

Jeff is an accomplished trial lawyer whose practice focuses on high-stakes business litigation, receiverships, and international arbitration. Jeff is one of the Firm's founding partners, and has been the Firm's Managing Partner since its inception. Jeff also Chairs the Firm's Receivership Practice Group.

Jeff has been trying complex, high-risk, eight-and-nine-figure cases in federal and state trial courts, and in arbitration proceedings, for over twenty-five years. Jeff has worked on some of the largest fraud cases in history, either as lead trial counsel, as receiver, or as counsel to the receiver.

Jeff has also served as receiver in actions brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Office of the Attorney General. Jeff has been appointed by District Court judges in the Northern District of Alabama, the Northern District of Illinois and the Southern District of Florida, and by state court judges in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties.

Throughout the course of his career, Jeff has helped to recover well over \$275 million for defrauded victims, including a \$104 million recovery in the Mutual Benefits fraud and a \$150 million recovery in the Jay Peak fraud. Jeff is known for his creative and passionate approach to litigation, and is considered an expert on Ponzi schemes and fraud cases.

Jeff has also represented some of the country's largest title insurers as outside counsel on complex mortgage fraud cases, and has tried those cases in federal and state court actions.

Jeff has been recognized by virtually every publication and peer-review organization that exists, and has twice received the Miami Daily Business Review's "Most Effective Lawyers" award (having been nominated four times).

Jeff is a frequent lecturer in the areas of receivership litigation and international litigation and arbitration.

AREAS OF EXPERIENCE

- Bankruptcy and Receiverships
- Complex Commercial Litigation
- EB-5 Litigation
- International Litigation & Arbitration
- Securities Litigation
- Title Insurance Litigation

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Listed in The *Best Lawyers in America* in the areas of commercial litigation and Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, 2013-2018 Editions.
- Received *Miami Daily Business Review* "2017 Most Effective Lawyers" award in the area of receiverships and receivership litigation.
- Received *Miami Daily Business Review* "2005 Most Effective Lawyers" award in the area of class action litigation.
- Finalist for *Miami Daily Business Review* "2007 Most Effective Lawyers" award in the area of bankruptcy and receiverships.
- Finalist for *Miami Daily Business Review* "2010 Most Effective Lawyers" award in the area of complex business litigation.
- Named one of "12 to Watch in 2012" by *Attorney at Law* Magazine
- Listed in *Florida Trend's* Florida Legal Elite, 2004-2018 Editions, representing the top 2% of the 54,000 Florida Bar Members.
- Listed in the *South Florida Legal Guide's* "Top Lawyers" list, 2009-2018 Editions.
- Listed in *Florida Super Lawyers*, 2006-2018 Editions, representing the top 5% of Florida attorneys.
- Listed in *Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals*, Honors Edition.
- Listed in *South Florida's Top Rated Lawyers* list, 2012-2018 Editions.
- Martindale-Hubbell "AV" Rated (the highest available rating).
- Senior Editor of The *Florida Law Review*.
- Recipient of the Achievement Award in Scholarship from the University of Florida School of Law.
- Authored the article, "Recently enacted Federal Legislation Providing Moral Rights to Visual Artists," published in "*The Florida Law Review*," Vol. 43, No.1, January 1991.

E | jcs@lklsg.com

D | 305.403.8799

F | 305.403.8789

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SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RECEIVERSHIP WORK

