

Florida

While some reports say that summer associate recruitment has gone down this year, litigation remains strong. The US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida also recorded more bankruptcy filings, keeping many lawyers busy during the rough economic times. International arbitration and product liability continue to grow as well in the state.

Highly recommended firms

Based in Miami, **Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod** covers all aspects of the litigation market with its 29 litigators. They provide “broad-based” services in industries such as business, construction, real estate development, health care, technology, manufacturing and retail. Although their office is in Florida, the attorneys are consistently called upon to try cases throughout the nation. Clients praise the company, one saying that the firm has a “vast institutional knowledge” of a client’s situation and praise the attorneys for having “maximum responsiveness.” Other clients say, “They stand out as great lawyers,” and that the firm understands “the merits of litigation to the end,” rather than just settling a case.

The firm recently represented Lennar Homes in a case that awarded their client \$76 million. The plaintiff in the case first brought the suit against Lennar because of its failure to close on the sale of more than 1,000 acres of land. However, Bilzin Sumberg proved that the plaintiff bribed a county commissioner on the deal, and that illegality allowed for the contract to be completely rescinded. The firm also takes an active role in the community through several ongoing initiatives such as the Miami-Dade Special Olympics, Hands on Miami and 100 Black Men of America. Bilzin Sumberg Cares began in 2007 as a project “intended to benefit one specific organization for an entire year, while also benefiting other organizations in their on-going efforts.” The most recent beneficiary is Southside Elementary Museums Magnet School.

William Hill serves the manufacturing, aviation, technology, retail, real estate and banking industries. A recent case involved his representation of Regency Properties of “Boca House” against the city of Boca Raton. The city passed ordinances that would close Boca House, which provides “residences for recovering alcoholics and drug addicts.” Hill proved that those ordinances violated the civil and constitutional rights of Boca House, as well

as the federal Fair Housing Act. The verdict ruled in favor of Boca House. **Robert Turken** focuses his complex commercial litigation practice in the areas of bankruptcy, financial services, complex mortgage foreclosures and lender liability, securities and class actions. One client notes that they have “enormous respect for his opinion and advice,” and says that if “anything may end up in litigation, we call Bob.” Recent cases involve defending The Richman Group, Hovnanian First Homes and Radiology Corporation of America. One client describes **Michael Kreitzer** as “a very successful litigator,” who also “gives you a sense of responsibility.” The client says, “He gets his staff to assist him in a small team with in-depth knowledge in a case.” Kreitzer has significant commercial trial experience and recently represented several clients including Harris Specialty Chemicals, SKW Americas and Chemrex. **David Arizmendi** is held in high regard by his peers within the litigation group at Bilzin Sumberg. Arizmendi focuses on commercial disputes, construction and shareholder disputes.

Located in the city of Coral Gables, just outside of Miami, **Colson Hicks Eidson** continues to serve clients nationwide. Since the firm’s inception nearly 40 years ago, Colson Hicks provides litigation expertise within several focused areas including class action, products liability, pharmaceutical, commercial, white-collar defense and professional malpractice. The firm has handled several cases that resulted in clients garnering a reward of several millions of dollars, and “has settled or received in excess of a billion dollars for its clients.” One recent case includes the defense of employees and shareholders against the US Sugar Corporation. The lawsuit alleges that, “the family controlling US Sugar Corporation and others committed fraud and breached fiduciary duties.” The firm also gives back to the greater Miami community by participating with the University of Miami, Miami City Ballet and YMCA of Greater Miami.

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod

Colson Hicks Eidson

Greenberg Traurig

Kenny Nachwalter

Podhurst Orseck

Recommended

Akerman Senterfitt

Astigarraga Davis

Carlton Fields

Duane Morris

Squire Sanders & Dempsey

Feldman Gale

Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton

Smith Hulsey & Busey

Hogan & Hartson

Holland & Knight

Hunton & Williams

Weil Gotshal & Manges

“Other clients praised the company saying, ‘They stand out as great lawyers,’ and that the firm understands ‘the merits of litigation to the end,’ rather than just settling a case.”

