ERIC P. HOCKMAN

PARTNER

CO-CHAIR, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY GROUP

Ft. Lauderdale
(954) 763-4242
ehockman@wsh-law.com

Eric Hockman's practice focuses on complex and technical litigation matters involving business, government, and individuals. He handles 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. 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.

Software Disputes

Eric handles 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

PRACTICE AREAS

- Airports and Aviation
- Code Enforcement
- Elections
- Ethics
- Police Legal Advisement
- Special Counsel to Local Government
- Utilities
- Administrative Proceedings
- Civil Rights and Torts
- Complex Commercial
- Construction Claims and Defense

breaches, phishing attacks, and malware attacks. He also assists 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, certified flight instructor with instrument endorsement, certified airframe & powerplant technician, and heavy maintenance manager. Before law school, Eric began working for Northwest Airlines as a technician and then as lead technician in charge of a 12-person 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 beginner and advanced pilots how to fly.

Coastal Beaches

Eric handles 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 landowners fighting over dwindling beachfronts.

E-Discovery and Trial Presentation

Eric employs advanced technology in his practice to better represent clients and manage costs. He 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 e-discovery techniques and has managed document discovery and review in matters involving millions of documents. He is frequently consulted by firm attorneys for assistance with electronic discovery issues.

Municipal Code Enforcement

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

- Constitutional Challenges
- Distressed Asset Workout And Litigation
- Labor and Employment Litigation
- Governmental Actions and Defense
- Real Estate, Land Use and Zoning Disputes
- Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technology

ADMISSIONS

Florida, 2009

Minnesota, 2006 (resigned 2016)

U.S. District Court, Minnesota, 2006

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, 2011

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Bankruptcy Court, 2011

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, 2012

EDUCATION

William Mitchell College of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude,* 2006

- William Mitchell Law Review, Staff Member, 2003-2004

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS

- The Florida Bar, AI Tools & Resources Special Committee, 2024
- Dade County Bar Association, Secretary 2019-2020; 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

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University BS & AS, 1991, Major: Aviation Technology

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Lawdragon, 100 Leading AI & Legal Tech Advisors Guide, 2025
- Miami-Dade Bar, President's Award, 2022
- Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings: AV Preeminent, 2017-present
- Florida Super Lawyers, Rising Star, 2012-2016

- Press Mentions
- Reported Decisions
- Publications
- Presentations

Press Mentions

- *Judge Won't Block Miami Beach 2 AM Alcohol Cutoff*, Law360, March 14, 2023
- *Flight attendants are unfairly compensated for their time*, ConsumerAffairs, August 1, 2022
- *Surfside commission votes to approve $2 million settlement in Champlain Towers collapse,* Miami Herald, May 16, 2022
- *Blockbuster Surfside Settlement Left Judge Speechless*, Law360, May 13, 2022
- *$997 Million Settlement Agreed To In Class Action Lawsuit Over Surfside Condo Collapse*, CBS Miami, May 11, 2022
- *South Florida Attorneys Eyeing NFT Litigation as New Source of Revenue*, Daily Business Review, April 15, 2021
- *Homestead Wins Dispute Over Traffic Patterns*, Daily Business Review, March 17, 2016
- *Broward Judge Keeps Postjudgment Liens Alive,* Daily Business Review, November 14, 2014
- *Old Liens May Still Haunt in Zombie Foreclosures,* Daily Business Review, November 4, 2014

Reported Decisions

- *Champlain Towers South Collapse*, 2021-015089-CA-01 (Fla. 11th Cir. Ct. May 18, 2022)
- *Megacenter US, LLC v. Goodman Doral 88th Court, LLC,* 273 So. 3d 1078 (Fla. 3d DCA 2019)
- *May v. Novoa,* 260 So. 3d 1099 (Fla. 3d DCA 2018)
- *La Ley Sports Complex at City of Homestead, LLC v. City of Homestead,* 255 So. 3d 468 (Fla. 3d DCA 2018)
- *Ober v. Lauderdale-By-The-Sea,* 218 So. 3d 952 (Fla. 4th DCA 2017)
- *Holland v. City of North Miami*, 2018 WL 3448096 (S.D. Fla. 2018)
- *North Shipping, LLC v. Thai Spring Fish Co., Ltd.*, 2017 WL 7794277 (S.D. Fla. 2017)

- *Coipel v. Carpenter*, 2017 WL 3432299 (S.D. Fla. 2017)
- *Martel v. Stefano*, 205 So. 3d 767 (Fla. 3d DCA 2016)
- *Int'l Ass'n of Machinists v. Miami-Dade County*, 2015 WL 11237639 (S.D. Fla. 2015)
- *Blanco v. Monique & Me, Inc.*, 116 So. 3d 639 (Fla. 3d DCA 2013)
- *Findling v. Bisaria*, 2013 WL 12139387 (S.D. Fla. 2013)
- *Isle of Dreams, LLC v. City of North Bay Village, Fla.*, 513 Fed.Appx. 917 (11th Cir. 2013)

Publications

Artificial Intelligence To Give Lawyers An Edge In Negotiations? Yes, Please., LinkedIn, February 9, 2022

Presentations

- *Law Review Symposium*, St. Thomas University College of Law, January 30, 2026
- *FDLA AI Forum*, Florida Defense Lawyers Association, October 30, 2025