

Press Release

Akerman Selected Among *Financial Times*' Most Innovative Law Firms in North America for Fifth Consecutive Year

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Akerman LLP, a top 100 U.S. law firm serving clients across the Americas, has been selected as one of the nation's most innovative law firms by the *Financial Times* for the fifth consecutive year.

Akerman ranked among the top law firms in the Litigation and Disputes category, recognized for its work in the landmark *Florigrown* case. Led by Ari Gerstin, Katherine Giddings, and Jonathan Robbins, who serves as chair of the firm's Cannabis Practice, the team argued for the unconstitutionality of new Florida legislation that limited a company's ability to apply for a medical marijuana license. The court confirmed a conflict with the state constitution and upheld the ruling in July 2019.

Akerman's series of distinctions as one of *Financial Times*' most innovative law firms began in 2015, when it was selected as one of the country's most forward-thinking firms in the Business of Law category and in the Social Responsibility – Projects category for creating an unprecedented philanthropic partnership with the National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association. In 2016, *Financial Times* recognized Akerman's experience in U.S.-Cuba policy and its efforts leading a historic tax victory on behalf of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, earning the firm distinction among the top five firms in the Regulatory Work for Clients

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category. The following year, the firm's leading work in U.S.-Cuba policy was once again ranked, earning recognition among the top seven law firms in the Driving Value category. In 2018, Akerman was "Highly Recommended" in the category Legal Expertise – Creating a New Standard for its role in several urban development projects relating to Chicago's Lakeshore East.

The annual Innovative Lawyers report was developed by the *Financial Times* in partnership with RSG Consulting. Each year the team conducts an investigation on the challenges that businesses face and how lawyers have innovated to help their clients solve them. Firms are selected following extensive independent research and direct client feedback.

About Akerman

Akerman LLP is a top 100 U.S. law firm recognized among the most forward-thinking firms in the industry by *Financial Times*. Its more than 700 lawyers and business professionals collaborate with the world's most successful enterprises and entrepreneurs to navigate change, seize opportunities, and help drive innovation and growth. Akerman is known for its results in middle market M&A and complex disputes, and for helping clients achieve their most important business objectives in the financial services, real estate and other dynamic sectors across the United States and Latin America.