Megan Costa DeLeon

Partner, Litigation

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A first chair litigator and trusted counselor to business executives, owners, entrepreneurs, and investors, Megan Costa DeLeon has achieved landmark victories, set precedent, and impacted the business landscape for her clients, including global Fortune 500 companies, private equity funds and their portfolio companies, publicly traded and family and privately owned businesses. Because of her reputation as a tenacious litigator, Megan's clients value her strategic perspective informed by her decades of practice and master's level business education. A leader within Akerman and in the profession, Megan serves on the Firm's Board of Directors, where she provides guidance on firm management and initiatives. She also serves as one of only three United States based members of the international Board of Directors of Lex Mundi, a leading global services platform with member firms in over 100 countries.

From bet-the-company disputes and contentious litigation amongst closely held family businesses to novel issues of law, Megan is sought out for her strategic-minded approach, deft touch, and ability to build consensus with stakeholders. With a diverse practice encompassing contractual disputes, complex commercial matters, construction disputes, and derivative actions, she has served as lead counsel in dozens of trials and arbitrations, with a track record of achieving optimum outcomes, including precedent-setting victories, such as leading the trial team that litigated the first contested and reported judicial termination of a condominium in the State of Florida.

With a certificate in family business governance from Northwestern University, Megan counsels and represents family enterprises on issues and opportunities that are specific to private and closely held businesses, such as governance, succession planning, dispute resolution, and the acquisition and disposition of business assets. Moreover, Megan has amassed focused training on international legal business issues through her immersive business management training at the University of Cambridge, Judge Business School, where Megan was one of 40 lawyers from over 29 different countries selected to participate. This unique training enables

Areas of Experience

Litigation
Commercial Disputes
Financial Institutions Commercial Litigation
Real Estate Litigation
Financial Services
Construction
Japan
Sports and Entertainment Law

Education

Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management, Governing the Family Business, 2011
J.D., Stetson University College of Law, 2001, cum laude
M.B.A., Stetson University, 2001
B.A., University of Florida, 1998, with honors

Admissions

Bars

Florida

Courts

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

Related Content

Akerman Represents GT USA in $165 Million Florida Land Deal
September 27, 2024

Akerman Lawyers Ranked in Florida by *Super Lawyers* Magazine
July 16, 2024

Megan Costa DeLeon to Speak on Litigation Trends at the Lex Mundi LADR North America Practice

Megan to counsel internationally based companies seeking to expand operations in the United States on best practices for businesses, how to avoid litigation, and how to handle disputes when they arise.

Megan devotes her community and philanthropic work to mentorship and education. She serves as a director for Elevate Orlando, a nonprofit organization providing life skills training in the public school system and after school mentoring. As a member of the United Negro College Fund's Advisory Board, she pioneered a STEM pipeline scholarship and internship program in partnership with the United Negro College Fund, which honored her with its Champion of Education Award. Megan was also recognized as a "Best Mentor" in *Corporate Counsel*'s 2022 Women, Influence and Power in Law Awards.

Notable Work

Prededent-Setting Ruling in Florida Condominium Litigation: Litigated first contested and reported judicial termination of a condominium in the State of Florida. Given the novelty of issues litigated through this proceeding, Megan consults on high stakes condominium terminations throughout the State. *Unicorp Colony Units, LLC v. Colony Beach & Tennis Club Ass'n, Inc.,* 2019 WL 4419074 (Fla. 12th Cir. Ct. Sarasota Sept. 6, 2019).

Appellate Litigation: Secured reversal of trial court order denying client's motion to dismiss on personal jurisdiction grounds in a $40 million products liability claim by successfully arguing the application and interpretation of the jurisdictional requirements of Florida's long-arm statute. *ProAmpac Holdings, Inc. v. RCBA Nutraceuticals, LLC*, No. 5D21-2019 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. Sep. 2, 2022).

Appellate Litigation: Secured reversal of trial court order on due process grounds. *Winthrop v. Castellano*, Case No. 5D12-4759 (Fla. 5th DCA, April 17, 2013).

