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Akerman Partner Jim Grice Examines Florida's Coming Data Center Surge

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In the *Law360* article “Examining Why Florida Has Not Joined Data Center Boom,” [Jim Grice](#), Data Centers and Digital Infrastructure Practice Chair, explains why Florida has lagged behind other states in hyperscale data center development — but emphasizes that it’s only a matter of time before the market takes off. He notes that while Florida has a strong population base, competitive energy rates, and major undersea fiber-optic hubs, factors such as hurricane risk, evolving regulations, and limited tax incentives have slowed large-scale investment. However, Jim believes Florida’s infrastructure and growing AI-driven computing needs will soon change that trajectory, predicting that future data center growth tied to AI “inference” computing will require facilities closer to large population centers like those in Florida. As he puts it, “It just takes one announcement, and then there will be five.”

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