses in second marriage, providing for each other in addition to their respective children.

Preservation of Homestead Property Tax Exemption

Successful preservation of homestead property tax exemption at the end of a QPRT's initial term of years, through the execution of a 99-year lease, with a transfer of the property to an LLC subject to the lease.

Private Foundation Dispute Over Control

Representation of a court-appointed Temporary Trustee during litigation over control of a private foundation. Determined the amount of undistributed income, the distributees, and distribution amounts, and obtained court approval of same.

Treasury Regulation Compliance

Performed extensive review of a private foundation's scholarship program to determine compliance with the relevant Treasury Regulations.

Charitable Trust Instruments

Preparation of amended and restated trust instruments governing both private foundations and public charities organized as trusts.

High Net Worth Trust Change of Situs

Representation of out-of-state high net worth trusts as to their change of situs to Florida.

S Corporation Creation

Formation of an S corporation and preparation of a management agreement for consultant to provide a salary with no self-employment taxes on distributions to the shareholder.

Merger of Multiple S Corporations

Structuring and execution of a merger of law firm owners' S corporations ir connection with implementation of a future redemption of the senior attorney's stock, funding the senior attorney's retirement and passing control to the remaining shareholders.

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Member, Tax Section, 2012-Present
- Assistant Director, Education, 2022-Present
- Legislative & Regulations Committee, 2020-Present

Member, Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section, 2012-Present

East Coast Estate Planning Council
President, 2020-2021
First Vice President, 2019-2020
Second Vice President, 2018-2019
Board Member, 2016-2022
Secretary, 2017-2018
Member, 2011-Present

Palm Beach Tax Institute
Member, 2011-Present

Planned Giving Council of Palm Beach County
Member, 2016-Present
Board Member, 2017-2020

The Kiwanis Club of West Palm Beach Foundation
Class Scholarship Committee, Chair, 2018-Present
President, 2021-2023
Vice President, 2019-2020
Board Member, 2014-Present

Memorial Presbyterian Church, West Palm Beach
Session Member, 2021-Present

The Kiwanis Club of West Palm Beach
Board Member, 2015-2018
President, 2014-2015
President-Elect, 2013-2014

Florida Fellows Institute of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel
Graduate, 2017

Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches
Leadership West Palm Beach, Graduate, 2016

About

About Melissa

Melissa Steen is a member of the Complex Litigation & Dispute Resolution and Private Wealth, Wills, Trusts & Estates practice groups. She represents clients in litigation involving trusts and estates, guardianship, and fiduciary disputes, as well as commercial litigation matters.

Melissa is involved in several legal organizations, including the Florida Association for Women Lawyers Palm Beach County chapter, where she is a member of its FAWL in Love With GAL Committee; The Florida Bar's Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section; and the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section. She has been selected by her peers for inclusion in the peer-reviewed publication *The Best Lawyers in America*, where she was recognized on the *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America* list for trusts and estates litigation.

Melissa earned her Juris Doctor degree and graduated *cum laude* from the University of Florida Levin College of Law where she served as a notes advisor for the *Florida Law Review*, a student research assistant in the area of criminal law, and a teaching assistant in the areas of legal writing and appellate advocacy. She was an active member of the Legal Honor Society of Phi Delta Phi and the Law Association for Women. During her undergraduate studies, she was a founding member of the Mock Trial Team, and she gained valuable experience as an intern for the Honorable James Rooney of the Supreme Court in the 9th Judicial District of New York

Affiliations

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Member, Young Lawyers Section, 2022-Present

The Florida Bar
Member, Real Property, Probate and Trust Law, 2022-Present

Florida Association for Women Lawyers
Member, FAWL in Love With GAL Committee, 2023-Present
Member, Palm Beach County Chapter, 2022-Present

Affiliations

American College of Trial Lawyers Florida Chapter
Chair, 2007

American College of Trial Lawyers
Member, 1983-Present

American Bar Foundation
Life Fellow

The Florida Bar
Board of Governors, 1980-1983

Palm Beach County Bar Association
President, 1978
Member, 1968-Present

Palm Beach County Meals on Wheels
Founding Board Member, 2010-2011

Chair, 2012-2013
Member, 2010-Present

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Senior Warden, 1976, 1981, 1982-1991
Member, 1968-Present

The Economic Council of Palm Beach County
Chair, 2001
Member, 1996-2015

Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission
Chair, 1996

Gulfstream Council Boys Scouts of America
President, 1994-1995

Kiwanis Club of West Palm Beach
President, 1979-1980

University of Florida Law Center Association
Trustee Emeritus
Member, 2014-Present

Forum Club of the Palm Beaches
Board of Directors, 2008-2010

Leadership Palm Beach County
Graduate, 1985

Experience Highlights

Significant Recovery for Real Property Owner in Inverse Condemnation Lawsuit
Representation of a real property owner in an inverse condemnation lawsuit for the taking of submerged land by Palm Beach County without permission or compensation that resulted in reduced ability to develop the property. A seven-day jury trial resulted in an award of $425,700 – a valuation approximately 27 times higher than the County's valuation of $15,700.