- *Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod*



Local litigation stars

José Astigarraga
Astigarraga Davis

Hilarie Bass
Greenberg Traurig

Stephen Busey
Smith Hulsey & Busey

Dean Colson
Colson Hicks Eidson

Richard Critchlow
Kenny Nachwalter

Edward Davis
Akerman Senterfitt

Victor Diaz
Podhurst Orseck

Joanne Erde
Duane Morris

Jeffrey Feldman
Feldman Gale

James Foster
Akerman Senterfitt

James Gale
Feldman Gale

Daniel Gonzalez
Hogan & Hartson

William Heller
Akerman Senterfitt

William Hill
Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod

John Kozyak
Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton

Michael Kreitzer
Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod

Robert Josefsberg
Podhurst Orseck

Roberto Martinez
Colson Hicks Eidson

Joseph Matthews
Colson Hicks Eidson

Christopher Pace
Weil Gotshal & Manges

Aaron Podhurst
Podhurst Orseck

Ryan Reetz
Squire Sanders & Dempsey

Peter Prieto
Holland & Knight

Benjamine Reid
Carlton Fields

Stephan Rosenthal
Podhurst Orseck

David Ross
Greenberg Traurig

Mark Schnapp
Greenberg Traurig

Elliot Scherker
Greenberg Traurig

Leading litigator **Dean Colson** handles an array of cases for the firm that include areas of commercial, medical malpractice, aviation and construction litigation, among others. Prior to joining Colson Hicks in 1981, he clerked for the late Justice William Rehnquist, of the US Supreme Court. **Roberto Martinez** focuses his litigation efforts on civil trials and white-collar criminal defense. One case for Martinez involved the electrocution death of a young boy that resulted in a \$65 million jury verdict against Clear Channel Outdoors. **Joseph Matthews** is noted for his business, commercial, insurance, construction and professional liability litigation work. **Ervin Gonzalez's** work has been rated high among his peers.

With offices in Boca Raton, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, Tallahassee, Tampa and West Palm Beach, law firm **Greenberg Traurig** is deeply entrenched in Florida law. The international firm maintains roughly 49 litigators in its Miami office alone, where the firm was originally founded. The Florida offices boast strong litigation practices, and regularly try cases in matters of real estate, white-collar and mass torts litigation. The firm generally “runs a lean ship,” in that hoards of lawyers are not put on to a case that can easily be handled by just two or three, which bodes well with their clients. This also allows for many of the younger associates to gain valuable trial experience early, and leads to more retention. One recent case run by the Miami branch involved invalidating a ruling that ceased limestone mining operations in the Lake Belt area of Northwest Miami-Dade County. Not only did the reversal put the mining back on track, but the permits will also help to restore and preserve a two mile area protecting the Florida Everglades.

Hilarie Bass, chair of the litigation practice, specializes in complex commercial litigation, class actions and securities litigation matters. Major past clients include the Microsoft Corporation and the Lennar Corporation. She also recently defended Hilton Hotels in a matter that involved a plaintiff who brought the case based on bombings at the Taba Hilton Resort in Egypt. The case went to appeal where Bass proved that the case against her clients could be dismissed for “forum non conveniens,” which states that the forum chosen by the plaintiff is inconvenient or inappropriate for the case. **Mark Schnapp** focuses his practice on white-collar criminal and complex civil litigation matters. Schnapp, who served as Chief of the Criminal Division in the US Attorney's Office in the Southern District of Florida, is heralded by many as one of the top criminal defense attorneys in the state. **David Ross** specializes in products liability and mass torts litigation. Past clients have included the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative, Delta Airlines and E I DuPont de Nemours. **Eliot**

Scherker recently represented the National Beverage Company in a suit that would have caused National Beverage to remove all of its energy drinks products from the market. Scherker's main practice areas include Constitutional, environmental, white collar, securities and appellate. **Joseph Coates III** focuses his practice in securities litigation, regulatory and class actions and serves as the head of the West Palm Beach Securities Litigation Group. With a practice based in litigation, **Padma Hinrichs** has represented numerous clients in matters of products liability, business torts and class actions. **Lauren Galeoto**, a senior associate, has represented diverse clients such as Anheuser-Busch, Mylan Pharmaceuticals and US Airways in litigation matters.

The complex business litigation firm of **Kenny Nachwalter** serves clients, both defendants and plaintiffs, in matters of securities, professional liability, intellectual property, common law business torts and white-collar criminal litigation. The firm is also well known for matters in antitrust litigation throughout the state. While the firm's main office is in Miami, other offices are located in Tennessee, Texas and the District of Columbia. Case work is often given to the firm through “referrals from other law firms in the South Florida area and throughout the United States.”

Richard Critchlow concentrates his practice on complex commercial, corporate, insurance and securities litigation. **Stanley Wakshlag**, also a strong litigator, focuses his practice on matters of complex business, class action, securities litigation and regulatory proceedings. **Amanda McGovern** focuses her time on complex commercial litigation that includes matters in securities, class actions and corporate commercial litigation.

The firm of **Podhurst Orseck** maintains a strong trial practice despite its small size. This also helps to maintain a busy atmosphere for all attorneys, and gets associates involved early. Practice areas for the firm include general tort, commercial, matrimonial and criminal litigation as well as an appellate practice. Most notably, the firm leads a strong aviation litigation practice. One recent aviation case involves filing suit on behalf on Brazilian families for passengers killed in TAM Airlines Flight 3054. Attorneys represent 59 wrongful death complaints against TAM Airlines and Pegasus Aviation IV, among others.

Victor Diaz focuses his practice of civil litigation to matters of complex commercial, class actions, multi-district, mass torts and product liability. Although he is an active litigator, he also spends a great deal of time committed to pro bono at the firm. **Robert Josefsberg** concentrates his practice on commercial and criminal litigation. Well known for his case against Jose Canseco and his brother, he won a \$1.1 million verdict for his clients, who were allegedly beaten up

by the pair. Trial attorney **Aaron Podhurst** is a major player in aviation litigation throughout the nation, he also practices in areas of commercial, product liability, matrimonial and professional malpractice litigation. **Stephen Rosenthal** is a well known business litigation attorney in Florida. His practice also includes matters of personal injury, aviation and election law. Associate **Alexander Rundlett** primarily handles criminal matters, as well as complex commercial disputes.

