



# Ellen Ross Belfer

Partner

## About

Ellen is an accomplished litigator with experience in all types of complex commercial disputes in trial and appellate federal and state courts nationwide, including contract disputes, shareholder actions, consumer class actions, business torts, fiduciary duty, financial services litigation, deceptive/unfair trade practices claims, fraud, and consumer product defect claims. Ellen enjoys working across all different industries and approaches complex legal problems efficiently and strategically to meet the client's business goals. Ellen started her career as a federal law clerk to the Honorable Peter T. Fay of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Ellen lives in the Miami area with her husband and two children.

In addition to her substantial litigation experience, Ellen was a Professor of Legal Writing at the University of Miami School of Law. As a member of the full-time law faculty, she taught legal communication and research skills, utilizing substantive materials from various subject areas, including contracts, employment law, intellectual property, and U.S. Constitutional law. Ellen also developed and taught courses on civil litigation discovery and electronic discovery and regularly presented at conferences related to her teaching.

## Related Matters

- Represented Fortune 500 companies in numerous commercial and contract disputes.
- Represented the State of Florida against RJ Reynolds Tobacco in a contract action that resulted in a \$93 million judgment in favor of the State of Florida, and for annual payments in perpetuity (an approximate \$30 million annual value).
- Represented foreign sovereign and its agencies and instrumentalities in federal courts nationwide in complex litigation arising under exception to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.
- Represented global energy company in various commercial disputes, including unfair and deceptive trade practices and breach of contract disputes.

## Contact

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📍 **Miami Office**  
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## Education

University of Miami School of Law, J.D., summa cum laude and first in class, University of Miami Law Review

University of Texas at Austin, B.A., with highest honors

## Admissions

- Florida
- United States Court of Appeals for Eleventh Circuit
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida

## Practice Areas

Appeals & Critical Motions

## Awards

Super Lawyers Magazine, Rising Star

Recipient of Dean's Academic Merit Scholarship

National Mock Trial Team

## Experience

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- León Cosgrove LLP
- University of Miami School of Law, Professor of Legal Writing
- Hunton & Williams
- Law Clerk to The Honorable Peter T. Fay of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

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## Partner

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## Related Matters (cont.)

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- Defended one of the world's largest fast food chains in a federal court consumer deceptive and unfair trade practices class action lawsuit resulting in favorable resolution.
- Successfully obtained dismissal of consumer deceptive and unfair trade practices class action lawsuit in federal court for nationwide retailer.
- Successfully defended financial services institution in various commercial litigation matters in state and federal courts in Florida, Colorado, and California.
- Represented multiple major international alcohol beverage manufacturers in various commercial disputes, including termination and breach of distributor agreements, breach of contracts, fraud, and tortious interference.
- Defended major international alcohol beverage manufacturer in product liability cases in New York and Florida.
- Represented major international alcohol beverage manufacturer and distributor in RICO action filed by foreign sovereign alleging money laundering and smuggling scheme.
- Defended major cruise line in various commercial litigation matters.
- Represented directors, shareholders, and companies in shareholder and fiduciary duty disputes.