$1 Million Settlement in DOT Condemnation Case
Represented Indian River County service station in condemnation case against DOT due to substantial business impact by taking. Settlement was reached prior to trial in the amount of $1 million.

Condemnation Case Involving Taking of Commercial Property by County
Representation of business owner in taking of land by Palm Beach County for road widening. Damages caused by taking in excess of $400k.

Successful Defense of Claim to Enforce Letter of Intent as a Binding Contract

Representation of seller in dispute with developer related to a previously executed letter of intent to convey a 93 acre parcel of land for $10.5 million. The developer sought to enforce the letter of intent as a binding contract to sell the property after negotiations did not result in a final agreement. The state trial court granted final summary judgment in favor of the seller and the appellate court affirmed.

Successful Defense of Developer's Claim for Specific Performance Regarding Purchase of Property
Representation of trust in dispute with developer who sought to specifically enforce the terms of a purchase and sale agreement of 8 acres of land for $5 million against the trust. The developer also claimed that one trustee tortiously interfered with the agreement. The federal district court granted final summary judgment on all counts in favor of the trust and trustee shortly before trial. The developer appealed the summary judgment ruling to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. After oral argument, the appellate court affirmed the lower court ruling on all issues in a published opinion.

Defense of Former Officers of a Florida Utility Company
Representation of former officers of a Florida utility company in action for breach of fiduciary duties, tortious interference, misappropriation/theft of trade secrets, unfair competition, and commercial bribery.

High-Tech Start-Up Billion Dollar Dispute
Representation of principals of high-tech start-up company in billion dollar dispute over alleged theft of trade secrets and breaches of fiduciary duties.

Representation of High Tech Start-Up Against Automation Conglomerate
Representation of telecommunications start-up and principals against international automation conglomerate in a multibillion-dollar claim involving multiple technology issues related to data transmission.

Multi-Million Dollar Dispute Over Royalties of Dietary Supplement
Representation of developers of dietary supplements in federal court and before the American Arbitration Association in a multi-million dollar dispute over royalties against international dietary supplement retailer.

National Law Firm Legal Malpractice Claim
Representation of a national law firm in legal malpractice claim regarding an international exchange of corporate shares.

Complete Defense Verdict for Attorney Accused of Misfeasance
Representation of attorney in dispute with partnership claiming that the attorney refused to repay a loan lent to finance trust litigation. After a five day trial, the jury returned a complete defense verdict for the attorney and the appellate court affirmed.

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Eminent Domain Committee, Member, 2017-Present
Civil Procedure Rules Committee, Member, 2010-2016
Rules of Judicial Administration Committee, Member, 2012-2015
Standing Committee on Professionalism, Chair, 2009-2010
Standing Committee on Professionalism, Member, 2004-2010

The Florida Bar Foundation
Fellow, 2004-Present

Federal Bar Association
Member, 2008-Present

Association of Eminent Domain Professionals
Member

Forum Club of the Palm Beaches
Member, 2009-Present

HomeSafe
President-Elect, 2022-Present
Member at Large, 2020-2022
President, 2014-2016
Board Member, 2009-2020

Leadership Palm Beach County
Board of Governors, 2013-2017
Grow Program Chair, 2010-2016
Engage Class, Graduate, 2006

Craig S. Barnard American Inns of Court Emeritus
Member, 2002-2007

Experience Highlights

Significant Recovery for Real Property Owner in Inverse Condemnation Lawsuit

Representation of a real property owner in an inverse condemnation lawsuit for the taking of submerged land by Palm Beach County without permission or compensation that resulted in reduced ability to develop the property. A seven-day jury trial resulted in an award of $425,700 – a valuation approximately 27 times higher than the County's valuation of $15,700.

Read more >

Private Utility Awarded $110 Million in Landmark Eminent Domain Case

Representation of private utility in taking by Charlotte County of land, water, and sewer. Litigation resulted in successful resolution on 2nd day of trial, with initial offer of $47 million increased to a $110 million award for

client, one of the largest in the State of Florida's history.

