JONES
FOSTER

Scott G. Hawkins

Chairman & Shareholder

Florida Bar Board Certified
Business Litigation Attorney

Past-President, The Florida Bar



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

Jones Foster Chairman Scott Hawkins 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), arbitrator, party arbitrator, mediator, and special master given his experience, ethics, and judgment. His arbitration and mediation experience includes claims involving trade secrets, real estate litigation, commercial lease dispute, land use disputes with governmental bodies, and contract disputes including employment and restrictive covenant issues.

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

Contact

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Location

505 South Flagler Drive
Suite 1100
West Palm Beach
Florida 33401

Education

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

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

EST.
1924

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.

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 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

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America

Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Intellectual Property Litigation, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2020, 2024
Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Real Estate Litigation, 2021
Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Environmental Litigation, 2019, 2025, 2027
Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Land Use & Zoning Litigation, 2016, 2018, 2025
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
Commercial Litigation, 2003-Present

Florida Super Lawyers

The Top 100: Florida, 2023
The Top 100: Miami, 2021-2024, 2026
Business Litigation, 2006-Present

South Florida Legal Guide

Top Lawyers, 2005, 2019-2022

Palm Beach Illustrated

Top Lawyers, Business Litigation, 2022-Present
Top Lawyers, Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2021, 2023-2025
Top Lawyers, Environmental Law, 2019-2022, 2025
Top Lawyers, Commercial Litigation, 2024

Top Lawyers, Land Use & Zoning Law, 2019, 2020
Top Lawyers, Municipal Law, 2018

Florida Trend
Legal Elite Notable - Managing Partner, 2023-Present
"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

Price Waterhouse
Finalist, Up and Comers Award, 1993

International Rotary Foundation Scholar, 1984-85

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, 2019-2021

Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals
Trustee, Historical Society

United States District Court Southern District of Florida
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

Business Development Board of Palm Beach County
Board of Directors, 2024-Present

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

American Heart Association
Executive with Heart, Palm Beach Heart Walk 2024, 2025

University of Florida
Board of Trustees, University of Florida Law Center Association, 2002-Present
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
Council of Advisors, Bob Graham Center for Public Service, 2016-Present
University of Florida College of Medicine Leadership Council, 2018-Present
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

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