

## Press Release

# Record Number of Akerman Lawyers Across the United States Named to *The Best Lawyers in America* 2021 Guide

August 24, 2020

1:00 AM UTC

## Firm Lawyers Ranked in a Record Number of Practice Areas

Akerman LLP, a top 100 U.S. law firm serving clients across the Americas, today announced that 246 lawyers across the United States have been named to *The Best Lawyers in America* 2021 list in 81 areas of law, including 59 lawyers named as “Ones to Watch.” Additionally, Best Lawyers named 15 Akerman Partners to the 2021 Lawyer of the Year list, an honor given to only one lawyer per practice area in every major market in the United States.

Among the Best Lawyers of the Year honorees are David Ackerman for Bet-the-Company Litigation (West Palm Beach), Jonathan Awner for International Mergers and Acquisitions (Miami), Cecelia Bonifay for Land Use and Zoning Law (Orlando), Gerald Cope, Jr. for Appellate Practice (Miami), David Doney for Securities Regulation (Tampa), Christopher Duke for Litigation – Labor and Employment (West Palm Beach), Michael Goldberg for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law (Fort Lauderdale), Teddy Klinghoffer for Corporate Governance (Miami), John Macdonald for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law (Jacksonville), Brett Marks

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## Related Work

Appellate  
Bankruptcy and Reorganization  
Capital Markets  
Construction  
Copyrights  
Corporate  
Corporate Finance and Lending  
Corporate Governance  
Employee Benefits and ERISA Litigation  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Environmental Litigation  
Financial Institutions  
Commercial Litigation  
Financial Services  
Franchise and Licensing  
Government Contracts  
Healthcare  
Hospitality  
Immigration Planning and Compliance  
Insurance Litigation  
Intellectual Property  
International  
International Trade and Customs  
Labor and Employment

for Litigation – Bankruptcy (Fort Lauderdale), Michael McMahon for Litigation – Land Use and Zoning (Orlando), Robyn Neely for Environmental Law (Orlando), David Otero for Litigation – Bankruptcy (Jacksonville), Paul Quinn for Mergers and Acquisitions Law (Fort Lauderdale), and Robert Smith for Construction Law (Madison).

The annual Best Lawyers list is based on peer review surveys in which more than 36,000 leading lawyers cast nearly 4.4 million votes on the legal abilities of other legal professionals in their practice areas.

### **Individual Lawyer Listings**

David P. Ackerman for Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Securities

Sergio E. Acosta for Commercial Litigation

Kenneth A. Agee for Corporate Law – “Ones to Watch”

Silvia M. Alderman for Environmental Law, Litigation – Environmental

Marcy Levine Aldrich for Insurance Law, Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants

Scott E. Allbright for Insurance Law, Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions

Evan F. Anderson for Financial Services Regulation Law – “Ones to Watch”

Jacqueline M. Arango for Litigation – Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy)

Yelena Archiyan for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law – “Ones to Watch”

William C. Arnholds for Banking and Finance Law, Corporate Law

Santiago Assalini for Corporate Law – “Ones to Watch”

Jonathan L. Awner for Corporate Governance Law, Corporate Law, International Mergers and Acquisitions, Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Securities/Capital Markets Law, Securities Regulation

Ian G. Bacheikov for Real Estate Law – “Ones to Watch”

Land Use and Development  
Litigation  
M&A and Private Equity  
Public Finance  
Real Estate  
Securities Litigation  
Tax  
Trusts and Estates  
White Collar Crime and Government Investigations

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### **Related Offices**

Atlanta  
Boca Raton  
Chicago  
Dallas  
Denver  
Fort Lauderdale  
Houston  
Jacksonville  
Los Angeles  
Miami  
Naples  
New York  
Orlando  
Tallahassee  
Tampa  
Washington, D.C.  
West Palm Beach  
Winston-Salem

