

FLORIDA

Local litigation firms

Highly Recommended

Colson Hicks Eidson

Greenberg Traurig

Hunton & Williams

Kenny Nachwalter

Podhurst Orseck

Recommended

Akerman Senterfitt

Astigarraga Davis

Bedell Dittmar DeVault Pillans & Cox

Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod

Carlton Fields

Duane Morris

Feldman Gale

Hogan & Hartson

Holland & Knight

Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton

Page Mrachek Fitzgerald & Rose

Smith Hulsey & Busey

Squire Sanders & Dempsey

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson

Weil Gotshal & Manges

Wicker Smith O'Hara McCoy & Ford

Local litigation stars

José Astigarraga

Astigarraga Davis
General Commercial Litigation, International
Arbitration

Hilarie Bass

Greenberg Traurig
Complex Commercial Litigation, Securities

Stephen Busey

Smith Hulsey & Busey
Bankruptcy, Commercial Litigation

Dean Colson

Colson Hicks Eidson
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability,
Professional Liability

Henry Cox

Bedell Dittmar DeVault Pillans & Cox
Criminal Defense Litigation

Richard Critchlow

Kenny Nachwalter
Complex Commercial Litigation, Professional
Liability, Securities

Alvin Davis

Squire Sanders & Dempsey
Commercial Litigation

Edward Davis

Akerman Senterfitt
General Commercial Litigation

Edward Davis

Astigarraga Davis
Complex Commercial Litigation

John DeVault

Bedell Dittmar DeVault Pillans & Cox
Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation

Victor Diaz

Podhurst Orseck
Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury, Products
Liability

Mark Dikeman

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson
Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation

Lewis "Mike" Eidson

Colson Hicks Eidson
Products Liability

Joanne Erde

Duane Morris
Health Law

Alan Fein

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson
Intellectual Property

Jeffrey Feldman

Feldman Gale
Complex Commercial Litigation, Intellectual
Property, Products Liability

Jack Fernandez

Zuckerman Spaeder
White Collar Crime

James Foster

Akerman Senterfitt
Bankruptcy, Commercial Litigation

Lee Fugate

Zuckerman Spaeder
White Collar Crime

James Gale

Feldman Gale
Intellectual Property

Daniel Gonzalez

Hogan & Hartson
Commercial Litigation, Securities

Marcus Hasbun

Zuckerman Spaeder
White Collar Crime

William Heller

Akerman Senterfitt
Complex Commercial Litigation

William Hill

Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod
Complex Commercial Litigation, Intellectual
Property, Securities

Robert Josefsberg

Podhurst Orseck
General Commercial Litigation

John Kozyak

Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton
Bankruptcy Litigation

Michael Kreitzer

Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod
Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation,
Employment Law, Insurance, Intellectual Property,
Securities

Thomas Lauria

White & Case
Bankruptcy

Patricia Lowry

Squire Sanders & Dempsey
Products Liability

Roberto Martinez

Colson Hicks Eidson
Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Products Liability,
White Collar Crime

Joseph Matthews

Colson Hicks Eidson
Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Products Liability,
White Collar Crime

L. Louis Mrachek

Page Mrachek Fitzgerald & Rose
Complex Commercial Litigation

Edward Moss

Shook Hardy & Bacon
Products Liability

Michael Nachwalter

Kenny Nachwalter
Antitrust, Complex Commercial Litigation, Securities

Tracy Nichols

Holland & Knight
Securities

Dennis O'Hara

Wicker Smith O'Hara McCoy & Ford
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Christopher Pace

Weil Gotshal & Manges
Appellate, Commercial Litigation

Michael Pasano

Carlton Fields
Antitrust, Appellate, Securities, White Collar Crime

David Pollack

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson
Complex Commercial Litigation

Peter Prieto

Holland & Knight
Complex Commercial Litigation, White Collar Litigation

Ryan Reetz

Squire Sanders & Dempsey
General Commercial Litigation

Benjamin Reid

Carlton Fields
Antitrust, Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Stephen Rosenthal

Podhurst Orseck
Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury

David Ross

Greenberg Traurig
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation

Gary Sasso

Carlton Fields
Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Products Liability, Securities

Elliot Scherker

Greenberg Traurig
Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Securities, White Collar Crime

Mark Schnapp

Greenberg Traurig
Commercial Litigation, White Collar Crime

Jay Shapiro

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson
Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

Mark Solov

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson
Commercial Litigation

Edward Soto

Weil Gotshal & Manges
Complex Commercial Litigation

Eugene Stearns

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson
Commercial Litigation, Insurance

Marty Steinberg

Hunton & Williams
Antitrust, Complex Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property, Products Liability, Securities

Charles Throckmorton

Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton
Bankruptcy, Complex Commercial Litigation

Harley Tropin

Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton
Complex Commercial Litigation

