



MATTHEW H. MANDEL

PARTNER

CHAIR OF LITIGATION DIVISION

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As Chair of the firm's Litigation Division, Matt Mandel is a strategic thinker whose municipal and private clients entrust him with their most important matters.

Matt has successfully represented many Florida cities, counties, special districts and some of the largest police agencies in the Country. On behalf of his public sector clients, he has handled and tried many cases in federal and state courts, including civil rights claims for false arrest, wrongful shootings, sexual assault, improper Baker Acts, excessive force and malicious prosecution; actions relating to the deprivation of procedural and substantive due process rights; First Amendment challenges regarding the regulation of public speech, signage and adult uses; discrimination claims under the Fair Housing Amendments Act and Americans with Disabilities Act; actions under the Florida Whistleblower Act and the Florida Civil Rights Act; catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death claims; public records and Sunshine Law matters; construction disputes; annexation challenges; and the prosecution and defense of municipal finance and funding matters.

In the private sector, Matt's successes include representing clients in

PRACTICE AREAS

- [Appellate](#)
- [Asset Forfeitures](#)
- [Civil Rights and Torts](#)
- [Constitutional Challenges](#)
- [Labor and Employment Litigation](#)
- [Governmental Actions and Defense](#)
- [Real Estate, Land Use and Zoning Disputes](#)
- [Complex Commercial](#)
- [Insurance and Workers Compensation Defense](#)

sensitive high-profile matters, including constitutional violations, premises liability and negligent security cases involving the use of deadly force. He also represents businesses and individuals in commercial and contractual disagreements, financial institutions in large commercial foreclosure matters and purchasers in the cancellation of condominium contracts.

Matt also has extensive appellate experience in state and federal courts and has numerous published decisions to his credit relating to police liability, First Amendment, municipal zoning and Whistleblower claims.

Matt lectures frequently on issues including First Amendment challenges to municipal sign codes and land use challenges under the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Broward County League of Cities - Leadership Development Committee, Chair, 2010-2016; Committee Member, 2008-2016
- Federal Bar Association - Broward Chapter, President, 2013-2014; President-elect 2012-2013; Vice President, 2011-2012; Secretary, 2009-2011; Board Member, 2008-2024

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Best Lawyers in America, 2022-present
- Fort Lauderdale Illustrated, "Top Lawyer," 2020
- Florida Super Lawyers, 2015-2021
- Florida Super Lawyers, Rising Stars, 2009-2013
- Florida Trend's Legal Elite, 2017
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rating
- Daily Business Review, Finalist - Most Effective Lawyers, 2014
- South Florida Legal Guide, Top Lawyer, 2012-2016
- South Florida Legal Guide, Top Up and Comer, 2008-2010

- [Press Mentions](#)
- [Reported Cases](#)

Press Mentions

- [*Miami's Supreme Court cases could change or impede paths to suing under the FHA*](#), South Florida Business Journal, December 2, 2016
- [*Woman Arrested in Luxury Condo Protest: City and Cops Violated my Rights*](#), Miami Herald, November 14, 2016
- [*Atlantic Crossing: time for a deal?*](#) Boca Raton Magazine, August 9, 2016
- [*City of North Miami asks for speedy hearing in case against North Miami Cleaners*](#), Local 10 News, March 15, 2016
- [*Miami-Dade Judge Says Privé Development Dispute Will go to Trial*](#), Miami Herald, October 25, 2015

ADMISSIONS

Florida, 1998

U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit, 2002

U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit, 2011

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, 1999

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, 2010

EDUCATION

University of Miami, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1998

University of Miami, B.A., *general honors*, 1994

- [Recovery Houses Attract Multifamily Cash Buyers](#), Daily Business Review, October 21, 2015
- [After Hours](#), Daily Business Review, November 14, 2014
- [After Hours](#), Daily Business Review, February 7, 2014
- [Matthew Mandel Named President of the Broward Federal Bar Association](#), CityBizList South Florida, September 17, 2013
- [Judge Throws Out Case Filed by Former Homestead Official](#), Daily Business Review, November 20, 2012
- [After Hours: Federal Bar Association](#), Daily Business Review, March 23, 2012
- [Broward League of Cities Member Spotlight: Weiss Serota Helfman Cole Bierman & Popok](#), Broward League of Cities, December 1, 2011
- [Court Revives Lawsuit In Death After Jail Release](#), Daily Business Review, July 21, 2011
- [WTVJ-NBC v. Shehadeh](#), Leagle, March 9, 2011