Michael Bailkin for Land Use and Zoning Law  
Nathan N. Balint for Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Venture Capital Law  
Arturo H. Banegas Masiá for Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law  
Aleksas A. Barauskas for Commercial Litigation  
Rebecca A. Barrett for Labor and Employment – Management – “Ones to Watch”  
Colin L. Barnacle for Employment Law – Management  
Akivia Bassaragh for Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants – “Ones to Watch”  
Katalina Baumann for Financial Services Regulation Law – “Ones to Watch”  
Taylor Beaver for Commercial Litigation – “Ones to Watch”  
Martin D. Beirne for Commercial Litigation, Energy Law, Oil and Gas Law  
Stacy Bercun Bohm for Construction Law  
Eyal Berger for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Litigation – Bankruptcy  
Mark J. Bernet for Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), Litigation – Bankruptcy  
William J. Bernfeld for Real Estate Law  
Joshua D. Bernstein for Litigation – Real Estate  
Mark S. Bernstein for Commercial Litigation  
Raymond J. Berti for Labor and Employment – Management – “Ones to Watch”  
Joel D. Bertocchi for Appellate Practice, Criminal Defense: White-Collar  
Richard Bezold for Real Estate Law  
Jarrett D. Bingemann for Real Estate Law  
David F. Birke for Mergers and Acquisitions Law  
David C. Blum for Tax Law  
Cecelia Bonifay for Environmental Law, Land Use and Zoning Law, Real Estate Law  
Robert W. Bowser for Real Estate Law  
James S. Bramnick for Employment Law – Management, Labor Law – Management, Litigation – Labor and Employment  
Bryan T. Brown for Financial Services Regulation Law – “Ones to Watch”

Jacob A. Brown for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Bankruptcy, Litigation – Real Estate  
Sara Brubaker for Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Construction – “Ones to Watch”  
Karen M. Buesing for Employment Law – Management, Litigation – Labor and Employment  
Martin G. Burkett for Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law  
Paula S. Buzzi for Real Estate Law – “Ones to Watch”  
John P. Campo for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law  
Daniel Cardenal for Financial Services Regulation Law – “Ones to Watch”  
Hunter B. Carpenter for Mergers and Acquisitions Law – “Ones to Watch”  
Rebekah A. Carpenter for Financial Services Regulation Law – “Ones to Watch”  
Mary V. Carroll for International Mergers and Acquisitions, Mergers and Acquisitions Law  
Christopher S. Carver for Commercial Litigation  
Maria I. Casablanca for Immigration Law  
Ross J. Charap for Copyright Law, Entertainment Law – Music  
Robert I. Chaskes for Commercial Litigation  
Michael B. Chavies for Commercial Litigation  
Janis K. Cheezem for Real Estate Law  
Geoffrey C. Cheney for Corporate Law  
Patrick T. Christiansen for Banking and Finance Law  
Terron L. Clark for Commercial Litigation – “Ones to Watch”  
Dana Clayton for Litigation – Real Estate  
Jules S. Cohen for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Litigation – Bankruptcy  
Jamie K. Combs for Financial Services Regulation Law – “Ones to Watch”  
Gerald B. Cope, Jr. for Appellate Practice, Bet-the-Company Litigation  
Nancy A. Copperthwaite for Appellate Practice, Insurance Law  
Joe B. Cox for Trusts and Estates  
Peter L. Dame for Municipal Law, Public Finance

## Law

Aileen Davis for Banking and Finance Law, Real Estate Law

Riley Davis for Administrative/Regulatory Law

Kirk S. Davis for Health Care Law, Litigation – Health Care, Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants

Megan Costa DeVault for Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Banking and Finance

Martin R. Dix for FDA Law, Health Care Law

Amy G. Doehring for Commercial Litigation

Andrew J. Dominguez for Commercial Litigation – “Ones to Watch”

David M. Doney for Banking and Finance Law, Corporate Law, Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Securities/Capital Markets Law, Securities Regulation

Ana C. Dowell for Labor and Employment – Management – “Ones to Watch”

Donald K. Duffy for Tax Law

Christopher S. Duke for Employment Law – Management, Litigation – Labor and Employment

Christopher J. Eby for Labor and Employment – Management, Litigation – Labor and Employment – “Ones to Watch”

Ashlea A. Edwards for Labor and Employment – Management – “Ones to Watch”