- **Jay Peak, Inc. and Q Resorts** – Special counsel to the receiver in the largest EB-5 fraud in the history of the United States, involving more than 800 foreign investors owed in excess of \$400 million. Helped to secure a \$150 million recovery from Raymond James.
- **Philip Milton** – Appointed by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to serve as a Federal equity receiver in a \$25 million fraud. The action was pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Testified at the CFTC’s trial on damages, and had recommendations accepted by the District Court Judge.
- **Trade-LLC** – Appointed by the Securities and Exchange Commission to serve as a Federal equity receiver. The action was pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Brought a number of fraudulent transfer and “claw-back” lawsuits and located, marshalled, secured, seized, and liquidated homes, apartments, cars, jewelry, and other valuables.
- **Inbound Call Experts** – Appointed by the Federal Trade Commission and the Office of the Attorney General to serve as a Federal equity receiver. The entities in receivership generated over \$100 million from thousands of consumers. At the time of appointment, Inbound Call employed over 500 employees from two locations in South Florida and provided technical support services in the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, and Honduras. Thereafter appointed as Federal Monitor for two years to monitor compliance with Permanent Injunction.
- **Troth Solutions, Inc.** – Appointed by the Federal Trade Commission and the Office of the Attorney General to serve as a Federal equity receiver. The action was filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama.
- **PC Help Desk US** – Appointed by the Federal Trade Commission and the Office of the Attorney General to serve as a Federal equity receiver. The action was filed in the United States District for the Northern District of Illinois.
- **Go Ready Calls Marketing** – Appointed by the Office of the Attorney General to serve as state court receiver. The action is currently pending in Palm Beach County, Florida. Helped to recover over \$7 million from Banc of America Merchant Services, representing a full recovery to all affected consumers.
- **Learn More Media** – Appointed by the Office of the Attorney General to serve as state court receiver. The action is currently pending in Broward County, Florida.
- **American Precious Metals** – Lead trial counsel to the receiver of a precious metals boiler room. The action was filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. The action was initiated by the Federal Trade Commission.
- **The Dolce Group** – Lead trial counsel to the receiver of a fraudulent boiler room. The action was filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. The action was initiated by the Federal Trade Commission.
- **Amante** – Lead trial counsel to the receiver of a fraudulent boiler room. The action was filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. The action was initiated by the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- **Mutual Benefits Corporation** – Represented class representatives in the Mutual Benefits receivership proceeding pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. After less than one year of litigation, the court returned \$104 million dollars to all members of the class.
- **Viatical Capital, Inc.** – Lead trial counsel to the receiver of Viatical Capital, Inc. and its affiliates arising out of their fraudulent sale of \$59 million in securities. This action was filed in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Helped to return millions of dollars to the defrauded victims.
- **Ameritel Payphone Distributors, Inc.** – Lead trial counsel to the receiver in an action pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. The action was initiated by the Federal Trade Commission. Worked closely with the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant United States Attorney, resulting in a criminal conviction against the principal protagonist of the fraud.
- **USA Beverages, Inc.** – Lead trial counsel to the receiver in an action filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. The action was initiated by the Federal Trade Commission.
- **Nationwide Connections, Inc.** – Lead trial counsel to the receiver in an action pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. The action was initiated by the Federal Trade Commission.
- **Medco, Inc.** – Lead trial counsel to the receiver in several actions arising out of its fraudulent sale of securities pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. The Court returned over \$5 million to defrauded investors. Worked closely with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Assistant United States Attorney, resulting in a criminal conviction against the principal protagonist of the fraud.
- **Bridgeport and Associates, Inc.** – Lead trial counsel to the receiver in several actions arising out of a shut-down of these entities by the Federal Trade Commission pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.
- **SunState FX, Inc.** – Lead trial counsel to the receiver in several actions arising out of SunState’s securities fraud in South Florida pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Worked closely with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Assistant United States Attorney, resulting in a criminal conviction against a principal protagonist of the fraud. Testified at the sentencing hearing.

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TRIAL WORK

- **Fannie Mae** – Lead trial counsel for Fannie Mae in connection with a preliminary injunction proceeding against the Ben Ezra & Katz law firm. The preliminary injunction was issued, and subsequently affirmed by the appellate court.
- **Chicago Title** – Lead trial counsel for Chicago Title in a multi-million-dollar reformation action tried in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. The proceeding was settled after the trial.
- **Fidelity National Title** – Lead trial counsel for Fidelity in a seven-figure action pending in state court in Broward County, Florida. The case was one of first impression in the state of Florida. Prevailed on summary judgment, which was thereafter affirmed on appeal, resulting in Fidelity not having to pay any money to the Plaintiff.
- **Glob Marketing** – Lead trial counsel for an American entity against claims by a publicly-traded Russian entity involving mining rights in excess of \$100 million. The proceeding was settled after a one-week trial.
- **AgraCity** – Lead trial counsel for a Canadian entity against claims by an American entity involving ten million dollars on commodities shipped from Russia. The proceeding was settled after a two-week trial.
- **Fisher Island** – Co-lead trial counsel for the Plaintiff in a foreclosure action involving money laundering allegations against a national bank. The case was tried and judgment was issued in favor of the Plaintiff, and thereafter affirmed on appeal.
- **Carnival Corporation** – Lead trial counsel for Carnival in a breach of contract and fraud action pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. The case was settled successfully for Carnival a few weeks before trial.
- **HIP Health Plan of Florida, Inc.** – Lead trial counsel for HIP in actions arising out of provider and other agreements. All of the cases were favorably settled before trial.
- **Personnel One** – Lead trial counsel for Personnel One in a matter pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida alleging violations of the Americans With Disabilities Act. The matter was settled without Personnel One having to pay any money.
- **Charles Bosco** – Lead trial counsel in an Arbitration in which allegations of breach of fiduciary duty and mismanagement were made. The matter was favorably settled before trial.
- **Premier Practice Management** – Lead trial counsel for Premier Practice Management in several actions against former physicians associated with the practice alleging breach of contract, breach of non-competition provisions, and violations of trade secret laws.
- **Lightech Electronics of North America** – Lead trial counsel for Lightech in an action accusing Lightech of violating non-compete provisions and trade secret laws. The matter was settled without Lightech having to pay any money.
- **Benchmark Office Solutions** – Lead trial counsel for Benchmark in an action pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida in which Benchmark was accused of violating non-compete provisions, non-solicitation provisions, and trade secret laws. The matter was favorably settled just a few days before the preliminary injunction hearing.
- **Palmer Ranch Development, Ltd.** – Represented, along with another member of the Firm, Palmer Ranch in several actions pending in Sarasota County, Florida, including an action that was tried before a jury.

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

- Florida
- United States District Court for the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- United States Supreme Court

EDUCATION

- Florida State University (B.S., Double Major: Economics and Political Science)
- University of Florida School of Law (J.D., with honors)

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- The Florida Bar, Member
- National Association of Federal Equity Receivers, Full Membership (limited to those who have served as receiver in matters of material size and complexity)
- Board of Directors of Dade County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section, Former Member
- American Bar Association, Member

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