



## LEONARD K. SAMUELS

### Partner

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Leonard Samuels splits his time handling employment-related litigation and complex litigation. His practice focuses on matters that encompass both the knowledge of an employment lawyer and a seasoned trial lawyer's skills.

Lenny's litigation experience includes handling non-compete litigation throughout the United States and essential multi-state matters involving theft of trade secrets, tortious interference with business relationships and contracts. He has also represented companies and executives in a wide variety of employment matters ranging from claims involving breach of contract, fraud, and breach of fiduciary duty to various types of alleged discriminatory conduct.

### Education

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J.D., *magna cum laude*, Florida State University College of Law

B.A., University of Florida

### Bar Admissions

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Florida

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit  
U.S. Court of Federal Claims  
U.S. District Court, Northern, Middle and Southern Districts of Florida  
U.S. Supreme Court

## Practice Teams

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Dispute Resolution

## Practice Areas

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Complex Commercial Litigation  
Healthcare  
Intellectual Property  
Labor & Employment  
Latin America & Caribbean Practice  
Cannabis Law Advisory Group

## Representative Matters

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- Represented insurance brokerage company in enforcing restrictive covenants precluding competition and the use of trade secrets
- Represented four executives of an insurance company against claims that they violated restrictive covenants, misappropriated trade secrets and engaged in unfair competition
- Represented an international cruise line against its former head of US operations alleging violations of the Florida Trade Secrets Act and Computer Fraud and Abuse Act
- Lead trial counsel for a body armor manufacturer in a matter involving claims and counterclaims for breach of military supply agreement valued in excess of \$100 million
- Represented a timeshare company in defense of class action asserting that employees were improperly classified as independent contractors
- Represented company with facilities in 48 states in defense of a Fair Labor Standards Act case with 2,900 plaintiffs
- Represented a large utility in the defense of a \$130 million multi-count complaint involving tax credits and contracts
- Represented a Florida company in pursuing claims for theft of trade secrets and tortious interference following the resignations of 4 top executives who left to work for a competing company
- Represented fuel additive manufacturer in claims and counterclaims involving false advertising and unfair competition
- Represented former hospital executive in whistleblower action against a hospital chain that resulted in a settlement of \$90 million
- Represented a hedge fund in claims for theft of trade secrets and breach of contract against former executives
- Represented 50% owner of internet marketing company in claims and counterclaims involving activities of other 50% owner. Litigation of the case was in Florida and related arbitration proceeded in the Bahamas
- Represented Finnish ship manufacturer in defense of tortious interference and patent infringement claims
- Lead counsel in Broward County for Gore-Lieberman recount efforts

## Awards & Honors

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- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2008-2021
  - *Best Lawyers*, Labor and Employment Litigation Lawyer of the Year (Fort Lauderdale), 2019-2020
  - *Best Lawyers*, Employment Law Lawyer of the Year (Fort Lauderdale), 2018
- *Florida Super Lawyers*, 2007-2020
- *The South Florida Legal Guide*, Top Lawyer, 2004-2014, 2016-2019
- *Florida Trend*, Legal Elite, 2007, 2010
- Featured in the National Law Journal in article entitled Florida's Chad Bar
- Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Preeminent™ rated

## Community Activities / Associations

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- Member, Florida Hemp Advisory Committee
- Member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Board, Jewish Federation
- Jack & Lilyan Mandel Human Resource Development Award, Jewish Federation of Broward County
- Member, Commercial Panel for the American Arbitration Association
- Finance Co-Chair, Fair Districts of Florida
- Member, Board of Directors of Federal Bar Association, Broward County, Florida
- Board Member, Broward Business for the Arts
- Former Chair, Jewish Federation, Finance and Administration Committee
- Former Member, Regional Board of Directors for the Anti-Defamation League
- Former Steering Committee Member, Education Excellence of Florida
- Former Member, Board of Directors of ChildNet
- Former Board Member and Board Chair of Family Central
- Former Board Member, United Way of Broward County

