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PATRICK RUSSELL
Florida Supreme Court Civil Circuit Certified Mediator

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Patrick Russell is a Partner at Lydecker | Diaz and has been practicing law since 1994. He practices out of the firm’s Miami office where he maintains an active trial practice throughout the State of Florida.

Prior to joining Lydecker | Diaz, Mr. Russell was a Bar Counsel and ethics trial lawyer for The Florida Bar. He has more than two decades of previous legal experience in private practice, and this diverse legal experience includes business entities and startups, commercial litigation, condominium associations, debt collection and judgment enforcement, insurance law, personal injury, product liability, and real estate law matters.

Specific to insurance law matters, Patrick Russell has extensive experience litigating on behalf of both insurance companies and policyholders, and as a result knows the issues well from both sides. In his private practice, property insurance claims were his primary focus.

Legal Employment

Lydecker | Diaz, Miami, Florida

Partner, September 2018 – present

- Lead Trial Counsel for matters across the State of Florida
- Personal injury and premises liability defense on behalf of institutional clients, businesses, property owners, and homeowner associations.
- Legal ethics and professional responsibility.
- Alternative dispute resolution.

The Florida Bar, Miami, Florida

Ethics Trial Counsel, May 2015 to August 2018

- All trial work, drafting of pleadings, and discovery for Lawyer regulation and compliance for high stakes lawyer disciplinary cases.
- Appellate work before the Florida Supreme Court which includes all legal research, the drafting of appellate briefs, answers, and replies.
- Complete and document confidential investigations while collaborating with forensic auditors, staff investigators, and subject matter experts.

Russell | Law, Miami, Florida

Trial Counsel & Managing Attorney, May 1997 to May 2015

- Managed law firm with 4-6 attorneys/staff for eighteen years.
- Diverse legal practice that over time included both litigation and transactional work involving insurance law; commercial litigation, and real estate.
- Extensive representation of home owners for their property insurance claim. Previous defense work on behalf of insurance companies as well as representing the State of Florida for subrogation claims on behalf of a failed insurer.

Cosgrove Law Offices, Miami, Florida

Of Counsel, August 1995 to December 2001

- Mentored with the Honorable John F. Cosgrove, member of the Florida House of Representatives.
- Litigated Hurricane Andrew insurance claims on behalf of home owners.
- Co-counsel in matters involving commercial litigation, commercial evictions, family law cases, and probate. Transactional work for business incorporations, business licensing, business sales, and real estate closings.

Insta-Check Systems, Inc., Miami, Florida

General Counsel, September 1994 to August 1995

- Supervised collection staff and operations to ensure FDCPA compliance for a national check guarantee company.
- Litigated all commercial and debt collection cases on behalf of the company.

Court and Bar Admissions, Certifications

- The Florida Bar
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- Florida Supreme Court Civil Circuit Certified Mediator, Cert No. 23555R

Education

University of Miami School of Law, Juris Doctor, 1993

Marquette University, Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, 1990

Professional and Community Involvement

- The Florida Bar Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, Executive Council
- The Florida Bar Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, Chair of the Health and Wellness Committee
- Director for the nonprofit Making History Project (www.making-history-project.com)

Recent Presentations

- "Technology Competence and Legal Ethics", Legal Malpractice and Professional Liability Roundtable, University of Miami School of Law Center for Ethics and Public Service, Coral Gables, Florida, April 2019.
- "Mediation Skills and Ethical Advocacy for Trial Lawyers", The Florida Bar, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, Live Webinar, August 2018.
- "Technology Ethics", National Legal Aid & Defender Association, Litigation and Advocacy Leader Conference, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, July 2018.
- "From Hello to Goodbye, Legal Malpractice and Professional Liability Roundtable", University of Miami School of Law Center for Ethics and Public Service, Coral Gables, Florida, May 2018.
- "How to Avoid a Bar Complaint", Meland Russin & Budwick, Miami, Florida, April 2018.
- "Ethical Implications of Social Media and Technology", ABA Entertainment Law Symposium, Miami Beach, Florida, April 2018.
- "How to Avoid a Bar Complaint and (Gasp!) What to Do if You Get One", GALLA Luncheon, Miami, Florida, March 2018.
- "Professionalism and Ethics", Professional Responsibility & Ethics Program, University of Miami School of Law, Coral Gables, Florida, January 2018.
- "Mediation and Lawyer Ethics", Advanced Mediation Training 8.0 Hour CME, Effective Mediation Consultants, Miami, Florida, December 2017.