Robert Turken

Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod
Commercial Litigation

Stanley Wakshlag

Kenny Nachwalter
Complex Commercial Litigation, Securities

Sylvia Walbolt

Carlton Fields
Antitrust, Appellate, Insurance

Morris "Sandy" Weinberg

Zuckerman Spaeder
Complex Commercial Litigation, Securities, White Collar Crime

Future stars

Jason Alderman
Carlton Fields

Beau Bowin
Smith Hulsey & Busey

Jenelle La Chuisa
Astigarraga Davis

Joseph Coates
Greenberg Traurig

Lauren Galeoto
Greenberg Traurig

Michelle Gervais
Duane Morris

Ervin Gonzalez
Colson Hicks Eidson

Thomas Julin
Hunton & Williams

Eduardo Ramos
Holland & Knight

Florida

Florida is suffering in the wake of the subprime mortgage crisis, with a massive number of foreclosures occurring in nearly all areas of the state. These unfortunate circumstances have set the stage for an explosion in litigation, particularly litigation related to bankruptcies, contract disputes and other “deals gone bad” due to insolvency or otherwise. While the housing market may have taken a nosedive, litigation is alive and well in Florida.

Highly recommended firms

Colson Hicks Eidson

Peers recommend Coral Gables-based boutique Colson Hicks Eidson for its personal injury, products liability, white-collar crime and commercial litigation services. Its attorneys most often act as plaintiff counsel. In 2009, partners at the firm obtained a \$38 million verdict on behalf of a client who was acutely injured during neurosurgery. Beyond Florida, the firm handles matters across the United States, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

Lewis “Mike” Eidson and Dean Colson are known by peers as “fantastic trial lawyers.” Eidson obtained the first-ever products liability verdict against Ford with regards to the faulty gas tank design in its Pinto model. **Roberto Martinez** is known by peers as a “sharp and strategic” trial lawyer who “wins million-dollar products liability verdicts with a wave of his hand.” A peer observes that **Ervin Gonzales** litigates cases that “have a ‘wow’ factor to them.” One such case involved a \$100 million settlement obtained for the families of those buried in a cemetery whose operators, lacking proper burial facilities, mishandled corpses in order to allow for more room in the cemetery.

Greenberg Traurig

Formed in Miami, Greenberg Traurig has generated an international footprint but remains deeply rooted in Florida, with offices in Fort Lauderdale, Palm Beach, Tampa, Orlando and Tallahassee. The firm is a “full-service” operation, with a team of lawyers prepared to address almost any legal issue. Competitors view the firm as being “very well known throughout the Southeast, and worthy of the attention they get.” The firm is also bulking up its bankruptcy practice, with recent clients including auto parts manufacturer Stant Manufacturing, which recently filed for Chapter 11 and called on Greenberg for counsel.

Hilarie Bass is regarded by peers as a “tremendous litigator.” She concentrates her practice on complex commercial litigation and securities cases. Recent clients include Hilton Hotels and Microsoft. **Mark Schnapp** receives several mentions from the Florida legal community for his

“exemplary” white-collar criminal defense work. He currently represents a major engineering firm in an investigation into alleged illegal campaign contributions and government contracts issues.

Hunton & Williams

Hunton & Williams makes its first appearance as a highly recommended firm in the Florida rankings due to the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from peers. “They are very good, getting better and growing substantially,” observes one such competitor. The firm’s growth is not limited to Florida; it has expanded all throughout the U.S. and into Europe and Asia.

Much of the firm’s success in Florida can be attributed to **Marty Steinberg**, who heads the firm’s commercial litigation practice. “He is the clear leader in that office” notes one competitor. His practice focuses on commercial litigation, including contract disputes, class actions, business torts, securities litigation, intellectual property, antitrust and products liability. Peers also mention **Barry Davidson**, who practices civil litigation with an emphasis on complex and class action business litigation, intellectual property, antitrust and products liability. **Thomas Julin** is tipped as a future star by peers for his intellectual property and appellate practices.

Kenny Nachwalter

Some Florida attorneys consider litigation boutique Kenny Nachwalter to be the standard towards which all Florida firms should aspire. One peer claims that “they are highly regarded for good reason; they are highly skilled.” The firm concentrates on complex commercial litigation, involving antitrust, intellectual property and securities. With 23 attorneys, the firm’s relatively small size allows its partners to swiftly take on cases referred to them by larger firms who have become saturated with work. “They get a lot of referrals, and rightfully so,” says one competitor.

Within the firm, **Richard Critchlow** and **Stanley Wakshlag** earn praise for their work in complex business litigation. “They are truly savvy and prepared,” notes one peer.

Podhurst Orseck

Despite its small size, Podhurst Orseck has

earned a considerable reputation in the Florida litigation market. The firm has one office in Miami, with only eight partners but “they’ve got an outstanding following,” says one competitor. The firm made local news in 2009 by announcing it was going to act as plaintiff’s co-counsel in a class action filed against Chinese manufacturers of toxic drywall that was installed in thousands of homes in Florida. Other practice areas include torts, matrimonial and criminal litigation, and the firm is also moving increasingly into aviation litigation.

