

Angel A. Cortinas

Board of Directors, Shareholder



Angel A. Cortiñas is a shareholder, serves on Gunster’s board of directors, and is co-chair of the firm’s Appellate practice group. He is also a member of the firm’s Women’s Leadership Forum. Angel served as an appellate judge on Florida’s 3rd District Court of Appeal for more than 8 years. He reviewed civil and criminal appeals from trial courts, authoring over 500 appellate opinions. He also served as a trial judge, by Florida Supreme Court appointment, on civil and criminal jury trials.

Prior to his judicial tenure, Angel worked for 13 years as a federal prosecutor and was the lead trial attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office’s investigation and successful prosecution of Columbia HCA and Olsten Corporation, which was the largest fraud case in U.S. history and the most comprehensive health care fraud investigation ever undertaken by the federal government.

As the former chief of the Fraud Section of the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Miami, he supervised twenty prosecutors and oversaw all criminal fraud investigations and prosecutions involving corporate and securities fraud, bank fraud, health care fraud, computer crimes, tax fraud and other white collar offenses. He also worked in and oversaw the Health Care Fraud Section of the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Miami for many years, working closely with hospitals, as well as with state and federal regulators.

Angel has tried over 30 jury trials to verdict in federal court and coordinated over 100 complex grand jury investigations. He has also authored numerous appellate briefs and argued before the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Civil & White Collar Crime

Angel’s practice includes the representation of individuals and companies in civil business litigation, including legal malpractice defense, as well as white collar criminal matters. He has represented an AMLAW 50 Firm related to a professional negligence claim in the U.S. District Court for the



GUNSTER
FLORIDA’S LAW FIRM FOR BUSINESS

PRIMARY OFFICE

600 Brickell Avenue
Suite 3500
Miami, FL 33131

T: (305) 376-6043

F: (786) 425-4088

acortinas@gunster.com

PRACTICE AREAS

Business Litigation

Appellate

International

Eminent Domain & Property
Rights

Professional Liability & Legal
Malpractice Defense

Dispute Resolution

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Southern District of Florida, an AMLAW 100 Firm in a malpractice claim by a former client in Florida state court, and an AMLAW 100 Firm in an ethics claim brought in Florida state court. He represents clients in both state and federal courts. He also represents clients in FCPA, False Claims Act and other anti-fraud matters; designs and implements compliance programs tailored to the particular needs of the client; conducts internal investigations; and advises clients on post-violation remediation. His extensive grand jury and trial experience allow him to effectively represent business entities and individuals in responding to government investigations and prosecutions.

Angel recently successfully represented a national insurance company in federal court, where the court granted a final summary judgment against Medicare Secondary Payer Act claims.

Appeals

Angel successfully represented a Florida developer in the reversal of \$24M judgment in the Third DCA and successfully represented a Florida power company in affirming an order authorizing the expansion of its Turkey Point facility.

Angel's recent appellate experience includes successfully representing a beneficiary of an Estate and Trust in an appeal by another beneficiary to invalidate a Trust and Will, representing an insured and insurance administrator in a pending federal court appeal, successfully representing an investment company in a state court appeal, successfully representing a developer in a challenge brought by a neighborhood association, and successfully representing a client in responding to a petition for a writ of certiorari pertaining to a discovery issue.

Mediation, Arbitration & Private Judging

Angel regularly handles mediations and has successfully mediated many complex cases and disputes. Because Angel is also fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, he is able to conduct mediations in those languages. Angel treats each mediation as a unique matter and, after studying the particularities of a dispute, seeks to craft novel settlement solutions.

Angel is also engaged for private judging matters, moot judging of appellate oral arguments and arbitrations.