William D. Ellis for Real Estate Law

Anna E. Els for Tax Law, Trusts and Estates – “Ones to Watch”

Eduardo S. Espinosa for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law

Mary Katherine Fackler for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Litigation – Bankruptcy

Daniel P. Faust for Real Estate Law

Alejandro J. Fernandez for Litigation – Intellectual Property, Litigation – Patent, Trade Secrets Law

Melissa Fernandez-Stiers for Real Estate Law – “Ones to Watch”

Angelica C. Fortney for Tax Law – “Ones to Watch”

Joseph E. (‘Ed’) Foster for Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Banking and Finance, Litigation –

Bankruptcy, Litigation – Real Estate, Mortgage  
Banking Foreclosure Law  
Jed Freeland for Corporate Law  
Dean M. Freitag for Commercial Finance Law  
Pedro A. Freyre for International Mergers and  
Acquisitions  
Irene Bassel Frick for Commercial Litigation  
Christine B. Gardner for Commercial Litigation –  
“Ones to Watch”  
Rex D. Garner for Financial Services Regulation Law  
– “Ones to Watch”  
Joanne Gelfand for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor  
Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law,  
Litigation – Bankruptcy  
Christian P. George for Banking and Finance Law,  
Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Banking and  
Finance  
John J. (‘Jack’) George for Litigation – Land Use and  
Zoning, Litigation – Real Estate, Real Estate Law  
Katherine E. Giddings for Appellate Practice  
Jeffrey G. Gilmore for Construction Law, Litigation –  
Construction  
Stephen C. Glazier for Litigation – Intellectual  
Property  
Andrew P. Gold for Commercial Litigation, Litigation  
– Real Estate  
Michael I. Goldberg for Bankruptcy and Creditor  
Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law,  
Bet-the-Company Litigation, Litigation – Bankruptcy  
Jonathan E. Gopman for Trusts and Estates  
Nate Goldfinger for Corporate Law – “Ones to Watch”  
Eric A. Gordon for Employment Law – Management,  
Litigation – Labor and Employment  
Darryl R. Graham for Commercial Litigation  
Haley C. Greenberg for Labor and Employment –  
Management – “Ones to Watch”  
Jamel A.R. Greer for Education Law – “Ones to  
Watch”  
Steven Grigas for Health Care Law, Litigation –  
Health Care  
Gary J. Guzzi for Insurance Law  
Marcy Hahn-Saperstein for Health Care Law  
Russell B. Hale for Tax Law  
Brian R. Harris for Litigation and Controversy – Tax,



Tax Law

Andrea S. Hartley for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Litigation – Bankruptcy

Steven E.M. Hartz for Commercial Litigation, Criminal Defense: White-Collar

Carolyn R. Haslam for Land Use and Zoning Law – “Ones to Watch”

Christy S. Hawkins for Commercial Litigation – “Ones to Watch”

Benjamin O. Hedrick for Construction Law – “Ones to Watch”

Ross A. Heft for Construction Law, Real Estate Law – “Ones to Watch”

Steven C. Hemric for Construction Law – “Ones to Watch”

William P. Heller for Financial Services Regulation Law

Xakema L. Henderson for Commercial Litigation – “Ones to Watch”

Tiffany D. Hendricks for Labor and Employment Law – Management – “Ones to Watch”

Elan Hersh for Commercial Litigation – “Ones to Watch”

Elizabeth F. Hodge for Health Care Law

Kathryn Bessmer Hoeck for Litigation – Real Estate

Elizabeth S. Horn for Commercial Litigation, Criminal Defense: White-Collar – “Ones to Watch”

Stephen B. Hurlbut for Construction Law, Litigation – Construction

Daniel Jacobson for Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Venture Capital Law

Patrick Johnson, Jr. for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Litigation – Bankruptcy

Leslie Joughin III for Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Banking and Finance, Litigation – Construction, Litigation – Intellectual Property

Neisen O. Kasdin for Land Use and Zoning Law

William K. Kim for Corporate Law – “Ones to Watch”

