Alan S. Wachs

Partner | Jacksonville

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Areas of Practice

Complex Commercial and Corporate Litigation | Insurance Litigation | Intellectual Property Litigation | Trade Secret Litigation | Trial and Appellate Litigation | Mediation | Arbitration | Appellate Practice

Alan S. Wachs is a Partner in the Litigation Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP.

Mr. Wachs focuses on commercial litigation with an emphasis on complex contract disputes, trade secret disputes, intellectual property litigation, covenant not to compete litigation, partnership and shareholder disputes, and commercial products liability litigation. He additionally practices in insurance coverage litigation, including litigating bad faith claims, reinsurance disputes, and agent/broker malfeasance claims.

Mr. Wachs received his J.D. from The Florida State University College of Law in 1993 with High Honors, where he served as an Associate Editor, an Articles Editor, and Chair of the Business Committee of the Florida State University, Law Review. He also obtained Book Awards in law school in State and Local Taxation, Unfair Competition, Florida Civil Practice, and Creditor's Rights. He earned his B.A., *magna cum laude*, from the University of North Florida in 1990.

For more than 20 years, Mr. Wachs has held the highest rating (AV) from *Martindale-Hubbell*, a national attorney rating service. *Florida Trend* magazine has on numerous occasions named him among one of Florida's "Legal Elite" in commercial litigation. Mr. Wachs has been named to Florida's Super Lawyers list for many years and has been selected to *The Best Lawyers in America* list for the last several years. In the 2022 edition of *Best Lawyers*, he was named the "Lawyer of the Year" in Insurance Litigation in Jacksonville.

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Mr. Wachs is the former Chair of The Florida Bar Grievance Committee "B" for the Fourth Judicial Circuit. He is also an emeritus member and former active member of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, the licensing arm of the Supreme Court of Florida. Mr. Wachs is also a Supreme Court of Florida Certified Circuit Court Civil Mediator, a Certified Mediator with the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, and an approved Arbitrator for FINRA.

Mr. Wachs continues to perform community service for not-for-profit entities, including serving as the Corporate Secretary and Board Member of Feeding Northeast Florida and previously serving as Vice Chair of the Board of Jax Metro Credit Union.

Mr. Wachs has been a frequent lecturer for Florida Bar approved continuing legal education courses, including lectures on "Using Depositions at Trial," "Commercial and Residential Landlord Tenant Litigation," and "Bad Faith Litigation." He authored Chapter 22, "Declaratory Judgments" in The Florida Bar's Civil Practice Before Trial manual (7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th, 13th and 14th editions), and wrote "The Emerging Trend Against Arbitration of Commercial Disputes: Pros and Cons of Including Arbitration Provisions in Commercial Contracts" published in the ACC-North Florida Chapter Newsletter Q1 2014. Mr. Wachs previously taught Insurance Law as an adjunct professor at the Florida Coastal School of Law.

Admissions

Florida

United States Supreme Court

United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

United States Court of Federal Claims

United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida

United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida

United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida

Memberships

Chair of the Florida Bar Grievance Committee "B" of the Fourth Judicial Circuit (January 2020 – January 2023)

The Florida Bar, 1993

The Florida Board of Bar Examiners, Emeritus member (2011 – Present); active member (2008 – 2011)

Feeding Northeast Florida, Board of Directors