

In The News

Akerman Named Law Firm of the Year by ALM's *Daily Report*

May 6, 2025

Firm Also Earns Most Effective Dealmaker, Insurance Litigation Department of the Year, Most Promising Newcomer, and On the Rise Recognitions at 2025 Southeastern Legal Awards

Akerman has been named Law Firm of the Year at the 2025 Southeastern Legal Awards, presented by *ALM's Daily Report*. The honor highlights a banner year for the firm, which received widespread recognition across multiple categories. It underscores Akerman's legal leadership and continued momentum in the Southeast, driven by its offices in Atlanta (led by Office Managing Partner [Jason Lichtstein](#), who accepted the award on the firm's behalf), Charlotte (led by Office Managing Partner [Josh DeBottis](#)), and Winston-Salem (led by Office Managing Partner [Paul Foley](#)).

In addition to the firm's top honor, Corporate Partner [Hunter Carpenter](#) was named Most Effective Dealmaker, celebrating his impactful and client-centered approach to complex M&A transactions. In his interview with *Daily Report*, Hunter reflected on the human stakes in transactional law and credited his mentor and Corporate Partner, [Amanda Leech](#), for shaping his negotiation skills and legal philosophy.

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Akerman was also recognized as the Insurance Litigation Department of the Year, honoring the firm's outstanding litigation practice and its consistent ability to deliver successful outcomes in high-stakes insurance disputes. Notably, the Georgia Insurance team, led by partners Anthony Morris and Robin Johnson, represents multinational insurance companies in complex coverage and bad faith litigation and advises insurers in reviewing and appropriately responding to time-limited settlement demands in high-risk personal injury matters.

Corporate Partner Michael Fulks was named an On the Rise in North Carolina honoree, reflecting Akerman's strategic growth and investment in regional leadership. Michael was recognized for his innovative corporate law practice, leadership in high-impact transactions, and deep commitment to the legal profession and his community through board service and teaching.

Real Estate Associate Mirabella Nwaka, a rising star in Akerman's ranks, was honored as Most Promising Newcomer. Known for her commitment to justice and client advocacy, *Daily Report* acknowledged that Mirabella embodies the future of the legal profession through her empathy, ownership, and drive to make a difference.

The Southeastern Legal Awards ceremony was held on May 1, 2025, at The Whitley in Atlanta, where Akerman and its distinguished attorneys were celebrated alongside the region's top legal professionals.

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