Donnie M. King for Commercial Litigation – “Ones to Watch”

Arlene K. Kline for Employment Law – Management  
Teddy Klinghoffer for Corporate Compliance Law,

Corporate Governance Law, Corporate Law,  
Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law, Mergers  
and Acquisitions Law, Private Funds/Hedge Funds  
Law, Venture Capital Law

Laurence S. Kurth for Commercial Litigation

Cindy A. Laquidara for Appellate Practice,  
Government Contracts, Government Relations  
Practice, Litigation – Environmental, Litigation –  
Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy)

Peter O. Larsen for Corporate Law, Litigation and  
Controversy – Tax, Securitization and Structured  
Finance Law, Tax Law

Robert A. Leapley Jr. for Real Estate Law

Richard G. Leland for Environmental Law, Litigation  
– Environmental

Joan M. Levit for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor  
Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law,  
Litigation – Bankruptcy

Warren L. Lewis for Franchise Law

Jason S. Lichtstein for Environmental Law

John B. Macdonald for Bankruptcy and Creditor  
Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law,  
Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Banking and  
Finance, Litigation – Bankruptcy, Litigation – Real  
Estate, Litigation – Trusts and Estates

Kristofer D. Machado for Real Estate Law – “Ones to  
Watch”

Caroline Mankey for Entertainment Law – Motion  
Pictures and Television

Brett Marks for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor  
Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law,  
Litigation – Bankruptcy

Scott D. Marrs for Commercial Litigation

Michael C. Marsh for Commercial Litigation

Erica V. Mason for Litigation – Labor and  
Employment

James M. McCann for Commercial Litigation,  
Litigation – Intellectual Property

Theresa M. McLaughlin for Real Estate Law

Michael P. McMahon for Commercial Litigation,  
Litigation – Land Use and Zoning, Litigation – Real  
Estate

James H. McNeil Jr. for Land Use and Zoning Law,  
Real Estate Law



Brad McPherson for Commercial Litigation  
Carlos E. Méndez-Peñate for International Trade and Finance Law  
Andres G. Mendoza for Real Estate Law  
Scott A. Meyers for Mediation  
Brian P. Miller for Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Securities  
Catherine A. Miller for Commercial Litigation  
Richard C. Milstein for Elder Law, Family Law, Litigation – Trusts and Estates, Trusts and Estates  
John E. Mitchell for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Litigation – Bankruptcy  
Michael L. Molinaro for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law  
Martin L. Monaco, Jr. for Health Care Law  
Esther L. Moreno for Corporate Law, Securities/Capital Markets Law  
Antonio Morin for Insurance Law  
John P. (‘Pete’) Morrison for Labor Law – Management  
Marilyn Mullen Healy for Land Use and Zoning Law, Real Estate Law  
John M. Neary for Construction Law – “Ones to Watch”  
Robyn D. Neely for Environmental Law  
Allison Nelson for Real Estate Law  
Dale Noll for Tax Law – “Ones to Watch”  
Shane O’Connell for Commercial Litigation – “Ones to Watch”  
Jason S. Oletsky for Commercial Litigation, Private Funds/Hedge Funds Law  
David Evan Otero for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Litigation – Bankruptcy, Litigation and Controversy – Tax, Securitization and Structured Finance Law  
Beppy Landrum Owen for Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law  
Rodrigo Palacios for Corporate Law – “Ones to Watch”  
David W. Parham for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law  
Mark D. Passler for Patent Law  
Thomas G. Pasternak for Litigation – Intellectual

Property, Patent Law

Luis A. Perez for International Arbitration – Commercial

Bruce D. Platt for Health Care Law

Kevin J. Platt for Tax Law – “Ones to Watch”

Marci K. Poliakoff for Tax Law

Steven P. Polivy for Real Estate Law

Robert M. Poppell for Real Estate Law

James J. Porter for Real Estate Law

Amy S. Price for Intellectual Property Law – “Ones to Watch”

Stacey Prince-Troutman for Trusts and Estates

Kathleen Prystowsky for Communications Law – “Ones to Watch”