Recommended firms

Akerman Senterfitt remains a Florida firm with a strong national presence. The firm offers litigation services in areas including mass torts, commercial, construction, product liability, securities and white collar. With more than 100 litigators within its Florida offices, the firm can handle almost any matter. The firm emphasizes its commitment to “maintain a strong focus on responsiveness and efficiency without sacrificing effectiveness.”

Edward Davis, a former chief judge, devotes his time to litigation and alternate dispute resolution. Davis is also the chairman of the litigation practice group. Ft. Lauderdale litigator, **William Heller** specializes in consumer finance litigation. Heller heads the group that regularly “focuses on investigating and prosecuting origination fraud,” and “works closely with federal and state regulatory authorities and law enforcement.” **James Foster** focuses his litigation matters on bankruptcy and commercial matters as well as e-discovery. Foster has successfully handled several Chapter 11 cases throughout the state. Associate **Carmen Tugender** focuses her work on commercial, construction, intellectual property litigation and appellate work.

Litigation boutique **Astigarraga Davis** predominantly focuses on commercial litigation and arbitration. The firm handles cases throughout the state of Florida, and is located in Miami. By keeping the number of attorneys at the firm down, Astigarraga Davis asserts that it increases efficiency, while also keeping rates and costs lower for clients. Practice industries include aviation, class actions, contracts, employment, securities and trademark law.

Integral to the firm is litigator **José Astigarraga**, who focuses his practice on international arbitration and insolvency issues. One recent client, Motorola, hired Astigarraga in a matter involving trademark infringement. **Jenelle La Chuisa** handles litigation matters for several clients in matters of construction, real estate and contracts disputes.

With six offices in Florida, **Carlton Fields** stands out for its litigation work. Active in areas of construction, insurance and white-collar litigation matters, the firm also excels in product liability, antitrust and toxic torts.

A recent win of \$1 million was awarded to a client of the firm, TracFone Wireless, against wireless phone hackers. The same company also turned to Carlton Fields for help regarding a similar matter and received a \$2 million verdict in their favor. The firm recently initiated a plan to “Go Green” and “reduce the impact of the firm’s business operations on the environment through engaging in sustainable and environmentally responsible business practices.”

Prominent trial lawyer, **Benjamin Reid** focuses his practice on products liability, toxic torts, antitrust, business, class action and pharmaceutical litigation. Reid served as lead counsel on one of the longest tobacco trials that spanned more than two years. He also serves as chair of the board of directors of Carlton Fields. **Jason Alderman**, an associate at the firm, practices within the real estate, business and complex commercial industries.

Duane Morris offers offices in both Boca Raton and Miami with several legal services. Complex commercial litigation is the focus, with emphasis on matters in antitrust, intellectual property, securities, environmental and real estate disputes. The firm actively counsels clients in national and international matters, even if it means avoiding litigation. The firm recently brought a class action suit against the company Anthem Health Plans on behalf of all licensed physical therapists participating in the network.

Partner **Joanne Erde** specializes in healthcare law matters. She represented several public hospitals in relation to Medicare and Medicaid issues. Associate **Michelle Gervais** practices in a wide range of litigation matters including complex commercial, products liability, antitrust, intellectual property and construction law.

With several offices spread through Florida, **Squire Sanders & Dempsey** has a “network of lawyers placed strategically in key markets in the US. The firm’s first office started in Cleveland, Ohio, but the firm quickly expanded operations across the US, to international destinations such as Rio de Janeiro, Shanghai and Caracas. The litigation practice encompasses the areas of antitrust, bankruptcy, class actions, commercial, construction, securities, toxic torts and white-collar crimes. Recent clients include PetSmart, Target, Sobeys, WalMart and PETCO in litigation against Menu Foods, in what was “believed to be the largest pet food recall in US history.” The final settlement totaled \$24 million.

Ryan Reetz targets his litigation and arbitration work on several aspects of law. He handles investment disputes, sovereign immunity challenges, class actions, unfair trade practice cases, fraud and contract disputes. **Robert Vaughan** devotes his practice to commercial litigation. He has clients in the US as well as the Caribbean.

Feldman Gale specializes in intellectual

Edward Soto
Weil Gotshal & Manges

Marty Steinberg
Hunton & Williams

Charles Throckmorton
Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton

Harley Tropin
Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton

Robert Turken
Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod

Stanley Wakshlag
Kenny Nachwalter



Future stars

Jason Alderman
Carlton Fields

David Arizmendi
Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod

Beau Bowin
Smith Hulsey & Busey

Jenelle La Chuisa
Astigarraga Davis

Joseph Coates III
Greenberg Traurig

Carmen Contreras-Martinez
Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton

Christine Deruelle
Weil Gotshal & Manges

Laureen Galeoto
Greenberg Traurig

Michelle Gervais
Duane Morris

Ervin Gonzalez
Colson Hicks Eidson

Padma Hinrichs
Greenberg Traurig

Thomas Julin
Hunton & Williams

Jason Kellogg
Hogan & Hartson

Susan Marsillo
Feldman Gale

Edward McCarthy
Weil Gotshal & Manges

Amanda McGovern
Kenny Nachwalter

Eduardo Ramos
Holland & Knight

Alexander Rundlet
Podhurst Orseck

Carmen Tugender
Akerman Senterfitt

Robert Vaughan
Squire Sanders & Dempsey

property law. With offices in both Miami and Tampa, they handle patents, trade marks, copyrights, domain names and non-compete agreements. Their litigation group encompasses all aspects of intellectual property law, for anything from business torts to medical device matters. One recent case involved representation for OpenTable, an online service that provides restaurant reservations for customers. The suit, against Smart Restaurant Services, ended with a \$7.4 million judgment in favor of client OpenTable.

