

People



## Donnie M. King

Partner, Litigation

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Donnie King is an experienced first-chair trial lawyer with a national practice focused on representing clients in complex commercial litigation and arbitration. His experience includes high stakes business disputes, class actions, business torts, securities litigation, private equity litigation, civil theft matters, and catastrophic personal injury suits. He has experience representing clients in a variety of industries, including aviation, automotive, banking, consumer goods, entertainment, insurance, and utilities. He routinely tries cases in federal and state courts throughout the United States.

Donnie is a former fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity and a past chair of the Black Internal Bridge Network at Akerman.

### Notable Work

**Automotive:** Obtained a \$30 million plaintiff's verdict following a two-week jury trial in the Northern District of Ohio in which our client, a Fortune 200 manufacturer of clutches used in commercial semi-trucks, sued two of its suppliers for breach of contract and breach of express and implied warranties. The jury also ruled in our client's favor on the suppliers' counterclaims.

**Automotive/Motor Vehicle/Products Liability:** Successfully obtained dismissal in a wrongful death lawsuit alleging a design defect to the braking system of a semi-truck.

**Aviation/Product Liability:** Obtained a complete defense verdict following a three-week jury trial, in which our clients, a French plane manufacturer and its U.S. subsidiary, were cleared on design defect, failure-to-warn, and negligence claims. The plaintiffs sought more than \$40 million in punitive and other damages prior to trial. This case was featured as #4 in CVN's Top 10 Most Impressive Defense Verdicts of 2018.

### Areas of Experience

Litigation  
Commercial Disputes  
Private Equity Litigation  
Product Liability and Mass Torts  
Latin America and the Caribbean

### Education

J.D., Temple University School of Law  
B.A., Boston College, Economics

### Admissions

#### Bars

Florida  
United States Virgin Islands

#### Courts

U.S. District Court for the Virgin Islands  
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida  
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida  
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

### Related Content

Akerman Lawyers Ranked in Florida by *Super Lawyers Magazine*  
July 08, 2025

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

Akerman Partners Honored in *Lawdragon's* 2025 List of Leading Litigators in America  
September 12, 2024

**Aviation/Product Liability:** Represent a helicopter support company, specializing in maintenance, repair and overhaul in two wrongful death and products liability lawsuits where the plaintiffs allege that a helicopter crashed as a result of an issue with the gear box free wheel units that our client serviced and recertified.

**Aviation:** Represented an airline in anonymous whistleblower investigations.

**Collegiate Athletics:** Defended collegiate athletics association in concussion litigation brought by former collegiate athletes.

**Credit Card Payment Industry:** Represented a private equity portfolio company in actions pending in California state and federal courts, including disputes over fraudulent transfers and breach of contract.

**Election Litigation:** Represented a private citizen who sought to enjoin the U.S. Virgin Islands' Board of Elections from permitting a candidate to run in local elections due to the candidate's failure to meet statutory eligibility requirements.

**Entertainment:** Represented various entertainment companies in breach of contract disputes.

**Healthcare Private Equity:** Successfully represented a healthcare private equity firm in an arbitration arising out of the sale of one of its portfolio companies, including defense of fraud claims and disputes over earn-out payments and net working capital.

**Higher Education:** Represented a medical school in lawsuit brought by dismissed student alleging claims for fraud and unfair business practices arising from school's advertised attrition rate.

**Higher Education:** Represented a medical school in a lawsuit brought by a dismissed student alleging claims for failure to accommodate a disability and fraud.

**Maritime:** Obtained a defense verdict in a trial representing a jet ski rental company in a personal injury maritime action where traumatic brain injury was alleged.

**Public Utility:** Represented a public utility company in multiple electric shock, traumatic personal injury actions.

**Security/Antitrust:** Successfully obtained dismissal for a security company being sued for alleged antitrust violations.

**Retail/Consumer Electronics:** Represented a Fortune 1000 public company and its subsidiary in multiple matters emanating from whistleblower allegations of corporate fraud and corruption.

**Toxic Tort:** Represented a corporation in multiple "toxic mold" cases including one against 26 plaintiffs.

## Published Work and Lectures

- *Daily Business Review*, Co-Author, "Enforceability of Electronic Signatures in Florida and Beyond," June 1, 2020
- *Bloomberg Law*, Co-Author, "Steps to Prevent Costly Post-Sale Working Capital Shortfall Disputes," February 20, 2020

## Honors and Distinctions

- *Savoy Magazine*, 2024, Most Influential Lawyers in Corporate America
- *Lawdragon* 500, 2025, Listed as One of the Leading Litigators in America for Commercial Litigation
- *Benchmark Litigation*, 2025, Listed in Florida as a “Future Star” for Product Liability, Commercial
- *Benchmark Litigation*, 2022-2024, Named to the “40 & Under” List
- *Daily Business Review*, Florida Legal Awards, “On the Rise,” 2022
- *Best Lawyers*, 2021-2022, Listed in Florida for Commercial Litigation as “One to Watch”
- *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2020-2025, Listed in Florida as a “Rising Star” for Business Litigation
- *Daily Business Review*, 2019, Recognized as a “Most Effective Lawyer” for Products Liability