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FIRM NEWS

Senior Attorney Rene Hidalgo Secures Complete Victory in High-Stakes Workers' Compensation Case



Attorney Rene Hidalgo has secured a decisive legal victory in a complex workers' compensation case. The opposing party sought temporary disability compensation, unauthorized medical care payments, and additional claims for penalties, interest, attorney's fees, and costs, while attempting to establish employer liability for the alleged workplace accident.

During the final hearing, Hidalgo's strategic objections proved crucial when opposing counsel attempted to present unauthorized medical records and employment documentation. His thorough preparation, documented in the pretrial stipulation and employer's trial memorandum, successfully blocked these records from evidence. The Judge of Compensation Claims agreed that the records failed to meet legal standards due to hearsay, lack of authentication, and issues with unauthorized provider documentation.

Following testimony from multiple witnesses, including the claimant and an employer representative, the Judge ruled entirely in Hidalgo's favor, denying all claims. The case was dismissed "with prejudice," preventing the opposing party from pursuing these claims through a personal injury suit in circuit court. The Judge also declined to rule on claims that the employer was "illegally uninsured," citing jurisdictional limitations. This victory demonstrates Hidalgo's exceptional legal strategy and thorough preparation.

Last-Minute Victory: Insurance Settlement Secured Moments Before Trial



In a dramatic display of preparation meeting opportunity, Senior Attorney Edson Briggs, along with co-counsel Erin Dunnivant of Danahy and Dunnivant, secured a significant victory for our clients in their Tropical Storm Eta homeowners' insurance claim. Just one minute before the scheduled 9:30 a.m. jury trial on October 21st at the Miami-Dade County Courthouse, the insurance company agreed to meet our clients' full pretrial demand.

The settlement, reached at literally the eleventh hour, demonstrates a fundamental principle of successful litigation: thorough trial preparation often drives favorable settlements. Our team's readiness to proceed with trial proved instrumental in achieving our clients' objectives, allowing them to finally move forward with their home repairs.

Following the settlement, in true Miami fashion, Edson introduced Tampa-based Erin to a traditional Cuban breakfast of café con leche and Cuban toast at a local café – a fitting celebration of their cross-state collaboration and successful outcome.

This case exemplifies our firm's commitment to comprehensive trial preparation and our dedication to securing the best possible outcomes for our clients, whether through settlement or trial.

NEW ENGAGEMENTS

Almazan Law Takes On High-Stakes FinTech Privacy Litigation



We are pleased to announce our firm's engagement in a significant data privacy case within the financial technology industry. The matter involves alleged inadequate disclosure practices regarding chat message retention on a financial platform that serves institutional investors, investment banks, and corporations globally.

The case centers on critical questions of data privacy and transparency in financial technology services, particularly concerning the platform's chat functionality and user communication storage practices. This engagement showcases our firm's growing expertise in the intersection of financial technology and privacy law, an increasingly important area as financial services continue to digitize.

Given the complex nature of this case and its implications for data privacy in financial technology, our team is committed to providing thorough and strategic legal representation. We look forward to applying our expertise in both technology and privacy law to address these important issues.

Rising Tide of Florida Deed Fraud Schemes Meets Legal Challenge in Recent Case



Our firm has taken on a significant civil litigation matter involving an alleged deed fraud scheme that resulted in the improper transfer of multiple residential properties. We are representing the victim in civil proceedings to address the unauthorized conveyance of properties through allegedly falsified documentation.

Criminal authorities are separately investigating and prosecuting the alleged fraudulent activity. Our civil case focuses on unwinding the subsequent property transfers and securing our client's legal interests through the appropriate civil remedies available under Florida law.

The litigation exemplifies an increasingly concerning trend in Florida real estate fraud, particularly involving forged deed transfers. Our team's experience in real estate litigation and property law enables us to navigate these challenging cases while pursuing the legal steps necessary to address such unauthorized conveyances.

The case adds to our firm's growing portfolio of real estate litigation matters and reinforces our commitment to helping property owners protect their legal interests when faced with fraudulent schemes.

Real Estate Partnership Dispute Leads to Complex Litigation Action



Our firm has been engaged in a sophisticated commercial litigation matter involving alleged breaches of partnership agreements in property development. The case centers on claims that a former partner attempted to circumvent established agreements by seeking new investors and attempting to gain unauthorized control of investment properties.

This matter underscores the critical importance of well-structured partnership agreements and

the complex challenges that can arise in real estate investment ventures. Our team is working to address multiple aspects of partnership law and real estate rights, focusing on protecting our client's legitimate business interests and investment portfolio.