Jeffrey Feldman specializes in complex commercial matters, as well as intellectual property litigation. He is known as one of the top intellectual property litigators in the nation, and has handled matters of patent infringement, product mislabeling and fraud. **James Gale** has represented clients in matters of patents, trade marks, copyrights and unfair competition. One recent client includes defending Pylon Manufacturing, an aftermarket supplier of wiper blades. Gale helped the client defeat a preliminary injunction in a patent infringement action. Associate **Susan Marsillo** focuses her litigation work on trademarks, both domestic and international.

health care, education, real estate and non-profits. The litigation practice also boasts a diverse group with attorneys taking on matters of antitrust, class actions, contracts, eminent domain, professional liability and real estate.

Chairman **Stephen Busey** tries cases in complex commercial litigation and insolvency matters. He represents both plaintiffs and defendants in contract disputes, torts and corporate governance. He defended client Gate Maritime Properties in an eminent domain case that resulted in a jury verdict in favor of the client for \$162 million against the US Government. Associate **Beau Bowin** primarily focuses on complex commercial litigation and bankruptcy, representing both creditors and debtors in matters of contracts, secured transactions and commercial landlord/tenant disputes.

With offices worldwide, **Hogan & Hartson** offers its services with more than 1,000 lawyers. Offices in Florida include Miami and West Palm Beach that provide “extensive services in the project and municipal finance fields, energy, health care, real estate,” and construction fields. The firm recently obtained a “dismissal with

“Recent clients include PetSmart, Target, Sobeys, WalMart and PETCO in litigation against Menu Foods, in what was ‘believed to be the largest pet food recall in US history.’ ”

-Squire Sanders & Dempsey

Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton specializes in various types of complex litigation issues and bankruptcy. Areas of focus include securities, professional malpractice, intellectual property, business torts and commercial litigation matters. The small firm, of only 20 attorneys, is based in Miami. Past clients include Credit Suisse First Boston, Dole Foods, the Miami Dolphins and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company.

John Kozyak specializes in bankruptcy matters and co-chairs the practice for the firm. Past clients include Lennar, Marriott International and ITG Vegas. **Charles Throckmorton** focuses his practice bankruptcy, creditor’s rights and complex commercial litigation. He also frequently represents high-net worth clients in financial restructuring matters. Founding partner **Harley Tropin** heads the litigation section of the firm. He is known among his peers as a go-to lawyer in “bet-the-company” litigation matters. **Carmen Contreras-Martinez**, an associate in complex commercial litigation, focuses in areas of class actions, securities, product liability and torts.

A full-service law firm in Jacksonville, **Smith Hulsey & Busey**, serves industries of

prejudice” for client Sun Microsystems for a patent infringement suit filed by Exponential Solutions with help from the Miami office.

Daniel Gonzalez, co-director of the firm’s international litigation and arbitration practice, serves clients in financial, accounting and securities related issues. With several published works, Gonzalez is frequently noted high among his peers for this work in complex commercial litigation matters. Associate **Jason Kellogg** practices both commercial and corporate litigation. He also regularly participates with Hogan & Hartson’s Community Service Department, where he returned a verdict of \$2.5 million for his client.

With several offices throughout the state of Florida, **Holland & Knight** practices within several aspects of commercial litigation. Areas include class actions, international litigation, securities, bankruptcy, product liability, white-collar and labor and employment matters. Also of note is the e-discovery team at the group, helping clients integrate and prepare for all aspects of data management and document production.

Peter Prieto, chair of the national litigation section at Holland & Knight,

practices in the Miami office. Originally a federal prosecutor, Prieto is well known among his peers as a top litigator in white-collar criminal defense cases. **Eduardo Ramos**, an associate in the Miami office, focuses his practice on intellectual property issues in matters of international and domestic litigation.

Hunton & Williams, a multi-disciplinary firm, offers industry experience in biotech, energy, health care, international business, real estate and transportation. Prominent clients include Bank of America, Cingular, Pfizer and TXU Corp. The litigation group contains more than 300 attorneys and is also well known for frequently participating with e-discovery specialists to ensure clients are well prepared for trial.

Marty Steinberg's practice includes contract disputes, class actions, business torts, securities and product liability litigation. As a former federal prosecutor, he

is the managing partner of the Miami office and is widely regarded as one of the best litigators to turn to for intellectual property and antitrust litigation. **Thomas Julin** practices litigation focused within the media industry. He has regularly defended magazine publishers, national television networks, local broadcasters and new media companies.