Reported Cases

- *Gunn v. Asous*, 2025 WL 958246 (S.D. Fla. Mar. 31, 2025)
- *McDonough v. City of Homestead*, et al., 2024 WL 4579663 (11th Cir. Oct. 25, 2024)
- *McDonough v. Garcia et. al.*, 116 F. 4th 1319 (11th Cir. 2024)
- *Waters v. City of Coconut Creek et al.*, 2024 WL 3650111 (S.D. Fla. Aug. 5, 2024)
- *Waters v. City of Coconut Creek et al.*, 2024 WL 3649854 (S.D. Fla. Aug. 5, 2024)
- *Wakins v. Session*, 2023 WL 8469704 (11th Cir. Dec. 7, 2023)
- *Watkins v. Bigwood*, 2023 WL 3711827 (11th Cir. May 30, 2023)
- *Hernandez v. City of Homestead et al.*, 2022 WL 4144345 (S.D. Fla. Sept. 13, 2022)
- *Watkins v. Bigwood*, 2022 WL 877772 (S.D. Fla. Feb. 24, 2022)
- *Dayton v. Brechnitz*, 2021 WL 5163225 (M.D. Fla. Nov. 6, 2021)
- *Shiver v. City of Homestead et al.*, 2021 WL 5174526 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 4, 2021)
- *McDonough v. City of Homestead et al.*, 2021 WL 9276283 (S.D. Fla. Sept. 1, 2021)
- *McDonough v. Mata et al.*, 489 F. Supp. 3d 1347 (11th Cir. 2020)
- *Watkins v. Willson*, 824 Fed. Appx. 938 (11th Cir. 2020)
- *Hill v. City of Homestead et al.*, 2020 WL 1077545 (S.D. Fla. Mar. 6, 2020)
- *Chustz v. City of Marco Island*, 2020 WL 13646262 (M.D. Feb. 26, 2020)
- *McDonough v. City of Homestead*, 771 Fed. Appx. 952 (11th Cir. 2019)
- *Doe v. City of Miami Gardens*, 389 F. Supp. 3d 1118 (S.D. Fla. 2019)
- *Florida Gun Shows, Inc. v. City of Fort Lauderdale*, 2019 WL 2026496 (S.D. Fla. Feb. 19, 2019)
- *Mullen v. Bal Harbour Village*, 241 So. 3d 949 (Fla. 3d DCA 2018)
- *Clarke v. Phalen*, 2018 WL 987260 (S.D. Fla. Feb. 20, 2018)
- *2051 Lush Apartments, LLC v. City of Lauderhill*, 711 Fed. Appx. 522 (11th Cir. 2017)
- *City of Cooper City v. Joliff*, 227 So. 3d 633 (Fla. 4th DCA 2017)
- *Edwards, CDS, LLC v. City of Delray Beach*, 699 Fed. Appx. 885 (11th Cir. 2017)
- *2051 Lush Apartments, LLC v. City of Lauderhill*, 2016 WL 10651918 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 20, 2016)
- *Spadaro v. City of Miramar*, 591 Fed. Appx. 906 (11th Cir. 2015)
- *Cutino v. Untch*, 79 F. Supp. 3d 1305 (S.D. Fla. 2015)
- *Taxi USA of Palm Beach, LLC v. City of Boca Raton*, 162 So. 3d 119 (Fla. 4th DCA 2014)
- *Stone v. City of Lauderhill*, 2014 WL 835583 (S.D. Fla. Mar. 4, 2014)
- *Catogas v. Vetter*, 2013 WL 1334569 (S.D. Fla. Mar. 29, 2013)
- *Isle of Dreams, LLC v. City of North Bay Village*, 513 Fed. Appx. 917 (11th Cir. 2013)
- *Thor Guard, Inc. v. City of Boca Raton*, 100 So. 3d 1285 (Fla 4th DCA 2012)
- *Milanese v. City of Boca Raton*, 84 So. 3d 339 (Fla. 4th DCA 2012)
- *Beizer v. City of Boca Raton*, 73 So. 3d 777 (Fla. 4th DCA 2011)

- *Polanco v. City of Marco Island*, 2011 WL 2848655 (M.D. Fla. Jul. 19, 2011)
- *Polanco v. City of Marco Island*, 2011 WL 2911002 (M.D. Fla. Jul. 19, 2011)
- *Apothecary Development Corp. v. City of Marco Island, Fla.*, 2011 WL 1071448 (M.D. Fla. Mar. 18, 2011)
- *Duvall v. Property and Cas. Ins. Co. of Hartford*, 56 So. 3d 14 (Fla. 4th DCA 2011)
- *WTVJ-NBC 6 v. Shehadeh*, 56 So. 3d 104 (Fla. 3rd DCA 2011)
- *Set Enterprises, Inc. v. City of Hallandale Beach*, 2010 WL 11549687 (S.D. Fla. Jun. 22, 2010)
- *Fernander v. Bonis*, 947 So. 2d 584 (Fla. 4th DCA 2007)
- *MediaNet of South Florida, Inc. v. City of Miramar*, 144 Fed. Appx. 856 (11th Cir. 2005)
- *Woods v. Paradis*, 380 F. Supp. 2d 1316 (S.D. Fla. 2005)
- *Seay Outdoor Advertising v. City of Mary Esther*, 397 F. 3d 943 (11th Cir. 2005)
- *Guess v. City of Miramar*, 889 So. 2d 840 (Fla. 4th DCA 2004)
- *Florida Outdoor Adver., LLC. v. City of Boca Raton*, 266 F. Supp. 2d 1376 (S.D. Fla. 2003)
- *GLA and Associates, Inc. v. City of Boca Raton*, 855 So. 2d 278 (Fla. 4th DCA 2003)