



Helbert A. Canales-Rojas

Associate

Fort Lauderdale | 954.768.1602 | hcanalesrojas@bakerdonelson.com

Helbert A. Canales-Rojas is a skilled business counselor and litigator who concentrates his practice in the areas of business, commercial, construction, labor and employment, and real estate law and litigation.

Mr. Canales-Rojas maintains a diverse practice as a member of the Firm's Commercial Litigation and Financial Services Litigation Groups. In this role, he represents clients in a wide range of litigation matters in federal, state, and appellate courts and serves as outside general counsel to businesses across various industries.

With experience as the lead or co-lead attorney in more than 200 lawsuits, Mr. Canales-Rojas zealously represents plaintiffs and defendants in complex commercial, construction, labor and employment, real estate, insurance, and financial services litigation. He consistently yields favorable results for clients in litigation, whether through settlement or final judgment, by providing realistic case assessments and budgets at case initiation, implementing creative and effective litigation strategies, and navigating clients through the intricacies and difficulties of complex lawsuits.

While primarily focused on litigation matters, Mr. Canales-Rojas also frequently provides general counsel to businesses in various industries, including automotive, construction, distribution and manufacturing, higher education, insurance, and real estate. Drawing on his broad litigation and transactional experience, he advises clients on business and employment matters by carefully ensuring compliance with applicable industry regulations, skillfully facilitating commercial transactions, and proactively avoiding lawsuits or other costly liabilities. This counsel often involves matters concerning contract negotiation, corporate formation and governance, employee investigations and terminations, employee handbooks and agreements, and pre-suit dispute resolution.

Mr. Canales-Rojas earned his Juris Doctor degree from Florida International University College of Law, where he was a Dean's Scholarship recipient and a research assistant to Judge Phyllis Kotey. Prior to law school, he worked as a judicial intern to Judge James Lawrence King of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

Mr. Canales-Rojas is bilingual (English and Spanish) and has a working knowledge of Italian.

Representative Matters

- Awarded final summary judgment in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida in favor of a defendant-client, where the court found that the plaintiff failed to satisfy conditions precedent to filing a breach of contract action.
- Awarded final summary judgment in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida in favor of a defendant-client, where the court agreed that the plaintiff's breach of contract claim was not supported by the undisputed evidence and specific contract language at issue.
- Awarded final summary judgment in state court for a breach of contract claim, where the court ruled that the plaintiff's breach of contract was not supported by the undisputed evidence and specific contract language at issue.
- Prevailed at a hearing on a motion for sanctions and secured entitlement to attorney's fees against the plaintiff and the plaintiff's attorneys for filing a meritless commercial eviction lawsuit.

- Prevailed at several hearings on motions to strike affirmative defenses and motions to compel discovery in various commercial litigation matters.



Professional Honors & Activities

- Member – Dade County Bar Association
- Member – Hispanic National Bar Association
- Member – Business Law Section of the Florida Bar
- Member – Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar
- Executive Committee Member – Florida International University's Young Alumni Network (2021 – present)
- Pathfinder – Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) (2024 Class)



Education

- Florida International University College of Law, J.D., 2019
- Florida International University Honors College, B.S., 2016
- Università per Stranieri di Perugia, Intermediate Italian Certificate, 2014



Admissions

- Florida, 2019
- District of Columbia, 2021
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida, 2021
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, 2023
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida, 2023