



MICHAEL P. SILVER

PARTNER

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Michael Silver is a partner in the Tampa office of Shutts & Bowen LLP, where he is a member of the Business Litigation Practice Group.

Michael has a broad-based litigation practice that includes business litigation and appeals in state and federal courts, as well as various other forums. He has handled contract disputes; fraud and business tort lawsuits; shareholder and partnership contests; restrictive covenant and non-competition cases; real estate litigation, including commercial foreclosures and lender liability issues; insurance and bad faith claims; and the defense of professional liability and significant personal injury and property damage matters.

He has represented clients in numerous industries, including the automotive, aviation, construction, energy, financial services, health care, insurance, real estate, and securities businesses. An experienced litigator, he is consistently recognized by *Florida Trend Legal Elite*, *Best Lawyers in America®*, and *Florida Super Lawyers*.

Michael's service to the firm includes terms on Shutts & Bowen's Associates Compensation Committee, Pension Committee, and Pro Bono Committee.

Michael has long been active as a leader in the Tampa Bay community. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Tampa Theatre, a landmark non-profit historic movie palace. He previously served on The Poynter Institute Foundation Board, supporting the philanthropic efforts of a global leader in journalism. For over a decade, he has been involved with the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts, the annual premier juried outdoor art festival in the Tampa Bay area, formerly serving as the Festival Co-Chair and on the Board of Directors, and currently serving on the Advisory Board.

He earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Florida, where he served as President of Florida Blue Key, the oldest and most prestigious leadership honorary in Florida. He was also named to the University of Florida Hall of Fame, the institution's highest recognition given to student leaders.

Michael P. Silver

He is also the host of "[May I Inquire? The Michael Silver pLAWdcast](#)," a podcast featuring conversations with various thought leaders about law, leadership, and life.

Notable Experience

- Defeated defamation claims as lead counsel in federal court jury trial on behalf of globally recognized leader in the business aviation industry and one of its pilots. After nearly a week of trial in which plaintiff sought treble damages totaling approximately \$8 million, jury returned a complete defense verdict after only one hour of deliberations.
- Prevailed on behalf of plaintiff automobile dealer after week-long bench trial in state court against prominent developer over failed real estate project. Responsible for substantial portions of discovery, motion practice, and trial as part of team that succeeded on claims including fraud, breach of contract, and alter ego, for a total judgment in favor of client in excess of \$1 million.
- Achieved dismissal with prejudice of purported class action that alleged billions of dollars in damages to ratepayers, prevailing on argument that administrative tribunal possessed exclusive jurisdiction over plaintiff's claims.
- Litigated to successful settlement a dispute between federal defense contractors on claims alleged to involve over \$125 million, including obtaining a preliminary injunction for the defendant on national security grounds.
- Obtained emergency temporary restraining order in federal court on multiple claims, including violations of federal statutes involving computer fraud, anticybersquatting, and electronic communications privacy. At the conclusion of the litigation, court entered permanent injunction against defendant.
- Won summary judgment in favor of plaintiff insurer on claims against client's former agent for return of insurance commissions.
- Prevented entry of injunction against client accused of violation of non-compete agreement after evidentiary hearing.
- Coordinated a multi-attorney team that served as Florida counsel in connection with the issuance of nearly \$1.3 billion securitization bonds, in a transaction that was the first of its kind in Florida.

Practice Areas

Litigation

Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy

Appellate

Energy

Michael P. Silver

Industry Focus

Aerospace and Defense

Automotive

Construction

Financial Services

Health Care

Insurance

Real Estate

Accolades

- *Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ Rated, 4.9 out of 5.0*
- *Florida Trend*, Commercial Litigation - Legal Elite, 2019-2022; Up and Comer, 2016-2018
- *Best Lawyers in America®* - Commercial Litigation, 2018-2026; Appellate Practice, 2021-2026; Litigation - Banking and Finance, 2024-2026
- *Florida Super Lawyers* - Business Litigation, 2019-2025

Education

- University of Florida, J.D., *cum laude*, 2004
 - Florida Blue Key
 - President, 2004
- University of Florida Hall of Fame
- Frank E. Bryant Memorial Scholarship
- Book Award – Criminal Procedure: Adversary Systems
- Teaching Assistant – Legal Research & Writing; Appellate Advocacy
- University of Florida, B.S.B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2001
 - Omicron Delta Kappa
 - Beta Gamma Sigma
 - Interfraternity Council Valedictorian
 - J. Wayne Reitz Scholar
 - Anderson Scholar of High Distinction

Michael P. Silver

Bar Admissions

Florida

Court Admissions

- All Florida State Courts
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit

Professional and Civic

- The Florida Bar
 - Business Law Section
 - Trial Lawyers Section
- Hillsborough County Bar Association
 - Trial & Litigation Section
 - Parliamentarian, Young Lawyers Division, 2005-2006
- C.H. Ferguson – M.E. White American Inn of Court
 - Master, 2011-2024
- Tampa Theatre
 - Board of Directors, 2025-present
- The Poynter Institute
 - Foundation Board, 2021-2024
- Gasparilla Festival of the Arts
 - Advisory Board, 2017-present
 - Board of Directors, 2014-2016
 - Festival Co-Chair, 2013
 - Festival Committee, 2007-2012
- Leadership Tampa Alumni, 2025-present
- Leadership Tampa, Class of 2025
- Hope Cohen Barnett Leadership Institute, Class of 2014

Michael P. Silver

- The Tampa Connection, Class of 2009
- University Club of Tampa
- Jewish Educational Loan Foundation (JELF)

Media Mentions

- ["Michael P. Silver Joins the Poynter Foundation Board,"](#) Poynter News Release (March 11, 2021)

Presentations

- "Privilege Issues for In-House Counsel: Old Principles, New Considerations," CLE Presentation (August 19, 2022)

Publications

- Co-Author, ["A Future View of Document Review,"](#) *Hillsborough County Bar Association's Lawyer Magazine*, January/February 2023 Issue

Podcast

["May I Inquire? The Michael Silver pLAWdcast"](#)