

## People



## Robert I. Chaskes

Co-Chair, Distressed Property Practice

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Robert Chaskes is an esteemed trial lawyer with more than 35 years of experience in a wide range of complex commercial litigation, including jury and bench trials in state and federal courts across the United States. Among other matters, Mr. Chaskes has defended numerous class actions and has tried cases involving securities fraud claims, trademark disputes, trade secrets, non-compete and other restrictive covenants, insurance coverage disputes, lender-liability claims, and shareholder disputes.

Mr. Chaskes has substantial experience in a number of business sectors, including banking and financial institutions, leisure and hospitality, healthcare, computer and internet technology, real estate, and aviation.

Prior to joining Akerman, Mr. Chaskes was Senior Counsel for Complex Litigation at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, where he represented the FDIC and RTC in actions that recovered more than \$1 billion from various parties involved in the collapse of the junk bond markets. He now serves as co-chair of Akerman's Distressed Property Practice, which represents lenders in commercial foreclosures, loan workouts, and related matters.

Numerous publications recognize Mr. Chaskes for his formidable litigation and trial work, including *The Best Lawyers in America*, *South Florida Legal Guide*, and *Florida Trend*.

### Notable Work

**Securities Class Action Defense:** Representation of officers and directors of a publicly traded medical supply company in state and federal securities class actions, including successfully defending attempts to enjoin the underlying merger from closing.

**Ponzi Scheme Defense:** Representation of multi-national trust services companies in state and federal courts across the country against allegations of fraud and breach of fiduciary duty arising out of a purported Ponzi scheme.

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### Areas of Experience

Class Action Defense  
 Commercial Disputes  
 Commercial Loan Enforcement and Secured Financing Litigation  
 Construction Litigation and Dispute Resolution  
 Distressed Property  
 Financial Institutions Commercial Litigation  
 Financial Services  
 Health and Life Sciences  
 Hospitality  
 Hospitality Dispute Resolution  
 Hospitality Operational Matters  
 Litigation  
 Real Estate Litigation  
 Securities Litigation  
 Professional Liability

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### Education

J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 1981  
 B.A., Michigan State University, 1978, with high honors

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### Admissions

#### Bars

District of Columbia  
 Florida  
 Maryland

#### Courts

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit  
 U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit  
 U.S. District Court, District of Columbia  
 U.S. District Court, District of Maryland  
 U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida  
 U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

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### Related Content

**D&O Liability and Enforcement Actions:** Representation of corporate officers and directors in defending SEC enforcement actions and D&O liability claims.

**Shareholder Disputes and Derivative Actions:** Representation of clients in defense of derivative suits and in disputes among shareholders of closely held corporations engaged in lodging, hospitality, healthcare, construction, and real estate development.

**ICC Arbitration:** Representation of the world's largest independent provider of aircraft maintenance programs in an ICC arbitration hearing in Vienna, Austria, against a European marketing representative.

**Insurance Coverage:** Representation of insurers, including Lloyd's at London syndicates, in insurance coverage litigation.

**Prejudgment and Final Writs of Replevin:** Representation of clients in matters involving aircraft and jet engines, citrus processing equipment, wholesale liquor inventory, commercial air conditioning equipment, motor vehicle dealer inventory, and other chattels.

**Enforcement of Restrictive Covenants:** Representation of businesses in relation to the enforcement of non-compete, trade secret, non-circumvention, and confidentiality restrictions.

**Financial Institutions:** Representation of commercial banks and other financial institutions in various litigation matters, including commercial loan foreclosures, secondary mortgage market disputes, and the defense of lender-liability claims and class actions.

**Real Estate Owners and Developers:** Representation of owners and developers of real estate in connection with a variety of construction-related claims and contract disputes, including defense of securities fraud and other class actions.

**Huizenga Holdings:** Representation of Huizenga Holdings and related entities, including Rybovich Boat Company, in relation to a variety of litigation matters.

**Sloppy Joe's Enterprises International, Inc.:** Representation of Sloppy Joe's Enterprises International, Inc. and other name brand companies, including Ryder System, Inc., in the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

**DHL Express (USA), Inc.:** Representation of DHL Express (USA), Inc. and related entities in various business disputes, including the defense of class actions in state and federal courts in Florida and Ohio, respectively.

