



Shutts & Bowen LLP

Southeast Renewable Energy 2025

Shutts

About Shutts & Bowen LLP

Shutts & Bowen LLP is a full-service law firm with a long-established history, a commitment to excellent service for our clients and community, and a focus on diversity in the workplace. For more than 100 years, Shutts has been opening doors to our clients across the state and the world with sophisticated, cutting-edge legal skills from Florida's top legal talent.

Our firm employs approximately 280 attorneys who focus on more than [30 distinct practice areas](#), including energy, litigation, appellate, government, real estate, international litigation and arbitration, intellectual property, financial services, corporate, labor and employment, insurance and taxation. At Shutts, we are committed to offering sophisticated legal services efficiently and responsively. We work tirelessly with businesses and individual clients, as well as with referring national and international law firms and companies. We always strive to provide the highest degree of professionalism and passion for our work.

Shutts & Bowen's attorneys work in an environment where people are recognized for their value as individuals, giving them the autonomy and freedom to best serve their clients.

- [Approximately 280 Attorneys](#)
- [Am Law 200 Law Firm](#)
- [30+ Practice Areas](#)
- [115 Years](#)
- [8 Offices](#)



Because of our stake in the past, we have become the law firm of the future and take great pride in our long history of commitment to serving our clients' needs effectively, creatively and efficiently.

With approximately 280 attorneys, eight strategically-located offices and more than a century of experience, Shutts & Bowen has the capabilities and resources to represent its clients' needs across a myriad of industries - wherever their businesses may take them.

Providing sophisticated legal services locally, nationally and across the globe.



Recognitions & Awards

Among our renowned pool of legal talent are attorneys who have achieved the highest levels of recognition, honors and certification in their fields. Below is a list of some of our most recent achievements:

- The AmLaw 200
- Chambers & Partners, Chambers USA: America's Leading Business Lawyers
- The National Law Journal 500
- The Best Lawyers in America®
- Florida Trend Legal Elite
- Florida Super Lawyers & Rising Stars
- U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers

One of Florida's Oldest and Largest Statewide Law Firms

Shutts attorneys have deep connections in various branches of state and local government, as well as high-level contacts and relationships with civic, business, philanthropic, educational and social institutions. Additionally, our Tallahassee attorneys maintain key relationships with lawmakers and agencies, securing a critical position to advocate to the fullest for clients.





Experience

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ENERGY

The energy industry is a constantly evolving field that is influenced by both government regulations and competitive market forces. As counsel representatives for electrical power generation companies, service agents, oil companies, and service stations, we assist clients at all levels of their business to minimize disruption and maximize opportunities. Our firm offers Florida Bar Board Certified expertise in City, County, and Local Government Law, Construction Law, Business Litigation, Real Estate, Land Use & Zoning, International Litigation and Arbitration, Labor and Employment, Appellate Law, and other related disciplines relevant to energy disputes. This ensures that we are uniquely positioned to advise and represent clients in complex matters at the intersection of public regulation, infrastructure development, and international dispute resolution, particularly concerning energy sector issues, including:

Corporate and Commercial Expertise

- Advising on corporate structuring, governance, and compliance specific to the power generation sector.
- Drafting, negotiating, and finalizing Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), joint ventures, government-related contracts, and other agreements.
- Substantial experience in real estate, including eminent domain. In this area, we have represented major power generation companies and service station owners in condemnation proceedings.
- Advice with respect to environmental and land use issues specific to the energy industry.

Litigation and Arbitration

- Representing power generation companies in domestic and international litigation and arbitration, with knowledge of the nuances of energy sector disputes.
- Handling disputes involving breach of contract, regulatory compliance, environmental issues, insurance, and other industry-specific matters.

International Dispute Resolution

- Managing cross-border disputes, with experience in handling cases under the rules of the major international arbitration institutions or bodies (e.g. ICC, ICDR, AAA, LCIA, IACAC, UNCITRAL, JAMS), and key regional centers (e.g. Mexico's CAM and CANACO, Panama's CeCap, Peru's CCL), and involving the application of U.S. law or the laws of a variety of foreign countries, and particularly Latin American countries.
- Coordinating multi-jurisdictional legal strategies to resolve high-stakes disputes efficiently.
- Litigation involving governments and litigation arising under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA).

- Section 1782 (the cross-border discovery), as well as the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, and the 1965 Hague Convention on Service of Process.

Employment and Workforce Management

- Employee-related matters, including labor relations, employment contracts, and compliance with local and international labor laws.
- Employment disputes, workforce restructuring, and addressing issues related to discrimination claims.

Risk Management and Compliance

- Developing and implementing compliance programs to address risks specific to the power generation sector, including operational, regulatory, and environmental risks.
- Conducting risk assessments, and policy reviews to ensure that operations meet legal and regulatory standards.
- Advice with respect to regulatory frameworks, permitting processes, and environmental regulations applicable to power generation projects.

Sanctions and Regulatory Compliance

- Advising with respect to international sanctions regulations, and compliance with evolving U.S. and other jurisdictional sanctions regimes.

Project Development and Financing

- Advising on all phases of power project development, from financing to construction and operational compliance.
- Assisting negotiations with financial institutions and stakeholders to structure project financing, including debt and equity arrangements and investment agreements.

Governmental Relations

- Liaising with governmental authorities and regulatory bodies to facilitate permitting, compliance, and approvals for power generation projects.
- Florida Bar Board Certified expertise in city, county, and local government law.

Crisis Management and Emergency Response

- Assisting, with respect to crisis management, including providing guidance on emergency response planning, business continuity, and risk mitigation strategies for unexpected operational or legal crises.
- Supporting companies in handling regulatory inquiries.

REAL ESTATE

If you operate in the dynamic, fast-paced world of real estate, you need trusted counselors to help you navigate the myriad issues that emerge along the way – from first assessment to final sale. As real estate attorneys with decades of experience, we pride ourselves on partnering with commercial and residential developers, financiers, builders, contractors and others conducting business in the real estate arena. We counsel clients throughout the State of Florida, and also serve as trusted advisors to major companies in national and international markets.

We've been honored for outstanding service to clients by such prestigious organizations and ranking agencies as *Chambers USA*, *Best Lawyers in America*®, *Super Lawyers* and *Florida Trend*, and several of our attorneys are Florida Bar Board Certified in real estate.

Experience

Different ventures require different approaches, and our team can create and apply innovative legal strategies as needed. Our statewide practice handles projects such as residential and condominium developments, office buildings, shopping centers, industrial parks, hotels and resorts, golf courses, hospitals and manufacturing plants. We also bring knowledge and experience in finance, corporate law, litigation, tax and other areas.

Services

- **Development:** Whether your project is a building complex or a single unit, we have experience in counseling developers, property owners and investors in buying, developing, selling, leasing and converting residential and commercial property.
- **Finance:** We've built close working relationships with many lenders in Florida and across the country, and help our clients get deals done. We advise on interim and permanent mortgage loans on commercial projects, as well as workouts, bankruptcies, foreclosures and restructurings of troubled projects.
- **Construction:** We represent developers, home builders and contractors on contract and other construction-related issues. Our construction litigation team counsels clients when construction defects, delays and contract disputes arise. We work to resolve matters quickly and effectively.
- **Land Use and Zoning:** The laws and regulations governing land use and zoning matters are often dense and complex. We help companies navigate through this regulatory labyrinth, and regularly appear before local, state and federal agencies.
- **Litigation:** When disputes involving contracts, tax protests, zoning, construction and related areas surface, our litigation attorneys help resolve matters quickly and efficiently.

- **Eminent Domain and Condemnation:** We represent property and business owners, tenants and mortgage holders in eminent domain and condemnation proceedings and appeals. We also counsel on inverse condemnation proceedings.
- **Title Insurance:** We act as agents for most major title insurance companies in issuing owners and mortgagee title insurance policies for both residential and commercial transactions.

Our Commitment

We offer experienced, practical, hands-on counsel on all of your real estate needs – whether it involves acquisition, financing, development, loan restructuring or litigation.

LAND USE & ZONING

If you are involved in the development of commercial, office, hotel, residential or industrial projects, our team can help you move efficiently through the complex regulatory and political landscape. Our attorneys can assist you in getting a project planned, financed and completed quickly while working with oversight agencies to get approval for your development.

Bringing a range of experience to our practice, we know how land use and zoning agencies work. We analyze those agencies, statutes and directives and advise clients on how they apply when they finance, acquire, develop, sell, litigate or otherwise participate in the real estate marketplace.

Over the many years we have been serving clients, we have built solid working relationships with government employees and officials at all levels and have a stellar reputation throughout the state. These relationships, coupled with our experience in regulatory and zoning laws, provide valuable assistance in connection with the acquisition, development, sale and litigation of real property matters.

