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Trade secrets authority and noncompete litigator: Eric Ostroff, J.D. ‘04

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University of Miami School of Law News & Events | Miami Law Staff Report

Eric Ostroff graduated summa cum laude from the University of Miami School of Law in 2004, where he was inducted into the Order of the Coif and served on the University of Miami Law Review.

Ostroff now focuses his practice on trade secrets and noncompete litigation. Throughout his career, Ostroff has developed a prominent national practice protecting businesses in trade secret and restrictive covenant litigation, along with other complex commercial disputes. In addition to leading Meland Budwick, P.A. as its managing partner, he serves on the Steering Committee of The Sedona Conference Working Group on Trade Secrets. A dedicated alumnus, Ostroff has returned to Miami Law as an adjunct professor of Trade Secrets Law. His legal leadership and commitment to legal education exemplify the excellence fostered by a Miami Law degree.

What aspects of the curriculum or faculty had the most significant impact on your legal education and career trajectory?

The rigor of Miami Law shaped how I think and write as a lawyer. My professors pushed us to reason from first principles, test every argument against its strongest counterpoint, and communicate with precision. Those habits matter in complex commercial litigation, where success often turns on how clearly you can frame an issue. Serving on the Law Review reinforced that discipline.

I particularly remember my Elements class with the late Professor Gaubatz. That class was intellectually challenging, even exhausting, but it reshaped how I thought and pushed me to approach problems like a lawyer.

How did your education at the University of Miami School of Law prepare you for

your career?

Miami Law taught me to be both a rigorous thinker and a practical advocate. I learned to analyze unfamiliar problems quickly and build a persuasive argument. Those skills have been essential throughout my career, from my first years as a litigator to leading a firm today.

Returning to the Elements class, I later served as Professor Gaubatz's Dean's Fellow, which allowed me to further develop my ability to attack fact patterns from a legal perspective while helping other students navigate a challenging course.

What opportunities or connections did you gain at the law school, and how did they influence your career?

Miami Law's outstanding Litigation Skills Program set me on the path to becoming a litigator. After our mock trial, one of my professors pulled me aside and told me I should be a trial lawyer. That encouragement gave me real confidence as I launched my career.

The Miami Law alumni network continues to be a strong presence in my life. My classmates have become colleagues, co-counsel, and trusted referral sources.

My continued connection with Miami Law is an important part of my career. Returning as an adjunct professor allows me to give back to the school and engage with the next generation of lawyers.

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