Appellate Litigation: Secured precedent-setting ruling outlining attorney's ethical obligations upon receipt of confidential information and affirming disqualification of an opposing law firm which obtained the client's confidential, attorney-client communications from the opposing party. *Castellano v. Winthrop*, 2010 WL 322177 (Fla. 5th DCA).

Commercial Litigation: Successfully represented industrial packaging and products supplier, in breach of contract and business torts action, by arguing the interpretation of the jurisdictional requirements of Florida's long-arm statute when at the time there were not many published court opinions on the issue.

Commercial Litigation: Obtained dismissal, with prejudice, on initial Motion to Dismiss, on behalf of a global flexible packaging company in a $40 million commercial product liability case in the Eastern District of Wisconsin. *RCBA Nutraceuticals LLC v. Proampac Holdings Inc.*, No. 23-CV-305 (E.D. Wis. Jun. 29, 2023).

Commercial Litigation: Represented a Fortune 500 company in shareholder derivative class action. Representation involved coordination and roll-out of sensitive and extensive e-discovery as part of an accelerated proceeding.

Commercial Litigation: Represented a limited liability company and manager member in multimillion dollar dispute involving claims of

misappropriation, breach of fiduciary duty, judicial dissolution and other business torts through trial and subsequent appeals.

Commercial Litigation: Represented a large consortium of international clients to protect, maintain, and preserve millions of dollars in investment assets in the United States.

Multi-District Construction Litigation: Represent national homebuilders in high-volume, multijurisdictional disputes involving construction defect claims brought by purchasers. Representation required coordination of defense among multiple parties (including sub-contractors) in arbitrations and civil litigation brought throughout the State of Florida. Achieved a successful resolution with minimal exposure for the clients.

Construction Litigation: Represented a developer, through trial and subsequent appeals, in defense of claims against purchasers seeking to rescind their purchase contracts. *Sullivan v. Fl Land Partners, LLC*, Case No. 5d12-2839 (Fla. 5th DCA 2013).

Related Professional Experience

- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, Judicial Intern to the Honorable Mary S. Scriven

Published Work and Lectures

- Lex Mundi 2023 Litigation, Arbitration, and Dispute Resolution (LADR) North America Practice Group Meeting, Speaker, "Practical Legal Trends Including Courtroom Technologies, Firm AI Policies & More," November 10, 2023
- Akerman's Guide to Doing Business in Florida: A Legal Guide for Out-of-State and Foreign Businesses, Author, "The Foreclosure Process," 2011, 2013, and 2016; Author, "Domestic Relations," and "Dispute Resolution in Florida," 2020; Editor, 2020
- Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) Board of Directors Presentation, Co-Presenter, "Creating, Delivering, and Reporting Value: A Roadmap for In-House Counsel," August 2014

Affiliations

- Lex Mundi, Member, Board of Directors & Audit Committee, May 2021-Present
- Elevate Orlando, Member, Board of Directors, 2019-Present
- United Negro College Fund, Advisory Board, Member, 2009-Present; Scholarship Committee, Chair, 2010-2015
- Leadership Orlando, Class 79, Graduate

Honors and Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers,* 2012-2025, Listed in Florida for Commercial Litigation and Litigation – Banking & Finance
- American Bar Association, Business and Corporate Litigation Committee, 2024, Women Business and Commercial Advocates Honoree
- *Corporate Counsel*, 2022 Women, Influence and Power in Law Awards, Recognized as a "Best Mentor"
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2023-2024, 2013-2020, Listed in Florida for Business Litigation
- *Benchmark Litigation,* 2023-2024, Listed in Florida as a "Local Litigation Star" for Commercial, Real Estate

- *Orlando Business Journal,* 2013, Recognized as one of the "Women to Watch" in Orlando
- *Super Lawyers Magazine,* 2010-2012, Listed in Florida as a "Rising Star" for Business Litigation and General Litigation
- United Negro College Fund, Champion of Education Award, 2012
- *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite, 2011, Listed as an "Up and Comer" for Commercial Litigation
- *Orlando Business Journal,* 2010, "Women Who Mean Business," Up and Comer, Finalist
- *Orlando Business Journal,* 2009, Recognized as the "40 Under 40," Outstanding Female of the Year
- *Orlando Business Journal* 2007, "Women Who Mean Business," Nominee