

In The News

Akerman Partner Cindy Laquidara Says New Civil Procedure Rules Place Heightened Responsibilities and Risks on Attorneys

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The *Daily Business Review* article titled “New Civil Procedure Rules Bring Challenges and Costs for Florida Attorneys” discusses significant amendments to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, which aim to align state procedures with the federal system. These changes include mandatory early disclosures and automatic scheduling orders, fundamentally altering how cases are managed from the outset.

Litigation Partner [Cindy Laquidara](#) spoke with the publication about the new rules and the heightened responsibilities and risks attorneys face.

Cindy was quoted: “The rules will determine that in discovery, we have to certify that we believe the answers provided are truly correct at the time they are submitted. But they’re not our answers—they’re our clients’ answers.”

The *Daily Business Review* further wrote: “Laquidara noted that attorneys instruct clients on how to answer discovery and work through the process, but ultimately, clients are responsible for ensuring they have done everything the attorneys asked them to do, and if a dispute arises later due to

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a document missing or an answer is later change the attorney could be subject to sanctions.”

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