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In The News

Akerman's Neisen O. Kasdin Honored as a 2026 Legal Legend by the Miami Beach Bar Association

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Akerman Miami Office Co-Managing Partner Neisen O. Kasdin has been named a 2026 Legal Legend by the Miami Beach Bar Association. The recognition honors Neisen's decades of service to the legal profession and the community. He received the award at the association's Legal Legends Awards and Reception on November 17.

A partner in the firm's Real Estate Practice Group, Neisen is a Miami Beach native, a former mayor of the city, and a leader in the revitalization of South Beach. He served as a city commissioner and chaired the Community Development Corporation of South Beach. His work includes creating the Faena District, an approximately $1 billion, three-block, mixed-use oceanfront development, and working on Aman Miami Beach, Casa Cipriani, Ocean Terrace, the Delano, and the Shore Club. He has also received the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce's Distinguished Service Award and the Miami Design Preservation League's Chairman's Award.

Neisen's civic leadership extends beyond Miami Beach to downtown Miami, where, as vice chair of the board of directors of the Miami Downtown Development Authority, he led the creation of the Downtown Master Plan. He brings that leadership to his work on urban revitalization and complex, large-scale, multi-use developments. Many of his clients'

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projects, from the Faena District, Brickell City Centre, Miami's Design District and Citadel's Global Headquarters, have helped transform the city's urban spaces with a blend of hotel, retail, office, and residential properties. He is recognized by *Chambers USA* and *The Legal 500* as a leading land use and zoning lawyer in Florida.

Neisen is also a member of the Miami-Dade County Bar Association and The Florida Bar, and he has chaired the Beacon Council and the Urban Land Institute's Southeast Florida/Caribbean District Council. As past chairman of the New World Symphony's board of trustees, he contributed to the development of the New World Center and SoundScape Park.

Neisen has been honored with the Miami-Dade Bar Association's Circle of Excellence Award and with lifetime achievement awards from the *Daily Business Review* and ULI. He was recently named to *Florida Trend*'s Florida 500, listed among *The Real Deal*'s TRD 100: Real Estate Titans of the Year in South Florida, and recognized as a Power Leader in Professional Services by the *South Florida Business Journal*.

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