Here are some of the legal services our team provides:

- Zoning, site plan and other land use applications
- Zoning code, comprehensive plan and master plan amendments
- Governmental and regulatory takings
- Concurrency requirements
- Code enforcement matters
- Permit expediting
- Government licenses and permits
- Public-private partnerships
- Building code issues
- Municipal liens
- Lobbying
- Zoning code amendments
- Coastal water development
- Historic preservation requirements (local, state, and federal)
- Environmental issues involving permitting and compliance at local, state and federal levels
- Environmentally sensitive issues involving wetlands, marine life, mitigation, assessments and remediation of environmentally contaminated lands
- Vested rights issues
- Covenants and deed restrictions
- Water and sewer issues
- Land use appeals and other litigation
- Platting
- Development Agreements under Florida Statutes

COMMERCIAL LEASING

Shutts & Bowen's commercial leasing practice involves the representation of landlords and tenants in a wide variety of transactions. Our full-service team of leasing attorneys have extensive experience in office, retail, industrial, multifamily and mixed-use properties, leasing millions of square feet of space throughout the U.S. and in every major market in Florida.

The commercial leasing attorneys at Shutts comprise one of the largest office building leasing practices in the State of Florida. In addition to a substantial retail leasing practice, our attorneys represent more than 80 office buildings, comprising over 14.5 million square feet.

Arthur J. Menor, Chairman of Shutts & Bowen's real estate leasing practice group, has been at the forefront of the commercial real estate arena for more than 40 years. Widely regarded as one of the preeminent commercial leasing attorneys in Florida, Art leads our Commercial Leasing Practice Group on all manner of leasing projects.

The practice group is well-known for its development of a document assembly software system and related forms and procedures to deliver cost-effective preparation of high-quality commercial leases and related documents (such as amendments, assignment and sublease consents, lien agreements and termination agreements), including an extensive library of commonly-used alternate lease provisions which enable our attorneys to quickly and efficiently meet our clients' needs.

The practice group also utilizes shorter office and retail lease forms which – while maintaining robust landlord protections – are less expensive, easier and quicker to negotiate than traditional "long form" landlord leases, and have been met with greater acceptance by tenants and brokers.

Our commercial leasing attorneys regularly work in tandem with complementary practice groups within Shutts, such as our commercial real estate practice group, to provide the benefit of a full-service law firm to our clients. Our firm can provide services related to the purchase, sale and financing of commercial real estate, as well as provide counsel to landlords and tenants on various leasing matters through our commercial litigation practice.

Our Experience Includes:

1. Representing institutional, national, regional, and local landlords in office leasing including Class "A" office space and Central Business District office towers. We have one of the largest office leasing practices in the state.
2. Representing landlords in long term ground lease transactions and leases for air rights.
3. Representing office tenants.
4. Representing landlords and tenants in warehouse and industrial leasing transactions.

COMMERCIAL LEASING

5. Representing landlords and tenants in medical office and laboratory facility leases.
6. Creating and negotiating out parcel leases and Reciprocal Easement Agreements.
7. Drafting and negotiating subleases, master leases, lease recognition agreements, non-disturbance agreements and landlord lien agreements.
8. Creating landlord protections against construction lien liability.
9. Credit enhancement techniques including letters of credit and lease bonds.
10. Handling all types of property management issues and disputes, including the negotiation of property management and leasing agreements.
11. Handling all types of landlord/tenant disputes and litigation.
12. Negotiating and drafting building access agreements and roof-top license agreements with most major telecommunication service providers.
13. Negotiating and drafting fiber optics transmission contracts and easements and submarine fiber agreements.
14. Negotiating and drafting wind farm leases.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Developers and businesses regularly face environmental challenges. If you are about to acquire property and you discover it is partially contaminated, your lender may insist you resolve the problem immediately. A state agency can pass a seemingly small change to an environmental regulation that directly and significantly affects your operations. Or you may be facing an investigation from or possible litigation with the Environmental Protection Agency. These environmental issues can cause far-reaching ramifications.

Experience

Our attorneys include LEED accredited lawyers and government affairs professionals who are experienced in managing the risks and liabilities involved in compliance, permitting, litigation, and enforcement. We've also forged strong relationships with local, state, and federal agencies that oversee real estate development and environmental permitting. Kenneth Wright served as chair of the Environmental Regulation Commission for almost ten years and also chaired the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Lee Worsham is the former General Counsel of St. Johns River Water Management District and Daniel O'Keefe serves as chair of the South Florida Water Management District and is a former member of the Wekiva River System Advisory Management Committee.

It's through such unique experience, knowledge and resources that we advise clients on hearings, permits and related issues before federal, state and local agencies, including the Water Management Districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Army Corps of Engineers, the EPA, and others.

We offer a wide scope of services, including:

- Wetlands jurisdiction determinations
- Wetlands alteration, mitigation and sovereign lands issues
- Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP)
- Stormwater management permitting
- Marinas and submerged land leases
- Hazardous Waste and landfill permitting
- Special issues regarding endangered species and conservation areas
- Due diligence and environmental compliance assessments
- Hazardous waste issues, groundwater contamination and asbestos
- Environmental civil and administrative litigation
- Brownfields permitting and redevelopment

CONSTRUCTION

Whether your project is large or small, the attorneys in Shutts & Bowen's Construction Practice Group will help to protect your business interests in and out of court. We assist our clients in every segment of the construction industry, from negotiating contracts, managing risks, or resolving disputes to helping to get challenging projects structured, approved and completed. Regardless of the scope or size of your matter, our construction attorneys are prepared to resolve virtually any construction-related legal issue that you may face, including traditional lien and payment disputes, all the way up to the handling of high-profile construction disputes involving "bet-the-company" litigation.

The Construction Practice Group counsels clients in all phases of public and private construction contracting and dispute resolution, including: licensing; compliance; bid protests; contract drafting, negotiation and enforcement; claims notice and preservation; and, litigation and arbitration of claims.

Multiple attorneys among the Construction Practice Group are Florida Bar Board Certified in Construction Law, with many individuals being consistently recognized for their legal capabilities by prestigious organizations such as *Chambers USA*, *Best Lawyers in America*®, *Martindale-Hubbell*, *Florida Super Lawyers*, *Florida Trend's Legal Elite* and *U.S. News & World Report*.

Our attorneys frequently speak, write, serve in leadership positions and serve as adjunct professors teaching others about issues affecting the construction industry. They have presented before the Associated Builders and Contractors, Associated General Contractors, National Association of Home Builders, American Society of Highway Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, Florida Transportation Builder's Association, Florida Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractor's Association, Florida Swimming Pool Association, Greater Orlando Builders Association, Florida Engineering Society, the University of South Florida's College of Engineering, the University of Florida's Rinker School of Construction Management, the University of Florida's Levin College of Law, Stetson Law School and Broward Community College.

Experience

Our construction attorneys counsel public and private owners and developers, contractors and subcontractors, homebuilders, design professionals, suppliers and manufacturers, sureties and insurance companies, construction firms, engineers, and other building professionals, regarding all aspects of the construction business including contractual rights and obligations, risk mitigation, arbitration, mediation and litigation matters. Attorneys in Shutts' Construction Practice Group have extensive trial and arbitration experience, including having successfully handled some of the largest and most significant construction matters through judgment, verdict or award in State and Federal jury and bench trials as well as various arbitration tribunals.

CONSTRUCTION

Our attorneys represent construction industry clients in different types and magnitudes of matters and do not implement a one-size-fits-all approach. While some matters relate to modest payment disputes or deficiency claims, other matters involve issues with tens to hundreds of millions of dollars at issue. Each matter and client is unique, however, and requires customized planning and management. Our attorneys tailor their handling of matters efficiently and appropriately to serve each client's interests.

Our construction attorneys have managed and litigated claims relating to:

- Design errors and omissions;
- Delay and acceleration damages;
- Bonds and Liens;
- Public/Government contracts and bid protests;
- Professional negligence, discipline and licensure issues;
- Violations of Building Codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Construction and Materials/Product defects;
- Fraud and civil RICO;
- False Claims Act and other governmental investigations;
- Catastrophic Personal Injuries; and
- Wrongful death.

They also prepare contracts, agreements, and subcontracts for established and emerging project delivery methods (traditional, CM, fast-track, multi-prime, phased, public-private partnerships, Design Build, Engineering Procurement and Construction), as well as architectural, engineering, and professional service consultant agreements. Our contract drafting and negotiation experience includes custom, AIA and other industry form agreements.

Our construction attorneys have experience across a broad spectrum of practice areas and regularly work in tandem with other practice groups to effectively counsel clients on matters involving government relations and contracting, project financing, debt and equity structuring, environmental compliance, land use and zoning, permitting, licensing and bid protests, establishing companies as qualified Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) and/or Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), among other issues. The varied life and career experience of many of our construction attorneys gained outside of the practice of law has proven invaluable to our clients. The Construction Practice Group has attorneys with experience in accounting, construction licensure boards, development, project management, project financing and lending, construction of various types of projects, U.S. Green Building Council LEED Accredited Professionals and those who have family members that are actively involved in the construction industry.

