

People



Michael B. Chavies

Partner, Litigation

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vCard

Michael Chavies is one of the most prolific and recognized trial lawyers in South Florida, having been lead counsel on and presided as a judge over hundreds of bench and jury trials. His 13 years on the civil bench has uniquely positioned him to try cases in nearly every courtroom, State and Federal, in Florida.

Recognized by *Law360* in its “Minority Powerbroker” series for his leadership and influence in the legal community, Michael focuses on mentorship and professional development programs aimed at helping minorities advance their legal careers. To that end, he serves on Akerman’s Diversity & Inclusion Committee, where he assists in the recruitment and development of new lawyers.

In the community, Michael serves as president and chair of the Orange Bowl Committee Board of Directors, and served as a board member for Jobs for Miami.

Notable Work

National Retailer: Represented a national retailer in a multi-million dollar case involving the ownership of monitoring wells that were installed on the defendant’s property as part of the retailer’s due diligence.

Private Country Club: Represented a private club in a case involving two special assessments levied against the Club.

International Developer: Represented an international developer in a lawsuit in which the Plaintiff alleged a series of claims aimed at attempting to block the closing of a \$16.5 million sale of a co-op building located in Bay Harbor Islands.

National Retailer: Represented a national retailer in the dismissal of a highly-publicized putative nationwide class action alleging negligence and breach of warranty.

Areas of Experience

Litigation
Akerman Bench
Appellate
White Collar Crime and Government Investigations

Education

J.D., Rutgers University School of Law, 1974
B.A., Rutgers University, 1971

Admissions

Bars

Florida

Courts

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Related Content

Benchmark Litigation Recognizes 34 Akerman Lawyers in its 2025 Rankings of the Leading Litigators in the United States
October 17, 2024

34 Akerman Lawyers Recognized in Benchmark Litigation
October 03, 2023

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

Insurance: Represented an international insurance company in the defense of a jury trial to recoup stolen insurance premiums.

Auto: Represented a major auto dealership and won summary judgment in a breach of contract case.

National Insurance Company: Represented a national insurance company in the defense of a bad faith claim.

Media: Represent an international media company in general media litigation.

Media: Represent an international media company in a trademark infringement action.

Real Estate: Represent a major real estate company in a trademark infringement action.

Investment Company: Represent an international investment company in a breach of contract/civil theft matter.

Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Member
- National Bar Association, Member
- Appellate Rules Committee, Member
- Ad Hoc Lawyer Regulation Committee, Member
- Judicial Independence Committee, Member
- Orange Bowl Committee, Board of Directors, President and Chair
- Jobs for Miami Program, Board Member
- Alzheimer's Association, Past Board Member
- Coconut Grove Bank, Board of Directors
- The Bankers Club, Board of Directors

Honors and Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers*, 2009-2011, 2013-2025, Listed in Florida for Commercial Litigation
- *Benchmark Litigation* 2018-2022, 2025, Listed in Florida as a "Local Litigation Star" for Appellate, General Commercial, and White Collar Crime
- *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite 2015-2017, Listed for Commercial Litigation
- ICABA Award 2009, Recognized as one of "South Florida's 100 Most Accomplished Black's in Law"
- The Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization & Education 2005, Justice Harry Lee Anstead Award/Florida Bar Board Certified Lawyer of the Year
- Top Attorneys In Florida Award