

People



Ricky K. Patel

Of Counsel, Litigation

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vCard

Ricky Patel focuses his practice on a wide array of issues, including complex litigation in state and federal court, crisis management for high-profile clients, and mass torts. Ricky regularly works with hospitality industry clients and has been actively involved with the Asian American Hotel Owners' Association (AAHOA) from early on in his career. He received the AAHOA Chairman's Award for leadership and ongoing services in recognition of his representation of more than 3,500 corporate victims affected by a major environmental disaster about a decade ago. His clients affected by the event included municipalities, government agencies, and tourism businesses, particularly hotels. In addition, Ricky works on international class action litigation and arbitration. The St. Thomas University Benjamin L. Crump College of Law recently recognized Ricky as a "Legal Luminary" in the area of Class Action Litigation.

Ricky also has worked on several legislative projects at the state and federal levels, including getting bipartisan bills passed that benefited his clients. Ricky has served extensively as a public voice for his clients and causes, appearing on such broadcast outlets as CNN, Fox TV, NBC, ESPN, ABC, and in news outlets such as *60 Minutes*, *Good Morning America*, and *People* magazine.

His steadfast commitment to protecting human rights also led him to create a foundation called ITS4THEKIDS, which provides resources to children in need. He has also worked extensively with The United Way; on behalf of supporters of the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA), Gracious Hands Haitian Orphanage, as a founder of Fashion Gives Back, Puerto Rico Relief, as a trustee of his alma mater, St. Thomas University School of Law, and for the Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami, where he served as chair of the Board of Trustees.

Notable Work

Product Liability Class Action: Successfully settled an international class action for products liability against one of the largest electronics manufacturers in the world.

Areas of Experience

Class Action Defense
Hospitality
International
Litigation
Product Liability and Mass Torts

Education

J.D., St. Thomas University School of Law, 2009
B.S./B.A., Florida State University, 2005

Admissions

Bars

Florida
District of Columbia

Courts

U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Languages

Gujarati

Related Content

Akerman Lawyer Ricky Patel Awarded as Champion for Foster Children
April 26, 2023

Akerman Expands Miami Litigation Practice with Of Counsel Ricky Patel
November 14, 2022

Published Work and Lectures

- St. Thomas University Benjamin L. Crump College of Law, Commencement Speaker, September 14, 2024
- St. Thomas University Benjamin L. Crump College of Law, Speaker, “Big Law Unveiled” Q&A Session, January 25, 2024
- Akerman’s Franchise Business Network Global Summer Summit, Speaker, “Protect, Promote and Evolve the Brand,” July 19, 2023
- National Trial Lawyers Summit, Speaker, “The Importance of Giving Back to Communities,” 2023
- Win the Storm Conference and Expo, Speaker, “Adjusting Puerto Rico Claims: Municipal and Commercial Claims,” 2018
- AAHOA Hotel Conference, Speaker, “How to Comply with ADA Regulations,” 2014
- AAHOA Hotel Conference, Speaker, “Visa Waiver Programs Impact on Tourism,” 2013
- AAHOA Hotel Conference, Speaker, “Fair Franchising for Hotels and Motels,” 2012
- AAHOA Hotel Conference, Speaker, “Creation of Asset Protection for the Next Generation of Hoteliers,” 2011

Affiliations

- Nicklaus Children’s Hospital Foundation, Past Chairman; Current Board Member
- ITS4THEKIDS, Foundation, Founder & Chairman
- St Thomas University, School of Law, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees
- Miami Children’s Hospital Young Ambassadors, Co-Chair
- Gracious Hands Haiti Orphanage, President
- STU Law Young Alumni, Co-Founder, 2009

Honors and Distinctions

- St. Thomas University Benjamin L. Crump College of Law, 2024, Recognized as a Legal Luminary for Class Action Litigation
- St. Thomas University Benjamin L. Crump College of Law, Honorary Doctorate Degree, 2024
- ITS4THEKIDS, Honored with the Forestdale 2023 Children’s Champion Award
- STU Law School, Martin Luther King Award, 2021
- Little Lighthouse Foundation, “Philanthropist of the Year,” 2018
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, Listed as a “Rising Star” in Florida for Class Action & Mass Torts, 2016-2017
- U.S. Patent Recipient, Creation of Intelligent Smoke Detector System, 2017
- The National Trial Lawyers, Top 100 Trial Lawyers, 2014
- *South Florida Business Journal*, Recognized as “40 Under 40,” 2013
- Brioni & Neiman Marcus Man of the Year, 2013
- AAHOA Chairman’s Award for Leadership and Ongoing Services, Recipient, 2012
- Honors Thesis on Genocide Prevention, 2006