



MELAND | BUDWICK

Utibe I. Ikpe

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Practice Areas:

- [Commercial Litigation](#)

“Utibe is going to be a superstar in very few years.”

– Chambers USA

Utibe I. Ikpe is a Miami-based commercial litigation attorney and partner at Meland Budwick, P.A. She represents businesses of all sizes in high-stakes litigation, including shareholder disputes, D&O liability, trade secret litigation, and fraudulent transfer claims. Utibe provides invaluable strategic guidance to business clients, and she has wide-ranging experience, having litigated matters in state court, federal court, and arbitration.

Utibe is a recognized leader in the Florida legal community. She serves as Chair of the Florida Bar Business Law Section’s Business Litigation Committee and previously chaired its Continuing Legal Education Committee. Utibe also serves on the National Bar Association Commercial Law Section’s Executive Committee.

Born in Nigeria and raised in Miami, Utibe maintains a strong interest in African affairs and has written about legal developments in Africa for the Florida Bar International Law Quarterly Newsletter.



Utibe earned her law degree from George Washington University, where she competed on the Mock Trial Board and reached the semi-finals of the Cohen and Cohen Mock Trial Competition. She also served as a judicial intern for the Honorable Chief Judge Pratt of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa.

EDUCATION

- J.D., 2009, The George Washington University Law School
 - Mock Trial Board
 - Cohen and Cohen Mock Trial competition, Semi-finalist (within top four teams)
- B.S., 2005, *magna cum laude*, Florida State University
 - Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society
 - Dean's List, all semesters

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Florida
- Virginia
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida

MEMBERSHIPS

- Florida Bar Business Law Section
 - Litigation Committee Chair
 - Former CLE Committee Chair
- National Bar Association's Commercial Law Section
 - Executive Committee 2023-2024
 - Women's Wellness Committee
 - Sponsorship Committee Chair
- Akwa-Ibom Association of Nigeria, USA Inc.

AWARDS & RANKINGS

- Chambers USA, Litigation: General Commercial (Florida), 2026
- Lawdragon, 500 Leading Litigators in America, 2025
- *Florida Trend*, Legal Elite Notable Women in Law, 2024



- *Daily Business Review*, Florida Legal Awards, “On the Rise,” 2024
- National Bar Association, “40 Under 40 Nation’s Best Advocates’ Award, 2023

PUBLICATIONS

- Author, “*The International Criminal Court May Face an African Exodus*,” Fla. Bar Int’l L. Q., Winter 2017
- Author, “*Nigeria Considers Stricter Anti-terrorism Laws*,” Fla. Bar Int’l L. Q., Winter 2017
- Author, “*Senegal Invokes Universal Jurisdiction and Prosecutes Former President Hissène Habré of Chad on Behalf of Africa*”, Fla. Bar Int’l L. Q., Fall 2016
- Author, “*Nigerians Outraged as Senate Rejects Gender Equality Bill*,” Fla. Bar Int’l L. Q., Fall 2016
- Co-author, “*Think Before You Plea: Juvenile Collateral Consequences in the United States*,” A.B.A., Crim. Just. Sec. (2012)
- Author, “*Arizona DREAM Act Coalition Files Suit Against Arizona Officials*,” A.B.A., Minority Trial Laws, Division News & Dev. (2012)

Representative Matters

Commercial Litigation

Successfully defended against a \$40 million claim based on the theft of crypto assets in a JAMS arbitration in New York.

Following a bench trial, obtained a multimillion dollar judgment against guarantors in a complex guarantor deficiency action.

Obtained dismissal of a nationwide class action asserting more than \$40 million in claims based on a crypto hack.

Obtained dismissal of all claims in pre-litigation negotiations with the FDIC while representing directors and officers of a Florida financial institution that went into receivership.

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a vocational institution in a four-



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hundred-thousand-dollar breach-of-contract and declaratory judgment action involving the interpretation of an asset purchase agreement.

Represented Miami-Dade County government entity in recouping over four million dollars in a financial dispute.

Defended directors and officers from multiple Puerto Rican financial institutions in litigation brought by the FDIC for alleged breaches of fiduciary duty regarding governance and the management of over fifty lending transactions.

Participated in litigation team that obtained a multi-million-dollar settlement in class action litigation against one of Florida's largest health insurance providers.

Represented minority shareholder in bringing derivative action for breach of fiduciary duty, tortious interference with advantageous business relationships, and various other business torts.

Second-chaired bench trial and obtained a collective four-million-dollar verdict in two breach of guaranty actions that were collectively tried in Miami-Dade's Complex Business Litigation Division.

Represented former employee of solid fuel provider in action regarding non-solicitation and non-compete obligations.

News

- [Meland Budwick, P.A. Recognized in the 2026 Edition of Chambers USA](#) (Jun. 04, 2026)
- [Utibe Ikpe named Chair of the Florida Bar Business Law Section's Business Litigation Committee](#) (Jul. 18, 2025)
- [Utibe I. Ikpe selected as a Florida Trend Legal Elite Notable Women Leader in Law](#) (Dec. 19, 2024)
- [Four Meland Budwick Partners Listed in the 2025 Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America](#) (Sep. 06, 2024)
- [How I Made Partner: 'Take Time to Explore and Learn What You Want to Do,' Says Utibe Ikpe of Meland Budwick](#) (Jul. 08, 2024)

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