CORPORATE

Whether your company is public or private, large or small, foreign or domestic, we pride ourselves on playing an active role in protecting and expanding your business. With many years of experience in corporate law, including finance, capital markets, securities, and related litigation, we draw on our institutional knowledge, resources, and the relationships we've built during decades of operating in Florida and across the nation to counsel companies, entrepreneurs, investors, and lenders. We prepare transactions with careful diligence and close them with managed risk.

We have been recognized nationally by *U.S. News* as one of the Best Law Firms for Corporate Law, Mergers & Acquisitions, Banking and Finance Law. A number of our attorneys have earned recognition from *Chambers USA*, *Best Lawyers in America*®, *Florida Trend*, *South Florida Legal Guide* and *Super Lawyers* for their corporate, securities, mergers and acquisitions, banking and finance law experience.

Our corporate lawyers also serve on boards and committees that help establish solid industry relationships and leadership, including the Florida International Bankers Association, Florida Bank's Banking Law & Credit Regulation Committee, Association of Corporate Counsel, Association for Corporate Growth, Minority Corporate Counsel Association, The Florida Bar's Business Law Section and Corporate Governance Committee, the Commercial Finance Association, American Bar Association, and the Florida Venture Forum, among others.

We enjoy working with buyers, sellers, investors and others to expand operations and open new markets in Florida and around the world. We are committed to helping our clients build a solid infrastructure, transact deals that help them grow and ensure they're doing it in a way that meets regulations and makes sense.

Our Clients

We represent local, national and international businesses across a wide array of industries, including financial services, hospitality, restaurants, real estate, education, aviation, cruise and leisure, technology, telecommunications, media and broadcasting, publishing, health services, manufacturing, agriculture, home improvement and others. These clients include:

- U.S. and international issuers and investors
- Underwriters, insurers and placement agents
- Buyers, sellers, brokers, and dealers
- Investment and commercial banks
- Credit unions
- Venture capital and private equity funds
- Public and private companies

CORPORATE

- General and limited partnerships
- Trust companies
- Non-profits
- Industry trade groups

Experience

Corporate

Attorneys in our multidisciplinary group assist new and established businesses with corporate structure issues and work with others on structuring transactions and vehicles as well as negotiating contracts, financing, and secured loans.

Some of the services we offer our corporate clients include:

- **Corporate structure:** form domestic and foreign corporations, limited liability companies, general and limited partnerships, and all types of joint ventures, and evaluate important facts such as corporate strategy and liability.
- **Corporate agreements:** negotiate and prepare domestic and international sales and distribution agreements, government bids, proposals and procurement, asset and stock purchase agreements, mergers, and other combinations and reorganizations.
- **Corporate governance:** design and implement the principles and practices that govern a company, including shareholder relations, benefit plans, compensation matters, and more.
- **Internal agreements:** draft shareholder, management, employment, consulting, stock option, benefit plan and other internal agreements.
- **Compliance:** ensure companies comply with securities regulations, including registration, disclosure and insider trading regulations, SEC reporting, and other requirements.
- **Taxation:** offer domestic and international tax advice on formations, transactions, corporate succession and other planning.
- **Finance:** draft, review, and negotiate all forms of loans, corporate, and business financing transactions.

Corporate Governance

We counsel our clients on the rules, practices and processes that direct and control a corporation and a corporation's relationship with its directors, managers, shareholders, employees, creditors, auditors, regulators and others. Our attorneys counsel clients on corporate governance, executive compensation, and compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. They design and implement comprehensive compliance programs and enhance controls to address future risk. They also represent companies in complex internal and high-profile federal and state investigations as well as Office of Foreign Assets Control violations.

CORPORATE

Some of the corporate governance services we offer our clients include:

- Shareholder relations, such as shareholder meetings and communications;
- Benefit plans, such as stock option plans, employee stock ownership and other benefit plans; and
- Compensation matters, including compensation agreements, severance agreements, and arrangements with executive officers.

Corporate Finance/Capital Markets

We represent a diverse group of clients across numerous industries, including financial services, real estate, hospitality and restaurants, technology, health services and media, in a variety of leveraged, structured bank lending, capital markets and other finance transactions, including equity and debt offerings, venture capital financing and commercial lending.

We have handled initial public offerings by emerging companies as well as offerings of sophisticated financial products by Fortune 500 corporations. We have also represented domestic and international issuers and underwriters in equity and debt capital-raising transactions as well as lenders and investors in acquiring and structuring financing for their transactions and projects.

Additionally, we are experienced in handling distressed debt investing and restructuring transactions. We have represented foreign and domestic investment banks, registered broker-dealers, hedge funds, investment advisors and others in secondary market transactions. We have assisted those clients with the preparation, negotiation and review of transaction documents, including due diligence matters and analysis of syndicated credit facilities, security documents, inter-creditor arrangements and other finance documentation.

Some of the corporate finance and capital markets services we offer our clients include:

- **Venture capital documents:** debt and equity purchase agreements, convertible debt and equity instruments, and equity rights agreements.
- **Documents for offerings/funding:** registration statements, prospectuses, private placement memoranda, blue sky memoranda, and other documents.
- **Compliance:** SEC disclosure requirements and insider trading regulations, and compliance with Section 16 reporting obligations (forms 3, 4 and 5).

Private Equity

We provide sponsors and investors in private equity firms with corporate, securities, financing, taxation and litigation counsel and assist them in structuring and organizing their acquisition and funding transactions.

We represent global financial institutions, funds and operating companies in secured financings, including secured revolving credit facilities extended to closed-end and open-end funds and hedge funds as well as

subscription loan facilities made to private funds secured by the unfunded capital commitments of the fund's equity investors.

Securities Regulation

Whether a transaction is centered in the U.S. or crosses national borders, we provide our clients with corporate and securities representation in a cost-efficient and timely manner. We can help our business, management, directors, compliance officers and board member clients navigate corporate and securities compliance and disclosures matters under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, Dodd-Frank Act, and the laws, rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and self-regulatory bodies such as Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and others.

We counsel issuers on the securities registration process, prepare letters for and respond to comments from the SEC, and interact with SEC staff. Well versed in stock exchange procedures, our attorneys prepare listing applications for the New York Stock Exchange and the American Stock Exchange, and trading applications for NASDAQ. We also handle annual and periodic SEC reports, such as:

- Form 10-K Annual Reports;
- Form 10-Q Quarterly Reports;
- Form 8-K Current Report;
- Schedule 13D Acquisition Statements;
- Section 16 reports (for controlling shareholders, directors and officers);
- Schedule 14D Tender Offer Statements, and,
- Form 8-A Registration Statements (for registration of certain classes of securities under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934).

Some of the other services we regularly offer include:

- Advise directors and officers of publicly owned companies as to SEC disclosure requirements and insider trading regulations.
- Advocate for publicly owned companies in connection with conducting annual and special meetings of shareholders and shareholder communications and relations.
- Develop stock option plans, employee stock ownership, and other benefit plans.
- Advise management of publicly owned companies on compensation and severance agreements and arrangements with executive officers, as well as their obligations under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- Advise clients regarding best practices in light of SEC/FINRA rules.
- Represent member firms in enforcement actions brought by FINRA or other agencies or self-regulatory bodies.

Mergers and Acquisitions

We counsel public and private companies, private equity firms and financial sponsors, investment banks and government clients in structuring agreements, arranging financing, negotiating contracts, and managing risk in their merger and acquisitions matters.

We handle merger, stock purchase, and asset purchase agreements, and advise on all aspects of the M&A process, including related securities, taxation and accounting issues. We negotiate acquisitions and advise our corporate clients on:

- Merger agreements;
- Stock and asset purchase agreements;
- Tender and exchange offers;
- Leveraged buyouts;
- Joint ventures;
- Recapitalizations;
- Proxy contests; and,
- Anti-takeover strategies.

GOVERNMENT LAW

Whether you're appearing before a public agency requesting approvals, lobbying for changes to the law or seeking a government contract, our experienced and well regarded attorneys can help you. We've been active participants in Florida's legal and political arenas for the past century. Many of our attorneys can offer an insider's perspective because they spent years as public servants with federal, regional, state, county, and municipal governments. We understand the ins-and-outs of how government functions and are proud of our experience appearing before governing bodies, federal agencies and the state legislature.

One of the highest compliments our lawyers can receive is when a government agency turns to us for outside counsel. In the past year, our team has been retained to handle high priority matters for the following government officials and agencies:

- Governor and Cabinet;
- Florida House of Representatives;
- Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration;
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection;
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity;
- Florida Department of Management Services; and,
- Local governments, including cities/counties, school boards, hospital boards, special districts, expressway/airport authorities, etc.

