

People



Cindy A. Laquidara

Partner, Litigation

Jacksonville

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vCard

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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. Cindy has 70 published opinions in state and federal trial and appellate courts. 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, Title VII, ADAA and ADA, and government affairs.

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, include JEA, a combined water and electric generating entity, the Supervisor of Elections, the Property Appraiser, and the Duval County School Board.

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.

Notable Work

**Trials:** Tried her first three-week long federal case in 1986, in the NAACP v. Duval County School Board. Since that time, she has had numerous trials and appeals, including the seminal case in public/private partnerships in Florida, first tried at the federal level successfully, and ultimately affirmed on the precedent-setting issue of public financing by the Florida Supreme Court on referral.

Areas of Experience

- Litigation
- Appellate
- Economic Development and Incentives
- Energy and Infrastructure
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Florida Land Use and Entitlements
- Government Agency Litigation
- Public-Private Partnerships

Education

- J.D., Boston College Law School, 1982, magna cum laude
- B.A., University of Massachusetts, 1979, cum laude

Admissions

Bars

- Florida
- Massachusetts
- New York

Courts

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

Related Content

- Akerman Partner Cindy Laquidara Says New Civil Procedure Rules Place Heightened Responsibilities and Risks on Attorneys  
March 17, 2025
- Akerman Lawyers Ranked in Florida by *Super Lawyers Magazine*  
July 16, 2024
- 112 Akerman Lawyers Across the U.S. Named to 2023 *Super Lawyers* and Rising Stars Lists

**Class Action:** Represented the City of Jacksonville state and federal class actions, often managing cases to obtain a successful resolution of novel issues as the trial level. See, for example, *Monaco v. City of Jacksonville*, (D.Ct. – MD Fla. 2014) affirmed with opinion, (11th Cir. 2015)

**Debt Recovery Action:** Recovered over \$2 million on an original \$400,000 claim after finding additional breaches to a contract.

**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 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)

**Bid Disputes:** Prevailing on a challenge to an Invitation to Bid, and obtaining a precedent-setting attorney fee award on appeal. *Centerplate v. UCF* (DOAH 2018, 5<sup>th</sup> DCA opinion, 2020)

## Published Work and Lectures

- Jacksonville University, PPI Constitution Day Event, Speaker, “The Charter,” September 17, 2024
- Consolidated City of Jacksonville’s Charter, Speaker, September 17, 2024
- CLE Author and Lector, “Managing Litigation Costs Through Effective Discovery,” 2023
- Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association, 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

## Honors and Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers*, 2016-2025, Listed in Florida for Appellate Practice, Environmental Law, Government Contracts, Government Relations Practice, Litigation - Environmental, Litigation - Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy)
- *Florida Trend’s* Legal Elite, 2007-2016
- *Jacksonville Business Journal*, Jacksonville’s “Ultimate Attorneys” List Honoree, 2016, 2020
- *Jacksonville Business Journal*, Women of Influence, 2015
- *Jacksonville Magazine*, Top Legal Professional (peer designation), 2013

- Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association, Woman Lawyer of the Year, 2005
- *Martindale-Hubbell*, AV Preeminent, Judicial Award, 2016, 2018, 2019
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2015-2024, Listed in Florida for State, Local, & Municipalities
- *Best Lawyers*, 2020, 2022, 2024, “Lawyer of the Year” in Jacksonville for Government Relations Practice
- The Jacksonville *Financial News & Daily Record*, Lawyer of the Year, 2010

## Related Professional Experience

- Law Clerk to The Honorable Walter Jay Skinner, U.S. District Court, Massachusetts, 1982-1983