

## People



## Valerie B. Greenberg

Partner, Litigation

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Fortune 500 companies, privately held businesses, and not-for-profit organizations turn to Valerie Greenberg, a veteran litigator and courtroom strategist with a national reputation in high-stakes litigation, to resolve complex business disputes. Previously a reporter and editor at the *Miami Herald* and *The American Lawyer* newspapers, where her work achieved recognition as a Pulitzer Prize nominee, Valerie has earned a reputation for rigorous investigation, mastery of facts and law, and skill in developing compelling, innovative, and prudent defense strategies. A consummate advocate and tenacious protector of her clients' interests, she is go-to counsel for businesses facing bet-the-company and otherwise significant litigation involving class actions, consumer protection and privacy issues, complex insurance matters, product liability/construction defect claims, and difficult and commercial disputes.

Through her three-decade career, Valerie's track record includes a sustained history of securing victories for her clients in state and federal courts, including appellate matters. Notable highlights of her work include leading the successful defense of more than 100 related complex product liability and construction defect claims simultaneously pending in state and federal courts, including a multi-district litigation; successfully defending major national insurance carriers, medical product manufacturers, self-insureds, and asbestos settlement trusts in more than 75 lawsuits across the country, many of them class actions, involving multi-million dollar claims for reimbursement of Medicare-related payments; and defending a major airline in two consumer class actions stemming from an error made by a high-profile technology company.

Valerie is dedicated to building high-trust relationships with her clients, who consistently rely on and recognize her commitment to understanding and sharing their viewpoint, concerns, and goals. She achieves this by immersing herself in the details of each client issue and mastering the subject matter, whether it be computer coding, movie licensing, Medicare regulations, or the chemistry of building materials. Because of her commitment to excellence, her clients also

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### Areas of Experience

Litigation  
 Commercial Disputes  
 Class Action Defense  
 Construction Litigation and Dispute Resolution  
 Consumer Protection Litigation  
 Insurance Litigation  
 Product Liability and Mass Torts  
 Financial Services

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### Education

J.D., University of Miami School of Law, 1994, cum laude, Order of the Coif; Advanced Moot Court Competition Winner; *Inter-American Law Review*, Associate Editor; Omnicron Delta Kappa; Alpha Epsilon Lambda

B.S., Florida International University, Print Journalism, 1987

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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  
 U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

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### Related Content

Record Number of Akerman Lawyers Named to *The Best Lawyers in America* 2024 Guide  
 August 22, 2023

turn to her for counsel on business issues and non-active litigation matters facing their companies. Whatever the subject, Valerie utilizes the instincts and skills she honed as a reporter to uncover the facts, synthesize the information, and incisively articulate her clients' positions.

Combining her passion for writing and extensive legal skills and experience, Valerie served as chairperson of the *Florida Bar Journal* committee and also as a contributing writer to West Publication's Florida treatise on civil procedure. She has been invited to speak on panels about class actions and complex litigation and served as chairperson of the Florida Defense Lawyers Class Action Committee. On behalf of the community, her pro bono work has focused on asylum applicants and serving as a volunteer guardian ad litem.

### Notable Work

**Precedent-Setting Victory in District and Appellate Courts:** In a recent federal court victory, led a team that not only created federal precedent but prevailed before some of our region's most well-regarded jurists: the then-presiding Chief Magistrate for the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Florida, who granted a pivotal discovery motion argued by Valerie; the Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Florida, who entered several favorable orders including the summary judgment motion authored by Valerie; and the Chief Judge of the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeal, who penned the appellate decision affirming that summary judgment.

**Product Liability/Multi-District Litigation Involving International Parties:** Lead counsel in managing a 15-lawyer team defending homebuilders in more than 130 claims in federal multi-district and federal and state court litigation involving allegations of use of defective Chinese drywall causing construction problems and personal injury. Utilizing an aggressive defense, including filing third-party suits and cross-claims against other entities in the manufacture and supply chain, achieved a successful resolution with minimal exposure for the clients.

**Consumer and Privacy Litigation:** Defended a major airline in two federal class actions alleging violations of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act stemming from a computer programming error by an outside vendor. Litigation resolved on terms favorable to client following a second mediation, which involved multiple insurers that agreed to participate and extend coverage for class settlement only after prompting by defense counsel.

**High-Stakes Insurance Litigation:** Successfully defend national and regional insurance companies, medical product manufacturers, self-insureds and asbestos settlement trusts in more than 75 federal and state cases, many putative class actions, from Miami to Los Angeles involving allegations of failure to properly reimburse private Medicare Advantage or Medicaid plans and related entities for payments made for medical treatment of Medicare or Medicaid beneficiaries.

**Copyright Infringement:** Represented a popular cable channel in a federal court trial, sued for alleged movie copyright infringement.

**Banking:** Represented in a state court trial a major banking institution in foreclosure of downtown office building where borrower maintained multi-million-dollar mortgage was not intended to be enforced.

## Related Professional Experience

- *The Miami Herald*, Former Reporter and Copy Editor
- *The Miami Review*, Former Reporter

## Published Work and Lectures

- Health Law Rx Blog, Contributor
- University of Miami School of Law, Class Action & Complex Litigation Forum, Panelist, “Hot Topics in Class Actions and MDLs,” January 2020
- University of Miami School of Law, Class Action & Complex Litigation Forum, Panelist, “Hot Topics in Class Actions and MDLs,” January 2019
- HarrisMartin’s Chinese Drywall Litigation Conference, Presenter, “INEX and Banner Proposed Class Action Settlements-Objections and Opt-Out Issues,” October 2011
- Berman’s Florida Civil Procedure, Contributing Writer, West, 1998-2000

## Affiliations

- Florida Defense Lawyers Association, Class Action Committee, Past Chair
- The Florida Bar, Member
- Dade County Bar Association, Member
- The Florida Bar News, Journal Committee, Past Chair
- Pro Bono Counsel for Asylum Applicants
- Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem

## Honors and Distinctions

- Pulitzer Prize, Nominee
- Greater Miami Legal Aid, Pro Bono Award
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2024, Listed in Florida for Commercial Litigation