Experience

We offer the following government law services:

- Lobbying
- Legislative and Executive Branch Matters
- Land Use and Zoning
- Government Procurement Issues
- Construction Contracts
- Ad Valorem Tax Issues
- Civil Rights
- Affordable Housing
- School Boards
- Eminent Domain

GOVERNMENT LAW

- Telecommunications
- Public-Private Ventures
- Environmental
- Special Benefit Districts
- Health Law
- Relocation Incentives
- Transportation/Airports/Ports
- Public Finance

INTERNATIONAL LITIGATION AND ARBITRATION

As global trade and investment increases, the volume of international disputes across the globe also rises. Companies need experienced counsel to resolve these disputes. We assist our clients navigate the litigation, mediation and arbitration processes that stem from the various rules, regulations, customs and practices of international business disputes. Shutts has a robust International Litigation and Arbitration Practice Group that utilizes their knowledge, experience, and diverse language capabilities to best represent clients in complex business disputes throughout the world. Our attorneys help clients navigate and resolve litigation and arbitration disputes quickly and effectively.

Experience

Florida, and Miami in particular, has become a hub for international disputes, both as the designated place for international arbitration and as the venue for litigation. Our team is experienced in representing foreign clients in institutional and *ad hoc* arbitration proceedings in Florida and worldwide under various arbitration rules, including ICC, ICDR, UNCITRAL, AAA and FINRA. We also actively defend and prosecute claims in U.S. federal and state court systems and represent clients before numerous state and federal agencies, commissions, boards, and other regulatory and administrative authorities. In the complex international arena, we counsel foreign and U.S. clients doing business in many jurisdictions, including North, Central and South America, Asia and Europe.

Our Commitment

Our team stays current with the ever-changing legal issues involved in international litigation and arbitration matters, is actively engaged in the international legal community and understands the important social and cultural considerations that support effective client representation in the global marketplace. We are properly positioned and ready to address any legal dispute domestically and abroad for the benefit of our clients.

IMMIGRATION

In a global economy, there is a compelling need to stay current with rules and regulations governing a mobile and multi-national workforce. Our lawyers guide businesses ranging from individuals, to entrepreneurs to large multi-national corporations through the legal and compliance requirements to address their employment-related immigration needs.

Our immigration attorneys have been rated by *Martindale-Hubbell* and listed among the *Best Lawyers in America®*. They have also served or led industry organizations such as the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Experience

We offer comprehensive services that cover the full spectrum of immigration needs, from individuals and families, to companies that need to adeptly manage and maximize their intercontinental workforces.

We perform due diligence on immigration issues in corporate mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, and other forms of corporate reorganization. We also regularly counsel foreign nationals on pre-immigration planning and assist those who want to live and expand their business in the U.S.

We advise and assist clients regarding:

- Employment based non-immigrant visas including E-1 (treaty investors), E-2 (treaty traders), F-1 (students seeking CPT/OPT), H-1B (specialty occupation), J-1 (exchange visitors), L-1A/L-1B (intracompany transferees), O-1 (extraordinary ability), P-1 (professional athletes), R-1 (religious workers), TN (Trade NAFTA)
- Employment based permanent resident visas including EB-1, EB-2, EB-3, EB-5, PERM, adjustment of status and consular processing
- Family-based immigration matters
- Applications for U.S. naturalization
- I-9 Compliance: procedures, guidelines, audits, enforcement actions

We also guide and assist clients in processing their visa applications and resolving other State Department matters in U.S. embassies and consulates around the world.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Creative ideas don't just manifest into tangible tools people can use without a lot of time and effort. Once someone makes a discovery, they must collaborate with others and work diligently to transform that innovative asset into a product or service. Our veteran attorneys help you protect your intellectual property, make the most of it, share it with the world, and profit from it. We understand and have experience in the complex but critical process that's key to successful innovation – from patent, trademark, and copyright registrations and proceedings before the Patent & Trademark Office to the latest issues involving the use of the Internet and e-commerce.

We also litigate IP cases to protect what's rightfully yours or defend you if your work is challenged. Our team of lawyers counsels clients in a wide range of IP disputes and litigation, including patent, trademark, and copyright litigation and related issues of unfair competition, misappropriation of trade secrets, non-competition agreements, defamation claims, and the seizure of counterfeit goods. We also counsel clients in Internet and computer licensing and related antitrust litigation, particularly antitrust litigation related to patents and copyrights.

One of the strengths of our group is the diverse background of our attorneys. We've had experience in accounting, engineering, business, and other areas that help us in our practice, and some of our lawyers were among the first to be designated by the Florida Bar as Board Certified in Business Litigation. Our practice is diverse too. We counsel clients in such intellectual property issues as patent, trademark and copyright licensing and royalties, non-disclosure agreements and computer software agreements, as well as antitrust concerns related to such agreements and licenses.

With our deep global experience and expertise, we prosecute and enforce worldwide patent and trademark rights for a number of U.S. and international corporations. For example, we maintain a worldwide portfolio of nearly 200 trademarks for one of our clients, a multi-million-dollar international company. Our attorneys have also developed, negotiated, and documented complex worldwide trademark, software, franchise, copyright, merchandise, and patent licensing programs.

Recognized for legal skills and client service by such prestigious groups as Chambers, *Super Lawyers* and *Best Lawyers in America*, we take pride in keeping current on IP issues. We stay abreast of constantly changing domestic and international regulations governing trademarks and advise clients of registered and pending trademarks which could constitute infringement.

We file copyright applications for literary and musical works, including the protection of website intellectual property as well as the protection of computer programs.

While we advise clients on how to avoid or resolve disputes and steer clear of litigation, we have trial lawyers skilled in obtaining results in the courtroom and don't back down from litigation when necessary. We know how to present a powerful case before a judge and jury and get the best results for our clients in

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

patent, trademark and copyright litigation. We represent clients in federal and state court and Patent & Trademark Office proceedings, in arbitration, and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. We regularly litigate complex trademark, unfair competition, patent, and copyright matters.

Clients regularly commend us for the thorough work we do, and they also appreciate that we deliver service efficiently, mindful of their tight legal budgets. To help with that, we have established an electronic account with the Patent & Trademark Office, which streamlines filing and registration procedures. Our legal assistants undertake the administrative responsibilities involved in the filing and registration process and are also able to perform computer searches that can provide cost-effective service to our clients. We also call on the network of effective international providers of local counsel that we've cultivated to help our clients with registrations in Europe in accordance with the Madrid Protocol, in many jurisdictions in Latin America, and in Asia.

CYBERSECURITY & DATA PRIVACY

Cybersecurity is a major risk for virtually every business and governmental entity. There are media reports of cyber threats to clients' proprietary and customer data almost daily. Financial institutions, governmental entities, corporate boards, general counsel, executives, and managers must develop policies and procedures to protect their networks and data and respond to cyber-attacks. Businesses and governments must also comply with increasingly complex state and federal requirements to protect data and respond to data breaches. Litigation exposure, including class actions, is an ever-present and growing risk.

Our Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Team combine litigation, regulatory, crisis management and technical expertise to meet the multi-faceted needs of our clients. Our team's experience provides the skills and tools necessary to solve clients' problems—whether helping to assess and reduce network security risk, shifting risk to insurers or third parties, or responding to a potential breach or its aftermath. When a data breach occurs, we are prepared to help our clients respond rapidly. We assist with forensic and internal investigations, risk and crisis management, public relations, interact with regulators and comply with state and federal disclosure requirements. When litigation or arbitration arises, our attorneys effectively manage and defend class actions, shareholder or securities litigation, consumer protection lawsuits, and other data privacy claims. We also guide our clients through governmental investigations.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

As one of the largest and most experienced group of financial service attorneys in the southern United States, we represent a diverse group of clients across the nation and in markets around the world, including U.S. and international issuers and investors; underwriters, insurers and placement agents; buyers, sellers, brokers, and dealers; investment and commercial banks; credit unions; venture capital and private equity funds; public and private companies; general and limited partnerships; trust companies; non-profits; and industry trade groups.

We assist our diverse banking and finance clients by offering them our substantial experience acquired over many years in the industry, combined with our long-standing commitment to advocate on their behalf to make beneficial legal changes to the framework. Whether you're a broker-dealer, foreign bank, investment advisor or credit union, our attorneys will lead you through your lending, finance, statutory and regulatory needs.

History of Advocacy

Our attorneys have played a key role in transforming South Florida into an international financial center, advising many of the major players in the marketplace. Through our work on legislation and regulations that affect the national banking, international financing, and insurance industries, we help ensure the region's climate stays favorable for economic growth.

In this regard, our attorneys were instrumental in the 1978 state law that allowed foreign banks to establish offices in Florida. We represented the first out-of-state bank to create a non-Edge Act banking office in Florida and the first applicant for a non-bank financial institution license in the state. We also negotiated a legislative deal to allow out-of-state holding companies to form loan production office subsidiaries in Florida.

Strong Reputation

We've been recognized nationally by *U.S. News* as one of its Best Law Firms for Banking and Finance Law and Banking and Finance Litigation. We're also listed by *Chambers USA* as a first tier Florida firm known for its "formidable banking and finance practice ... [with] a strong focus on regulatory compliance."

