

Scott G. Hawkins

Vice Chair, Shareholder

Past-President, The Florida Bar

Florida Bar Board Certified
Business Litigation Attorney

Contact

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Location

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West Palm Beach
Florida 33401

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America

Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Real
Estate Litigation, 2021

Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Intellectual
Property Litigation, 2020

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

Litigation - Bet-the-Company, 2010-Present

Florida Super Lawyers

The Top 100: Miami, 2021, 2022

Business Litigation, 2006-Present

South Florida Legal Guide

Top Lawyers, 2005, 2019 - Present



"Scott G. Hawkins: A Skilled and Thoughtful Leader" *2014 South Florida Legal Guide*

Scott Hawkins, the Firm's Vice Chair, is a nationally recognized litigation attorney and a Past-President of The Florida Bar. As a Board Certified Business Litigation specialist, Scott leverages his experience handling a broad array of issues at the state and federal level to apply a notably diligent and solution-oriented approach to his work.

He represents public and private companies in a variety of industries, including technology, medical, environmental, real estate, land use, insurance, and military. Scott focuses his practice in commercial litigation with an emphasis on intellectual property, trade secret disputes, trademark infringement, covenants not to compete, securities, real estate litigation, and claims arising under ERISA Plans.

Scott has significant civil and administrative litigation experience, including federal and state law claims and administrative law challenges litigated before the State of Florida Division of Administrative Hearings. Scott handles regulatory disputes with environmental agencies at all levels, and land use disputes including ERM permitting. Additionally, Scott regularly serves as an attorney's fees counsel and expert witness and has been appointed by the courts as a receiver, trustee, statutory investigator (corporate derivative disputes), mediator and special master given his experience, ethics, and judgment.

On April 12, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States cited Scott Hawkins' University of Florida Law Review article entitled, *Perspective on Judicial Merit Retention in Florida*, in their opinion in *Williams-Yulee v. Florida Bar*.

Experience Highlights

Commercial Litigation

High Tech Start-Up and Automation Conglomerate Data
Transmission Dispute

Palm Beach Illustrated

Top Lawyers, Business Litigation, 2022

Top Lawyers, Environmental Law, 2019-

Present

Top Lawyers, Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2021

Top Lawyers, Land Use & Zoning Law, 2019, 2020

Top Lawyers, Municipal Law, 2018

Florida Trend

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

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*

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.

Attorney's Fees Counsel & Expert Witness

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.

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

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 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

Affiliations

The Florida Bar

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

Palm Beach County Bar Association

President, 2000-2001
Bar Revitalization, Past Chair (increased bar participation, diversity, and opened the election)
Environmental and Land Use Law Committee, Past Chair

Professionalism Council, Past Chair, 2009
Young Lawyers Division, Past President

Florida Supreme Court

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

Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals

Historical Society, Trustee

United States District Court Southern District of Florida

West Palm Beach Federal Courthouse Committee, Member, 2018-2021

American Bar Association

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

Florida Supreme Court Historical Society

Trustee, 2014-Present

Economic Council of Palm Beach County

Board of Directors, 2017-Present

Executive Committee, Member, 2019-Present

Political Action Committee, Chair, 2023-Present

Policy Committee, Chair, 2021-2022

Governance Committee, Chair, 2019

University of Florida

University of Florida College of Law Board of Trustees, Trustee, 2002-Present

University of Florida College of Law Board of Trustees, Chair, 2017

Council of Advisors, Bob Graham Center for Public Policy, Chair, 2016

University of Florida College of Law Board of Trustees, Vice-Chair, 2015-2016

University of Florida Foundation, Board of Directors, 2013-2015

Dean's Search Committee, 2013

University of Florida National Alumni Association, President, 1998-1999

University of Florida College of Law Alumni Council, President, 1989-1991

Palm Beach Atlantic University

Board of Trustees, Chair, 2013-2015

Trustee, 1994-Present

Florida's Children First

Palm Beach County Committee, 2006-2009

Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition

Steering Committee, Past Member

Leadership Palm Beach County

Graduate, 1994