

People



Ricky K. Patel

Of Counsel, Litigation

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vCard

Ricky Patel focuses his practice on a wide array of issues, including complex litigation in state and federal court, crisis management for high-profile clients, and mass torts. Ricky regularly works with hospitality industry clients and has been actively involved with the Asian American Hotel Owners’ Association (AAHOA) from early on in his career. He received the AAHOA Chairman’s Award for leadership and ongoing services in recognition of his representation of more than 3,500 corporate victims affected by a major environmental disaster about a decade ago. His clients affected by the event included municipalities, government agencies, and tourism businesses, particularly hotels. In addition, Ricky works on international class action litigation and arbitration. The St. Thomas University Benjamin L. Crump College of Law recently recognized Ricky as a “Legal Luminary” in the area of Class Action Litigation.

Ricky also has worked on several legislative projects at the state and federal levels, including getting bipartisan bills passed that benefited his clients. Ricky has served extensively as a public voice for his clients and causes, appearing on such broadcast outlets as CNN, Fox TV, NBC, ESPN, ABC, and in news outlets such as *60 Minutes*, *Good Morning America*, and *People* magazine.

His steadfast commitment to human rights inspired him to establish ITS4THEKIDS, a foundation that provides vital resources to orphanages and foster children across the United States and Haiti. He co-founded Gracious Hands Orphanage in Haiti, where he serves as guardian to 42 children, and launched Puerto Rico Relief to aid disaster recovery. Additionally, he serves as vice chairman of the board of advisors at his alma mater, St. Thomas University School of Law, previously chaired the Board of Trustees at Nicklaus Children’s Hospital in Miami, and contributes as a board member for Make-A-Wish Foundation South Florida.

Notable Work

Product Liability Class Action: Successfully settled an international class action for products liability against one of the largest

Areas of Experience

- Class Action Defense
- Hospitality
- International
- Litigation
- Product Liability and Mass Torts

Education

- J.D., St. Thomas University School of Law, 2009
- B.S./B.A., Florida State University, 2005

Admissions

Bars

- Florida
- District of Columbia

Courts

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Languages

- Gujarati

Related Content

- City of Miami Issues Official Proclamation Honoring Akerman Lawyer Ricky Patel’s Foundation, It’s 4 The Kids
December 02, 2025
- Akerman Supports the Gerard Basset Foundation and the Golden Vines Event
November 07, 2025
- Litigation Attorney Ricky Patel Appointed to Make-A-Wish Foundation® Southern Florida Board of Directors

Published Work and Lectures

- St. Thomas University Benjamin L. Crump College of Law, Commencement Speaker, September 14, 2024
- St. Thomas University Benjamin L. Crump College of Law, Speaker, “Big Law Unveiled” Q&A Session, January 25, 2024
- Akerman’s Franchise Business Network Global Summer Summit, Speaker, “Protect, Promote and Evolve the Brand,” July 19, 2023
- National Trial Lawyers Summit, Speaker, “The Importance of Giving Back to Communities,” 2023
- Win the Storm Conference and Expo, Speaker, “Adjusting Puerto Rico Claims: Municipal and Commercial Claims,” 2018
- AAHOA Hotel Conference, Speaker, “How to Comply with ADA Regulations,” 2014
- AAHOA Hotel Conference, Speaker, “Visa Waiver Programs Impact on Tourism,” 2013
- AAHOA Hotel Conference, Speaker, “Fair Franchising for Hotels and Motels,” 2012
- AAHOA Hotel Conference, Speaker, “Creation of Asset Protection for the Next Generation of Hoteliers,” 2011

Affiliations

- Nicklaus Children’s Hospital Foundation, Past Chairman; Current Board Member
- ITS4THEKIDS, Foundation, Founder & Chairman
- St Thomas University, School of Law, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees
- Miami Children’s Hospital Young Ambassadors, Co-Chair
- Gracious Hands Haiti Orphanage, President
- STU Law Young Alumni, Co-Founder, 2009

Honors and Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers*, 2026, Listed in Florida for Leisure and Hospitality Law
- APABA, 2025, Trailblazer Award
- St. Thomas University Benjamin L. Crump College of Law, 2024, Recognized as a Legal Luminary for Class Action Litigation
- St. Thomas University Benjamin L. Crump College of Law, Honorary Doctorate Degree, 2024
- ITS4THEKIDS, Honored with the Forestdale 2023 Children’s Champion Award
- STU Law School, Martin Luther King Award, 2021
- Little Lighthouse Foundation, “Philanthropist of the Year,” 2018
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, Listed as a “Rising Star” in Florida for Class Action & Mass Torts, 2016-2017
- U.S. Patent Recipient, Creation of Intelligent Smoke Detector System, 2017
- The National Trial Lawyers, Top 100 Trial Lawyers, 2014
- *South Florida Business Journal*, Recognized as “40 Under 40,” 2013
- Brioni & Neiman Marcus Man of the Year, 2013
- AAHOA Chairman’s Award for Leadership and Ongoing Services, Recipient, 2012

- Honors Thesis on Genocide Prevention, 2006