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E U R O M O N E Y

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# America's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys

## BENCHMARK

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO AMERICA'S LEADING LITIGATION FIRMS & ATTORNEYS

ALABAMA ARIZONA ARKANSAS CALIFORNIA COLORADO CONNECTICUT DELAWARE FLORIDA GEORGIA ILLINOIS INDIANA IOWA KANSAS KENTUCKY LOUISIANA MASSACHUSETTS MICHIGAN MINNESOTA MISSISSIPPI MISSOURI MONTANA NEVADA NEW HAMPSHIRE NEW JERSEY NEW YORK NORTH CAROLINA NORTH DAKOTA OHIO OKLAHOMA OREGON PENNSYLVANIA RHODE ISLAND SOUTH CAROLINA SOUTH DAKOTA TENNESSEE TEXAS UTAH VERMONT VIRGINIA WISCONSIN WYOMING

2008



# Florida

## Highly recommended firms

In the 1960s, the founders of Colson Hicks Eidson and Podhurst Orseck were both based at legendary personal injury firm Nichols Gaither Beckham Colson Spence & Hicks. Since Podhurst Orseck was founded in 1967, the firm has diversified to operate as a full-service civil litigation boutique, with 80 to 90 percent of its practice devoted to complex commercial work. Class actions, international litigation, and corporate work increasingly dominate the firm's caseload and make it, in one client's words, "a great place to go for serious, complex litigation." Clients include Perry Ellis International, Alienware, Mellon United National Bank, and the University of Florida.

Peers agreed that Aaron Podhurst was a key figure in the Florida legal market. Podhurst has built a national reputation on his work as a plaintiffs aviation lawyer. In addition to that practice, he has led the firm's commercial litigation work. Colleague Robert Josefsberg was commended by competitors as an "on the spot" litigator. Josefsberg supplements his commercial litigation cases with work in white-collar criminal defense, a practice that boosts the firm's growing local reputation in that field. Peers called Victor Diaz "indispensable." Diaz serves as lead counsel to Alienware and Codina Group and is increasing his practice in securities litigation. Partner Stephen Rosenthal has recently focused his work in developing a well-recognized appellate practice.

## Leading litigation firms

### Highly recommended

Colson Hicks Eidson

Greenberg Traurig

Kenny Nachwalter

Podhurst Orseck

### Recommended

Akerman Senterfitt

Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod

Hogan & Hartson

Holland & Knight

Hunton & Williams

Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton

## Local litigation stars

Hilarie Bass  
Greenberg Traurig

Dean Colson  
Colson Hicks Eidson

Richard Critchlow  
Kenny Nachwalter

Edward Davis  
Akerman Senterfitt

Victor Diaz  
Podhurst Orseck

Daniel González  
Hogan & Hartson

William Hill  
Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod

Robert Josefsberg  
Podhurst Orseck

John Kozyak  
Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton

Michael Kreitzer  
Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod

Roberto Martinez  
Colson Hicks Eidson

Pedro Martinez-Fraga  
Greenberg Traurig

Joseph Matthews  
Colson Hicks Eidson

Aaron Podhurst  
Podhurst Orseck

Stephen Rosenthal  
Podhurst Orseck

David Ross  
Greenberg Traurig

Elliot Scherker  
Greenberg Traurig

Lawrence Silverman  
Akerman Senterfitt

Brian Spector  
Kenny Nachwalter

Marty Steinberg  
Hunton & Williams

Charles Throckmorton  
Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton

Harley Tropin  
Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton

Stanley Wakshlag  
Kenny Nachwalter



**VICTOR M DIAZ, JR****PODHURST ORSECK P.A.**

25 West Flagler Street, Suite 800  
Miami, FL 33130  
Tel: 305 358 2800  
Fax: 305 358 2382  
Email: info@podhurst.com  
Website: www.podhurst.com

Victor M Diaz, Jr, was born November 14, 1960, in Camaguey, Cuba. In 1982, he received his Bachelor's Degree (summa cum laude) from Duke University where he graduated first in his class. In 1985, Victor graduated from the Yale Law School, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Yale Law & Policy Review.

Victor was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1985. His professional memberships include: Dade County and American Bar Associations; The Florida Bar; American Association for Justice (Chair, Section on Aviation Litigation); (Member, Section on Commercial Litigation); Dade County Trial Lawyers Association (Board of Directors, 1997-1999); and the Cuban American Bar Association (Board of Directors 1998-2004; President 2003). In 2003, Victor was elected a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

For over two decades, Victor has concentrated his practice in complex civil litigation including complex commercial litigation, class actions, multi-district litigation, mass torts and product liability cases. Victor has been recognized as an elite trial lawyer by numerous national and regional publications, including The South Florida Legal Guide, Florida Trend Magazine, Florida Super Lawyers, Chamber's USA's Guide to Leading Lawyers for Business, Who's Who in American Law, Lawdragon's 500 Leading Plaintiff's Lawyers in America, Lawdragon's 3000 Leading Plaintiff's Lawyers in America, Guide to the World's Leading Product Liability Lawyers and Best Lawyers in America. Victor has lectured extensively in this country on various litigation related topics and has addressed several international law conferences on the subject of mass tort, product liability and complex civil litigation involving foreign nationals.

