

People



John L. Dicks, II

Partner, Litigation

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vCard

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John Dicks has a robust and diverse practice, in litigation, land use, and bankruptcy. As a litigator, John has experience in a wide variety of cases, but focuses primarily on business litigation and legal malpractice defense. Other litigation experience includes fraudulent transfers, D&O claims, real estate disputes, landlord/tenant disputes, probate disputes, judgment collection, employment, and banking disputes. He also has significant appellate experience. In the bankruptcy and assignment arenas, John has represented each of the players (debtors, creditors, assignees, etc.), but typically represents creditors or court-appointed fiduciaries, and thrives on litigation matters that are related to reorganization or liquidation proceedings. As a zoning and land use lawyer, John has experience representing both applicants and objectors, in all manner of public hearings – including procurement, land use, zoning, and code enforcement.

Notable Work

Legal Malpractice: Defended high-stakes, protracted, Arch-style contractual subrogation claim brought by medical malpractice insurance carrier against appointed defense counsel.

Legal Malpractice: Obtained involuntary dismissal of complaint brought by personal representative’s former attorneys, against the current attorneys, in a dispute over fees allegedly owed by probate estate.

Legal Malpractice: Defended a board-certified tax lawyer at an Am Law 50 firm. After a two-week jury trial where the plaintiff was seeking over \$25 million, John and his team secured a complete defense verdict.

Legal Malpractice: Represented immigration lawyer at an Am Law 200 firm in disciplinary proceedings before The Florida Bar, which resulted in dismissal of the complaint.

Areas of Experience

- Litigation
- Bankruptcy and Reorganization
- Commercial Disputes
- Chapter 11 Business Debtors
- Preference and Fraudulent Transfer Litigation
- Real Estate Litigation
- Financial Services
- Land Use and Development
- Government Contracts
- Professional Liability
- Distressed Property
- Sports and Entertainment Law

Education

- J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law, 2010
- M.B.A., University of Florida, 2010
- B.A., University of Florida, Economics, 2006, with honors, Florida Blue Key

Admissions

Bars

Florida

Courts

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

Related Content

Akerman Sponsors the ABA Spring 2025 National Legal Malpractice Conference
April 02, 2025

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

Government Litigation - Bid Protest and Appeal: Represented a national company in protesting a city's RFP procurement decision and then successfully appealed the denial of the protest, resulting in the RFP being rebid.

Government Litigation - Temporary Injunction: Represented a small business in obtaining a temporary injunction against a quasi-governmental entity and its subcontractor, and later successfully defending the injunction on appeal.

Bankruptcy / Creditors' Rights - Competing Creditors' Plans: Represented a creditor in four jointly-administered Chapter 11 cases. Successfully confirmed plans of liquidation, over the debtors' objections, resulting in the orderly liquidation of 145 acres of land and 25 single-family homes, and the administration of eight related state court lawsuits and two related adversary proceedings. Also prevailed in defending numerous appeals at the District Court, and one at the Eleventh Circuit, resulting in affirmance or dismissal in favor of his client.

Bankruptcy / Creditors' Rights - 100% Recovery: Represented a creditor in jointly-administered Chapter 11 case. Successfully forced the expedited auction of approximately 500 acres of crop-producing agricultural land through aggressive motion practice including the threat of filing a creditors' plan of liquidation. Sale resulted in 100 percent recovery for client's claim.

Bankruptcy / Creditors' Rights - Charging Order: After Ohio Judgment Debtor moved to Florida, successfully obtained charging order against Judgment Debtor's membership interests in Ohio limited liability company, and had those interests sold at a foreclosure sale.

Published Work and Lectures

- American Bar Association, Spring 2025 National Legal Malpractice Conference, Speaker, "Can This Witness Be Saved? How to Deal With Problematic Lawyer Clients As Witnesses," April 2, 2025
- Florida-Israel Agriculture Innovation Summit, Speaker, "Welcome and Introductions + Overview of Florida and Israeli Agriculture Industries," November 16, 2020
- *The Cramdown*, Co-Author, "Supreme Court Clarifies Procedure for Deciding *Stern* Claims in Bankruptcy Courts, But Leaves Big Questions Unresolved," 2014

Affiliations

- Florida Supreme Court, Certified Circuit Mediator
- Hillsborough County Bar Association, Member
- American Bar Association, Member
- Ferguson-White Inn of Court, Member
- Board of Governors for the Florida Bar's Young Lawyers Division, Member
- University of Florida College of Law, Board of Trustees, 2022

Honors and Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers*, 2023-2025, Listed in Florida for Commercial Litigation, Litigation - Bankruptcy, Litigation - Trusts and Estates, Litigation - Banking and Finance

- *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2023-2024, Listed in Florida for Business Litigation
- *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2017-2021, Listed in Florida as a “Rising Star” for General Litigation
- Attorney Intel, Listed as One on the “The Top 50 Attorneys of Tampa,” 2023
- The University of Florida Alumni Association, “40 Gators Under 40” Honoree, 2022
- *Benchmark Litigation*, 2022-2025, Named to the “40 & Under” List
- *Benchmark Litigation*, 2021-2024, Listed in Florida as a “Future Star” for Bankruptcy, Commercial, Real Estate, Banking and Financial Services
- *Florida Trend’s Legal Elite*, 2019, 2022, Listed as an “Up and Comer” for Bankruptcy and Workout