The firm’s reputation rests largely on that of its founder, **Aaron Podhurst**, who a peer calls “one of the best lawyers in country.” Podhurst’s practice focuses on personal injury, wrongful death, aviation litigation, commercial litigation, products liability, matrimonial litigation, and professional malpractice. **Victor Diaz**, who peers describe as “fantastic,” handles class actions, multi-district litigation, mass torts and products liability matters.

Recommended firms

Akerman Senterfitt

With seven offices located throughout the state, including Miami, Jacksonville, Tampa, Tallahassee, Fort Lauderdale, Palm Beach and Orlando, Akerman Senterfitt has deep roots in Florida and has expanded into other key markets such as Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, Washington D.C. and New York. **William Heller** and **Katherine Giddings** lead the firm’s consumer finance litigation team, which represents mortgage loan originators, servicers and investors nationwide. In 2008, Giddings and Heller successfully defended Countrywide Home Loans in a class action in which plaintiffs sought recovery of funds paid for document preparation. The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals held that the individuals had no standing to bring the case.

Astigarraga Davis

Astigarraga Davis is a boutique firm focused on commercial litigation and arbitration. The firm handles financial services litigation, with an emphasis on predatory lending, which has become particularly problematic in Florida. **Jose Astigarraga** is known by peers as “one of the best Spanish-speaking litigators in the state and tremendous in international arbitration.” **Edward Davis** focuses his practice on representing individual, corporate and institutional victims of fraud throughout the Americas and the Caribbean.

Bedell Dittmar DeVault Pillans & Cox

Jacksonville-based Bedell Dittmar DeVault Pillans & Cox makes its debut in the Florida litigation rankings. Tracing its roots in the state to 1865, the firm is proud to focus exclusively on litigation. **John DeVault** devotes all of his practice to complex

commercial litigation and legal malpractice. **Henry Coxe** is noted as a very good criminal defense lawyer handling both white-collar and traditional criminal cases.

Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod

Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod is involved in much of Florida's high-profile real estate litigation. The proliferation of troubled mortgage lenders and borrowers has led to an explosion of activity for the firm. **Michael Kreitzer** focuses on complex commercial disputes, lender liability and related financial institution litigation, construction litigation, and shareholder and partnership disputes. He also represents clients in eminent domain disputes, trusts and probate matters, common carrier law, product liability disputes, and commercial landlord/tenant disputes. Peers note that he is "an impressive trial lawyer who handles all of his own appeals."

Carlton Fields

With six offices in Florida and one in Atlanta, Carlton Fields handles high-stakes class action, commercial, intellectual property and mass tort litigation for clients based all throughout the Southeast. In 2009, the firm defended AstraZeneca in a false marketing case which was dismissed. **Michael Pasano** is acknowledged by peers as "tremendous, a real trial lawyer" for his work on complex criminal and civil litigation at the trial and appellate levels. **Gary Sasso**, called "one of the best lawyers in the state" by one peer, represents clients in securities and consumer fraud class actions and other complex litigation. **Sylvia Walbolt** receives recognition for her "excellent appellate work."

Duane Morris

Duane Morris has grown from its Philadelphia origins to establish itself within Florida's litigation community. Partners at the firm's Miami office practice commercial, securities and antitrust litigation. They also are active in litigation arising from the health care industry. **Joanne Erde** represents hospitals and other health care providers on Medicare and Medicaid payment, coverage and compliance issues.

Feldman Gale

Feldman Gale is one of the only local firms to maintain a focus on intellectual property, and peers rate them as "very good with patents." **Jeffrey Feldman** and **James Gale** have over 20 years experience litigating cases involving patent infringement, product mislabeling, and fraud. In 2007, the firm obtained a \$7.4 million judgment on behalf of online restaurant reservation provider OpenTable Inc. in a case involving alleged theft of software codes by a competitor.

Hogan & Hartson

Washington, D.C.-based Hogan & Hartson

has more than 1,100 lawyers practicing in 27 offices worldwide. While the firm no longer maintains a presence in West Palm Beach, its Miami office has grown extensively since opening in 2000. **Daniel González** is co-director of the firm's international litigation and arbitration practice in Florida. He practices principally in the areas of complex commercial litigation and arbitration in the United States, Latin America, and Europe. He represents owners, developers, contractors and design professionals on all aspects of construction disputes, including engineering, procurement, construction (EPC) contracts, and design/build contracts.

market. The firm helped client Citigroup settle 26 separate cases filed by opt out plaintiffs from the Worldcom class action. **L. Louis Mrachek** is praised by peers for his complex commercial litigation practice.

