

Jonathan E. Kanov

Shareholder

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Jonathan concentrates his practice of law in complex, high-exposure litigation and has litigated a wide array of professional liability and commercial cases in federal and state courts, as well as arbitration forums, throughout the country. He zealously defends professionals in tort and contract actions, including attorneys, accountants, architects, engineers, contractors, directors and officers, brokers, dealers and fiduciaries. He has extensive experience with real estate actions, defending numerous parties, including real estate agents, brokers, developers, appraisers, title and settlement agents, and lenders.

Jonathan devotes considerable time on behalf of his clients in complex commercial, contract, construction, fraud, professional negligence/malpractice, statutory violations, shareholder/member disputes, directors/officers, business tort, and whistleblower litigation, and he has tried many cases to verdict. He brings to the firm a unique combination of business and litigation skills developed during his career. This background is invaluable to his representation of various individuals, private and public companies, including Fortune 500 corporations, and non-profit entities in a broad range of matters. He is highly sought after by clients and insurance carriers for his ability to handle extremely complex and difficult matters.

Jonathan graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1992, where he received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance. He obtained his *juris doctor* in 1996 from the University of Miami School of Law, graduating *cum laude*. Jonathan is admitted to the Bar of the state of Florida. He is also admitted to practice before the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States District Court for the Southern, Middle and Northern Districts of Florida.

Education

- University of Miami School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 1996)

Practices

- Commercial Litigation
- Miscellaneous Professional Liability
- Real Estate E&O Liability
- Architectural, Engineering & Construction Defect Litigation
- Intellectual Property, Technology & Media Litigation
- Insurance Agents & Brokers Liability
- Lawyers' Professional Liability
- Accountants' Professional Liability
- Non-Profit D&O
- Disciplinary Board Representation
- School Leaders' Liability

- The University of Texas at Austin (B.A., 1992)

Admissions

- Florida, 1996
- U.S. District Court Northern District of Florida, 1997
- U.S. District Court Southern District of Florida, 1997
- U.S. Court of Appeals 11th Circuit, 1999
- U.S. District Court Middle District of Florida, 2001

Honors & Awards

- Who's Who In American Law - Top Lawyers

Associations & Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Association of Trial Lawyers of America
- Miami-Dade County Bar Association
- Professional Liability Underwriting Society

Classes/Seminars Taught

- *Anatomy of a Real Estate Transaction: How Actions of Participants Give Rise to Claims*, Client Presentation, July, 2019
- *FDIC Actions Against Appraisers*, 2012 - 2013
- *Trends in Florida Real Estate E&O Claims*, 2010 – 2013
- *Subprime Lending Crisis and the Growing Litigation Claims Against Real Estate Professionals: Understanding How This Happened and Planning for Actionable Defense Strategies*, 2008
- *Internet Research for Florida Legal Counsel and Staff*, CLE Speaker Series, 2000-2008
- *Accounting Malpractice Pre- and Post Sarbanes-Oxley and When It Is Appropriate To Withdraw From A Public Audit*, 2005-2006

Published Works

- *Case Law Alerts*, regular contributor, 2010-2018
- "Developer Scores Big Victory in Federal Court in Miami Concerning Condo Deposit Recovery Cases," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 15, No. 2, June 2009
- "Subprime Woes May Lead To More Regulations And Duties Placed On Mortgage Brokers," *Florida Professional Liability and Ethics Law Letter*, April 2008, Vol. 4, No. 4

Media Commentary

- "Ghost of 2008 Crash Still Haunts Real Estate E&O," *Insurance Journal*, cover story, February 8, 2016

Significant Representative Matters

- Successfully defended West Palm Beach lawyer and law firm in a malpractice claim stemming from a former client who was prevented from exercising option to purchase

property worth in excess of \$2 million.

