



# 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?”

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03.31.2020

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

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04.14.2016

Trial Pros: Carlton Fields' Mike Pasano

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09.15.2015

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

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03.12.2015

Witness Coaching: Blurred Lines

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10.17.2013

Criminal Agreements in Antitrust Prosecutions: Through a Looking Glass

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01.03.2012

Exemplar Motion in Limine

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06.04.2010

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

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04.24.2009

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

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03.17.2009

Internal Investigations: Why Two Are Better Than One

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03.16.2009

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

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01.01.2008

Program Hypo

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11.02.2007

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

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05.25.2007

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

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03.01.2004

2003 - Bad Laws, Bad Guidelines, Bad Times Ahead

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01.01.2003

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

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01.01.2003

The Ethics of Government Stings

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01.01.2003

The Zen of Jury Selection

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01.01.2003

Pushing the Guidelines Envelope

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01.01.2003

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

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01.01.2003

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

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01.01.2002

Zen and the Art of Cross Examination

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01.01.2002

ABA & Criminal Justice Issues in the New Millennium

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01.01.2002

Downward Departure - Not an Oxymoron

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06.01.2001

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

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01.01.2001

Substitute Asset and Nominee Forfeitures: Government White Lies

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01.01.1999

War On Business - The Perils of Parallel Proceedings

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01.01.1998

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

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01.01.1996

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

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01.01.1995

Plea Agreements and the Emperor's New Clothes

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01.01.1994

Bail and the Foreign Client Cart Teams and Rule 16

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01.01.1993

Publications Prior to 1994

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## News

05.21.2021

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in Chambers USA 2021 Guide

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04.23.2020

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in Chambers USA 2020 Guide

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05.03.2019

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in Chambers USA 2019 Guide

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07.09.2018

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

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05.04.2018

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in 2018 Chambers USA Guide

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08.15.2017

78 Carlton Fields Attorneys Named “Best Lawyers in America”

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06.23.2017

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

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01.02.2017

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

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## Recognition

- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Criminal Defense: White-Collar (2003–2025)
- *Chambers USA* (2010–2018, 2021–2024)
- Florida Super Lawyers, *Super Lawyers Magazine* (2008–2024)
- *Who's Who Legal: Business Crime Defence - Corporates* (2022, 2024)
- Top Lawyers, *South Florida Legal Guide* (2006–2010, 2014–2015, 2021–2022)
- Florida “Local Litigation Star,” Antitrust, Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Product 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