**NFL and Super Bowl Host Committee:** Representation of the National Football League and Super Bowl Host Committee in various litigation matters.

***Asperbras Tecnologia Industrial e Agronegócios Ltda., et al. v. Good Hope Development, LLC*, 213 So. 3d 1061 (Fla. 3d DCA 2017):** Prevailed on appeal upholding, *inter alia*, service of process in Brazil by means other than Inter-American Service Convention.

***Remington Lodging & Hospitality v. Southernmost House, Ltd.*, 206 So. 3d 764 (Fla. 3d DCA 2016):** Prevailed on appeal challenging right to depose senior management based on the Apex Doctrine.

*Benchmark Litigation* Recognizes 34 Akerman Lawyers in its 2025 Rankings of the Leading Litigators in the United States  
October 17, 2024

34 Akerman Lawyers Recognized in Benchmark Litigation  
October 03, 2023

112 Akerman Lawyers Across the U.S. Named to 2023 *Super Lawyers* and Rising Stars Lists  
September 28, 2023

***Ryder Sys., Inc. v. Storage & Moving Servs., Inc.*, 2013 WL 3873231 (S.D. Fla. 2013)**: Obtained preliminary and permanent injunctive relief on behalf of a multi-national transportation and logistics company, thereby preventing trademark infringement and enforcing the company's intellectual property rights under the Lanham Act and Florida state law.

***Beazley Ins. Co. v. Banerjee, et al.*, 2013 WL 5538714 (Fla. 4th DCA 2013)**: Prevailed on appeal finding that insurer was improperly joined in liability action and that a separate action must be commenced to litigate coverage issues.

***Cohen v. World Omni Fin. Corp.*, 2011 WL 1810610 (11th Cir. 2011)**: Affirming trial court's grant of summary judgment in favor of financial services company.

***Cohen v. World Omni Fin. Corp.*, 751 F. Supp. 2d 1289 (S.D. Fla. 2010)**: Obtained summary judgment in favor of financial services company that was sued under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 based upon its collection of state use tax in relation to automobile lease.

***Garcia, et al. v. Santa Maria Resort, et al.*, 528 F. Supp. 2d 1283 (S.D. Fla. 2007)**: Obtained dismissal of fraud and negligent misrepresentation claims on the pleadings and without discovery.

***In re Michael Milken and Assocs. Sec. Litig.*, 1993 WL 413673 (S.D.N.Y. 1993)**: Confirmation of global settlement fully resolving more than 180 pending securities actions.

***Foremost Guar. Corp. v. Meritor Sav. Bank*, 910 F. 2d 118 (4th Cir. 1990)**: Represented largest savings bank in Virginia on appeal reversing trial court's rescission of thousands of mortgage insurance contracts in MDL cases consolidated for trial.

***Nichols, et al. v. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, et al.*, 706 F. Supp. 1309 (M.D. Tenn. 1989)**: Obtained dismissal of securities claims against lender that provided financing to unit owners in condominium hotel.

## Related Professional Experience

- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation/Resolution Trust Corporation, Senior Counsel for Complex Litigation, 1990-1996

## Affiliations

- The Florida Bar, Member
- The Maryland Bar, Member
- The District of Columbia Bar, Member
- American Bar Association, Member
- Miami City Ballet Board of Trustees, Member

## Honors and Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers*, 2013-2025, Listed in Florida for Commercial Litigation
- *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2013-2023, Listed in Florida for Business Litigation
- *Benchmark Litigation*, 2023-2025, Listed in Florida as a "Local Litigation Star" for Commercial, Real Estate
- *Palm Beach Illustrated Magazine*, 2022, Listed as a "Top Lawyer" for Bet-the-Company Litigations

- *South Florida Legal Guide* Top Lawyers, 2014-2019, Listed for Corporate and Business Litigation, Class Action - Defense
- *Florida Trend's Legal Elite* 2008, 2013, 2015, Listed for Commercial Litigation