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EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D., cum laude, 1987
Brown University, B.A., magna cum laude, Latin
American Studies, Political Science, 1984
Phi Beta Kappa

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

Massachusetts Bar, 2014
Florida Bar, 1989
U.S. District Court
Northern District of Florida
Southern District of Florida
Middle District of Florida
U.S. Court of Appeals
11th Circuit
5th Circuit

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association, Appellate Practice Section,
subcommittee chair
Florida Bar
Dade County Bar Association
Federal Bar Association

HONORS

The Best Lawyers in America®, Commercial Litigation
Law, Appellate Practice, 2018-21
Attorney General's Exceptional Service Award, U.S.
Department of Justice, 2001
National Crime Victims Award, U.S. Department of
Justice, 2000

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Trial counsel in complex civil litigation in Miami-Dade
Circuit Court in \$60 Million lawsuit that resulted in
favorable settlement for the clients.
Successfully represented client in reversal of \$24M
judgment in the Third DCA
Successfully represented electric power company in
affirming order authorizing expansion of Turkey Point
facility

Successfully represented national insurance company in
obtaining final summary judgments arising out of
plaintiffs' Medicare Secondary Payer Act and claims
AMLAW 50 Firm - Negligence claim by receiver - U.S.
District Court for the Southern District of Florida
AMLAW 100 Firm - Malpractice claim by former client -
Florida state court

AMLAW 100 Firm - Ethics claim by opposing party -
Florida state court

Lead Appellate counsel to developer who successfully
obtained reversal of \$24 Million final judgment

Developed FCPA compliance policy and program and
trained critical employees for international mining
company

Lead trial counsel in complex civil litigation in Miami-
Dade Circuit Court in defense of lawsuit seeking \$100
million in damages that resulted in favorable settlement
for the clients

Trial counsel in defense of seven class action lawsuits in
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
brought under the TCPA and Medicare Secondary
Payer Act

Successfully represented multiple targets of federal and
state criminal investigations where no criminal charges
were brought against the clients

Lead appellate counsel in two environmental law
lawsuits challenging commercial developments in Palm
Beach County that resulted in affirmances in favor of
the clients

Developed FCPA compliance program for publicly
traded company

Lead trial and appellate counsel in family law case that
resulted in \$12 million settlement in favor of client

Appellate counsel in multi-million dollar probate case
that resulted in affirmance of trial court judgment in
favor of client

Conducted internal investigation for a publicly traded
company client

Represented Ultra Music Festival before the Miami City
Commission on contract issues

Mediated a dispute on preservation of Tequesta Indian
site in downtown Miami

Mediated modification of landmark homeless
settlement agreement in *Pottinger, et al. v. City of
Miami*, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of

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Florida

Argued appeal on behalf of Grand Birch, LLC in *Citizens for Responsible Growth v. Grand Birch, LLC* resulting in final order denying petition for a writ of certiorari

Lead counsel for U.S. in the Southern District of Florida fraud claims against Columbia HCA and Olsten Corporation's subsidiaries

Supervised and oversaw all aspects of investigation and prosecution of the top officers of Hamilton Bank regarding \$300 million in investor losses due to the collapse of publicly traded Hamilton Bancorp

Supervised investigation and prosecution of multiple defendants in Bankest/Banco Espirito Santo regarding \$225 million fraud

Supervised investigation of Lancer Management Group regarding \$500 million in investor losses

Lead counsel for U.S. in criminal prosecution of Princess Cruises, Inc. for environmental crimes

Lead counsel for U.S. on numerous fraud and tax cases

Lead counsel for U.S. on numerous environmental cases and investigations

Lead counsel on over 30 jury trials in federal court

Lead appellate counsel on numerous appeals before the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Lecturer, ABA Appellate Section, "Sound Advice," 2013

Lecturer, ABA White Collar Crime National Institute, 2004

Lecturer, Florida Bar International Law Section, 2003

Instructor, U.S. Department of Justice, Anti-corruption, corporate compliance, fraud, money laundering and white collar crime, 1995-2004

CIVIC & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Local Rules Committee, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, 2013-present

Bench and Bar Committee, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, 2013-present

Florida Supreme Court, Committee on Jury Instructions in Business Cases, 2006-08

Florida Bar, Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services, 2005-10

Miami Senior High School, Mock Trial Team, volunteer

coach, 2005-06

Legal Services of Greater Miami, director, 1991-2001

Miami Senior High, Legal and Public Affairs Program, mentor, 2000-02

Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida, 1994-95

Brown University

Alumni board of governors, 1994-95

Club of Dade