



Joseph A. DeMaria

Partner

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Clients count on Joseph DeMaria as an aggressive advocate and ally when facing courtroom battles involving high-stakes business, construction or white-collar criminal disputes.

Joseph is a former federal prosecutor with decades of experience leading trial teams and crafting effective legal arguments before state and federal courts. He is well-known for his tenacity and no-holds-barred approach to major litigation.

Among Joseph's specific assets are:

Proven success, in three distinct areas of the law — business litigation, construction litigation and white-collar criminal defense. Joseph offers a rare skill set: Strength in three diverse legal areas, coupled with trial victories in major litigation cases representing clients from wide-ranging sectors, including banking and services, large-scale corporate construction, international business, government entities and public school systems, among others. He has also defended individuals under investigation and subject to criminal and regulatory charges by the Department of Justice and federal and state regulators. Read more about Joseph's [litigation successes](#).

Certification by the Florida Bar as a Business Litigation Specialist, a mark of professional distinction. This designation is reserved for Florida-based attorneys who undergo rigorous vetting, including a written examination and peer review, to augment their deep experience in business litigation. Joseph's certification for the past 21 years signifies his commitment to and capabilities in business litigation.

A particular ability to meet "Gordian knot" cases – especially complex, challenging and high-risk disputes – with confident poise and cool intellect. During his more than three-decade legal career, Joseph has been a key player in many of South Florida's most high-profile — and highly publicized — business litigation and financial criminal cases, beginning with his years as a member of the Miami Organized Crime Strike Force with the U.S. Department of Justice, and continuing through his present representation of businesses and individuals. He thrives under the pressure inherent in these cases – a trait that benefits his clients.

Extensive experience with "bet the company" legal matters. Federal and civil RICO claims. Embezzlement and Bribery. Accounting and Legal Malpractice. Corporate Governance. Breach of Fiduciary Duty. Money Laundering. Fraud, Grand Theft and Tax Evasion. Construction Delays. Surety and Insurance Claims. Joseph has handled these matters and more. When facing a high-stakes situation, clients put their trust in Joseph.

Honors & Awards

- America's Top 100 Bet-the-Company Litigators (2019-present)
- Named to "The Best Lawyers in America" list for Commercial Litigation, Criminal Defense: White-Collar, Legal Malpractice Law - Defendants and Litigation - Construction in Florida by *Best Lawyers* (2009-2020)
- Selected, Florida Trend's Florida Legal Elite (2017-present)
- Named a "Florida Super Lawyer" by *Super Lawyers* (2006-present)
- Named a "Top Lawyer" by *South Florida Legal Guide* (2015-present)
- Rated AV Preeminent™ in Judicial Edition of Martindale-Hubbell® (2018-present)



Before Fox Rothschild

Prior to joining Fox, Joseph was a longtime partner at the Miami law firm of Tew Cardenas LLP. He was also a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, Miami Organized Crime Strike Force. While in law school, he served as the managing editor of the *Buffalo Law Review*.

Beyond Fox Rothschild

Joseph has served since 1994 as an adjunct professor at the University of Miami School of Law, teaching "Trial Skills" and "Business Litigation Skills." He is also a frequent author and lecturer on construction litigation, mediation and white-collar criminal topics for the National Business Institute and has appeared as a legal commentator on white-collar criminal issues for CNN, CNBC and national and local radio outlets.

Practice Areas

- Litigation
- Directors' & Officers' Liability & Corporate Governance
- White-Collar Criminal Defense & Regulatory Compliance
- Construction
- Intellectual Property
- Law Firms & Attorneys
- Securities Industry
- Franchising & Distribution

Bar Admissions

- Florida
- New York

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit



- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Western District of New York

Education

- State University of New York at Buffalo Law School (J.D., *cum laude*, 1982)
- St. Bonaventure University (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1979)

Memberships

- Litigation Counsel of America, Fellow
- The Florida Bar
 - Business Litigation Certification Committee, 2006-2012; Chair, 2009-2011
 - Federal Practice Committee, 2012-2018
 - Legal Malpractice Certification Subcommittee, 2013-2017



Leadership

- St. Bonaventure University, Board of Trustee, 2009-2018
- National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, Florida Commissioner 2005-2007