JONES
FOSTER

# Roberto M. Vargas

## Shareholder


### Contact

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### Location

505 South Flagler Drive
Suite 1100
West Palm Beach
Florida 33401


### 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



Rob Vargas, Co-Chair of Jones Foster's **Complex Litigation & Dispute Resolution**, practices statewide in the areas of complex commercial litigation, business torts, real property litigation, and eminent domain. Rob advises local and national clients on a variety of commercial disputes, including business and real property purchase and sale disputes, all business torts, real property boundary disputes, trade secrets, Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act claims, partnership breakups, and restrictive covenants. He also advises property owners throughout Florida in all eminent domain-related proceedings.

Rob has over 28 years of experience litigating and trying complex civil matters in state and federal courts throughout Florida and in high-stakes private arbitrations. His trials and arbitrations include prosecuting or defending claims for business fraud, breach of contract, inverse condemnation, trust disputes, partnership breakups, and real property ownership disputes. With significant experience in both jury trials and bench trials, Rob has the expertise to advise clients on the best litigation and trial strategies. He also handles post-trial appeals at all state and federal appellate courts in Florida.

Rob is actively involved in various industry and community organizations including HomeSafe, a local nonprofit providing comprehensive programs to assist victims of child abuse and domestic violence, where he is a board member, past president, and the 2026 honoree of the HomeSafe Hero Award. Rob is a member of the Association of Eminent Domain Professionals and currently serves on the Florida Bar's Eminent Domain Committee. He previously served as Chair of The Florida Bar's Standing Committee on Professionalism and as a member of the Civil Procedure Rules Committee and Rules of Judicial Administration Committee. Rob is a Fellow of the Florida Bar Foundation and an emeritus member of the Craig S. Barnard American Inns of Court. He also served on the Leadership Palm Beach County (LPBC) Board of Governors and as a former Chair of LPBC's Grow program.

As Chair of Jones Foster's Technology Committee, Rob oversees the firm's strategic use of technology and artificial intelligence (AI) to drive innovation, enhance operational efficiency, and address the evolving needs of the firm and its clients.

Rob is consistently recognized by prestigious peer-reviewed industry publications, including *Florida Super Lawyers*, *Best Lawyers in America*, and *Palm Beach Illustrated's "Top Lawyers,"* and holds an AV Preeminent Rating from *Martindale-Hubbell*, awarded to only those lawyers with the highest ethical standards and legal ability.

## 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.

## Honors & Distinctions

**HomeSafe**
HomeSafe Hero Award, 2026

**The Best Lawyers in America**
Commercial Litigation, 2015-Present
Eminent Domain & Condemnation Law, 2027

**Florida Super Lawyers**
Business Litigation, 2010-Present

**Palm Beach Illustrated**
Top Lawyers, Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law, 2018-2025
Top Lawyers, Business Litigation, 2023-2025
Top Lawyers, Commercial Litigation, 2024-Present
Top Lawyers, Appellate Practice, 2024
Top Lawyers, Bet-the-Company Litigations, 2024

**South Florida Legal Guide**
Top Lawyers, 2010-2022

**Martindale-Hubbell AV® Peer Review Rated**

## Affiliations

**The Florida Bar**
Eminent Domain Committee, 2017-Present
Civil Procedure Rules Committee, 2010-2016
Rules of Judicial Administration Committee, 2012-2015
Chair, Standing Committee on Professionalism, 2009-2010
Standing Committee on Professionalism, 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**
Board President, 2013-2014; 2024-2026
Board President-Elect, 2011-2012; 2023-2024
Board Member at Large, 2017-2023
Development Committee, 2013-Present
HR Committee, 2013-Present
Audit Finance Committee, 2012-Present
Board Member, 2009-Present

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

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