

## Scott G. Hawkins

### Chairman & 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

### 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



### "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

The Top 100: Miami, 2021-Present  
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, Commercial Litigation, 2024

Top Lawyers, Environmental Law, 2019-2022

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

Top Lawyers, Municipal Law, 2018

#### **Florida Trend**

Legal Elite Notable - Managing Partner, 2023, 2024

"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**

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

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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*

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

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.

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Discovery Disputes

**Statutory Investigator**

Newly appointed by circuit court in a corporate derivative case

**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, 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-Present

### **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-Present

Chair, Policy Committee, 2021-2022

Chair, Governance Committee, 2019

**American Heart Association**

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