

People



Lawrence P. Rochefort

Chair, Litigation Practice Group

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Larry Rochefort is the chair of Akerman’s Litigation Practice Group, a leading team of trial lawyers advising companies in complex litigation and arbitration across the United States and Latin America. Larry is recognized for Bet-the-Company Litigation by *Best Lawyers* and as a “Litigation Star” by *Benchmark Litigation*.

He represents financial institutions, developers, owners, contractors, insurers, and retailers in real estate, lending, and other disputes. He is particularly adept at working with financial institutions, whether defending against lender liability claims or handling complex litigation, including lender liability defense, class action defense, Fair Credit Reporting Act litigation, replevins, judgment collection matters, proceedings supplementary, Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) litigation, breach of trust and breach of fiduciary duty litigation.

Client relationships include TD Bank, Wells Fargo, PNC, United Community Bank, Fifth Third Bank, SouthState Bank, Comerica, Santander Bank, Sun Life Financial, Publix Super Markets, and Home Dynamics Corporation.

Notable Work

Financial Institution: Represented a global financial institution in a high stakes lender liability lawsuit filed by two borrowers and their principal. The plaintiffs asserted claims for fraud in the inducement and fraudulent misrepresentation. Established that no actionable fraud had been committed and successfully obtained a final summary judgment.

Real Estate Litigation: Represented clients in real estate litigation involving golf courses, shopping centers, hotels, office buildings, agricultural land, residential and business condominium projects, apartment complexes, and residential developments.

Leasing/Land Use Litigation: Represented lessors and owners in various real estate litigation matters concerning leased or owned

Areas of Experience

Real Estate Litigation
 Litigation
 Commercial Disputes
 Commercial Loan Enforcement and Secured Financing Litigation
 Class Action Defense
 Distressed Property
 Financial Institutions Commercial Litigation
 Financial Services
 Distressed and Special Assets
 Sports and Entertainment Law

Education

J.D., University of Miami School of Law, 1988, Order of the Coif
 B.A., Florida Atlantic University, 1985, with high honors

Admissions

Bars

Florida

Courts

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
 U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
 U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Related Content

Akerman Expands Premier Litigation Practice With Top Professional Liability Lawyer David Keller and Elite Team
 February 18, 2025

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

property.

Consumer Class Action: Represented two deferred presentment providers against consumer class actions, securing the enforcement of arbitration provisions in contracts for certain subclasses.

Real Estate: Represented a developer at trial in a claim brought by a homeowner concerning use of an onsite sales office.

Peninsula Bank: Represented bank in multimillion dollar lender liability case.

Publix Supermarkets, Inc.: Represented client in various business disputes.

EE&G: Represented client in numerous lien foreclosures for work arising out of 2004 hurricane season.

Regions Bank: Represented client in secured property litigation.

Wachovia Bank and Wells Fargo: Represented client in large commercial foreclosures and workouts.

Home Dynamics Corporation: Represented client in many contract disputes, including contract and mortgage disputes, and ILSA claims.

Sovereign Bank: Represented client in foreclosure of income producing commercial property and in lender liability claims.

Fifth Third Bank: Represented client in numerous contested commercial foreclosures and lender liability claims.

TD Bank: Represented client in numerous foreclosures and collection actions and lender liability claims.

Sun Life Assurance Company: Represented client in commercial property foreclosures involving receivership issues.

Bass Pro Outdoor World: Represented client in landlord tenant matter.

Tommy Bahama West Palm: Represented client in leasehold dispute.

Restrictive Covenant: Represented numerous property owners in restrictive covenant cases.

Landlord/Tenant: Represented numerous property owners in landlord tenant disputes.

Foreclosure and Receivership Litigation: Represented clients in litigating mortgage foreclosures and accompanying receiverships in a variety of state courts throughout Florida.

Foreclosure and Receivership Litigation: Represented clients in CMBS foreclosures and receiverships, some including bad boy guaranty claims, and works with special servicers in such foreclosures.

Foreclosure and Receivership Litigation: Represented clients in a variety of distressed loan purchases and sales, foreclosure judgment purchases and sales, and foreclosure bid assignments.

Workouts and Restructuring: Represented numerous financial institutions in the negotiation and enforcement of workouts, forbearance agreements, soft notes, and short sales.

Published Work and Lectures

- *Law360*, Quoted, “Florida Litigation To Watch In 2020,” January 1, 2020
- *Litigation Management in a New York Minute*, Speaker, “Ethics: Business Ethics vs. Legal Ethics,” August 5, 2016
- *Aspatore (Thomson Reuters)*, Co-Author, “Real Estate Litigation Strategies: Leading Lawyers on Navigating the Discovery Process, Building a Case, and Responding to Current Developments (Inside the Minds),” 2012
- 17 *National Law Journal*, B5, No. 32, Co-Author, “Fear of Aids Lawsuits”
- 4 *University of Miami Entertainment and Sports Law Review*, 257, No. 2, Author, “A Course of Action for Florida Courts to Follow When Injured Sports Participants Assert Causes of Action”
- 12 *The Banking Law Journal*, 534, No. 6, Consultant, “Government Forfeiture of Collateral: Mortgages and the Innocent Lien Holder Defense”

Affiliations

- American Bar Foundation, Fellow
- Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Board of Directors and Vice President
- American Nystagmus Network, Board of Directors

Honors and Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers*, 2010-2025, Listed for Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Banking and Finance, Litigation – Real Estate, Bet-the-Company Litigation
- *Best Lawyers*, 2023, Listed as “Lawyer of the Year” for Bet-the-Company Litigation in West Palm Beach
- *Benchmark Litigation*, 2014-2025, Listed in Florida as a “Local Litigation Star” for General Commercial
- *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2012-2024, Listed in Florida for Business Litigation, 2012-2014, Listed in Florida for Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights
- University of Miami School of Law, Law Alumni Achievement Award, 2015
- Board Certified in Business Litigation, The Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education