

Roberto M. Vargas

Shareholder

Contact

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Location

505 South Flagler Drive

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West Palm Beach

Florida 33401

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America

Commercial Litigation, 2015-Present

Florida Super Lawyers

2010-Present

South Florida Legal Guide

Top Lawyers, 2010-Present

Palm Beach Illustrated

Top Lawyers, Eminent Domain and
Condemnation Law, 2018-Present

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



Rob Vargas, Vice Chair of Jones Foster's Litigation & Dispute Resolution team, 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 business disputes, including trade secrets, confidentiality agreements, non-compete agreements, business contracts, tortious interference and breaches of fiduciary duties. He also advises property owners throughout Florida in all eminent domain related proceedings. He practices before Florida State and federal courts at the trial and appellate levels.

Rob is actively involved in various industry and community organizations, serving as a Member at Large and former President of Home Safe, Inc., a local non-profit organization providing comprehensive programs to assist victims of child abuse and domestic violence. Rob is a member of the Association of Eminent Domain Professionals and currently serves on the Florida Bar's Eminent Domain Committee. Rob 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. He is a Fellow of the Florida Bar Foundation, and an emeritus member of the Craig S. Barnard American Inns of Court.

Rob is a 2006 graduate of the Leadership Palm Beach County (LPBC) Engage Program, designed to unite and educate the county's most promising leaders. He has since held leadership roles within the organization, including previously serving on LPBC's Board of Governors and as a former Chair of LPBC's Grow program.

Rob is consistently recognized by prestigious peer-review industry publications, including *Florida Super Lawyers*, *Best Lawyers in America*, and *South Florida Legal Guide*, and holds an AV Preeminent Rating from *Martindale-Hubbell*, awarded to only those lawyers with the highest ethical standards and legal ability.

Experience Highlights

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

§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

Member, Eminent Domain Committee, 2017-2019, 2020-present
Member, Civil Procedure Rules Committee, 2010-2016
Member, Rules of Judicial Administration Committee, 2012-2015
Chair, Standing Committee on Professionalism, 2009-2010
Member, Standing Committee on Professionalism, 2004-2010

The Florida Bar Foundation

Fellow, 2004-Present

Leadership Palm Beach County

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

Association of Eminent Domain Professionals

Member

HomeSafe

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

Craig S. Barnard American Inns of Court Emeritus

Member, 2002-2007