# Scott G. Hawkins

# Chairman & Shareholder

Florida Bar Board Certified Business Litigation Attorney

Past-President, The Florida Bar

# Contact

shawkins@jonesfoster.com 561 650 0460

# Location

505 South Flagler Drive Suite 1100 West Palm Beach Florida 33401

## 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

EST. 1924 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



"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

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, 2020, 2024

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

Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Environmental Litigation, 2019, 2025

Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Land Use & Zoning, 2016, 2025

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, 2021-2024

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-Present

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, 2024, 2025
"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

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

## Business Development Board of Palm Beach County

Member, Board of Directors, 2024-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, 2023-2024

Chair, Policy Committee, 2021-2022

#### American Heart Association

Chair, Governance Committee, 2019

Executive with Heart, Palm Beach Heart Walk 2024

# 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
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