Among our top banking and finance practicing attorneys is Bowman Brown, regarded as a "leading expert in banking regulation." He is the only Florida banking and finance lawyer to receive *Chambers'* highest rating, the "Star Individual" designation. Rod Jones, acknowledged for his work with community banks, served as the Florida Department of Banking and Finance's Director of the Division of Banking and was staff counsel and a banking analyst for the Florida House of Representatives' Committee on Commerce.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

A number of our attorneys have also achieved the highest ratings by Martindale-Hubbell and have earned recognition from *Chambers USA*, *Best Lawyers in America*®, *Florida Trend*, *South Florida Legal Guide* and Super Lawyers for their banking and finance law experience.

Solid Relationships

Our lawyers serve on boards and committees that help establish solid industry relationships and leadership, including the Florida International Bankers Association, Florida Bank's Banking Law & Credit Regulation Committee, and The Florida Bar's Banking and Credit Regulation Committee, among others. They also regularly speak at bank workshops and to bankers' associations regarding international lending, secured transactions, private banking, check fraud and other collections issues, and pitfalls in opening and administering bank accounts.

Valuable Experience

Our clients choose us, in part, because we have years of experience in the industry and have evolved our practice along with the growth of banking and finance. We are the go-to firm for handling local, national and cross-border consumer finance and general bank regulatory matters; documentation of consumer finance, trade finance, real estate and commercial, and industrial financing transactions; development of account documentation; issues relating to negotiable instruments; mergers and acquisitions; litigation; and a wide range of other legal and tax matters generated by and important to financial institutions.

Additionally, our attorneys help banks of all sizes with regulatory matters that involve responses to examination reports, analysis of regulatory concerns, compliance with remedial supervisory agreements and advice on corporate governance issues. We also counsel lenders in the workout of commercial and real estate loans and financial institutions that provide services to non-U.S. customers.

Lastly, our Credit Union Practice Group attorneys advise the boards and management of federally insured credit unions throughout the United States. Michael Lozoff serves as general counsel to numerous credit unions in Florida and other states. With this depth of experience, our attorneys counsel clients in matters of governance, regulatory compliance, policy review and development and the negotiation or drafting of vendor contracts. We also partner with clients to help them reach their strategic planning objectives, act on adverse examination findings or administrative actions, and conduct in-house educational workshops on a wide variety of topics.

LICENSING

We know how to work with officials at public agencies to clarify the issues, assess regulatory concerns and weigh the legal risks. Whether your matters concern procedural or substantive issues, our lawyers represent your interests with years of experience behind them. They collaborate with attorneys in our other practice areas to find the right answer for you. Many of our attorneys have also previously served as elected officials and government counsel and they maintain relationships with officials at public agencies. Our attorneys include:

- Two past chairs of The Florida Bar's Administrative Law Section
- Past members and chairs of Florida's Ninth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee
- Member of Florida's Electrical Contractor Licensing Board since 2014
- Former member of the Florida Transportation Commission and State Commission on Legislative Reform of Judicial Administration
- Former General Counsel to the Florida House of Representatives
- Former General Counsel to the Florida Governor
- Former General Counsel to the Florida Department of Health
- Former Lieutenant Governor of Florida and previous member of the Florida House of Representatives, Secretary of the Florida Department of Commerce, and Secretary of The Florida Lottery
- Former Assistant General Counsel to two Florida governors and former General Counsel to the Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission and the Administration Commission

One of the highest compliments our lawyers can receive is when administrative agencies turn to us for outside counsel. In the past year, our team has been retained to handle high priority matters for the following agencies:

- Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration;
- Florida Department of Health;
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection;
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity;
- Florida Department of Management Services; and
- local city and county agencies, including school boards, hospital boards, special districts, expressway/airport authorities, etc.

LICENSING

Experience

Our attorneys have represented business and governmental clients on regulatory and administrative law matters, including:

- Administrative hearings and agency proceedings
- Judicial review of administrative and agency action
- Licensing and permitting
- Professional discipline hearings
- Rulemaking and rule challenge proceedings
- Variances and waivers from agency rules
- State and local boards and commissions
- Competitive procurement and bid protests
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) due process hearings
- Medicaid Program Integrity cases
- Substantial interest hearings under the Florida Administrative Procedure Act
- General regulatory matters

We've represented clients in proceedings and have litigated cases before the following:

- Agency for Health Care Administration
- County governments
- Department of Business and Professional Regulation
- Department of Economic Opportunity
- Department of Education
- Department of Elder Affairs
- Department of Health
- Department of Insurance
- Department of Transportation
- District school boards
- Division of Administrative Hearings
- Federal Election Commission
- Florida Commission on Ethics
- Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Department of Management Services
- Florida Elections Commission
- Florida Lottery
- Water Management Districts

PUBLIC FINANCE

Partnerships between public agencies and private companies frequently function as the catalyst to get important infrastructure projects done. Counseling clients on public finance matters and governmental law issues, our attorneys provide legal assistance for these public-private projects.

Experience

Our lawyers advise issuers and non-governmental borrowers, financial institutions, underwriters and bond trustees in a wide range of public finance transactions across the state of Florida. We have represented large and small governmental and conduit issuers in a variety of revenue bond issues, from basic to complex structures. We represent banks providing credit enhancement, purchasing bonds, and restructuring credit arrangements with borrowers. We also represent developers whose property is financially impacted by publicly financed infrastructure.

We serve local and regional governments, counseling counties, cities, school boards, water management districts, regional planning councils, housing authorities, redevelopment authorities, community development districts, and other special districts.

We are a full-service firm, and that means our attorneys collaborate across practice areas to get support from colleagues on a range of legal and business issues that intersect with public finance law. The attorneys who collaborate have considerable experience in local government law issues involving public finance, land use and zoning, eminent domain, infrastructure development, procurement, benefits and, employment and construction litigation.

Our Commitment

We focus on our ability to coordinate resources to meet your needs and responsibilities. When we counsel governmental issuers, we strive to achieve the best results for the issuer and its citizens within the framework of its policies and applicable law. When we advise financial institutions in public finance transactions, we pay special attention to documenting the deal consistent with the institution's credit approvals and policies, while furthering the trusted relationships with the borrower and other financing team members.

TAXATION

The attorneys in our International Tax Practice Group combine their knowledge of tax law with an understanding of the business transactions and issues faced by our clients. They collaborate closely with our real estate, corporate and other attorneys to address the tax aspects of our clients' transactions.

A number of our attorneys are licensed as certified public accountants, hold LL.M. degrees in taxation, have been recognized as some of the best in their field by *Best Lawyers of America*® and Martindale-Hubbell, and have published numerous articles and lectured on tax matters.

Experience

We counsel our clients in virtually every facet of federal, state, local and international taxation, including matters that involve partnerships, corporations, individuals, trusts, estates and tax-exempt organizations.

Federal, State and Local Taxation

Shutts & Bowen's tax attorneys advise individuals and businesses on federal, state, and local taxation matters, including:

- Planning for individuals, partnerships and corporations
- Sales, acquisitions, mergers, redemptions and liquidations
- Real estate ventures, including syndications and limited partnerships
- Business planning for charitable and exempt organizations
- Deferred compensation plans, including pension and profit sharing plans

We also represent individuals, partnerships, and corporations in disputes with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, the Florida Department of Revenue, and other state and local taxing authorities.

International Tax

Florida is the gateway for investment and business from Latin America, Europe, and the Caribbean. The attorneys in our taxation practice are well-positioned to provide effective and efficient representation. With one of the largest taxation practice groups in Florida with international tax expertise, we assist foreign clients in structuring their U.S. investments and represent domestic clients involved in all types of international transactions, including:

- Assisting clients with international trusts and estate plans
- Structuring U.S. real estate investments
- Representing clients in voluntary disclosures with the Internal Revenue Service

TAXATION

- Advising domestic clients on structuring their foreign businesses
- Advising foreign clients on structuring their U.S. operations
- Negotiating and drafting various agreements, including sale and distribution, employment, consulting, franchise, royalty, and joint venture agreements

Our attorneys have been at the forefront regarding the development and implementation of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), and the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). We've helped our individual and institutional clients understand the impact of these rules. We've also assisted with the drafting of internal FATCA policies and procedures and have spoken at various seminars and other speaking engagements regarding FATCA and CRS.

International Private Client Services

Our tax lawyers also represent high net worth individuals and cross-border families and their closely-held businesses. We regularly:

- Advise domestic clients on managing the effect of U.S. income and withholding taxes, estate and certain succession laws on family members or assets located outside of the United States
- Represent foreign clients with family members or assets located in the United States
- Assist clients considering moving to or departing from the United States with U.S. federal income and transfer tax planning and succession planning
- Advise U.S. and non-U.S. clients on matters of domestic and foreign trusts and related U.S. tax reporting and anti-accumulation rules.

Our Commitment

Our attorneys take pride in understanding tax regulation and they stay on top of the latest developments. We take a team approach to the business challenges faced by our clients and help develop the strategies best suited to meet our clients' goals while minimizing their tax risk.

30+ PRACTICE AREAS

With more than 30 practice areas, Shutts & Bowen offers a complete range of legal services to our local, state, national and international clients. Experienced attorneys are available to provide counsel clients in a broad range of areas.