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TRIAL & APPELLATE LAWYERS

**ROBERT JOSEFSBERG****PODHURST ORSECK P.A.**

25 West Flagler Street, Suite 800  
Miami, FL 33130  
Tel: 305 358 2800  
Fax: 305 358 2382  
Email: info@podhurst.com  
Website: www.podhurst.com

Bob Josefsberg was born September 23, 1938, in Brooklyn, New York. He received his BA Degree from Dartmouth College in 1959. He graduated from the Yale Law School in 1962, and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1962 and to the US Supreme Court in 1970.

Bob is one of Dade County's premiere trial lawyers. He has been listed annually since 1987 in the Best Lawyers in America in two categories – Business Litigation and Criminal Law since 2003 and from 2003 on he was listed in Chambers and Partners as one of the top four commercial litigators in Florida. In 2006 he was listed #1 trial lawyer in Florida by Super Lawyers. He has received the Dade County Bar David Dyer Professionalism Award, the Bnai Brith Professionalism Award, the Florida Defense Lawyers Rodney Thaxton "Against All Odds" award and the American Bar Association Senior Section Pro Bono Award. He is Past President and Dean of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Past-President of the Peter T Fay American Inns of Court and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He has served on the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Judiciary, as Chairman of the Southern District of Florida Judicial Evaluation Committee, served as a member of the Florida Federal Judicial Nominating Commission and the Florida State University Law School Board of Visitors. In addition to extensive involvement in the firm's commercial practice, Bob handles the firm's white-collar criminal defense work an outgrowth of his background as an assistant US Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, as Special Counsel to the Dade County Grand Jury, and as a member of numerous commissions and task forces in the area of criminal law, including the US Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules and Chairmanship of the Florida Bar's Criminal Law Certification Committee. He served as General Counsel to Governor Robert Graham in 1980. Bob has lectured extensively throughout the United States on substantive issues, ethics, professionalism and civility. His 1994 article on civility has been reprinted in more than 20 legal journals and periodicals. Bob is extensively involved in community activities, with particular emphasis upon the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse by young people.

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**AARON PODHURST****PODHURST ORSECK P.A.**

25 West Flagler Street, Suite 800  
Miami, FL 33130  
Tel: 305 358 2800  
Fax: 305 358 2382  
Email: info@podhurst.com  
Website: www.podhurst.com

Aaron Podhurst has been a distinguished trial lawyer for more than forty years. He was born April 29, 1936, in New York City, and received his BA from the University of Michigan in 1957, and his Juris Doctorate Degree from Columbia University, where he was a Harland Fiske Stone Scholar. Aaron was admitted to the Florida and New York Bars in 1961.

Aaron's distinguished career has brought him honors and offices from virtually every major legal organization, including the presidencies of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, fellowship in the American College of Trial Lawyers, member of Board of Governors of Association of Trial Lawyers of America, membership in the International Society of Barristers and the Inner Circle of Advocates, member of the Cuban American Bar Association and chairmanship of various aviation committees of the American Bar Association, Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers. Although Aaron made his reputation as one of the nation's premiere plaintiff's aviation lawyers, and continues to hold that status, he has guided the firm in recent years to its status as one of the major commercial litigation firms in South Florida. At the same time, he has managed to devote countless hours to community service, including the presidency of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, recipient of the Medallion of Honor from the National Conference for Community and Justice and the 1999 Jurisprudence Award from the Anti-Defamation League and membership in many civic organizations.

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**STEPHEN F ROSENTHAL****PODHURST ORSECK P.A.**

25 West Flagler Street, Suite 800  
Miami, FL 33130  
Tel: 305 358 2800  
Fax: 305 358 2382  
Email: info@podhurst.com  
Website: www.podhurst.com

Stephen F Rosenthal is a partner specializing in appeals and complex litigation. His practice spans tort and commercial work, as well as employment and election law.

He is an honors graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard College, and he studied for an additional year in England after college as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar. After law school, Stephen served for two years as a law clerk to Judge Rosemary Barkett of the US Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit and to Judge Mark Wolf of the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts. Following his judicial clerkships, Stephen worked as a trial lawyer at the Department of Justice in Washington, DC.

He has lectured on class action law and deceptive and unfair trade practice law for the Florida Justice Association and has published on First Amendment issues. Stephen serves on the Boards of the Florida Justice Association and the American Constitution Society, South Florida Chapter, the advisory board to the Useful Technology Corporation and is a trustee of the United Way of Miami-Dade County. He speaks Spanish and has previously worked in Spain and Central America.

Stephen is licensed to practice in Florida and the District of Columbia. He is a member of the bars of the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh and Seventh Circuits, and the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

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