Smith Hulsey & Busey

Jacksonville-based full-service firm Smith Hulsey & Busey emphasizes real estate and bankruptcy litigation, which positions the firm to attend to the explosive growth of bankruptcies in Florida. The firm serves many diverse industries including financial companies, real estate trusts and state regulatory agencies. **Stephen Busey**, a trial lawyer, is chairman of the firm and its litigation department. Peers rate his practice

“Roberto Martinez is known by peers as a ‘sharp and strategic’ trial lawyer who ‘wins million-dollar products liability verdicts with a wave of his hand.’”

Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton

Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton is a boutique firm that peers recognize for its "bankruptcy experts." The firm's clients include Dole Food Company, Fidelity Management Trust and Swiss Watch Company, among others., **John Kozyak** is known as a "heavyweight" with a particular expertise in real estate. He regularly represents servicers of mortgage-backed securitizations in bankruptcy litigation across the country, as well as Marriott International and Ritz-Carlton and other franchisers, owners, and lenders in hospitality-related bankruptcies. He is currently representing the largest equity holder in a major hospitality and development's bankruptcy proceedings pending in Jacksonville.

Holland & Knight

Holland & Knight maintains eight offices throughout Florida. Peers observe that the firm is a "very large and well known operation." The firm has a unique service devoted to the intricacies of Native American law, an especially prevalent issue in Florida. **Peter Prieto**, chair of the firm's national litigation section in the Miami office, practices complex civil litigation and white-collar criminal defense. He is fluent in Spanish, a major asset to his regional client base.

Page Mrachek Fitzgerald & Rose

Formed in 2000, Page Mrachek Fitzgerald & Rose makes its debut in this year's Florida rankings. Peers endorse it as "a great law firm, worthy of mention." With offices in West Palm Beach and Stuart, Page Mrachek has carved a niche for itself by focusing strictly on trial work in a niche regional

in complex commercial litigation and insolvency matters as "top-shelf."

Squire Sanders & Dempsey

Global firm Squire Sanders & Dempsey serves Florida through offices in four key markets throughout the state. Its presence is widely acknowledged by local peers, one of whom claims "they have outstanding lawyers." **Alvin Davis** serves as the managing partner of the firm's Miami office. His practice focuses on complex litigation in the areas of products liability, securities class actions, environmental claims, regulatory proceedings and a host of sophisticated contractual disputes. He litigates regularly at the trial and appellate levels on behalf of major national and international companies, including utilities, manufacturers, insurers, law firms and airlines, and non-US governments and agencies.

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson is a full-service law firm with 120 attorneys serving clients throughout Florida. With offices in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, and Tallahassee, the firm focuses on commercial litigation, real estate, labor and employment, bankruptcy, and securities. Litigation chairman **Eugene Stearns**, viewed by peers as "excellent," recently obtained a jury verdict against Exxon Corporation for compensatory damages of \$500 million after the jury found that Exxon breached uniform sales agreements in setting fuel prices and fraudulently concealed the breach for years. Including prejudgment interest, the total award was approximately \$1 billion.

Weil Gotshal & Manges

The Miami office of international firm Weil Gotshal & Manges handles litigation and regulatory responsibilities. Miami partner **Edward Soto** recently led its client UnitedHealth Group to victory in a multi-district litigation lasting seven years. The case concerned allegations made by a class of more than 600,000 physicians claiming that the largest companies in the managed care industries had conspired and engaged in industry-wide fraud concerning reimbursements owed to them. Weil Gotshal stood firm with UnitedHealth and achieved dismissal of the claims.

Wicker Smith O'Hara McCoy & Ford

Wicker Smith O'Hara McCoy & Ford makes its debut in this year's Florida rankings. With seven locations throughout the state, the firm counts 7-Eleven, Black & Decker, and the Miami Heat as clients. One peer calls **Dennis O'Hara** a "litigator to watch." He has served as lead counsel or sole attorney in numerous civil jury trials involving medical malpractice, products liability, general negligence, automobile liability and aviation law.

Morris "Sandy" Weinberg at Zuckerman Spaeder

Morris "Sandy" Weinberg made news in the early 1980s as a plaintiff's lawyer working on the commodities trading fraud case that eventually brought billionaire financier-turned-fugitive Marc Rich to justice. Weinberg currently works in the Tampa office of Zuckerman Spaeder and is known for handling complex civil and criminal cases on a national level. "He is fearless and tenacious, and he gets results. Many lawyers would shudder at taking cases he does," notes one competitor. Most recently, he successfully defended Dow Lohnes & Albertson, a large Washington, D.C. communications firm, in a \$100 million malpractice suit involving the drafting of an option agreement relating to the purchase of a television broadcast company, in which the plaintiffs complained that they were never able to execute the option and therefore lost its \$100 million equity interest in the station. After two years and 50 depositions, a federal judge granted summary judgment in favor of Dow Lohnes.



ASTIGARRAGA DAVIS

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Astigarraga Davis is a boutique firm with a focused practice: the representation of clients involved in significant litigation, arbitration and disputes arising from Latin American and other international business 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 U.S., 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 in U.S. federal and state courts, both in and outside of Florida. 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 by non-U.S. litigants. Its lawyers have served as leaders of the committees that draft official court rules. Most recently, founding shareholder Edward Mullins served as Chair of Florida's Appellate Court Rules Committee. The firm's lawyers are frequently asked to speak domestically and abroad on litigation issues.