- Administrative Law & Licensing
- Anti-Money Laundering
- Antitrust
- Appellate
- Class Action
- Commercial Leasing
- Commercial Lending
- Community Associations
- Complex Loan Workouts
- Constitutional Law
- Construction
- Corporate
- Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy
- Cuba Task Force
- Cybersecurity & Data Privacy
- Eminent Domain
- Environmental
- Financial Services
- Government Contracts
- Government Law
- Health Law & Life Sciences
- Hospitality
- Immigration
- Insurance
- Intellectual Property
- International Dispute Resolution
- Labor & Employment
- Land Use & Zoning
- Latin America
- Litigation
- Private Client Services
- Private Funds
- Public Finance
- Real Estate
- Securities Fraud Litigation
- Taxation
- White Collar Criminal Defense & Governmental Investigations



Attorney Biographies

Shutts





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Aleksey Shtivelman is a partner in the Miami office of Shutts & Bowen LLP, where he is a member of the International Litigation and Arbitration Practice Group. He is Board Certified in Litigation and Arbitration Practice by The Florida Bar. As a native Russian speaker and fluent in Spanish, Aleksey has successfully resolved high-stakes legal disputes for foreign and domestic clients doing business in many jurisdictions, including the United States, Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Aleksey has participated in complex, AAA, ICC, LCIA, JAMS, and other international arbitration matters. His experience extends to litigation involving the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA), Section 1782 (the cross-border discovery statute), the 1958 New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, and the 1965 Hague Convention on Service of Process.

Specific types of matters handled include corporate shareholder disputes, breach of contract disputes involving power generation, energy, aviation and mining, sanctions and export controls compliance, real estate, and business investment disputes. Aleksey's practice is focused in the energy sector on a wide variety of international litigation and arbitration matters. He represents clients active in the electricity sector, including nuclear, thermal (diesel and liquified natural gas), and temporary power solutions.

Aleksey is an active member of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce – International Business Committee. He has been recognized as one of South Florida's "Most Effective Lawyers" and an "On the Rise" honoree 40 under 40 by the *Daily Business Review* in the Business/Complex Litigation category, and has been listed in *Florida Super Lawyers*, *Rising Star*, *Business Litigation*, and *Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation*. He has also received the *Executive Star Award* by the *Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce*. Aleksey is part of the Shutts & Bowen LLP team leading the firm's LLM clerkship program where law students participate in the firm as part of an externship program for credit. Candidates originate from a wide range of countries, including: Ukraine, Brazil, Italy, Estonia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Germany, Bhutan, Argentina, Greece, United Kingdom, Nigeria, and India. The program contributes to the firm's commitment to the international community by ensuring that the program attracts

and supports candidates from a wide array of backgrounds, which is aligned with the firm's ability to serve diverse clientele and address complex legal issues with a broad range of insights.

Aleksey employs a strategic and business-oriented approach to dispute resolution. He is multilingual, and regularly assists both Spanish-speaking and Russian-speaking clients with cross-border disputes. His global network includes connections with foreign counsel, experts, and experience with arbitrators, enhancing his ability to handle multijurisdictional cases.

Notable Experience

- **Power Generation Specific Matters**

- Represented a power generation supplier in multimillion-dollar dispute between a power generation provider and an agent, involving power generated in Northern Africa.
- Represented client in power generation dispute in an ICC arbitration, involving application of foreign law, in connection with unpaid fees relating to power generated for foreign sovereign.
- Led team of counsel across several states, including both arbitration and litigation matters, in order to coordinate multi-jurisdictional legal strategies to resolve complex disputes concerning disclosure of confidential information, for an international nuclear power generation company.
- Handled disputes involving breach of contract, regulatory compliance, environmental issues, insurance, and other industry-specific matters.
- Developed tailored compliance programs to proactively address risks specific to the power generation sector, including certain regulatory and sanctions-related risks.

- **Contractual and Corporate Disputes**

- Represented a client in a shareholder demand action, obtaining documents from a Florida company concerning an international investment of tens of millions of dollars, obtained a final judgment and an award of attorney's fees against the company, and successfully defended and won on appeal.
- Represented a client in a shareholder dispute action, regaining control of company assets through writs of replevin and attachment, obtaining the striking of pleadings based upon the other parties' litigation misconduct, and obtaining dismissals of subsequent appeals.
- Represented a Florida-based distributor in a claim against an Indonesian supplier related to a breach of contract concerning over 50 tons of defective product.
- Assisted a foods supplier in swiftly recovering outstanding debt for unpaid products sold to a commercial distributor.

- **Financial and Property Disputes**

- Defended a client in a breach of contract case related to a financial agreement, achieving a court order to compel FINRA arbitration.
- Represented clients in property tax disputes with respect to property valuation issues, resolving a multitude of claims in various counties throughout Florida, on behalf of commercial property owners.
- Represented an international business-to-business rental company in obtaining multiple writs of replevin, allowing the client to retake their company property, and to recover damages for breach of contract.
- Represented commercial property owner in dispute concerning commission as to multimillion-dollar property.

- **Trust and Estate Disputes**

- Represented trustee beneficiary in a dispute regarding undue influence regarding assets conveyed by Trust, resulting in successful defense of the client's rights to the assets conveyed.

Practice Areas

- International Litigation and Arbitration
- Litigation

Industry Focus

- Energy
- Financial Services

Accolades

- Florida Bar Board Certified in International Litigation & Arbitration
- *Daily Business Review*, Most Effective Lawyers - Business/Complex Litigation, 2017
- *The Legal 500*, US City Elite Rankings - Commercial and International Disputes, 2025
- *Florida Super Lawyers*, Rising Star, Business Litigation - 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- *Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch*
 - Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships), 2025
 - Commercial Litigation, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, Executive Star Award, 2023
- Avvo.com®, 9.7 Rating

Education

- Boston University School of Law, J.D., 2012
 - Editor, *Journal of Science and Technology Law*
 - Pro Bono Service Award, Boston University, 2012
- Stony Brook University, B.S., B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2009

Bar Admissions

- Florida

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida

Languages

- Russian
- Spanish

Professional and Civic

- Deering Estate Foundation Board of Directors
- Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
 - International Business Committee Board Member
- Interlaw
 - Energy, Infrastructure and Climate Change Special Business Team
 - NextGen Affinity Group
- Leadership Miami® Class XLII
 - Winning community service initiative at Project Pitch Night 2021 and Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce's "Project of the Year"
- Mentor, Annual Minority Mentoring Picnic
- Aventura Sunny Isles Chamber of Commerce
- Russian American Chamber of Commerce
- Russian American Bar Association

Presentations

- Panelist, "Navigating Sanctions: Risks, Opportunities, and What Comes Next," May 30, 2025
- Panelist, "Demystifying the Economic Impact of US Sanctions Against Russia," The Knowledge Group, July 12, 2022
- Panelist, "Arbitrator Selection and Other Issues in Arbitration," Palm Beach County Bar Association, February 14, 2022
- Panelist, "Doing Business with Russian Investors," Greater Fort Lauderdale Realtors-Global Real Estate Council, April 6, 2017

Publications

- Lawsuit, Exec. Orders Should Boost Small Modular Reactors, Law360 (July 2025)
- Navigating International Arbitration in Power Generation: Key Insights for Dispute Resolution and Asset Protection, Power Magazine (March 2025)
- Waves of Considerations Reach S. Fla.'s Real Estate Market as a Result of Ukraine Crisis, Daily Business Review (March 2022)
- Solar Power Satellites: the Right to a Spot in the World's Highest Parking Lot, 18 B.U. J. Sci. & Tech. L. 435 (September 2012)



ALIETTE DELPOZO RODZ

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Aliette DelPozo Rodz is a partner in the Miami office of Shutts & Bowen LLP, where she is Co-Chair of the International Litigation and Arbitration Practice Group and Chair of the Cuba Task Force. Aliette serves as lead trial counsel for companies involved in disputes in state and federal courts, in arbitration and before administrative agencies. She handles all aspects of litigation including preliminary and permanent injunction hearings, evidentiary hearings, bench trials, arbitrations and jury trials.

Aliette has been recognized by *South Florida Business Leaders*, is a recipient of the *In the Company of Women* Government & Law Award, the *Women Extraordinaire* award and a finalist of *Businesswomen of the Year*, and has received recognition from Outstanding Lawyers of Miami-Dade County, Chambers & Partners (2023 and 2024 years) Best Lawyers in America, South Florida Business & Wealth Prestigious Women Awards, Take a Walk in Her Shoes Honoree, Miami Today's 2017 The Book of Leaders, Lawyers of Distinction, Businesswoman of the Year, Women Extraordinaire, South Florida Business Leaders, Outstanding Lawyers of Miami-Dade County, and Florida Super Lawyers. Aliette has built a reputation as a tenacious commercial trial lawyer who advocates for U.S. and foreign companies, institutions in national and international disputes, and individuals in court, arbitration or through alternative resolutions.

