



## Eric P. Hockman

Eric's practice focuses on complex and technical litigation matters involving business, government, and individuals, often resolving matters before they ever reach the uncertainty of a trial. Eric is also the firm's Information Technology Partner, responsible for all of the firm's practice management applications, data storage needs, and data security. He specializes in handling expert-intensive matters that include construction, data privacy, coastal engineering, aviation maintenance and manufacturing, fire and explosion, and other matters involving specialized knowledge before Federal and State courts and agencies, as well as mediation and arbitration.

### Community Service

Eric serves on the Dade County Bar Association Board. He was a Director since 2012 and is currently the Treasurer for 2018-19 as well as the Co-Chair of the Government Relations Committee and Co-Chair of the Building Committee.

### Software Disputes

Eric is experienced in handling disputes over the design, development, and installation of software products. His experience also includes matters related to the protection of software code, including escrow management and copyright protection.

### Data Privacy and Cyber-security

In addition to his complex commercial and municipal litigation practice, Eric is experienced in handling the fallout from data breaches, phishing attacks, and malware attacks. He is also experienced in assisting clients with avoiding data breaches and ensuring adequate insurance coverage for cyberattacks.

### Aviation

Eric's aviation experience is unique among lawyers. Eric spent nearly 12 years working full-time in the industry as a pilot, certificated flight instructor with instrument endorsement, certificated airframe & powerplant technician, and heavy maintenance manager. Before law school, Eric began working for Northwest Airlines as a technician and then lead technician in charge of a 12-man crew. He was soon promoted to management, where he was responsible for managing a union workforce performing heavy maintenance on Douglas DC-9 and DC-10, Boeing 727 and 757, and Airbus A319 and A320 aircraft. He also supervised a maintenance contractor in Singapore on behalf of the airline. In addition to flying and maintaining his own 1961 Cessna 310-F aircraft for several years, Eric has flown commercial cargo flights and taught beginning and advanced pilots how to fly.

### Beach Sand Wars

Eric has handled disputes over beach sand between municipalities involving complex and technical coastal engineering issues, including the installation and function of erosion control structures. Eric's technical and engineering background aids his rapid understanding of complex engineering issues, permitting him to present arguments in simple and understandable ways. As sea levels rise, these cases are likely to become more common, with government, business, and land owners fighting over dwindling beach fronts.

### E-Discovery and Trial Presentation

Eric employs advanced technology in his practice to better represent clients and manage costs. He frequently uses advanced presentation techniques in the courtroom to present clients' arguments clearly, using a combination of oral argument and visual evidence. In addition, Eric is very experienced with

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## Practice Areas

- Airports and Aviation Law
- Airports and Aviation Service Group
- Bankruptcy and Creditor's Rights Group
- Community Association, Club and Resort Group
- Construction Group
- Construction Law
- Education Law
- Litigation
- Litigation Division

## Bar Admissions

- Florida, 2009
- Minnesota, 2006 (resigned 2016)
- U.S. District Court, Minnesota, 2006
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida, 2011
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida, Bankruptcy Court, 2011
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, 2012

## Education

- William Mitchell College of Law  
JD, *magna cum laude*, 2006
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University  
BS & AS, 1991  
Major: Aviation Technology



e-discovery techniques and has managed document discovery and review in a matter involving more than 3.2 million documents. He is frequently consulted by the attorneys in the firm for assistance with electronic discovery issues.

### **Municipal Code Enforcement**

Eric is experienced in handling challenging code enforcement matters on behalf of municipalities. Once code enforcement proceeds to a courtroom, Eric has successfully handled dozens of matters in creative ways, resolving the issues in cost-conscious and efficient ways.

### **Selected Cases:**

- *La Ley Sports Complex at the City of Homestead, LLC v. City of Homestead* (2016): Obtained a \$600,000 judgment in favor of Homestead, defeating a \$3 million fraud claim against a municipality arising out of a lease and purchase agreement for a 140 acre property that included a baseball stadium. The judgment was upheld on appeal.
- *Ober v. Lauderdale-By-The-Sea* (2014): Successfully obtained summary judgment on behalf of a municipality by arguing that Florida law causes a *lis pendens* to expire at the time of judgment, thereby preserving new liens arising from mechanics' and materialmen's liens, code enforcement liens, and judgment liens while foreclosing lenders sit on property without conducting a judicial sale. The case was initially upheld on appeal before the court reversed itself and determined the issue was one for legislative action. On remand, the trial court entered judgment in favor of the municipality on the remaining code enforcement liens.

### **Awards and Recognitions**

- "AV Preeminent Rating", *Martindale-Hubbell*, 2017
- "Florida Rising Star", *Florida SuperLawyers* 2016
- "Florida Rising Star," *Florida SuperLawyers*, 2012-2015
- William Mitchell Law Review, Staff Member, 2003-2004
- William Mitchell College of Law Merit Scholarship
- Class of 1961 Scholarship

### **Memberships**

- Dade County Bar Association, Secretary 2019-2010; Board of Directors
- Dade County Bar Association, Treasurer 2018-2019; Board of Directors 2012-2018, Government Relations Committee 2015-Present, Budget Committee 2016-Present, Executive Committee, 2014-2015 and 2017-2018; Building Committee 2018-2019
- The Florida Bar, Aviation Law Committee, 2013
- Greater Miami Sigma Chi Alumni Association, Vice President (2012-2013) President (2013-2014)
- Greater Miami William Mitchell College of Law Alumni Association, founding member (2013)

### **Press Mentions**

- "[Homestead Wins Dispute Over Traffic Patterns](#)," *Daily Business Review*, 03/17/2016
- "Broward Judge Keeps Postjudgment Liens Alive," *Daily Business Review*, 11/14/2014
- "Old Liens May Still Haunt in Zombie Foreclosures," *Daily Business Review*, 11/4/14