The firm is recognized as a leader in international arbitration with an emphasis on cases arising from business transactions in Latin America. It handles arbitral proceedings both in and outside the United States, with cases before the major international arbitral institutions, including the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Center for Dispute Resolution and the American Arbitration Association. The firm provides comprehensive coverage of arbitration disputes as it has an extensive practice in arbitration-related litigation in state and federal courts, including enforcement and challenges of awards. Jose Astigarraga is one of only four lawyers worldwide ranked in the top band by *Chambers* for international arbitrations emanating from Latin America. He was one of eight representatives appointed by the U.S. government pursuant to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to first advise the NAFTA Commission on international arbitration. Its lawyers serve as leaders in international arbitration organizations, including the International Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the Florida Bar. Its work in the field of international arbitration includes work on arbitration legislation before Congress and advocacy in support of international arbitration before the Supreme Court of Florida.

The firm's international work includes a strong practice in fraud prosecution and overseas asset recovery. Working with a worldwide 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. The firm is also a leading member of the International Chamber of Commerce's Commercial Crimes Services Fraudnet Network established by the ICC to facilitate the prosecution of business crime and recovery of stolen assets. Practice head Edward Davis is a Certified Fraud Examiner and is a Member of a variety of anti-fraud business organizations such as

the Association of the Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists, Anti-Corruption and Business Crime Committees of the International Bar Association; and the International Bank Operations Association. He has led the International Law Section of the Florida Bar and held a variety of leadership positions in the field.

International business disputes bring a dimension of complexity not present in domestic litigation. For one, parties often view, approach and solve problems differently as a result of differences in culture, language or legal traditions. The reasoning process of a lawyer trained in a civil system is different from that of a common law lawyer and can easily lead to conflicting perspectives as to a common legal problem. Those differences affect dispute settlement as well. For example, there is a shortage of mediators trained in multi-cultural conflict resolution.

By virtue of its lawyers' backgrounds and experience representing parties involved in international business disputes, Astigarraga Davis is able to work comfortably in varied contexts. 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.

In overseeing disputes in Latin America for multinational companies, the firm's lawyers bring multi-cultural experience and backgrounds, knowledge of foreign systems, multi-lingual capabilities, as well as extensive experience dealing with high-profile cases that require sensitivity to public perception and political consequences. With an extensive network of contacts derived from years of practice in the region, the firm is optimally suited to provide the disciplined, multi-dimensional approach such problems require.

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, a leader in the Bankruptcy Bar, has lectured in the U.S. and abroad on a variety of bankruptcy-related issues. The firm filed the first Chapter 15 petition in Florida under the amended U.S. Bankruptcy Code whereby the U.S. courts are empowered to protect assets against creditors in the U.S. in aid of foreign bankruptcy trustees and receivers. The firm's lawyers 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 U.S. government at the 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 the firm brings to a matter.

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

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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.

ALVIN B DAVIS**SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P.**

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Alvin B Davis serves as the managing partner of the firm's Miami office. His legal practice focuses on complex litigation, arbitration and international dispute resolution in the areas of products liability, securities class actions, environmental claims, regulatory proceedings and a host of sophisticated contractual disputes. He litigates regularly at the trial and appellate levels on behalf of major national and international companies including utilities, manufacturers, insurers, law firms and airlines, and non-US governments and agencies. Mr Davis is also frequently engaged as a private arbitrator or mediator in a wide range of commercial disputes.

In 2009 Mr Davis was selected by his peers as a Florida Super Lawyer and as one of the top 100 lawyers in Florida for the third consecutive year. Mr Davis has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for more than 10 years and has appeared in *Chambers USA* each year since 2004. In addition, he has been recognized among Florida's Legal Elite by *Florida Trend* magazine each year since 2004 and listed among the top lawyers in Florida by the *South Florida Legal Guide* each year since 2005.

Mr Davis lectures regularly to The Florida Bar through both the American Law Institute of the American Bar Association and Lorman Education Services. He is a member of the Dade County Bar Association, Bar Association of the District of Columbia and American Bar Association.

Mr Davis received his LL.B. from Yale University and his AB from Syracuse University.

JACK E FERNANDEZ JR**ZUCKERMAN SPAEDER LLP**

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Jack E Fernandez Jr concentrates his practice on state and federal criminal white collar litigation with an emphasis on the health care industry. He also has substantial experience litigating complex civil cases, having won summary judgment in a \$100 million legal malpractice lawsuit brought by a publicly traded corporation against a national law firm client, as well as a motion to dismiss a False Claims Act case brought against an international pharmaceutical company. His clients range from Fortune 500 companies to health care providers to a Middle Eastern country to individual corporate officers and directors.