- Won complete defense verdict and affirmative damages in high-profile federal court trial in Southern District of Florida in defense of auditors/accountants of public real estate company. Plaintiff had sought approximately \$7 million in damages for alleged botched audit and improper withdrawal from engagement.
- Prevailed at trial in Broward County in defense of a property management company of a tax-credit housing community in Lauderhill. Plaintiff, the corporate owner of the property, brought claims for negligence, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, and statutory breaches in the management and operation of the property. The case was litigated over seven years and Plaintiff sought millions of dollars in damages. After a week of Plaintiff's testimony, and eviscerating cross-examinations, we were successful in obtaining a directed verdict.
- Won complete defense verdict in legal malpractice case in Broward County concerning defendant's representation of borrowers in a secured loan transaction.
- Won a directed verdict at trial in \$650,000 litigation on behalf of a national engineering firm in a professional negligence action in Miami-Dade County.
- Summary judgment secured in defense of claims against real estate broker and agent for breach of fiduciary duty and negligence in \$500,000 case in Broward County.
- Successfully defended law firm and lawyer as plaintiffs walked away with no damages from a heavily litigated case concerning lawyer's representation of one of the parties to the sale of a nurse staffing business in Orange County, Florida.
- Victorious after trial in Miami-Dade County in a will contest brought by three children of decedent with estate over \$10 million alleging undue influence, breach of fiduciary duty, and lack of capacity.
- Successfully defended title agent against claims brought by title insurer. Tracked down and collected the ill-gotten gains from the beneficiary of an unrecorded mortgage so that client did not have to satisfy those losses.
- Counsel for a leading provider of outpatient information systems in successful \$12 million federal litigation in Northern District of California regarding development of software application for radiology facilities.
- Counsel for partner in South Florida real estate conglomerate in successful action to terminate partnership agreement and buy out other partners in development deal for Miami-Dade County multi-use project.
- Victorious after trial against one of largest U.S. spirits distributors, alleging breach of distribution agreement, business torts and copyright infringement causes of action.

Results

Court affirms dismissal of real estate agent and his broker.

Our attorneys succeeded in obtaining an affirmance by the Fourth District Court of Appeal. The Fourth District affirmed the dismissal, with prejudice, of our clients, a listing real estate agent and his broker, in an alleged negligence and fraud case. The court rejected the plaintiff's arguments that the trial court abused its discretion in dismissing their pleadings due to their attorney's conduct. The court detailed how the plaintiff's attorney dropped the ball in litigating the case in a separate opinion reversing the plaintiffs' attorney's contempt conviction.

Arbitration Defense Verdict for Prominent Florida Real Estate Developer

Marshall Dennehey and its shareholder, Jonathan E. Kanov, Esq., were successful in a South Florida arbitration representing a prominent Florida real estate developer against construction damage claims brought by a neighboring property's condominium association. In a final, binding ruling, the arbitrator issued a complete defense verdict, plus an award of attorney's fees and costs to the developer.

The plaintiff condominium association had contended that construction of the developer's luxury condominium tower caused many areas of their property to be damaged, largely from vibrations/seismic activity during demolition and construction. The plaintiff demanded \$1.2 million in damages pursuant to a contract that was entered into by the parties covering the construction activity.

The arbitrator agreed with the defense's arguments that the "conditions the claimant contends were caused by vibration damage from construction activities are actually age-related deterioration and the result of deferred maintenance. Additionally, there is no evidentiary basis to allocate uncompensated damage associated with the pool and pool deck to the developer, as opposed to preexisting conditions requiring repair and upgrades required for code compliance." Marshall Dennehey presented highly credible experts and fact witnesses in support of its defense.

Another key to the defense verdict was Marshall Dennehey's effective cross examination of the claimant's structural engineering expert on construction vibration/seismic activity data, which formed the crux of their damage claims.

Directed Verdict Obtained After Close of Plaintiffs' Case Against Property Management Company

Prevailed at trial in Broward County in defense of a property management company of a tax-credit housing community in Lauderhill. The plaintiff, the corporate owner of the property, brought claims for negligence, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, and statutory breaches in the management and operation of the property. The case was litigated over seven years, and the plaintiff had sought millions of dollars in damages. After a week of the plaintiff's testimony, and eviscerating cross-examinations, we were successful in obtaining a directed verdict.

Thought Leadership

March 1, 2026

Florida Fourth DCA Clarifies Limits of Attorney Liability in Third-Party Opinion Letters

September 1, 2025

Legal Updates for Lawyers' Professional Liability - CASE LAW UPDATE

April 1, 2023

Seismic Changes May Soon Be Coming to Florida Statutes for Comparative Negligence, Lodestar Fee, Statute of Limitations and One-Way Attorney's Fees Against Insurers

December 1, 2022

On the Pulse...Our Real Estate E&O Liability Practice Group

November 1, 2022

How Insurance Agents Can Respond to Drastic Changes in Florida's Property Insurance Market From a Risk Perspective (and Why Real Estate Agents Shouldn't Have the Same Concern)