



Cindy A. Laquidara



Partner

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Education

J.D., Boston College Law School,
1982; *magna cum laude*, *Law
Review*, Managing Editor and
Articles Editor; Order of the Coif

B.A., University of Massachusetts,
1979; *cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa

Bar Admissions

Florida
Massachusetts
New York

With an established record of creative and effective advocacy, Cindy Laquidara navigates complex litigation matters, from administrative hearings, to federal and state trials and appeals. Her practice serves municipal authorities, private corporations with long-term lease arrangements, companies submitting competitive procurement bids and proposals, general commercial litigation, and energy related matters in dispute resolution pertaining to bid disputes, land use, transportation, contracts, First Amendment, government and utility contracting, environmental issues, and government affairs.

Cindy also represents clients in class action litigation where she has obtained summary judgments on pension matters under the ADA and ADAA, as well as under Title VII. She serves as appellate counsel on similar matters with numerous published opinions, from bid disputes to constitutional issues.

A former general counsel for the Consolidated City of Jacksonville and its entities, Cindy is Board Certified by the Florida Bar in City, County & Local Government Law, and advises high-profile government entities on a multitude of diverse matters.

Cindy also places great emphasis on social responsibility. As a pro bono matter, she maintained security clearance working with the Defense Department and the Defense Intelligence Agency to locate and repatriate the remains of a downed U.S. Navy pilot in Iraq through three presidential administrations. She frequently appears in federal court on pro-bono court appointments in civil matters.

Representative Experience

- **Class Action:** Represented the City of Jacksonville in obtaining summary judgment, upheld on appeal, denying liability to the certified class members

who had not been admitted to a pension system because of perceived injuries or conditions; held not to be ADA or ADAA violations. *Monaco v. City of Jacksonville*, (11th Cir. 2015); (D.Ct. 8 MD Fla. 2014)

- **Sovereign Immunity:** Represented a client in arguing that a wholly-owned subsidiary holding private employees was entitled to sovereign immunity and to such a determination before trial; the Supreme Court of Florida changed the applicable rule to comport with the ruling we obtained. *Keck v. Eminisor*, 104 So.3d 1081 (Fla. S.Ct. 2013)
- **First Amendment:** Represented the City of Jacksonville in successfully upholding local zoning changes, made multiple times, to relocate bars based upon theoretical availability of alternative sites across town. *Jacksonville Property Rights Ass'n, Inc. v. City of Jacksonville*, (11th Cir. 2012)
- **Zoning:** Represented the City of Jacksonville in the defense of a local zoning challenge that prevented the extension of an FAA funded runway at a public airport in an action brought by a fixed base operator. The legal issues involved primacy, airport operations and needs, and the interplay of FAA regulations with safety studies on the runway extension. *Craig Air Center, Inc. v. City of Jacksonville* (M.D. Fla. 2012)
- **First Impression:** Represented Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) in resolving a multi-year suit under the Clean Water Act in the face of an argument for strict, continuing liability for sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). The public settlement avoided establishing new precedent on addressing SSOs, and was resolved on continuing disclosure requirements, with over 1,000 sites. This settlement continues to remain intact. *St. Johns River Keeper v. JEA*, (M.D. 2010)
- **Business Dispute and Lease Agreements:** Represented Jacksonville Aviation Authority in three different courts to resolve a bid dispute and challenges under the Florida Constitution to the alleged lending of credit by the airport to its developer. Obtained the seminal Florida Supreme Court decision on a certified question from the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit confirming the proper structure of operations and lease agreements. *Jackson-Shaw Co. v. Jacksonville Aviation Authority*, (11th Cir. 2009); Fla. S.Ct. 2008

Awards & Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America* 2016-2018, Listed in Florida for Government Contracts, Government Relations Practice, Litigation 8 Environmental, Litigation 8 Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy)
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine 2015-2017, Listed in Florida for State, Local, & Municipalities
- *Jacksonville Business Journal*, Jacksonville's Ultimate Attorneys Honoree, 2016
- *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite, 2007-2016
- Martindale-Hubbell, AV Preeminent, Judicial Award, 2016
- *Jacksonville Business Journal*, Women of Influence, 2015

- *Jacksonville Magazine*, Top Legal Professional (peer designation), 2013
- The *Jacksonville Financial News & Daily Record*, Lawyer of the Year, 2010
- Jacksonville Women Lawyer's Association, Woman Lawyer of the Year, 2005
- Martindale-Hubbell, AV Preeminent Rating - the highest possible rating for both ethical standards and legal ability

Published Work & Lectures

- JWLA Luncheon, Speaker, "Rainmaking for Women Lawyers," January 12, 2017
- Florida Municipal Attorneys Association, Speaker, "Local Residency Restrictions for Sex Offenders," July 30, 2016
- Florida Coastal School of Law, Speaker, "Balancing Life and Law," November 6, 2014

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Massachusetts