Aliette has experience litigating across numerous industries, including real estate, banking, creditors' rights, power generation, aviation, election litigation, construction, insurance, gaming, equine law, and professional services. She has represented oil companies, aviation companies, energy companies, banks, casinos, brokerage firms, realtor firms, hedge funds, manufacturers/distributors, family offices, hospitals, polo associations, large land proprietors, developers and hoteliers in complex business disputes, commercial and residential foreclosures, bank and creditors' rights litigation, consumer credit, contract disputes, ERISA, landlord-tenant litigation, libel and negligence.

She also represents international businesses with claims in the U.S. as well as American clients with claims abroad. She has handled all forms of international discovery and Hague Convention procedures and has worked on International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Commercial Dispute Resolution

Aliette DelPozo Rodz

(ICDR), FINRA, JAMS and American Arbitration Association (AAA) arbitrations, as well as National Association of Realtors Arbitrations (NARS). Aliette is a member of the Cuban-American Bar Association, the Miami International Arbitration Society (MIAS), heads the firm's Cuba Task Force and assists clients with their business prospects in Cuba based on the constant changes in U.S./Cuba regulations. In the energy sector, she has represented power generation clients and service providers in multi-million-dollar international litigation and arbitration matters.

Aliette is the Interlaw ambassador for the firm. Interlaw is a long-established elite global network of pre-eminent independent law firms comprising of over 8,000 lawyers based in over 150 cities around the world. She is also a part of the Shutts & Bowen LLP team leading the firm's LLM clerkship program where law students participate in the firm as part of an externship program for credit. Candidates originate from a wide range of countries, including, Ukraine, Brazil, Italy, Estonia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Germany, Bhutan, Argentina, Greece, United Kingdom, Nigeria and India. The program contributes to the firm's commitment to the international community by ensuring that the program attracts and supports candidates from a wide array of backgrounds, which is aligned with the firms' ability to serve diverse clientele and address complex legal issues with a broad range of insights.

Outside of her practice, Aliette is dedicated to supporting women in business and numerous nonprofit organizations. She is a longtime supporter of The Commonwealth Institute for Women and Casa Valentina, as well as organizations such as Educate Tomorrow, which serves foster youth. She is a board member of the Ladies Empowerment and Action Program, Inc. (L.E.A.P.), a non-profit organization that empowers and educates women to make positive life changes transcending into the business community after prison. She served on the Executive Leadership Team of the American Heart Association for more than seven years and was nominated in 2024 as a "Woman of Impact". Aliette served as Chair of the 11th Judicial Circuit's Florida Bar Grievance Committee, and was reengaged to continue her service on the Florida Bar Grievance Committee. Aliette also served over 17 years as a board member of the Zoological Society of South Florida for the benefit of ZooMiami.

While at the University of Florida, she was on the executive board of the John Marshall Bar Association and was an active member of the University of Florida's trial team.

Practice Areas

- International Litigation and Arbitration
- Litigation
- Political Law
- Cuba Task Force

Industry Focus

- Energy

- Aerospace and Defense
- Manufacturing
- Financial Services

Accolades

- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Litigation: General Commercial, 2023, 2024, 2025
- *The Legal 500: US City Elite Rankings*, Commercial and International Disputes, 2025
- *Best Lawyers in America®*
 - Arbitration, 2025, 2026
 - International Arbitration - Commercial, 2025, 2026
 - Litigation - Real Estate, 2024, 2025, 2026
 - Litigation - Construction, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
 - Construction Law, 2024
- *South Florida Business & Wealth Prestigious Women Awards*, 2020
- *Take a Walk in Her Shoes* Honoree, Chapman Partnership, 2020
- Recipient, *In the Company of Women Awards*, Government & Law Award, 2018
- Recognized in *Miami Today's 2017 The Book of Leaders*, recognizing 52 leaders in the Miami Community
- *Featured Attorney*, Lawyers of Distinction, 2017
- *Businesswomen of the Year*, Finalist, 2012
- *Women Extraordinaire*, Recipient, 2011
- *South Florida Business Leaders*, Movers & Shakers, 2011
- *Outstanding Lawyers of Miami-Dade County*, Top 40 Under 40, 2010
- *Florida Super Lawyers*, Rising Star, 2009

Education

- University of Florida College of Law, J.D., 1999
- Florida International University, B.A., Business Administration, 1996
 - Major in Marketing and International Business
 - Minor in Psychology

Bar Admissions

- Florida

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

Languages

- Spanish

Professional and Civic

- Chair, Florida Bar Grievance Committee for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit
- American Bar Association, International Litigation & Arbitration Committee
- Association of Trial Lawyers of America
- National Association of Women Lawyers
- Executive Leadership Team, American Heart and American Stroke Association
- The Commonwealth Institute of South Florida
- Cuban American Bar Association
- Miami International Arbitration Society (MIAS)
- Interlaw
- Dade County Bar Association
- Board of Directors, Zoological Society of South Florida
- Executive Council, United Way Women's Leadership Group
- Ladies Empowerment and Action Program (L.E.A.P.)
- 2018 Fellow, Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD)

Presentations

- Moderator, Panel Discussion: "Miami: New Dispute Capital"? 2024 Interlaw Day (September 11, 2024)
- Webcast Co-Presenter, "Director Liability: Avoiding Risks and Legal Challenges," The Knowledge Group (September 27, 2016)

- Panelist, "Foreign Investment in Cuba: A Discussion of Legal, Economic, and Structural Issues Affecting Foreign Investors," Cuban American Bar Association, Cuba Conference (September 23, 2016)
- Presenter, "Why Workouts Don't Work Out? Spring 2016," 6th Annual Bank & Financial Institutions Special Assets Forum on Real Estate, C&I, and SBA Loans (February 04-05, 2016)
- Webcast Presenter, "Best Practices in Dealing with Disputes and Litigation in a Limited Liability Company (LLC) in 2015," The Knowledge Group (June 22, 2015)

Publications

- Profiled in "[Shutts & Bowen Names New Dispute Resolution Co-Chair](#)," *Law360 Pulse*, April 8, 2021
- "Protect Your Trademarks Now," *Cuba Trade Magazine*, May 2017
- Quoted in "Empresas de EEUU deben aprovechar apertura en Cuba, dice experto," *El Nuevo Herald* (September 24, 2016)
- Quoted in "[A New Dawn for Cuba](#)," *ABA Journal* (June 1, 2016)
- "[Deja Vu: Recount Veterans Back At It In Florida](#)," *Law360* (November 15, 2018)
- "[Big Law Mustering for Suit Over Florida Recount in Race Between Rick Scott and Bill Nelson](#)," *Daily Business Review* (November 9, 2018)
- "[Fla. Candidates Sue As Rhetoric Heats Up Over Vote Count](#)," *Law360* (November 9, 2018)
- "[Fla. Gov. Accuses 2 Counties Of Meddling With Election Count](#)," *Law360* (November 8, 2018)
- "[Scott asks for Broward voting probe as his Nelson lead shrinks](#)," *Politico* (November 8, 2018)
- "[Shutts & Bowen: Dream Team](#)," *Attorney at Law Magazine* (October 2018)



DOUGLAS M. KRAMER

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Douglas M. Kramer is a partner in the Miami office of Shutts & Bowen LLP, where he is a member of the International Litigation and Arbitration Practice Group.

A Martindale-Hubbell AV® rated civil litigation and trial attorney, Doug has more than 40 years of experience providing counsel and guidance to clients in a variety of civil disputes. He has successfully handled and favorably resolved complex commercial litigation and arbitration matters. He has represented clients in arbitrations under the rules of the AAA, JAMS and the ICC. He has also litigated in numerous federal and Florida state courts. He has obtained favorable outcomes for his clients at the pleadings, summary judgment and trial phases of litigation, as well as during pre-suit activities.

Doug has broad experience successfully resolving domestic and international disputes. Areas of his practice include business, real estate, aviation, energy and insurance matters, and have specifically involved disputes concerning agreements, leases, shareholder relationships, creditor's rights issues, and liens and foreclosures. He has also litigated business tort claims, including those alleging fraud or misrepresentation, intentional interference with business contracts or relationships, unfair business practices and conversion and civil theft.

Prior to entering private practice, Doug was a law clerk to the Honorable Justice Arthur J. England, Jr., of the Supreme Court of Florida. Doug has taught Florida Constitutional Law, Appellate Practice and Procedure, Moot Court and Professional Responsibility courses at the University of Miami School of Law. As a law student, he was a member of the *Law Review* and the Moot Court Board and represented the school in moot court competitions.

Notable Experience

- Participated through final arbitration hearing involving an international cargo air transport contract for an award in excess of \$6 Million.
- Participated in securing summary judgments in numerous separate commercial disputes generally involving alleged breaches of contract and related claims.

- Participated in obtaining a stipulated dismissal of million-dollar arbitration claims, with judgments in client's favor for money damages and other relief.
- In defense of multiple federal court business claims against an international retailer, obtained an order compelling arbitration and dismissing the case.
- In a suit alleging damages exceeding \$7 Million, emanating from improperly documented loan transactions and other alleged wrongdoing, obtained favorable resolution during litigation, eliminating the clients' losses.
- Successfully defended a financial institution in two separate proceedings alleging tortious interference, conspiracy and inducement to breach fiduciary duty, obtaining final judgments of dismissal with prejudice, affirmance on appeal, and six-figure judgments in client's favor for attorney's fees.