Before entering private practice, Mr Fernandez served as an Assistant US Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, where he investigated, tried, and argued appeals in numerous complex federal cases, including health care fraud, defense contractor fraud, tax and securities fraud, satellite signal piracy, and intellectual property cases. He was one of the founding members of the US Attorney's health care fraud task force for the Middle District of Florida.

Mr Fernandez was previously a partner at the law firm of Bovol Bush & Sisco (now Bush Graziano & Rice) and an associate in the Tampa office of Holland & Knight. Following law school he served as a law clerk for the Honorable J Dickson Phillips of the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

A graduate of the US Naval Academy, Mr Fernandez was a naval aviator, flying the F-14 Tomcat from the aircraft carrier USS Independence. He flew numerous combat missions in support of US Army and Marine Corps expeditionary forces, and was awarded both the Navy and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals. In 1986, he was named Best Pilot for Air Combat Maneuvering for Fighter Wing One, Naval Air Station Oceana.

Bar Admissions

Florida, District of Columbia

Court Admissions

US District Court, Northern District of Florida, US District Court, Middle District of Florida, US District Court, Southern District of Florida

Education

- Cornell Law School, J.D., magna cum laude, 1989
- United States Naval Academy, B.S., 1978

Related Professional Activities

- Defense Research Institute
 - Vice chair, Corporate Integrity and White Collar Crime Subcommittee
 - Former vice chair, Securities Committee
 - Former vice chair, Publications Committee
- Board of directors, Fair Trial Initiative
- Member, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
 - 11th Circuit Chair, White Collar Crime Committee
- Member, International Association of Defense Counsel
- Member, American Bar Association
- Former member, 13th Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee, 1999-2001

Recognitions

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, White-Collar Criminal Defense, 2007-present
- Local Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2010
- *Super Lawyers*, Florida, 2007-present
- AV® Peer Review Rated, Martindale-Hubbell

LEE FUGATE**ZUCKERMAN SPAEDER LLP**

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Lee Fugate is engaged in a trial practice involving complex white collar fraud, representing individuals, physicians, attorneys, and corporate officers. He has served as lead trial counsel in federal cases relating to public corruption, defense contract fraud, drug smuggling, racketeering, bank fraud, and continuing criminal enterprise violations. Mr Fugate's practice also focuses on the representation of individuals and corporate executives in federal grand jury investigations and prosecutions regarding Environmental Protection Agency violations, bank fraud, defense contract fraud, mail fraud, health care fraud, and RICO.

Before entering private practice, Mr Fugate served as a state prosecutor in Florida. While a state prosecutor, he was involved in trials dealing with complex public corruption, racketeering, and complex narcotics smuggling cases.

Mr Fugate is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Pinellas County and Hillsborough County Criminal Defense Lawyers Associations, American Bar Association, and Federal Bar Association. Appointed by the Chief Judge of the Middle District of Florida, he serves as a member of the Mentor Panel.

Bar Admissions

Florida

Education

- Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, 1973
- University of South Florida, BA, 1969

Related Professional Activities

- American Bar Association
- Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Federal Bar Association
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Recognitions

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, White-Collar Criminal Defense, 2007-present
- Local Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2010
- AV® Peer Review Rated, Martindale-Hubbell

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Marcos E Hasbun focuses his practice on white collar criminal matters and complex civil litigation. He has represented individuals and companies in federal and state proceedings involving allegations of public corruption, tax crimes, government program fraud, mail and wire fraud, civil theft, legal malpractice, and defamation. Mr Hasbun has also represented health care and pharmaceutical clients in federal and state matters involving the False Claims Act, the federal Anti-Kickback Statute, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, off-label marketing, allegations of up-coding, and in state administrative proceedings relating to alleged regulatory violations.

Prior to joining the firm as an associate in 2000, Mr Hasbun practiced in Washington, DC at the firm of Crowell & Moring where he worked on energy, environmental, and antitrust issues. Throughout his career, Mr Hasbun has also devoted a substantial amount of time to pro bono matters, including representing indigent inmates for purposes of obtaining post-conviction DNA testing and challenging the severity of their sentences.

Bar Admissions

Florida, District of Columbia

Court Admissions

US Supreme Court, US Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit, US District Court, Northern District of Florida, US District Court, Middle District of Florida, US District Court, Southern District of Florida

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., *cum laude*, 1998
- Georgetown University, B.S., 1995

Related Professional Activities

- Florida Bar Grievance Committee for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Chairman, 2006; Member, 2003-2005)
- Member, Herbert G Goldberg Criminal Law American Inns of Court, 2003-present
- Member, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 2003-present
- Georgetown Alumni Club of Tampa (President, 2003-2007; Secretary, 2007-present)
- Member, Hispanic Bar Association, 2007-present
- Board member, Pinellas Association for Retarded Children, 2007-present
- Board member, Manasota Association for Retarded Children, 2009-present
- Member, St Petersburg Bar Association, 2007-present
- Member, Hillsborough Bar Association, 2006-present
- Member, Federal Bar Association, 2007-present
- Member, American Bar Association, 2007-present
- Member, American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Subcommittee for White Collar Crime, 2008-present
- Member, American Bar Association's Florida Regional Subcommittee for White Collar Crime, 2008-present
- Criminal Justice Act Panel, Middle District of Florida, 2009-present

