

## Scott G. Hawkins

Vice Chair, Shareholder

Past-President, The Florida Bar

Florida Bar Board Certified  
Business Litigation Attorney

### Contact

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### 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  
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



### "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

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

### **Honors & Distinctions**

#### **University of Florida Levin College of Law**

Distinguished Service Award, 2019

#### **South Florida Legal Guide**

Top Lawyers, 2005, 2019 - Present

#### **Florida Super Lawyers**

Business Litigation, 2006-2019

#### **Christian Legal Society**

Laura Mall Justice Award, 2019

#### **The Best Lawyers in America**

Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Intellectual

Property Litigation, 2020

Lawyer of the Year, WPB, Environmental

Litigation, 2019

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, 2010-Present

Lawyer of the Year, WPB Land Use &

Zoning, 2016

Lawyer of the Year, WPB Intellectual

Property, 2013

#### **Palm Beach Illustrated Top Lawyers**

Environmental Law; Land Use & Zoning Law,

2019

Municipal Law, 2018

#### **Florida Trend**

Legal Elite, 2004, 2010-2012, 2015-2017

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.

### **Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Rating**

### **Sigma Chi Fraternity**

Significant Sig Award, 2017

### **Palm Beach County Bar Association**

Judge Edward Rodgers Diversity Award,  
2016

Sidney A. Stubbs Professionalism Award,  
2014

### **Florida Association for Women Lawyers**

Friend of FAWL Award, 2012

### **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

Attorney's fee expert accepted by courts in multiple state and federal matters.

### **Mediation**

#### **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.

### **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  
Chair, Search Committee to appoint next Executive Director, 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-Present

### **Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals**

Historical Society, Trustee

**United States District Court Southern**

Committee Member, District of Florida West Palm Beach Federal Courthouse, Committee Member, 2018-2021

**American Bar Association**

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

**Economic Council of Palm Beach County**

Board of Directors, 2017-Present

Chair, Governance Committee, 2019

Member, Policy Committee, 2019

Member, Executive Committee, 2019

**University of Florida**

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

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

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

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

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

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**

Board of Trustees, Chair 2013-2015

Trustee, 1994-Present

**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