The international law firm **Weil Gotshal & Manges** shows a strong presence in Miami with roughly 25 attorneys. The office service industries include real estate, business finance and restructuring, municipal bond financing and commercial litigation. One recent case involved successful representation of Avon Products. The case resulted in dismissal of all claims against the client. The firm also commits a large amount of time to pro bono work around the South Florida region.

Edward Soto, head of the litigation

practice in Miami, tries cases in several aspects of commercial litigation including class actions, contracts, employment, fraud, insurance coverage, products liability, professional liability and securities litigation. Soto recently aided in the major defense representation of UnitedHealthcare, in a case that brought allegations of fraud and conspiracy. The case resulted in a summary judgment in favor of the client. Also in Miami, **Christopher Pace** focuses his practice on large complex commercial issues in class actions, criminal matters and regulatory agency investigations, among others. Pace led the litigation against Avon to have the case dismissed. Associate **Christine Deruelle** has experience dealing with several aspects of the UnitedHealthcare litigation. **Edward McCarthy**, an associate focusing on complex commercial matters, has experience with insurance, securities, financial services, construction and aviation matters.

ASTIGARRAGA DAVIS

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Astigarraga Davis is a boutique firm with a focused practice: the representation of corporate clients involved in significant litigation, arbitration, and disputes arising from Latin American and other international transactions. Widely regarded as a leader in the international litigation and arbitration field, *Latin Lawyer*, recognizes the firm as a "[s]mall but prestigious boutique sharply focused on litigation and arbitration acting across most of the region, essentially representing multinational corporate investors engaged in disputes arising from their Latin American operations."

Its lawyers have handled a variety of business disputes emanating from virtually every country in Latin America, Mexico, the US, Canada and the Caribbean. A majority of the firm's lawyers and virtually its entire staff speak and work in Spanish. Clients include *Fortune* 500 companies, global banks, and government entities. With a network of local contacts and deep experience developed over years, the firm is able to counsel clients confronting legal problems in Latin America and other foreign jurisdictions.

The firm has extensive experience in international litigation representing companies in US federal and state courts. Its lawyers are frequently asked to speak domestically and abroad on litigation issues. Shareholder Edward Mullins, a seasoned litigator, has chaired the Florida Bar's Appellate Rules Committee and has extensive experience in intellectual property and other commercial litigation. Accustomed to dealing with issues that confront a foreign litigant in U.S. courts, including issues such as juries, punitive damages, class actions, and jurisdictional defenses, the firm's lawyers are able to explain and handle the process in ways that are clearly understood and managed by non-US litigants.

Founder José Astigarraga is vice president of the 35-member London Court of International Arbitration and the firm has a leading international arbitration practice handling cases before the major international arbitral institutions, including the International Chamber of Commerce, London Court of International Arbitration, and the American Arbitration Association. The firm's lawyers are and have been active in arbitration and litigation initiatives. Jose Astigarraga, for example, was one of eight representatives appointed by the US government pursuant to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to advise the NAFTA Commission on international arbitration.

The firm's international work includes a strong practice in fraud prosecution and overseas asset recovery. Working with a network of lawyers and contacts, the firm has pursued fraudsters in a variety of Latin American, Caribbean, and European jurisdictions to recover fraudulently obtained assets. Named partner Edward Davis, a Certified Fraud Examiner and a Member of the Association of the Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists, often lectures on the subject of financial fraud. He is the Immediate Past Chair of the International Law Section for which he has served as the chair, chair-elect, secretary and treasurer as well as serving on the Executive Council. He is also a founding chair of its International Litigation and Arbitration Committee. He is a member of the Inter-American Law Committee of the International Section of Law and Practice of the American Bar Association; Anti-Corruption and Business Crime Committees of the International Bar Association; the Bankruptcy Bar of the Southern District of Florida; the International Bank Operations Association; and the Florida International Bankers Association. Under his leadership, the firm is also a leading member of the ICC Commercial Crimes Services Fraudnet Network.

When matters are pending in Latin American courts or in more than one jurisdiction, the firm is often engaged to devise a strategy and oversee the execution by local counsel. Being bilingual as well as bicultural, its lawyers are able to deal comfortably with the Latin as well as North American or European legal environments. The firm advises clients on strategies in legal disputes in the region that often require sensitivity to public relations, political considerations, and local cultural issues.

The firm's broad base of clients includes banks and other financial institutions, having represented such clients in disputes arising from securities, loans, derivatives, letters of credit and other contracts and instruments. Similarly, the firm represents lenders and creditors domestically in bankruptcy courts in Florida and other states, and internationally in Latin America. Founding shareholder Gregory Grossman filed the first Chapter 15 petition in Florida under the amended US bankruptcy code. The firm's lawyers handle a broad spectrum of cross-border credit restructurings and insolvencies in the region, and have advised the World Bank on the bankruptcy and insolvency systems of Latin America. The firm also devises and supervises the implementation of plans for the enforcement of commercial debt throughout Latin America. Jose Astigarraga served as one of the two expert delegates appointed to represent the US government at the 2002 Interamerican Conference on Private International Law held by the Organization of American States that approved a model secured lending law for use in Latin America.