Recognitions

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, White-Collar Criminal Defense, 2010
- Future Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2010

THOMAS E LAURIA**WHITE & CASE LLP**

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Thomas Lauria is the global practice head of the financial restructuring and insolvency group at White & Case, which is comprised of over 160 lawyers located in over 20 countries. Mr Lauria has led (or is leading) efforts to restructure more than US\$100 billion of debt in some of the largest and most complex restructurings in history, including Chrysler, Lehman Brothers, Washington Mutual, CIT Group, WCI Communities, Delphi, Adelphia Communications, Mirant, Corporación Durango, PhyAmerica Physician Group, and Williams Communications Group.

In Chrysler's bankruptcy, he gained the national spotlight for his efforts to prevent section 363 from being used as a side door to reorganize Chrysler without the protections of the chapter 11 plan process. This matter is now pending before the Supreme Court.

Mr Lauria also played prominent roles in other significant and complex cases, including Lyondell Chemical (DIP Lender), Global Power (Debtor), Enron (Ad Hoc Committee-Energy Merchants), IT Group (Official Creditors' Committee), Pacific Gas and Electric (Ad Hoc Committee-Qualifying Facilities), and Marvel Comics (Official Bondholders' Committee). He regularly represents debtors, unsecured creditors, strategic and financial investors, sovereigns and foreign representatives in a wide variety of industries and market sectors.

Clients and legal peers recognize Mr Lauria's leadership at White & Case and his work on tough cases. As *Chambers USA* noted: "According to clients, his greatest strength is his conviction; he is an 'extremely persuasive litigator and negotiator.' A 'brilliant bankruptcy lawyer,' Mr Lauria is envied for his 'amazing client list' and involvement in 'first-class cases.' Peers praise him for being 'a strong commander and negotiator.'" Mr Lauria's reputation in the legal marketplace earns him top rankings from publications and legal directories, including: *Chambers USA/Global*, *IFLR (Restructuring Team of the Year 2006)*, *PLC Which Lawyer?*, *The Best Lawyers in America*, and *Euromoney/Institutional Investor's Expert Guides (World's Leading Lawyers)*.

Mr Lauria has spoken and written on various restructuring topics, including comparative insolvency law systems and related cross-border issues, enterprise valuation, liquidating plans, business and ethical conflicts in multi-debtor cases and alternative dispute resolution procedures. He is featured on a regular basis in a number of leading publications for his views on various restructuring issues of national and international interest, including the current economic crisis and how it is impacting the rehabilitation strategies of distressed companies.

Mr Lauria is admitted to the State Bars of Florida and Texas; the US Courts of Appeal for the Second, Fifth and Eleventh Circuits; and multiple districts of the US District Courts of Florida and Texas. He received his BA and JD, with Honors, from the University of Tennessee. Mr Lauria is an avid supporter of his alma mater and volunteers his advice and leadership to academic and philanthropic organizations.

PATRICIA E. LOWRY**SQUIRE SANDERS & DEMPSEY**

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Patricia focuses her practice on product liability and employment litigation, with expertise in pharmaceutical product liability defense. She has more than 20 years' experience defending product cases including prescription medications, over-the-counter products and medical devices. Ms Lowry has successfully defeated consumer fraud and marketing product claims including putative class actions.

Ms Lowry is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. In 2007 and 2008, she was listed among the *Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America*, a distinction honoring the most elite legal professionals in the country. In 2007, she was selected as the winner in the general legal category at the *South Florida Business Journal* and Citibank Key Partners Awards, an annual awards program honoring South Florida's top CPAs and lawyers. In 2006, Ms Lowry was appointed to the Supreme Court of Florida's Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee by the Florida Bar board of governors. She has been selected by her peers as a Florida Super Lawyer, a distinction recognizing the top lawyers in the state, each year since 2006, and has been listed as one of the Top 50 Female Lawyers in Florida.

In 2004, Ms Lowry received the Women in Leadership Award, Private Sector, from Executive Women of the Palm Beaches. Ms Lowry was also honored by the March of Dimes, Florida Chapter, as June 2006 Volunteer of the Month and as one of its Palm Beach County Women of Distinction. She is a former president of the March of Dimes Palm Beach board of directors and is a board member of the March of Dimes Florida Chapter, as well as a member of the March of Dimes President's Society.

