

In The News

Akerman's Grasford Smith Receives 2026 President's Award from the National Bar Association

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Litigation Partner and firm board member Grasford Smith has received the 2026 President's Award from the National Bar Association (NBA), honoring exceptional service and leadership in advancing the organization's mission and the broader legal profession. The honor marks the third time Grasford has received the award, having previously been recognized in 2022 and 2025.

As the NBA's Vice President of Finance, Grasford directs the financial strategy of an organization representing nearly 70,000 attorneys and judges nationwide. He also serves on The Florida Bar's Board of Governors as Communications Chair and Executive Committee member and on the FSU College of Business Executive Committee.

A nationally recognized litigator, Grasford represents Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, athletic leagues, technology companies, and government officials, in addition to small and medium-sized businesses, in complex commercial disputes and strategic business matters. He has secured multimillion-dollar settlements and victories across industries in matters involving corporate governance, government enforcement actions, trade secrets, restrictive covenants, real estate disputes, construction defects, franchise matters, product liability, intellectual property, and

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eminent domain. He is also certified by the Supreme Court of Florida as a circuit civil mediator.

Grasford has earned repeated recognition across the legal profession, including *Lawdragon's* "500 Leading Lawyers in America," *Best Lawyers* for commercial litigation, and *Super Lawyers* Magazine for business litigation. The award joins recent honors from The Florida Bar, including the President's Award of Merit for his leadership as vice chair of the inaugural Corporate Counsel Committee and the Young Lawyers Division's Cynthia Henry Duval Outreach Award for his commitment to expanding access and opportunity for the next generation of lawyers.