With experienced lawyers using advanced information technology, including document management and litigation software, the firm is able to effectively represent clients in substantial international disputes across the region. Experience and technology combine to create efficiencies. As a boutique, the firm has been able to control its cost structure. While the firm does not seek to compete on the basis of price, its fee structure reflects excellent cost controls and thus is among the most competitive for the level of senior experience and reputation it brings to a matter.

The firm's lawyers are leaders in the international bars, featured prominently in many professional rankings internationally, such as *Chambers Global*, and *The Legal Media Group Guide to the World's Leading Experts in Commercial Arbitration*; nationally, such as *Chambers USA*, *Benchmark Litigation*, *America's Best Lawyers*, and *Who's Who*; and in Florida, such as *Florida Trend's Legal Elite* and *South Florida Legal Guide*.

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José Astigarraga focuses his practice on international litigation, arbitration and insolvency. Described as “a major figure for Latin American litigation and arbitration [who] represents large US, European and South American corporations” by *Chambers Global Guide to the World's Leading Business Lawyers*, Astigarraga has accumulated broad experience in international business disputes in his 30 years of practice. According to *Chambers and Partners*, “peers view [him] as the nation’s leading Spanish-speaking arbitration practitioner.”

Recently given the “Lawyer of the Americas” award by the University of Miami School of Law for distinguished contribution to the field of international law, Astigarraga has handled a variety of commercial and international litigation cases. He has defended and prosecuted substantial international business disputes in state and federal courts in the US, and he has lectured extensively on litigation and arbitration issues. He has served as an officer of the Civil Procedure Rules Committee of the Florida Bar. Most recently, he was recognized as one of the year’s “Most Effective Lawyers” by a legal journal for leading the team that won an arbitral award of US \$52 Million plus attorneys’ fees in a claim over international licensing rights in the Mercosur region that included parallel litigation proceedings in the US, Brazilian, and Argentine courts. With his intimate knowledge of the local language, rules and culture, he frequently also handles complex business disputes in the region that have sensitive political, criminal, and regulatory ramifications.

The US Government appointed him as one of 10 representatives to the tripartite committee advising the NAFTA commission on international arbitration and alternative means of resolving private commercial disputes as well as an expert to the international law conference of the Organization of American States. He has served as a consultant for the World Bank on Latin American legal issues, after which the Bank published the assessment he co-authored on Latin American insolvency systems.

In addition to acting as an advocate, he is frequently selected to serve as arbitrator, co-arbitrator, or chair before the major international arbitration institutions. He serves as vice president on the 35-member London Court of International Arbitration and is vice chair of the International Bar Association’s worldwide International Arbitration Committee and chaired its task force on arbitration conflicts. As vice chairman of the Board of the National Law Center for Interamerican Free Trade, he is active in efforts to promote commercial law reform and modernization in the Americas.

Recognized in the *Best Lawyers in America*, Astigarraga has handled disputes emanating from most countries in Latin America for *Fortune* 500 companies, major US and European banks, and government-owned companies, as well as Latin American enterprises.

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Victor M Diaz, Jr, was born November 14 1960 in Camaguey, Cuba. In 1982, he received his Bachelor’s degree (summa cum laude) from Duke University where he graduated first in his class. In 1985, Victor graduated from the Yale Law School, where he served as editor-in-chief of the *Yale Law & Policy Review*. Victor was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1985. His professional memberships include: Dade County and American Bar Associations; the

Florida Bar; American Association for Justice (Immediate Past Chair, Section on Aviation Litigation); Dade County Trial Lawyers Association (board of directors, 1997-1999); and the Cuban American Bar Association (board of directors, 1998-2004; president 2003). In 2003, Victor was elected a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

For over two decades, Victor has concentrated his practice in complex civil litigation including complex commercial litigation, business torts, class actions, multidistrict litigation, mass torts and product liability cases. Victor has been recognized as an elite trial lawyer by numerous national and regional publications, including *Best Lawyers In America*; *The South Florida Legal Guide*, *Florida Trend Magazine*, *Florida Super Lawyers*, *Chamber’s USA’s Guide to Leading Lawyers for Business*, *Who’s Who in American Law*, *Lawdragon’s 500*

Leading Plaintiff’s Lawyers in America, *Lawdragon’s 3000 Leading Plaintiff’s Lawyers in America*, and the *Guide to the World’s Leading Product Liability Lawyers*. Victor has lectured extensively in this country on various litigation-related topics and has addressed several international law conferences on the subject of mass tort, product liability and complex civil litigation involving foreign nationals.

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Bob Josefsberg was born September 23 1938 in Brooklyn, New York. He received his BA from Dartmouth College in 1959. He graduated from the Yale Law School in 1962, and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1962 and to the US Supreme Court in 1970.