The case highlights our firm's capability in handling intricate commercial disputes where real estate law intersects with partnership agreements and fiduciary obligations. We continue to work diligently to protect our client's interests and uphold the integrity of their business relationships.

Almazan Law Assists Senior Client in Critical Property Document Recovery



Our firm recently undertook a sensitive case involving an elderly client facing challenges in recovering essential property documentation. Following the passing of her spouse and subsequent hospitalization, critical property records were misplaced, creating a complex situation requiring careful attention and diligence.

This case highlights the often overlooked but crucial importance of document preservation and recovery, particularly during times of personal hardship. Our team is working methodically to help restore our client's access to these vital property records, understanding the significant impact these documents have on her peace of mind and financial security.

Through this engagement, we continue to demonstrate our commitment to serving vulnerable members of our community, particularly in situations where legal expertise intersects with compassionate client care.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, LEGAL NEWS
& EVENTS**

Our Firm Steps Up in the Fight Against Heart Disease



Our firm has once again launched its annual Heart Walk campaign, demonstrating our continued commitment to supporting the American Heart Association's mission against heart disease and stroke.

Together, we've set an ambitious firm-wide goal of \$15,000, reflecting our dedication to making a meaningful impact in the fight against heart disease. Each team has embraced this challenge with characteristic determination, already making significant progress toward their individual targets.

This initiative goes beyond mere fundraising – it represents our firm's ongoing commitment to supporting causes that matter to our community. With heart disease and stroke affecting so many lives, our participation in the Heart Walk allows us to contribute to a mission that resonates deeply within our firm family.

The campaign welcomes participants of all fitness levels, and both teams are actively seeking new members to join this important cause. Those interested in participating can connect with any current team member to learn more about getting involved.

[Sign up now!](#)

Supporting Equal Justice: Our Firm's Commitment to Legal Services of Greater Miami



Managing partner [Alexander Almazan](#) represented our firm at Legal Services of Greater Miami's "Cocktails Under the Stars" event at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, supporting LSGM's mission of providing free civil legal services to Miami's vulnerable residents. LSGM serves as a vital resource for low-income individuals in Miami-Dade County, handling critical issues from housing to healthcare access.

During the evening, Alex reconnected with former associate Michael Caballero, who is now practicing at another firm, and Kirk Weng, the architect of several of our office spaces. LSGM's upcoming initiatives include Business Breakfast Panels on climate resilience and educational workshops, which our firm will continue supporting through financial contributions and pro bono service.

This partnership reflects our belief that the legal profession's highest calling is ensuring justice remains accessible to all community members, regardless of circumstances.

The Evolution of Florida's Homestead Protection: What Amendment 5 Means for Property Owners



Florida Amendment 5, titled "Annual Inflation Adjustment for Homestead Property Tax Exemption Value Amendment (2024)," proposes an adjustment to the homestead property tax exemption value based on annual inflation rates. This amendment aims to modify the current provisions under the Florida Constitution and relevant statutes to ensure that the homestead exemption values keep pace with inflation, thereby providing continued tax relief to homeowners.

Under the existing framework, homestead properties in Florida are assessed at just value as of January 1 of the year following the effective date of the amendment, with annual changes in assessments not exceeding the lower of three percent of the prior year's assessment or the percent change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all urban consumers [Fla. Const. Art. VII, § 4, Taxation; assessments, Smith v. Welton, 729 So. 2d 371](#). This limitation is part of the "Save Our Homes" amendment, which was designed to protect homeowners from significant increases in property taxes due to rising property values [Kelly v. Spain, 160 So. 3d 78](#).

The proposed Amendment 5 would likely build upon these existing provisions by introducing a mechanism for adjusting the homestead exemption value annually based on inflation. This adjustment would help maintain the real value of the exemption over time, ensuring that homeowners continue to receive meaningful tax relief despite inflationary pressures. The amendment would require the legislature to enact general laws to implement these adjustments, similar to how other homestead exemptions and assessment limitations are currently managed [Fla. Const. Art. VII, § 6, Homestead exemptions, § 196.031. Exemption of homesteads](#).

In summary, Florida Amendment 5 seeks to provide a more dynamic and responsive approach to homestead property tax exemptions by incorporating annual inflation adjustments, thereby offering sustained financial protection to homeowners against the eroding effects of inflation.

Written By [Rene Hidalgo, Esq.](#)



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