



MICHAEL E. BONNER

Partner

Fort Lauderdale

954.847.4726

954.525.8739

Service Focus

- Counseling and Advice
- Employee Defection and Trade Secrets
- Employment Discrimination and Harassment
- Litigation and Trials

Industry Focus

- Cannabis
- Retail
- Sports

OVERVIEW

Michael Bonner is an attorney in the Fort Lauderdale office. Michael's practice focuses on defending employers against a wide-range of claims, including complaints of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. He also advises and represents clients in matters relating to enforcement of restrictive covenants, contractual disputes, and wage and hour litigation. In addition, Michael counsels clients to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, with an emphasis on devising forward-thinking solutions to complex business and employment issues to avoid costly and time-consuming litigation.

In the past few years alone, Michael has obtained successful outcomes for clients in highly-contested matters, including:

- Secured dismissal with prejudice of claims alleging race, color, and disability discrimination and retaliation under the Florida Civil Rights Act within 24 hours following the plaintiff's deposition resulting from admissions he obtained during the deposition.
- Won at arbitration following a final hearing that involved claims of disability discrimination and retaliation.
- Obtained dismissal with prejudice on behalf of a large retail company and its Chief Executive Officer against a plaintiff's overtime and retaliation claims under the Fair Labor Standards Act.
- Successfully defended a university client in a matter before the Florida Commission on Human Relations and a subsequent administrative appeal involving claims of race, color, and age discrimination in addition to retaliation.
- Crafted legal arguments and advocated in open court to defeat various claims at the pleadings stage before needing to engage in discovery.

Michael's experience also includes serving as second chair in multiple trials, including a three-day bench trial concerning enforcement of a non-compete agreement. He has successfully argued summary judgment motions and has obtained summary judgment in favor of employers against claims of discrimination and retaliation. Michael has also counseled schools, universities, and businesses concerning the constantly evolving area of collegiate and high school athlete compensation, authoring multiple articles and insights relating to name, image, and likeness issues.

Beyond his practice, Michael is an avid sports fan, engages in various outdoor activities, and coaches youth sports.

Credentials

Education

- Florida State University College of Law, J.D., *with Business Law Certificate with Honors*, 2014
- Florida State University, B.S., *cum laude*, 2011

Bar Admissions

- Florida

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado

Languages

- Spanish

INSIGHTS

Insights

Jan 6, 2026

Is Florida the New Hotbed for Digital Wiretapping Lawsuits? 6 Steps You Can Take to Minimize Your Risk

News

Dec 16, 2025

Fisher Phillips Elects 27 Attorneys to 2026 Partnership Class

News

Apr 1, 2025

Republished Insight: Caught in a Raging Storm: 5 Steps Schools Should Take as Name, Image and Likeness Disputes Continue to Cause Problems for Universities

Insights

Feb 5, 2025

Caught in a Raging Storm: 5 Steps Your School Should Take as NIL Disputes Continue to Cause Problems for Universities

Event

Nov 14, 2024

A Look Forward: Preparing Your Management Team for a Compliant 2025: Fort Lauderdale

Publication

Oct 23, 2024

Fisher Phillips Partners Discuss 5 Things Universities and Collectives Should Do to Reduce NIL Disputes and Legal Risks