Bob is one of Dade County's premiere trial lawyers. He has been listed annually since 1987 in *Best Lawyers in America* in two categories – Business Litigation and Criminal Law – since 2003 and from 2003 on he was listed in *Chambers and Partners* as one of the top four commercial litigators in Florida. In 2006 he was listed #1 trial lawyer in Florida by *Super Lawyers*. He has received the Dade County Bar David Dyer Professionalism Award, the Bnai Brith Professionalism Award, the Florida Defense Lawyers Rodney Thaxton "Against All Odds" award and the American Bar Association Senior Section Pro Bono Award.

He is past president and dean of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, past-president of the Peter T Fay American Inns of Court and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He has served on the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Judiciary, as chairman of the Southern District of Florida Judicial Evaluation Committee and served as a member of the Florida Federal Judicial Nominating Commission and the Florida State University Law School Board of Visitors. In addition to extensive involvement in the firm's commercial practice, Bob handles the firm's white-collar criminal defense work, an outgrowth of his background as an assistant US Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, as Special Counsel to the Dade County Grand Jury, and as a member of numerous commissions and task forces in the area of criminal law, including the US Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules and Chairmanship of the Florida Bar's Criminal Law Certification Committee. He served as General Counsel to Governor Robert Graham in 1980. Bob has lectured extensively throughout the US on substantive issues, ethics, professionalism and civility. His 1994 article on civility has been reprinted in more than 20 legal journals and periodicals. Bob is extensively involved in community activities, with particular emphasis on the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse by young people.

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Aaron Podhurst has been a distinguished trial lawyer for more than 40 years. He was born April 29 1936 in New York City and received his BA from the University of Michigan in 1957 and his JD from Columbia University, where he was a Harland Fiske Stone Scholar. Aaron was admitted to the Florida and New York Bars in 1961.

Aaron's distinguished career has brought him honors and offices from virtually every large legal organization, including the presidencies of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, fellowship in the American College of Trial Lawyers, member of board of governors of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, membership in the International Society of Barristers and the Inner Circle of Advocates, member of the Cuban American Bar Association and chairmanship of various aviation committees of the American Bar Association, Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers. Although Aaron made his reputation as one of the nation's premiere plaintiff's aviation lawyers, and continues to hold that status, he has guided the firm in recent years to its status as one of the most important commercial litigation firms in South Florida. At the same time, he has managed to devote countless hours to community service, including the presidency of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, received the Medallion of Honor from the National Conference for Community and Justice and the 1999 Jurisprudence Award from the Anti-Defamation League and membership in many civic organizations.

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Stephen F Rosenthal is a partner in Podhurst Orseck, PA in Miami specializing in appeals and complex litigation. His practice spans tort and commercial work, as well as employment and election law.

He is an honors graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard College and studied for an additional year in England after college as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar. After law school, Stephen served as a law clerk to both Judge Rosemary Barkett of the US Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit and to Judge Mark Wolf of the US District Court in Boston. Following his judicial clerkships, Stephen worked as a trial lawyer at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Stephen has an "AV" rating from *Martindale Hubbell* and has been listed as one of the leading litigators in Florida in *Chambers USA* (2006-2007), *Law Dragon* (Top 500 plaintiffs lawyers in the country), *Benchmark* (2007-2008), and *Florida Trend's Florida Legal Elite* (2007), as recommended in litigation. He has lectured on class action law and FDUTPA for the Florida Justice Association and has published work on the law of religious freedom under the First Amendment.

He has lectured on class action law and deceptive and unfair trade practice law for the Florida Justice Association and has published on First Amendment issues. Stephen serves as lead Florida Counsel for the Obama Presidential Campaign, is on the boards of the Florida Justice Association and the American Constitution Society, South Florida Chapter, and is a trustee of the United Way of Miami-Dade County.

Stephen is licensed to practice in Florida and the District of Columbia. He is a member of the bars of the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second, Fifth, Seventh and Eleventh Circuits and the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

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Alexander joined Podhurst Orseck in 2006 and handles criminal matters in federal and state court, class actions and commercial litigation and personal injury matters.

Alexander was born in Denver, Colorado. He earned his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College and his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Before law school, Alexander served as a Volunteer in the United States Peace Corps in Mali, West Africa, where he provided health care to a population of approximately 50,000.

In law school, Alexander was awarded the University of Pennsylvania Law School's Public Interest Scholarship, was a senior and comments editor of the University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law and was the recipient of the Law School's Jefferson B Fordham Human Rights Award.

After law school, Alexander clerked for the Honorable Andre M Davis of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland.

Following his clerkship, Alexander was awarded a Post-Graduate Justice Fellowship by George Soros' Open Society Institute. As a Soros Post-Graduate Justice Fellow, Alexander worked as a Staff Attorney at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, Georgia, where he represented individuals in misdemeanor and felony cases and represented individuals on death row in Georgia and Alabama in capital post-conviction proceedings and worked with a coalition of lawyers who brought about sweeping criminal justice reform in the State of Georgia.

Alexander gained extensive courtroom and jury trial experience as an Assistant Public Defender in Miami-Dade County, Florida, representing individuals charged with misdemeanor, juvenile and felony offenses.

He is a member of the Georgia Bar (admitted 2000), the Alabama Bar (admitted 2001), the District of Columbia Bar (admitted 2001) and the Florida Bar (admitted 2003). He is a member of the Bars of the United States District Courts for the Southern District of Florida, the District of Maryland, the Northern District of Georgia and the Eastern District of Arkansas. He is also a member of the Bars of United States Courts of Appeal for the Fourth and Eleventh Circuits.

