



Utibe I. Ikpe

Partner

Commercial Litigation

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About Utibe I. Ikpe

Utibe I. Ikpe, a partner with Meland Budwick, P.A., focuses her practice on commercial litigation. Prior to joining the firm, she was an attorney at a boutique commercial litigation firm in Miami, Florida.

Utibe has experience representing large and small businesses in complicated litigation disputes, including, among others, 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 also an active member of numerous organizations. She is vice-chair of the Florida Bar Business Law Section's Business Litigation Committee and the past chair of the organization's Continuing Legal Education Committee. Utibe also serves on the National Bar Association Commercial Law Section's Executive Committee.

Utibe has an interest in African affairs, and she has contributed to the World Roundup Section of the Florida Bar International Law Quarterly Newsletter, where she wrote about current legal developments in Africa.

While attending law school at George Washington University, Utibe was a member of the Mock Trial Board and a semi-finalist in the Cohen and Cohen Mock Trial Competition. Utibe also worked as a judicial intern for the Honorable Chief Judge Pratt at the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa.

Education

- The George Washington University Law School, J.D., 2009,
 - o Mock Trial Board

- o Cohen and Cohen Mock Trial competition, Semi-finalist (within top four teams)
- Florida State University, B.S., 2005, *magna cum laude*
 - o Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society
 - o Dean's List, all semesters

Bar Admissions

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

Memberships

- National Bar Association Commercial Law Section, Executive Committee 2023-2024
- Florida Bar Business Law Section, Business Litigation Committee, Vice Chair
- Florida Bar Business Law Section, CLE Committee
- National Bar Association
- Akwa-Ibom Association of Nigeria, USA Inc.

Awards/Rankings

- Lawdragon, 500 Leading Litigators in America, 2025
- Florida Trend Legal Elite Notable Women Leaders 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 and Panels

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

Representative Matters

Practice Area	Representative Matters
Commercial Litigation	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.
Commercial Litigation	Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a vocational institution in a four-hundred-thousand-dollar breach-of-contract and declaratory judgment action involving the interpretation of an asset purchase agreement.
Commercial Litigation	Represented Miami-Dade County government entity in recouping over four million dollars in a financial dispute.
Commercial Litigation	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.
Commercial Litigation	Participated in litigation team that obtained a multi-million-dollar settlement in class action litigation against one of Florida's largest health insurance providers.
Commercial Litigation	Represented minority shareholder in bringing derivative action for breach of fiduciary duty, tortious interference with advantageous business relationships, and various other business torts.
Commercial Litigation	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.
Employment, Commercial Litigation	Represented former employee of solid fuel provider in action regarding non-solicitation and non-compete obligations.