Ms Lowry served as a trial advocacy instructor at the International Association of Defense Counsel's Trial Academy at Stanford Law School in 2006 and has served as a trial practice instructor for the Florida regional program of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. A frequent speaker, in 2008 Ms Lowry lectured at two national conferences sponsored by the American Conference Institute on the topics of preemption in drug and medical device consumer fraud cases and expert witness issues in drug and medical device cases. Ms Lowry also has lectured on punitive damages at Mealey's Defense Strategies in Pharmaceutical Litigation conference in January 2006 and presented on "Hot Topics" at the May 2005 Drug and Medical Device Seminar of the Defense Research Institute. Ms Lowry is the co-author of "Defamation in the Workplace," which was published in *For the Defense*.

C. RYAN REETZ**SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P.**

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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 U.S. video compression equipment manufacturer against its Argentine distributor's \$20 million warranty claim concerning loss of contracts throughout the Mercosur; the prosecution of a Canadian bank's claims in U.S. federal court against the originator of securitized lease assets, resulting in a \$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 \$20 million litigation brought against them in U.S. 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 U.S. insurance company resulting in approval of requested premium increases of approximately \$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 J.D., 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 A.B., magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1984.

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Marty Steinberg is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and managing partner of the Miami office of Hunton & Williams LLP (H&W). He has been recognized as the "Ultimate CEO in South Florida" by *South Florida Business Journal*, named among the top 10 lawyers in Florida by *Florida Super Lawyers Magazine*, and was identified in *The Best Lawyers in America*. He has tried more than 100 cases before state and federal courts.

Mr Steinberg 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. During practice, he has led internal investigations and defended multinational companies in government inquiries and Qui Tam actions. In addition, Mr Steinberg has defended numerous officers and companies in grand jury matters.

Mr Steinberg's recent accomplishments include: *IAGC v Pitney Bowes*, Mr Steinberg led a H&W team, representing Pitney Bowes (PBI) in a CERCLA cost recovery action in federal court in Connecticut. The plaintiff claimed PBI was the source of PCB contamination, and sought to recover the cost of remediating the contamination. H&W took over the representation two years into the litigation. H&W moved for sanctions against plaintiff regarding the destruction of environmental samples, as well as for sanctions for discovery abuse, including the failure to preserve and produce electronic data. The court granted the motions and awarded PBI its attorney's fees and costs. The court also granted PBI's motion for summary judgment, dismissing the case against PBI. The court also held that the plaintiff had failed to meet its burdens under the National Contingency Plan.

Mr Steinberg led a team that represented Energy Transportation Group (ETG) in a patent infringement trial. ETG. was awarded a \$31 million jury verdict and additional amounts in settlements with other parties (along with pending motions for damage enhancement and attorneys fees) in federal court in Delaware. The case involved feedback cancellation technology used in most hearing aids.

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. H&W prevailed in obtaining the dismissal of the case on summary judgment and received widespread publicity in the press, including coverage by ABC, CBS, CNN and Sixty Minutes II.

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Morris "Sandy" Weinberg Jr has been on the winning side of numerous high-profile cases throughout his 34 years as a federal prosecutor and private practitioner. His achievements include leading a winning defense in one of the largest health care fraud investigations in history, securing the dismissal of charges in one of the only cases brought against a religion, and leading the prosecution in one of the country's most celebrated tax fraud cases.

A respected white collar defense attorney, Mr Weinberg has represented clients in health care fraud, government contract fraud, securities fraud, and tax fraud cases. He serves as co-chair of the American Bar Association's White Collar Crime Committee. In addition to his extensive white collar experience, Mr Weinberg also counsels clients in parallel civil and regulatory matters. His clients have included individuals and corporations in a wide variety of industries, including health care, government contracting, and professional services.

Mr Weinberg has received numerous industry recognitions. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for "Bet-the-Company" Litigation and in 2009 received the Hillsborough County Bar Association's highest honor for criminal practitioners, the "In the Trenches" Award.

Mr Weinberg previously served as an Assistant US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, where he prosecuted white-collar criminal cases. For this work he received the Director's Award for Superior Performance, as well as an award for outstanding service from the Treasury Department. After his government service, Mr Weinberg moved to Florida where he was a shareholder with Carlton Fields from 1985 to 1991, and in 1991 opened Zuckerman Spaeder's Tampa office. He continues to serve as the office's managing partner.

Bar Admissions

Florida, District of Columbia, Georgia

Court Admissions

US Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit, US District Court, Middle District of Florida, US District Court, Southern District of Florida, US District Court, Northern District of Florida

Education

- Vanderbilt University Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 1975
- Princeton University, B.A., 1972

Related Professional Activities

- Co-chair, White Collar Crime Committee, American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section

Recognitions

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, and White-Collar Criminal Defense, 2007–present
- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Litigation: White-Collar Crime and Government Investigations, 2004–present
- *International Who's Who of Business Lawyers*, Business Crime, 2003–present
- *Super Lawyers*, Florida, 2006–present
- Local Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2010
- "In the Trenches" Award, Hillsborough County Bar Association, 2009
- AV® Peer Review Rated, Martindale-Hubbell