



Michael S. Pasano

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Overview

Michael Pasano focuses his practice primarily on complex criminal and civil litigation in both federal and state court, including the handling of appeals. Michael's areas of concentration include the defense of a wide variety of white collar matters, including fraud and money-laundering; forfeitures; tax issues; FDA, FTC and SEC cases; and antitrust and environmental issues. He has represented a wide array of professionals in the corporate arena, including attorneys, doctors, accountants, and executives.

Michael worked for seven years in the U.S. attorney's office in Washington, D.C., and the Southern District of Florida, where he was a member of the major crimes, public corruption, and fraud units, and where he served as chief of the Broward and West Palm Beach satellite offices. In March 1983, he became chief of the Miami Fraud Section and, in October of that year, was named chief of the U.S. attorney's Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach offices.

Michael is former chair of the ABA Criminal Justice Section and remains active in the ABA, which has published a book he authored on trial practice. He is a frequent lecturer and has received numerous awards and commendations for his legal work. One commenter remarked in *Chambers USA*, a leading guide to the legal profession, that "he is one of the best white-collar defense lawyers down here. He's just got great, great judgment and has seen everything — he has that experience and really represents his clients well."

Areas of Focus

Practices

- [White Collar Crime & Government Investigations](#)
- [Criminal Tax](#)
- [False Claims Act, Qui Tam, and Whistleblower Defense](#)
- [Internal Investigations](#)
- [International](#)
- [SEC Enforcement](#)

Insights

03.02.2022

“Are You In Control? Does It Matter?”

03.31.2020

Federal and State Officials Launch Joint Efforts to Investigate and Prosecute Fraud Related to the Coronavirus

04.14.2016

Trial Pros: Carlton Fields' Mike Pasano

09.15.2015

New Department of Justice Memo to Increase Prosecutions of White Collar Executives and Other Employees

03.12.2015

Witness Coaching: Blurred Lines

10.17.2013

Criminal Agreements in Antitrust Prosecutions: Through a Looking Glass

01.03.2012

Exemplar Motion in Limine

06.04.2010

Tax Evasion: Father-and-Son South Florida Businessmen Accused of Fraud, Filing False Tax Returns

04.24.2009

Former Puerto Rico Governor, Assistant Acquitted on All Charges in Corruption Trial

03.17.2009

Internal Investigations: Why Two Are Better Than One

03.16.2009

United States v. Val M. Northcutt, et. al. – An Antitrust Case Study

01.01.2008

Program Hypo

11.02.2007

Ethics and Professionalism in Plea Negotiations --The Specter of Ineffectiveness Claims

05.25.2007

Joint Defense Agreements: An Update on Loss Issues in Fraud Conspiracy Cases

03.01.2004

2003 - Bad Laws, Bad Guidelines, Bad Times Ahead

01.01.2003

Collateral Impeachment – What Do You Mean I Can't Do That?

01.01.2003

The Ethics of Government Stings

01.01.2003

The Zen of Jury Selection

01.01.2003

Pushing the Guidelines Envelope

01.01.2003

Fraud and White Collar Prosecutions - Where the Government is Pushing the Envelope

01.01.2003

Government Tapes and Government Stings: When the Process is Not Due

01.01.2002

Zen and the Art of Cross Examination

01.01.2002

ABA & Criminal Justice Issues in the New Millennium

01.01.2002

Downward Departure - Not an Oxymoron

06.01.2001

Developments in Environmental Criminal Law: It's Not Just Directors and Officers Who Are Facing Jail

01.01.2001

Substitute Asset and Nominee Forfeitures: Government White Lies

01.01.1999

War On Business - The Perils of Parallel Proceedings

01.01.1998

The Saga of the Bell Gardens Bicycle Club – Lessons and Nightmares

01.01.1996

The Bell Gardens Bicycle Club: How Forfeiture Works and Who Gets Hurt

01.01.1995

Plea Agreements and the Emperor's New Clothes

01.01.1994

Bail and the Foreign Client Cart Teams and Rule 16

01.01.1993

Publications Prior to 1994

News

05.21.2021

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in Chambers USA 2021 Guide

04.23.2020

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in Chambers USA 2020 Guide

05.03.2019

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in Chambers USA 2019 Guide

07.09.2018

Super Lawyers Honors 81 Carlton Fields Attorneys on 2018 Florida "Super Lawyers" and "Rising Stars"

05.04.2018

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in 2018 Chambers USA Guide

08.15.2017

78 Carlton Fields Attorneys Named "Best Lawyers in America"

06.23.2017

Florida Super Lawyers Ranks 92 Carlton Fields Attorneys as 2017 "Super Lawyers" and "Rising Stars"

01.02.2017

Carlton Fields Attorneys Named to the 2017 “South Florida Legal Guide”

Recognition

- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Criminal Defense: White-Collar (2003–2024)
- *Chambers USA* (2010–2018, 2021–2023)
- Florida Super Lawyers, *Super Lawyers Magazine* (2008–2023)
- *Who's Who Legal: Business Crime Defence - Corporates* (2022)
- Top Lawyers, *South Florida Legal Guide* (2006–2010, 2014–2015)
- “Local Litigation Star” in Florida, Antitrust, Appellate, Commercial Litigation, and Products Liability, *Benchmark Litigation* (2012–2013)
- Key Partners Award, White Collar Crime, *South Florida Business Journal* (2009)
- Florida Legal Elite, *Florida Trend Magazine* (2005–2008)
- Charles R. English Award, ABA Criminal Justice Section

Professional & Community Involvement

- American Bar Association
 - Former Chair, Criminal Justice Section
 - Former Chair, Defense Function Committee
 - Former Chair, White Collar Crime Committee, Florida Regional Subcommittee
 - White Collar Crime Committee
 - Executive Committee
- American College of Trial Lawyers
- The Florida Bar
- Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Eleventh Circuit Lawyer Disciplinary Committee
- Eleventh Circuit Federal Public Defender Committee
- Southern District Criminal Justice Act Panel Committee

Speaking Engagements

- "Answering Your Civil and Criminal Offshore Disclosure Questions," ABA Webinar (February 24, 2015)
- "Top Ten Blunders to Avoid in Front of a Jury," ABA Section of Litigation Annual CLE Conference, Miami Beach, FL (April 13–16, 2011)
- "Sentencing Advocacy, Practice and Reform Institute," ABA Criminal Justice Section Fall Conference, Washington, D.C. (October 24, 2008)

Credentials

Education

- Yale Law School (J.D., 1976)
- Georgetown University (B.A., summa cum laude, 1973)

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Missouri

Court Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Background

- Partner, Zuckerman Spaeder, LLP, Miami, FL
- U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and the Southern District of Florida