Paul Quinn for Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law

Henry H. Raattama, Jr. for Non-Profit/Charities Law, Tax Law

Thomas L. Raleigh, III for International Mergers and Acquisitions

Thomas A. Range for Health Care Law

Eric D. Rapkin for Real Estate Law

Joseph L. Rebak for Commercial Litigation

Edward Ristaino for Mergers and Acquisitions Law

Andrew S. Robins for Leisure and Hospitality Law, Real Estate Law

Jackie M. Robinson for Intellectual Property Law – “Ones to Watch”

Lawrence P. Rochefort for Commercial Litigation, Litigation – Banking and Finance, Litigation – Real Estate

Stephen K. Roddenberry for Corporate Governance Law, Corporate Law, International Mergers and Acquisitions, Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law, Private Funds/Hedge Funds Law, Securities/Capital Markets Law

Francisco A. Rodriguez for Arbitration, International Arbitration – Commercial

Christopher P. Roper for Land Use and Zoning Law

David J. Rosen for Tax Law – “Ones to Watch”

Jessica Bober Rosenthal for Commercial Litigation – “Ones to Watch”

Arturo Ross for Employment Law – Individuals,

Employment Law – Management, Labor Law –  
Management

Scott W. Rostock for Litigation – Real Estate

Carl D. Roston for Corporate Law, International  
Mergers and Acquisitions, Mergers and Acquisitions  
Law, Securities/Capital Markets Law, Venture Capital  
Law

Janice L. Russell for Real Estate Law

Christina C. Russo for Corporate Law

Paul Rutigliano for Litigation – Labor and  
Employment – “Ones to Watch”

Peter E. Salomon for Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law

Jaclyn Scarinci for Land Use and Zoning Law –  
“Ones to Watch”

Philip Schwartz for Corporate Law

Bryan G. Scott for Construction Law, Litigation –  
Construction

Joseph Shaheen, Jr. for Commercial Litigation,  
Litigation – Banking and Finance, Litigation –  
Construction, Litigation – Real Estate

Owen J. Shean for Construction Law, Litigation –  
Construction

Lawrence D. Silverman for Antitrust Law, Bet-the-  
Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation,  
Litigation – Antitrust, Litigation – Banking and  
Finance

Scott T. Silverman for Employment Law –  
Management, Labor Law – Management, Litigation –  
Labor and Employment

Robert E. Slavkin for FDA Law

Grasford W. Smith for Commercial Litigation

Robert J. Smith for Construction Law

Andrew M. Smulian for Real Estate Law

William J. Spratt, Jr. for Health Care Law

Glen A. Stankee for Litigation and Controversy – Tax,  
Tax Law

Robert Stein for Banking and Finance Law – “Ones  
to Watch”

Matthew A. Steinberg for Employment Law –  
Management

Brian Tague for Real Estate Law

Jessica T. Travers for Employment Law –  
Management, Litigation – Labor and Employment

George W. (‘Trey’) Tate III for Construction Law

Stephen K. Tilbrook for Real Estate Law  
Corina Valderrama for Labor and Employment –  
Management – “Ones to Watch”  
George Volsky for International Arbitration –  
Commercial  
Scott Wasserman for Corporate Law, Leveraged  
Buyouts and Private Equity  
Elissa Weiss for Real Estate Law – “Ones to Watch”  
Sidney S. Welch for Health Care Law  
Bryan T. West for Commercial Litigation, Litigation –  
Securities  
Nina S. Whiston for Insurance Law  
Gary A. Whitlock for Banking and Finance Law,  
Commercial Finance Law, Commercial  
Transactions/UCC Law, Real Estate Law  
Jeffrey P. Wieland for Real Estate Law  
Kenneth R. Wiggins for Corporate Law  
Gerard Wimberly for Commercial Litigation  
Carrie Ann Wozniak for Appellate Practice  
Matthew F. Wymer for Litigation – Insurance  
Lilith V. Xara for Financial Services Regulation Law  
– “Ones to Watch”  
Sue Zabloudil for Real Estate Law  
Adam M. Zwecker for Real Estate Law

### **About Akerman LLP**

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.