

# Michael Freed

## Shareholder

Jacksonville  
mfreed@gunster.com  
(904) 350-7167



## Practice & Industry Areas

- Business Litigation
- Class Action Defense
- Corporate Law
- Health Care
- Labor & Employment Law
- Alternative Dispute Resolution

## Education

- Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., magna cum laude
- Jacksonville University, B.A., summa cum laude
- Edward Waters College, Honorary Doctorate of Law

## Bar & Court Admissions

- Florida, 1995
  - Board Certified in Business Litigation, 2015
- Washington, D.C., 1995
- Maryland, 1993
- U.S. District Court, Middle District, Florida
- U.S. District Court, Southern District, Florida
- U.S. District Court, Northern District, Florida
- U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

## Overview

Mike is a trial lawyer with a wealth of experience in the courtroom and arbitrations, administrative proceedings and other forms of dispute resolution.

As an attorney, board certified in business litigation, his practice spans a wide range of substantive legal disciplines and specialized industries including corporate governance,

education, health care, hospitality, employment, construction, logistics, transportation, product liability and receiverships.

Mike also serves as counsel for a variety of companies, with regular involvement in personnel matters, labor relations, contract negotiations, insurance, risk analysis and strategic planning.

Mike is a frequent speaker at continuing legal education presentations on various substantive legal topics and professional ethics. He also has been published, both inside and outside of the legal community, regarding a variety of subjects. Mike has appeared on national and local television and radio programs including The Today Show, 20/20, Good Morning America and National Public Radio.

Mike actively engages at the local, state and national levels with significant causes and organizations. He is active in speaking out in support of legal aid for the indigent, and collaboration within the non-profit community. He is the founder of FreedToRun™, a marathon series that raises money to endow a program that provides legal services to indigent pediatric patients and seniors.

## Representative Matters

- Class action counsel to publicly traded food manufacturer
- Successfully tried, as lead counsel, litigation for theft of intellectual property, violation of trade secrets act and breach of non-compete contract
- Prevailed in jury trial as lead counsel in fraud claims arising from land purchase transaction
- Litigation of major construction defect claims arising out of luxury condominium project
- Negotiation of asset purchase and stock purchase agreements
- Representation of technology companies in licensing, marketing and vendor agreements
- Negotiation of celebrity brand ambassador agreements

## Honors

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®
  - Business Organizations (including LLCs and Partnerships) “Lawyer of the Year” in Jacksonville, 2020
  - Employment Law – Individuals, Business Organizations, Commercial Litigation, 2015-24
- *Jacksonville Daily Record*, “Lawyer of the Year”, 2018
- *Florida Trend*, “Legal Elite”
- *Florida Super Lawyers*, 2011-23
  - “Top 25 Lawyers in Jacksonville,” 2020

- American Board of Trial Advocates Florida Chapter, Fran Peacock Coker Community Service Award, 2019
- First Coast News, 12 Who Care Community Service Award, 2019
- Distinguished Alumni Award of Excellence, Jacksonville University, 2018
- “But For Leadership Florida” Award Recognizing Community Impact, 2018
- Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, “Michael K. Reese Quality of Life” Award, 2018
- Dr. Frances Bartlett Kinne Distinguished Dolphin of Service award, Jacksonville University, 2017
- First District Court of Appeal, Judicial Nominating Commission, 2014-18
- *Jacksonville Business Journal*
  - “Ultimate Attorneys: Best of the Bar,” 2020
  - “Ultimate Attorney,” 2018
  - Diversity Award, 2013
  - “Up and Comers,” 2005
- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell

## **Publications & Presentations**

- “Partner Viewpoint-Focusing Forward for a Better Future,” National Conference of Bar Presidents, August 2021
- “Leveraged Philanthropy,” The Florida Bar’s Leadership Academy, August 2019
- “[Listening – the sound of diversity](#),” National Conference of Bar Presidents, April 2019
- “Obtaining Board Certification in Business Litigation,” Jacksonville Bar Association, 2017
- “The Pros and Cons of Non-Compete Agreements,” Young Upstarts, 2016.
- “Legal Services as an Economic Indicator,” Jacksonville Business Journal, 2016
- “Red Flags in Business Valuations,” American Society of Appraisers, 2014
- “Advanced Direct Examination Techniques,” Raymond Ehrlich Trial Advocacy Seminar, 2012
- “Effective Cross Examination,” National Business Institute, 2012
- “Practical Applications of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act,” *Westlaw*, 2012
- “Impact on Banks of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act,” *Financial News and Daily Record*, 2012
- “Preparing for Your Deposition,” *Building Edge Magazine*, 2010

## **Professional Associations & Memberships**

- Florida Bar, Business Litigation Certification Committee, 2016-present
  - Chair, 2019-20
  - Vice Chair, 2018-19

- National Conference of Bar Presidents Executive Council, President 2021, Officer 2018-2022, Executive Council 2014-2018
- American Bar Association, Delegate, 2013-2018
- Judicial Nominating Commission, appointed by the governor, 2014-18
- Florida Bar Fourth Judicial Circuit Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee, 2014, Grievance Committee, 2009-12
- Jacksonville Bar Association
  - President, 2011-12
  - Chairs
    - Commercial Litigation, 2004-09
    - Professionalism, 2004-07
- Federal Bar Association, Jacksonville Chapter, President, 2002-03
- Florida, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Bar Associations
- The Chester Bedell Inn of Court
- Litigation Counsel of America

## **Civic & Community Service**

- Cultural Council of Jacksonville, Board of Directors, 2022-present
- Innocence Project of Florida, Board of Directors, 2022-present
- Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida, Board Member, 2016-22
- Jacksonville Country Day School, Past Board Member
- Clara White Mission, Board Member, 2013-16
- Jacksonville University
  - Advisory Board Member, 2024-present
  - Board of Trustees, 2013-15
  - National Alumni Association, President, 2013-15
  - Honors College, Executive Council, 2023-present
- Leadership Florida, Class 33, 2014-15
  - Northeast Florida Regional Council, Chair, 2016-17
  - Northeast Florida Regional Council, 2015-present
- Leadership Jacksonville (Class of 2008)
  - Board of Directors, 2018-2022