

Press Release

Akerman Receives Top Honors from *Benchmark Litigation*

December 5, 2013

Akerman LLP, a leading law firm serving clients across the Americas, today announced that its Litigation Practice Group has once again received the “highly recommended” ranking from *Benchmark Litigation* in the Local Litigation Firms – Florida category. Akerman also again received the “recommended” ranking in the Local Litigation Firms – Virginia category. Individually, six Akerman litigators were recognized as “local litigation stars” by the publication, which identifies leading U.S. trial lawyers and firms.

Six Akerman lawyers were named local litigation stars in the General Commercial category, including Katherine Giddings, partner in Akerman’s Tallahassee office; William Heller, chair of the firm’s Consumer Finance Litigation & Compliance Practice Group in the firm’s Fort Lauderdale office; Stephen Hurlbut, partner in the firm’s Tysons Corners, Va. office; Michael Marsh, partner in the firm’s Miami office; Brian Miller, chair of Akerman’s Securities Litigation Practice in the Miami office; and James Miller, chair of Akerman’s Litigation Practice Group in the Miami office. Heller, Marsh, and Miller also received the honor in the Securities category; Giddings in the Appellate category; and Hurlbut in the Construction category.

Earlier this year, Akerman was recognized as Florida Litigation Law Firm of the Year at the *Benchmark*

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William P. Heller
Stephen B. Hurlbut
Michael C. Marsh

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Litigation Annual Awards, and Giddings was one of three appellate practitioners in Florida to be named in *Benchmark's* Top 250 Women in Litigation in the U.S.

Focused exclusively on the U.S. litigation and appellate markets, the rankings and editorials of *Benchmark Litigation* are the result of annual independent research that involves extensive interviews with private practice lawyers and in-house counsel. The guide's "local litigation stars," reflect lawyers who are recommended by peers and clients to have established consistent reputations as trial lawyers.

The Akerman Litigation Practice Group is recognized nationally by *U.S. News - Best Lawyers* in the Commercial Litigation category and as a national tier one law firm for International Arbitration. The team has vast experience in a wide range of civil and criminal litigation, including actions involving banking, securities, healthcare, insurance, real estate and construction.

About Akerman LLP

Akerman LLP is a leading transactions and trial law firm known for its core strengths in middle market M&A, within the financial services and real estate industries, and for a diverse Latin America practice. With more than 550 lawyers and government affairs professionals and a network of 19 offices, it is ranked among the top 100 law firms in the United States by *The National Law Journal* NLJ 350 (2013). Akerman also is ranked among the top 100 law firms for diversity by *MultiCultural Law* magazine (2012) and recognized as the Law Firm of the Year for Diversity – South by *Benchmark Litigation* (2012). More information can be found at akerman.com or twitter.com/akerman_law.