BERGER SINGERMAN
FLORIDA'S BUSINESS LAW FIRM

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Jeffrey Wertman is a Partner and part of Berger Singerman Dispute Resolution Team, based in its Fort Lauderdale office. He focuses his practice on virtually all aspects of construction litigation, commercial lease litigation, and commercial real estate litigation, and in the state, federal and appellate courts and in arbitration.

Jeff's construction litigation practice includes representing owners, developers, general contractors, trade contractors, suppliers, sureties, and condominium and homeowners associations. He provides clients with legal advice on many and varied issues, such as construction and design defects and contract claims, including compliance with Chapter 558, Florida Statutes, construction liens, terminations, payment disputes, change orders, delay damages, performance and payment bonds, and developer/association turnover.

For Jeff, his approach to client service is based on three main core principles. First, Jeff attempts to step into the shoes of his clients. He says that he puts his clients first, and that it is imperative to learn and appreciate the perspective of his clients by taking the time to both understand their business and also be responsive to their needs, burdens, and priorities. Then Jeff works to find a path in order to achieve his clients' goals. He understands the need to adapt when necessary, and the importance to think creatively in order to navigate them through complex legal and business environments. Finally, for Jeff, it is imperative to build enduring relationships with his clients.

Jeff's commercial lease litigation practice includes representing developers, commercial owners, and commercial tenants in matters involving commercial leases and ground (land) lease disputes, including: pre-possession disputes, such as delays in construction and construction defects related to tenant build-out;

performance disputes, such as non-payment of rent and common area maintenance ("CAM") payments, and interpretation of lease provisions; and termination disputes, such as exercise of option clauses in leases, damages to demised premises, demand and litigation against tenants and guarantors for default, non-residential eviction actions, landlord's liens for rent, and issues relating to reletting premises after tenant default.

Jeff also has a vigorous commercial real estate litigation practice representing individuals, banks, businesses, creditors, receivers, and commercial loan borrowers and guarantors, on many issues including non-performing loans that require sophisticated workouts. Jeff also prosecutes and defends complex contract disputes, partnership disputes, actions for breach of fiduciary duty, misrepresentation, fraud, unfair and deceptive trade practices, fraudulent transfers, receiverships, complex commercial mortgage foreclosures, and disputes between developers and condominium and homeowner's associations.

Education

J.D., American University Washington College of Law

- Member of the International Law Review

B.S., *magna cum laude*, State University of New York at Albany

Bar Admissions

Florida
New York
Washington, D.C.
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Practice Teams

Dispute Resolution

Practice Areas

Appellate
Banking & Financial Services Litigation
Complex Commercial Litigation
Construction
Construction Litigation
Director/Officer Litigation & Partnership Disputes
Intellectual Property
Real Estate Litigation