



**James T. Ferrara**  
*Partner*

Practice Area: *Commercial Litigation*  
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An experienced trial attorney with a Martindale-Hubbel AV Rating, Jim has tried approximately 40 trials through jury or non-jury verdict, and numerous published appellate opinions before Florida District Courts of Appeal and the Florida Supreme Court.

Jim's practice area is helping clients' involved in business litigation and dispute resolution. He represents clients at trial, in arbitration and on appeal. The areas his practice focuses on include litigation pertaining to contracts, commercial foreclosures, real estate, homeowners and condominiums association disputes, shareholder disputes and construction. An early expertise in insurance coverage analysis and bad faith litigation provides Jim with even more perspective, allowing him to give clients guidance in not only the legal picture, but also the big picture.

Of the many cases Jim has tried, he has developed a special interest in litigation surrounding both the construction industry and commercial contract disputes.

It is only natural that Jim would have developed a keen interest in the legal issues affecting construction and real estate development. For many years, while working his way through college and law school, Jim was employed in the construction field. Today, Jim combines his "hands-on" (no pun intended) construction experience and his legal know-how to resolve the issues affecting the interests of developers, contractors, sub-contractors, unit owners, condominium and homeowners associations, and land owners. This can involve litigation arising out of real estate transactions, construction defects, mechanics liens, breach of warranties, or general contractual disputes.

Jim experience is shared with the community and Florida Bar as he has served on the Florida Bar's Ethics Committee, as Chair of the South Palm Beach County Civil Practice Committee and has been selected as a member of the Litigation Counsel of America. He has also served the community as a member of the Board of Directors for the YMCA and is an active member of the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Boca.

"The practice of law takes me to hundreds of areas of knowledge, and requires that I master them all. One day I have to understand how a building is constructed and, on the next, how to reconstruct a crime scene. My curiosity is always fed."

"Clients shouldn't be given tough-sounding quotes from the 'The Art of War,' then have their attorneys run at the first sign of battle. I'm not afraid to fight for my clients. I provide them an objective evaluation of their position early in the case. Then, together, we can make pragmatic decisions about the litigation strategy."

**-James Ferrara, Litigation & Dispute Resolution**



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**Education**

- Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, J.D., Dean's List, 1988
- Furman University, B.A., 1985

**Professional Memberships**

- Florida Bar, 1988
- U.S. District for the Southern District of Florida 1989
- U.S. District for the Middle District of Florida, 1993
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, 2001
- Florida Bar Grievance Committee (15D), Chairman and Member
- The Florida Bar, Member Appellate Practice and Trial Section
- South Palm Beach County Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute, Insurance Coverage, Transportation & Construction Law Committees

**Notable Client Work**

- **Winning Hands Down for Palm Beach:**

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department was sued for civil-rights violations, relating to their enforcement of Florida's strict pawnshop laws. Losing the case would have ripped millions of dollars of contraband goods from police custody and had a drastic negative effect on fighting criminal activity in the county. But we convinced the Federal Court that no civil rights had been violated, and the loot remained with police.

- **Protecting a Widow's Rights:**

Upon the death of her husband, a widowed shareholder found herself being taken advantage of by her husband's business partners, who attempted to unlawfully retain assets due her. We stepped in, and fought for and protected her interests, ensuring that she received proper compensation from the company.