## In the News

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Thirty-Five Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2021 Edition of Best Lawyers In America  
August 19, 2020

Twenty-Seven Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in 2020 Edition of Florida Super Lawyers  
June 8, 2020

Daytona Beach News-Journal Features Berger Singerman in "Legal War Escalates Between Daytona's Brown & Brown, Crosstown Upstart Foundation Risk"  
December 1, 2019

Twenty-one Berger Singerman Attorneys Listed in South Florida Legal Guide as Top Attorneys  
October 31, 2019

Thirty Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2020 Edition of Best Lawyers In America  
August 14, 2019

Growing Produce Features Leonard Samuels in "Advisory Committee Selected to Help Hemp Flourish in Florida"  
August 5, 2019

Berger Singerman's Leonard K. Samuels to Serve on Florida Hemp Advisory Committee

July 25, 2019

Twenty-Eight Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in 2019 Edition of Florida Super Lawyers  
May 29, 2019

South Florida Legal Guide Names 21 Berger Singerman Attorneys as Top Lawyers  
March 7, 2019

Daily Business Review mentions Lenny Samuels in, "Dodging a Bullet for a High-Powered Client: Point Blank Enterprise"  
November 1, 2018

Thirty Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2019 Edition of Best Lawyers In America  
August 14, 2018

Thirty-One Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in 2018 Edition of Florida Super Lawyers  
June 17, 2018

South Florida Legal Guide Names 23 Berger Singerman Attorneys as Top Lawyers  
January 9, 2018

Home Health Care News quotes Lenny Samuels in, "Home Health Referral Sources are Protected in Florida"  
September 19, 2017

Thirty Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2018 Edition of Best Lawyers In America  
August 14, 2017

Thirty-Two Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2017 Super Lawyers Florida Edition  
June 8, 2017

Sun Sentinel quotes Leonard Samuels in, "Pembroke Pines loses detention center case on appeal, may face huge damages claims"  
April 12, 2017

Law360 quotes Leonard Samuels in, "Fla. City Ordered To Provide Water Service To Private Prison"  
April 12, 2017

Twenty-Eight Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2017 Edition of Best Lawyers In America  
August 14, 2016

Thirty-Six Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2016 Super Lawyers Florida Edition  
June 13, 2016

Daily Business Review quotes Leonard Samuels on "Latin American Companies Back New US Trade Secrets Law"  
May 2, 2016

Daily Business Review quotes Leonard Samuels on "Trade Secrets Bill Likes Quiet Whistleblowers, Not News Hogs."  
April 11, 2016

Berger Singerman Secures a Verdict in Favor of Client Involving an Intellectual Property Dispute  
March 1, 2016

## **Publications**

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Law360, "The Wary Employer's Guide To Key Coronavirus Concerns"  
March 16, 2020

Law360, "Trump's NDA Use Raises 1st Amendment Questions"  
March 18, 2019

The Hill, "Are corporate whistleblowers protected under federal law?"

February 23, 2018

Law360, "Insights On Protecting Referral Sources With Noncompetes"  
October 11, 2017

Becker's Hospital Review, "Florida protects healthcare referral sources"  
October 1, 2017

## **Events & Speaking Engagements**

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Lenny Samuels, Speaker, "2017 Labor and Employment Law Section Summit," Broward County Bar Association  
June 1, 2017

## **Doing Business in Florida Blog**

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Certain Physician Non-Competes Are Now Void and Unenforceable in Florida  
June 30, 2019

Employees or Contractors? A Potential Shift in Policy & Its Consequences  
April 30, 2019

U.S. Supreme Court Upholds Employment Agreements Forbidding Class Actions and Requiring Individual Arbitration of Employment Disputes  
May 21, 2018

Is Your Competitor Making False Comparative Advertising Claims?  
November 30, 2016

## **Prior Affiliations**

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- Morgan Lewis & Bockius
- Intern and Law Clerk for Justice James C. Adkins of the Florida Supreme Court