

People



## Michael Fertig

General Counsel

Miami

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vCard

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Michael Fertig serves as Akerman's General Counsel. He focuses on protecting the firm and its clients by providing counsel on risk management, professional liability, compliance, contractual, employment disputes, and ethics issues.

As part of his broader practice, Michael protects the interests of private and public sector clients in litigation with an emphasis in the insurance and hospitality sectors. In state and federal courts, he defends allegations of product and premises liability, employment discrimination, mass torts, civil rights, constitutional issues, and negligence. Michael serves a diverse client base, including a professional sports franchise and league, universities, manufacturers, municipalities, retail distributors, and national restaurant chains.

In addition to his work defending corporate clients, Michael's practice also includes local government representation, including First Amendment challenges, police liability claims, civil rights defense, tort defense, contract disputes, wrongful death cases, and defending municipalities in challenges to the constitutionality of their ordinances.

He is certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a Circuit Court mediator.

### Notable Work

**Constitutional Challenges:** Represented a local municipality in securing summary judgment in a class action constitutional challenge to a municipal ordinance.

**Toxic Tort:** Represented a national retail distributor defending allegations of toxic exposure.

**Product Liability:** Represented a product manufacturer in defending a brain injury case arising from the alleged malfunction of equipment.

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### Areas of Experience

Litigation  
Insurance Litigation  
Product Liability and Mass Torts  
Financial Services

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### Education

J.D., Boston University School of Law, 1982  
B.S., State University of New York, Finance, 1979, cum laude

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### Admissions

#### Bars

Florida

#### Courts

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

**Professional Sports:** Represented a stadium in a lawsuit alleging negligent security.

**Premises Liability:** Represented a national restaurant chain in a premises liability case.

**Civil Rights:** Represented a local municipality in defending a civil rights case involving police.

**Employment Discrimination:** Represented a national restaurant chain in defending a pregnancy-based employment discrimination claim.

**Harassment:** Represented a national restaurant chain in defending a sexual harassment case.

**Vehicle Leasing:** Represented a national finance company in a challenge to their automobile leasing program.

**Liability:** Represented an employer in defending a lawsuit involving an employee, driving a company vehicle, was involved in an accident with a bicyclist.

## Published Work and Lectures

- Risk and Insurance Management Society, Inc., Continuing Education Seminar, Speaker, “Social Media in Defense of Litigation,” 2013
- National Risk and Insurance Managers Conference, Speaker, “Representing Self-Insured Entities,” 2011
- Lorman Institute, Speaker, Defense of Police Civil Rights Cases, 2012
- The Florida Bar, Local Government Section, Speaker, Defense of Police Civil Rights Cases

## Affiliations

- Defense Research Institute State Liaison, Business Litigation Committee, Member
- Association of Defense Trial Attorneys, Member
- The Florida Bar, Member
- American Bar Association, Member