



Richards Legal Group

Attorneys at Law

Core Values, Modern Technology

We are a multi-faceted law firm that emphasizes a team approach in everything we do. Our team of attorneys and staff practices with the highest caliber of integrity and professionalism. To foster and grow client relationships, we develop specific strategies that not only resolve the issue, but benefit the client in the future. The Firm's overarching goal is to provide cost effective, timely and successful representation and counseling in legal issues affecting their business.

The attorneys at Richards Law Group practice with integrity, professionalism and dedication. This practice began in aviation and thereafter expanded our services to serve our clients and their business and personal needs.

Although we utilize sophisticated technology, the Firm continues to base its practice on our core values. We deliver to every client a timely, realistic, and effective approach to their legal issues and always adhere to the highest standards of professionalism and integrity. Our lawyers have a reputation for developing creative approaches to client problems.



Richards Legal Group
Richard L. Richards, P.A.
rrichards@richpa.net

Florida
55 Miracle Mile, Suite 310
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
(305) 448-2228

richpa.net

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Attorneys at Law



Richard L. Richards

Richard L. Richards is a Florida aviation attorney with over twenty-nine years of experience in the practice of law, and whose practice focuses on aviation and airport legal issues. Mr. Richards is Florida Bar Board Certified in Aviation Law. Mr. Richards' extensive experience includes litigation, transactions, trustee services for foreign ownership of U.S. registered aircraft, representation of fixed base operators (FBO's), maintenance repair organization (MRO's), and other airport tenants/developers in leases and land use/development on or near an airport, corporate restructuring and bankruptcy, airport counsel, airline general counsel, aircraft sales and leasing, transactions with aircraft manufacturers, aviation fuel issues, aviation finance, repossessions and seizures, FAA and DOT regulatory compliance, aviation insurance and claims, air carrier certification and aviation labor & employment issues including defense of FLSA claims and EEOC charges.

Mr. Richards chaired the Aviation Department at the law firm of Stearns, Weaver, Miller, Weissler, Alhade & Sitterson, P.A. in Miami, Florida. Mr. Richards has also served as airport counsel to the [Boca Raton Airport Authority](#) and vice president/general.

Mr. Richards has been extensively involved in lobbying and advocating for aviation businesses in Florida. Mr. Richards appears for clients and associations to advocate in court and government including the [Florida Aviation Business Association](#) (FABA) and the [National Airline Transport Association](#). Mr. Richards was instrumental in advocating and lobbying in connection serving as President and on the board of the Florida Aviation Business Association for changes the Florida aircraft lien law in Florida to no longer require aircraft possession (bill sponsored through Mr. Richards' leadership at FABA sponsored by [Thad Altmann](#) and FABA lobbyist [Eric Prutsman](#)).



AVIATION LAW

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Representative Experience

- General representation of clients in aviation and airport related litigation in State, Federal, Bankruptcy, FAA, DOT, OFAC, and EEOC proceedings.
- Extensive experience in the areas of aircraft transactions (purchase, sale and leasing) including trustee services in title and voting trusts for foreign ownership of U.S. registered aircraft, restructuring, bankruptcy, repossessions, insurance, air cargo claims, and general representation involving airlines, aircraft leasing companies, negotiations and dealings with aircraft manufacturers, governments and entrepreneurs in complex aviation transactions as well as all aspects of commercial litigation.
- General representation of Fixed Base Operators and other airport tenants including negotiations and presentations with airport sponsors, aviation departments, and County commissions regarding leases, development, fueling/vendor contracts, and litigation.
- General representation of developers in land use and approvals for construction on or near an airport.
- General representation of municipalities related to airport noise issues.
- General representation of banks and lenders in aircraft transactions, financing, and repossessions.
- General representation in insurance appointed defense including wrongful death claims.
- Airport counsel to an airport authority, including representation at monthly televised public board meetings, legal advice to Airport Manager and staff, representation of the authority in all legal facets of airport operations including contracts/leases, land use, government grants, tenant issues, aircraft noise abatement programs, and representation of the authority before the FAA including the Airports Division in Washington D.C. and the FAA Airports District Office in Orlando, Florida.
- General Counsel to two international airlines with 500+ employees and annual revenues of over \$150 million, including oversight of two successful bankruptcy Chapter 11 reorganizations.
- Negotiations of various commercial loan and finance agreements including, extensive aircraft and engine lease agreements, credit agreements, restructuring agreements with bondholders, and general financing agreements with trade creditors.

Representative Experience

- Effectuate corporate mergers and acquisitions, advice of proper corporate structure, advice to human resources departments, investigate violations of company policy with respect to sexual harassment, review and revise drug and alcohol policies, employee handbooks and affirmative action policies, defend against OSHA claims, whistleblower claims, EEOC charges, and process DOL affirmative action audits.
- Representation of factor companies and other non-traditional lenders in aviation and non-aviation transactions/litigation.
- Insurer appointed defense counsel of insured in including directors & officers defense and other covered aviation insurance claims.