Practice Areas

- International Litigation and Arbitration
- Litigation

Industry Focus

- Energy

Accolades

- [Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ Rated, 5.0 out of 5.0](#)
- *Best Lawyers in America®*, Commercial Litigation, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

Education

- University of Miami School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*
- Emory University, B.A.

Bar Admissions

- Florida

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida



FERNANDO G. OYARZUN

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Fernando G. Oyarzun is an Associate in the Miami office of Shutts & Bowen LLP, where he is a member of the International Litigation and Arbitration Practice Group. Fernando focuses his practice on representing international and domestic clients in complex litigation, arbitration, and business transactions. During law school, Fernando clerked at the Miami-Dade State Attorney's office.

Practice Areas

- International Litigation and Arbitration

Education

- St. Thomas University School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, May 2022
- Florida International University, B.C., Broadcast Journalism, December 2018

Bar Admissions

- Florida

Court Admissions

- U.S District Court for the Southern District of Florida

Languages

- Spanish

Presentations

- Moderator, "The Florida Advantage: Successfully Using Section 1782 Discovery in International Disputes," Shutts & Bowen and Young MIAS Event, June 26, 2025



FRANCIS E. RODRIGUEZ

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Francis E. "Frank" Rodríguez is Chair of the firm's Executive Committee and a member of the Tax and International Law Practice Group.

A Martindale-Hubbell AV® rated attorney, Frank focuses his practice on general business transactions, with an emphasis on federal and Florida tax issues. Frank frequently advises lenders and borrowers engaging in commercial financing transactions. With respect to Florida matters, Frank coordinates voluntary self-disclosures with the Florida Department of Revenue.

Frank represents non-resident individuals and foreign corporations with inbound tax planning, and U.S. individuals and domestic corporations with outbound tax planning. He counsels international families in succession planning, estate planning, trust issues, probate administration and litigation matters, and federal tax reporting, including voluntary self-disclosures. In connection with his international practice, Frank represents acquirers and sellers of multi-national businesses.

Frank advises on federal tax issues involving entity formation, structuring and restructuring, including with respect to formation and recapitalizations of corporations, partnerships, and limited liability companies. He represents real estate developers and investors in connection with documenting transactions between partners, drafting partnership agreements and tax structuring regarding the acquisition, development, ownership and disposition of real properties and other assets. His work includes assisting clients with respect to amendments to provisions of partnership agreements dealing with tax allocation provisions, distribution provisions, and similar concepts.

Frank is frequently involved in structuring transactions for tax efficiency from a state and local tax perspective, and in representing clients in disputes with the Florida Department of Revenue. Frank assists clients with reporting, compliance, audits, and transactional due diligence related to Florida corporate income tax, sales tax, documentary stamp tax, intangible tax, and re-employment tax.

Francis E. Rodriguez

Frank is a member of the Tax Section of The Florida Bar and serves on the President's Council of Florida International University, among several other professional and civic organizations. He was awarded the Dade County Bar Association Pro Bono Award for his pro bono services. He also has spoken to various local and international organizations regarding federal and Florida legal and tax issues and is often quoted in publications regarding tax and business issues important to those doing business in or from Florida.

Recent matters

- Represented the estate of a major international recording artist in various probate and related litigation matters.
- Represented a client with respect to a Florida documentary stamp tax audit involving a potential liability of about \$1 million on a deed. The Florida Department of Revenue ultimately conceded that no liability existed.
- Represented a major international recording artist in negotiating and assisting in the preparation of agreements related to multiple tours, including tour, marketing, licensing, and venue agreements, and merchandise contracts, and a life story agreement with a large entertainment company.
- Represented a long-standing Italian luxury yacht builder in its multi-million dollar acquisition of a U.S. yacht builder.
- Represented an international owner of a local gaming concern in negotiating and documenting a joint venture agreement with its minority partner.
- Represented a financial institution in a voluntary self-disclosure for the underpayment of Florida documentary stamp tax and the payment of intangibles tax. The Florida Department of Revenue agreed with the calculation of Florida documentary stamp tax and interest due, and abated all penalties.
- Handled tax planning and other legal matters involved in the organization of a Brazilian subsidiary of an architectural firm for its ongoing Brazilian operations.
- Advised on contractual issues, corporate structure and federal income tax matters applicable to international business transactions on behalf of a global developer of emergency and temporary power systems.

Practice Areas

- Corporate
- Cuba Task Force
- Taxation
- Private Client Services
- Trusts and Estates

Accolades

- [Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ Rated, 4.9 out of 5.0](#)
- *Best Lawyers in America®*, Corporate Law, Trusts & Estates, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
- *Florida Super Lawyers*, Tax, Business/Corporate, International, 2009
- *South Florida Legal Guide*, "Top Lawyer," 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
- *South Florida Business Journal*, Power Leaders 250, 2019
- *South Florida Business Journal*, Power Leaders, 2018
- *South Florida Business Journal*, Power Leaders in Law, 2017
- *South Florida Business Journal*, Power Leaders in Law & Accounting, 2016
- *Aventura Magazine*, Top Lawyers, 2021

Education

- University of Miami School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 1998
- Florida International University, B.A., International Relations, *cum laude*, 1995
- Florida International University, B.A. History, *cum laude*, 1995

Bar Admissions

- Tax Section of The Florida Bar

Languages

- French
- Spanish

Professional and Civic

- President's Council, Florida International University
- Board of Trustees, Ultimate Medical Academy (UMA)
- Tax Section of The Florida Bar

Presentations

- Moderator, "Empowering Entrepreneurs," Invest: Miami 10th Anniversary Summit, June 12, 2025

Francis E. Rodriguez

- Moderator, "Doing Business in the US: Maximizing the Miami Opportunity," 2024 Interlaw Day Miami, September 11, 2024
- Speaker, Tax considerations US tax residents face when acquiring non-US real estate for personal use, Palm Beach County Bar Association's 25th Annual Estate & Probate Seminar (May 2008)

Publications

- Co-Author, "[Being Mindful of the Anti-Boycott Law](#)," Daily Business Review (January 3, 2018)
- [Often Overlooked Tax Incentive Reduces U.S. and Florida Taxable Income for Manufacturers and U.S Distributors](#)
- Quoted in "Desachan impugnación de testamento de Juan Gabriel en Florida," Notimex (December 14, 2017)
- Quoted in "[Abraham ordered to pay \\$1 million for Juan Gabriel concert](#)," El Paso Inc. (July 24, 2017)
- Quoted in "[Shutts & Bowen's Revenue and Income Up in 2016](#)," Daily Business Review (February 13, 2017)
- Quoted in "[Offices Shrink, But Miami Firms Think Big](#)," Daily Business Review (November 1, 2016)
- Quoted in "[South Florida Law Firms Hunt Urban Chic Makeover](#)," Daily Business Review (July 1, 2016)

In The News

- Interviewed in [Invest: Miami 10th Anniversary Edition Book](#), Capital Analytics Associates (March 21, 2025)



ALFRED G. SMITH

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Alfred G. Smith is a partner in the Miami office of Shutts & Bowen LLP, where he is a member of the Corporate Practice Group.

A Martindale-Hubbell AV® rated attorney, Al has been recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America® in corporate law and named one of the Dealmakers of the Year by the Daily Business Review. Al has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions and financing transactions in a wide range of industries, including financial services, automotive, energy, healthcare and real estate. He regularly advises public and private companies in equity and debt offerings, including public offerings. Al has substantial experience in the energy industry, where he has represented clients in establishing power generation projects in more than 20 countries.

Al regularly assists clients in forming and operating private equity funds, venture capital funds and real estate funds and addressing applicable regulatory issues.

Al has been a frequent lecturer on securities and corporate law and has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for New Education Initiatives, a support organization for the Miami-Dade County Schools, the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and the Business Volunteers for the Arts, as well as serving on the United Way Allocation Committee and the Securities Committee of the Florida Bar.

Practice Areas

- Corporate

Industry Focus

- Financial Services
- Hospitality

- Energy

Accolades

- [Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™](#) Rated, 5.0 out of 5.0
- *Best Lawyers in America®*
 - Mergers and Acquisitions Law, 2024, 2025, 2026
 - Corporate Law, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
 - Securities/Capital Markets, 2026
- The Dealmakers of the Year, *Daily Business Review*, 2010

Education

- Duke University, J.D., with distinction, 1981
- St. Lawrence University, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1978

Bar Admissions

- Florida

Professional and Civic

- Board of Directors, Foundation for New Education Initiatives (a foundation supporting the Miami-Dade County Schools)
- Board of Directors, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind
- Board of Directors, Business Volunteers for the Arts
- United Way Allocation Committee
- Securities Committee, The Florida Bar



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