$2 Million Settlement in DOT Condemnation Case

Representation of shopping center in condemnation case against DOT for taking due to State Road 7 road widening. Matter appealed and remanded back to non-jury trial to determine if there was a taking. Successfully concluded with a $2 million settlement for client.

CRA Condemnation Results in Successful Settlement and Legislative Action

Notable condemnation case involving the taking of a boardwalk in Daytona Beach. Settlement reached after appeal, with resulting actions taken by the State of Florida legislature disallowing future condemnation of private property for community redevelopment.

Settlement in DOT Condemnation Case Following Denial of Compensation

Represented internationally branded hotel in Palm Beach County against DOT who denied impact to business for lost parking, offering no compensation for business damages. Settlement reached on 2nd day of trial in the amount of $100k.

Substantial Settlement in DOT Condemnation Case

Represented shopping center in condemnation case against FDOT for a taking resulting from road widening on Military Trail. Settlement was made prior to trial with substantial recovery for client.

$1 Million Settlement in DOT Condemnation Case

Represented Indian River County service station in condemnation case against DOT due to substantial business impact by taking. Settlement was reached prior to trial in the amount of $1 million.

Settlement in DOT Condemnation Case 3x Initial Offer

Represented nursery in condemnation case against DOT for taking as the result of State Road 80 widening. Original settlement offered was $300k; final settlement for client was $970k.

$800k Settlement for Small Business in DOT Condemnation Case

Representation of a Broward County auto repair ship in condemnation case against FDOT for taking as the result of State Road 7 road widening. $800k settlement in mediation.

Inverse Condemnation Dispute Concerning Construction of Breakwaters on Private Property

Representation of developer in inverse condemnation action against a Florida county concerning the unauthorized construction of breakwaters

on developer's privately-owned submerged land.

Affiliations

The Florida Bar, Eminent Domain Committee
Member, 1976-Present
Chair, 1987-1988

The Florida Bar, Eminent Domain CLE Manual Steering Committee
Member, 1977-Present
Chair, 2003-2008

The Florida Bar, Code and Rules of Evidence Committee
Member, 1998-2004
Vice Chair, 2003-2004
Business Records Subcommittee, Chair, 2000-2002
Code Improvement Subcommittee, Chair, 2002-2003

The Florida Bar, Rules of Civil Procedure Committee
Member, 2004-2010

Affiliations

American Bar Association
E-Discovery Subcommittee, Co-Chair, 2018-Present
Data Security Subcommittee, Co-Chair, 2018-Present
Privacy and Data Security Committee, Member
Ethics and Professionalism Committee, Member
Pre-Trial Practice and Discovery Committee, Member
Email and Social Media Committee, Member
Science & Technology Law Section, Internet of Things Committee, Member

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Technology Committee, Past Chair
Technology Committee, Past Member

The Florida Bar
Cybersecurity and Privacy Law Committee, Member, 2024-Present
Business Law Section, Member
Trial Lawyers Section, Member
Technology Committee, Member, 2018
Legal Specialization and Education Committee, Board Member, 2008-2013
Legal Specialization and Education Committee, Vice-Chair, 2012
Business Litigation Certification Committee, Chair, 2008
Business Litigation Certification Committee, Board Member, 2003-2008

The Sedona Conference
Electronic Document Retention and Production Working Group Member, Working Group 1
Data Security and Privacy Liability Working Group Member, Working Group 11

About

About Matthew

Matthew Worsham is a member of Jones Foster's Complex Litigation & Dispute Resolution and Private Wealth, Wills, Trusts & Estates practice groups and focuses his practice in the areas of probate, guardianship, and trust litigation and trust and estate administration. He represents individual beneficiaries, heirs, fiduciaries, and corporate fiduciaries in probate, guardianship, and trust-related matters, including will and trust contests, trustee/personal representative removal actions, accounting actions, will and trust reformation and modification matters, and elective share cases. Matthew's previous experience includes commercial and employment litigation matters.

Matthew is actively involved in several legal organizations, including the Martin County Bar Association, where he serves as chair of the Wills, Trusts & Estates/Probate Committee. He is also a member of The Florida Bar's RPPTL Section and Trial Lawyers Section.

Matthew graduated with a Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School and holds an LL.M. in Estate Planning from the University of Miami School of Law.

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Member, Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section (RPPTL)
Member, Trial Lawyers Section

Martin County Bar Association
Chair, Wills, Trusts & Estates/Probate Committee, 2023-Present
Past Co-Chair, Young Lawyers Division