Alexander is the current Treasurer of the Wilkie D Ferguson Jr Bar Association and is a member of the Dade County Bar Association, the Miami-Dade Justice Association, the Florida Justice Association, the Federal Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida, the Cuban American Bar Association, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

His article, "Opting for Death: State Responses to the AEDPA's Opt-in Provisions And The Need For a Right to Post-Conviction Counsel", is published at 1 U. Pa. J. Cont. L. 661 (1999).

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Marty Steinberg is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and managing partner in the Miami office of Hunton & Williams LLP. He has been recognized as the "Ultimate CEO in South Florida" by *South Florida Business Journal* and was identified for Business Litigation Law experience in *The Best Lawyers in America*. He has tried more than 100 jury cases, including numerous civil commercial trials, before all levels of state and federal courts as well as argued before the US Supreme Court.

Mr Steinberg's practice focuses on commercial litigation, including contract disputes, class actions, business torts, consumer fraud, securities litigation, intellectual property, antitrust and product liability. Mr Steinberg is a former Chief Counsel for the US Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Chief of New York Offices of the US Justice Department and federal prosecutor with substantial trial experience in a variety of matters. During his 37 years in practice, he has led internal investigations involving significant corporate issues, defended multinational companies in government inquiries and *Qui Tam* actions and represented several Fortune 500 companies in enforcing their intellectual property rights. In addition, Mr Steinberg has defended numerous officers and companies in grand jury matters.

Mr Steinberg's accomplishments notably include *Energy Transportation Group, Inc v Sonic Innovations, Inc, et al*. His client Energy Transportation Group, Inc was awarded a \$31 million jury verdict and additional amounts in settlements with other parties (along with pending motions for damages enhancement and attorneys fees) in the District Court in Delaware for patent infringement. The case involved feedback cancellation technology used in hearing aids, which was developed by a team of inventors led by one of the icons of research for the hearing impaired.

Mr Steinberg led a team that defended Eli Lilly and Company in a class action alleging that Lilly's marketing of Prozac Weekly invaded patient privacy and constituted deceptive and unfair trade practices. The action challenged numerous aspects of the marketing of pharmaceutical products to physicians under state and federal law. The team prevailed in obtaining the dismissal of the case on summary judgment and received widespread publicity in local and national press, including coverage by ABC, CBS, CNN and Sixty Minutes II. Hunton & Williams is also defending Eli Lilly in defamation actions that related to disciplining employees as a result of the marketing of its pharmaceutical products.

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C. Ryan Reetz represents clients as trial counsel in international and domestic commercial and regulatory disputes. His litigation and arbitration practice includes investment disputes, sovereign immunity challenges, claims under federal and state securities and RICO laws, class actions, distributorship cases, unfair trade practices claims, corporate governance contests, insurance regulation and coverage matters, fraud cases, and contract disputes. Mr. Reetz teaches transnational civil litigation and arbitration as an adjunct professor at the University of Miami School of Law, and trial skills through the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. He also lectures and publishes on topics such as international dispute resolution and trial advocacy, and serves with numerous professional organizations including the American Law Institute.

Mr. Reetz's litigation experience includes the defense of a US video compression equipment manufacturer against its Argentine distributor's US\$20 million warranty claim concerning loss of contracts throughout the Mercosur; the prosecution of a Canadian bank's claims in US federal court against the originator of securitized lease assets, resulting in a US\$28.5 million judgment; the defense of a zirconium exporter in criminal proceedings under the Classified Information Procedures Act concerning alleged export violations involving Chile, Peru, and Iraq; the representation of a Spanish telecommunications company Sintel and its affiliates in multi-jurisdictional (transnational) litigation arising out of its acquisition; and the defense of Bermuda and Cayman Islands entities that had previously defaulted in a US\$20 million litigation brought against them in US federal court by a Belgian citizen, resulting in elimination of the default and dismissal of the claim.

Some of Mr. Reetz's significant arbitral representations include the representation of a Peruvian hotel developer against a multinational project consulting and engineering firm in an ICC arbitration proceeding in Lima, Peru; defense of a Korean manufacturer's U.S. sales company in an ICC proceeding brought by its Ecuadorian distributor; prosecuting Argentine and Bahamian joint venturers' claims in an ICDR-administered arbitration concerning greenfield manufacturing plants in Argentina and Colombia and associated South American distribution rights; representing a technology consulting firm in an ICDR-administered dispute with a Jamaican payment-technology company; and AAA-administered regulatory arbitrations on behalf of a US insurance company resulting in approval of requested premium increases of approximately US\$200 million annually.

Mr. Reetz has been appointed to serve on various rules-revision committees including the Civil Procedure Rules Committee of The Florida Bar, the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee of the Florida Bar, and the Advisory Committee on Mediation to the United State District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

Mr. Reetz received his JD, summa cum laude from Boston University School of Law in 1987 where he was the executive editor of *Boston University Law Review*. He received his AB, magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1984.

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