Professional and Community Involvement

- Florida Bar Board Certified in Aviation Law
- Florida Aviation Business Association 2008-Present (Board of Directors 2014-Present, President, 2017-2019, Vice President 2015-2017);
- Florida Bar Association, 1994-Present,
- District of Columbia Bar, 2017-Present,
- United States Courts (Southern District of Florida, 1994-Present; Middle District of Florida, 1995-Present; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, 2005-Present; United States Supreme Court, 2016-Present)
- National Business Aviation Association (2008-Present)
- Plymouth Congregational Church, Coconut Grove, Florida (Trustee, 2014-2017; Chair of Trustees, 2015-2016; Chair Commitment Campaign 2018-2019; Moderator 2019 - 2020; Capital Campaign 2023)
- Kiwanis Club of Coral Gables, Coral Gables, Florida (Board of Directors, 2014-Present)(Chartered Organization for Troop 7 and Pack 7 of Coral Gables – Mr. Richards is an Eagle Scout and Troop Scoutmaster Scoutmaster 2015 - 2022; District Committee 2023)

Richards Legal Group

Attorneys at Law

Associate Angelica D. Zolnierowicz

Angelica has experience in both the private and government sector, representing clients in all aspects of litigation, from pre-commencement negotiation through trial. Prior to joining the firm, Angelica worked for the New York State Office of the Attorney General's Organized Crime Task Force, The World Bank's Integrity Vice Presidency and served as Assistant District Attorney at Kings County District Attorney's Office. She also has experience working with two prominent law firms in Warsaw, Poland. In addition to English, Angelica speaks several foreign languages, including Polish, French, Spanish, Czech, Ukrainian, and Russian.

Angelica received her LL.M in National Security with a Certificate in International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution from Georgetown University Law Center. While at Georgetown, she was editor of the Journal of National Security Law and Policy. Angelica obtained her Juris Doctor from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law with a Certificate in International Business and Trade. She attended Boston University, where she earned her Master and Bachelor degrees in International Affairs.

Professional & Community Involvement

- The Legal Mentor Network
- Women's White Collar Defense Association (WWCDA)
- Georgetown Law National Security Crisis Law Fellow, Georgetown University Law Center
- Presiding Judge for Federal White Collar Crime Invitational Tournaments, Georgetown University Law Center
- Certified Blockchain & Cryptocurrency Expert – Blockchain Council

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- New York
- North Carolina

Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the Northern District of New York



Languages

- Polish
- French
- Spanish
- Czech
- Ukrainian
- Russian

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center, LL.M. in National Security Law
- The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, J.D.
- Boston University, M.A. in International Affairs and Intelligence
- Boston University, B.A. in International Relations

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Practice Areas

Aviation Law

We are experts in every facet of Aviation Law including litigation, transactions, trustee services for foreign ownership of U.S. registered aircraft, representation of fixed base operators and other airport tenants/developers in leases and land use/development on or near an airport, corporate restructuring and bankruptcy, airport counsel, airline general counsel, aircraft sales and leasing, transactions with aircraft manufacturers, aviation fuel issues, aviation finance, repossessions and seizures, FAA and DOT regulatory compliance, aviation insurance and claims, air carrier certification and aviation labor & employment issues including defense of FLSA claims and EEOC charges.

Construction Litigation

Our lawyers understand litigating construction disputes. Our firm represents developers, contractors, subcontractors, architects, engineers and residential and commercial property owners in litigation. We conduct contract reviews, address licensing matters, advise on risk management and litigate breach of contract and construction defect disputes, among other building-related matters.

Complex Litigation

The Firm has significant experience and a record of success in resolving a broad variety of business and commercial disputes. We practice in federal and state trial and appellate courts as well as in the full range of alternative dispute resolution forums including mediation, arbitration, and administrative proceedings. On behalf of plaintiffs and defendants, our lawyers have litigated cases involving aviation, commercial law, contracts, construction law, joint ventures, unfair trade practice and other issues. The representation includes trial courts, appellate courts, and the Supreme Court of Florida and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Employment & Labor Law

Our firm has extensive experience in representing businesses in employment issues including agreements, independent contractor determination, and with Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission (EEOC) investigations and litigation.

Commercial Real Estate Litigation

The Firm has extensive experience representing landlord and tenants in commercial real estate disputes in court including lease disputes, commercial foreclosures, and evictions.

Practice Areas

Factoring

Factoring Companies provide valuable financial services to businesses. Our firm understands the factoring industry and we serve many clients who factor invoices for customers. Our firm serves as counsel to several Factor Companies in transactions and litigation.

Probate

Our firm understands and has experience with Probate litigation and probating estates. We have represented clients including beneficiaries and creditors to enforce rights in probate court.

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Arbitration

The Firm has extensive experience in Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) arbitrations representing clients in disputes between investors, financial advisors, and brokerage firms in securities-related disputes as investment firms that are members of FINRA and brokers/customers who have accounts with those firms are required to use FINRA's forum to resolve disputes.

Bankruptcy

The Firm has experience is representing creditors in commercial bankruptcy proceedings. We have also served as special litigation and special aviation counsel to debtors.

Blockchain & Digital Assets

As blockchain applications and digital assets continue to gain popularity, blockchain technology is becoming an increasingly common choice for storing and securing highly sensitive data, supply chain information, and more. Our firm understands, and has both legal and regulatory experience, across dozens of practice areas in the blockchain space. The firm represent clients in matters relating to formation and dissolution of business entities, policy and regulatory compliance, as well as government enforcement issues. We consider our clients' business models, operational requirements, and compliance strategies to meet the demands of regulators and law enforcement. Our firm understands the importance of mitigating legal and regulatory risk in this continuously evolving and innovative space, including advising clients and counsel for protection in business agreements, estate planning, and related contracts.