

## Digna B. French

**Partner**

**Miami**

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**Languages spoken**

English | Spanish



### About Digna

Digna French is a member of the firm's global board and chair of the Litigation Practice Group in Florida. She has over 27 years of legal experience and focuses her practice on complex, commercial and multidistrict litigation, as well as cross-border litigation and international litigation in both state and federal courts. Digna also maintains an active appellate practice. She has specialized in defending sovereign nations and multinational corporations, including officers and directors, particularly in issues relating to expropriations and seizures, international claims, domestication of foreign judgments, and general business issues, including breach of contract, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty and interference with business advantage. Additionally, Digna has experience in issues having to do with internal and money laundering investigations and judicial proceedings as a result of the investigations.

Digna's representative clients include Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A., The Republic of Ecuador, numerous Latin American governmental entities, Florida Power and Light, a major US chemical company, international pharmaceutical companies, a tobacco company, an international cosmetics and fragrance manufacturer, a leading maker of implantable biomedical devices, a manufacturer of top-of-the-line computer devices, one of the world's leading producers of shaving and dental care products, a national building products company, a worldwide manufacturer of HVAC products and one of the largest banks in the US.

### Experience

- Representing a foreign sovereign in an effort to recover hundreds of millions of dollars embezzled by the owners and administrators of a foreign bank, including the successful and unique application of the federal Act of State Doctrine in Florida state court.
- Representing a state's largest public utility in a class action involving over 4 million class members stemming from alleged damages as a result of a hurricane, including allegations of failure to properly maintain and upgrade the utility's equipment.
- Successfully represented a major chemical manufacturer in a multidistrict litigation involving claims of drinking water contamination by perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) that resulted in serious personal injuries.

- Secured dismissal in the representation of the world's largest operator of wind energy facilities and several of its subsidiaries in a federal class action involving claims of nuisance and negligence.
- Successful representation of a Dominican airport concessionaire in a federal action in Puerto Rico. The matter pertained to certain food and beverage and in-flight catering concession contracts, as well as the alleged tortious interference and negligence of defendants pertaining to those contracts.
- Successfully representing one of the largest airport lounge and car parking services operator at airports around the world in a federal action in California. Our team of litigators successfully secured a reversal in the Ninth Circuit of the trial court's *sua sponte* dismissal on jurisdictional grounds and then obtained partial summary judgment in favor of the client. The parties subsequently settled the matter.
- Successfully represented a state's largest public utility in a class action relating to certain "incentive programs" and including claims of negligence, breach of implied warranty, failure to follow building codes, vicarious liability, negligent supervision, and Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act.
- Successfully represented a foreign state-owned oil company in federal court in proceedings under 28 USC § 1782 seeking discovery from a US entity in Houston for use in legal proceedings and investigations abroad.
- Achieved successful settlement following dismissal of a complaint against a foreign entity and its US-based affiliate in federal court from allegations of false advertising by its competitors in the pet supplement industry. Among other claims, plaintiffs alleged false and misleading advertising under the Lanham Act, Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act and Florida's misleading advertising statute.
- Successfully represented a manufacturer and distributor of beauty-related products and a distributor and specialty retailer of perfumes and fragrances in a breach of fiduciary duty and insider trading shareholders' derivative class action.
- Currently representing the state's largest utility in a putative class action (defeated class certification) regarding alleged nuisance involving a power plant.
- Successfully represented healthcare defendants to a successful settlement in claims involving Florida statutory securities fraud, fraudulent misrepresentation, negligent misrepresentation, fraudulent omissions and constructive fraud.
- Secured dismissal of claims brought by several companies and two individuals against a foreign sovereign on grounds of foreign sovereign immunity and the act-of-state doctrine.
- Secured dismissal with prejudice of claims brought against a foreign prosecutor regarding an online forensic investigation.
- Secured federal court summary judgment in the representation a foreign state-owned entity against the enforcement and collection of an international arbitration award.
- Achieved favorable settlement in the representation of officers and directors of a healthcare company against claims of breach of fiduciary duties brought by a creditors' committee.
- Successfully represented a state's largest public utility in an action seeking a mandatory injunction as well as claims for trespass, breach of covenants, and private nuisance.
- Successfully represented a foreign telecommunications entity in federal court in proceedings under 28 USC § 1782 seeking discovery from a US entity in New York for use in legal proceedings abroad.
- Successfully represented a foreign state-owned financial institution in federal court in proceedings under 28 USC § 1782 seeking discovery from a US entity in Florida for use in legal proceedings abroad.

- Secured the dismissal in the representation of a state's largest public utility in a class action involving claims of negligence, negligent supervision and vicarious liability, as well as under Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Practices Act.
- Represented a foreign sovereign in defending against the misuse of a number of patents derived from species and other genetic resources obtained from and belonging to the client.
- Represented defendants in a negligence and breach of contract matter involving significant personal injuries as an alleged result of abnormal microbial growth and exposure to harmful contaminants.
- Obtaining favorable settlements in disputes concerning breach of licensing agreements on behalf of foreign entities.
- Defended numerous product liability actions and obtained numerous dismissals and summary judgments in representation of pharmaceutical and medical device companies.

## Credentials

### Education

- University of Miami, J.D., *cum laude*, *Phi Delta Phi*, 1998
- University of Miami, B.A., *cum laude*, *Phi Kappa Phi*, Provost Honors, 1995

### Admissions

- Florida, 1998

### Courts

- U.S. Dist. Ct., Middle Dist. of Florida
- U.S. Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of Florida
- U.S. Dist. Ct., S. Dist. of Florida

## Recognitions

- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for commercial litigation in Florida since 2013, most recently in 2024 and 2025.
- Selected to *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite NOTABLE Women Leaders in Law in 2023 and 2024.
- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America* for Commercial Litigation in 2023-2026, and for International Arbitration – Commercial in 2026.
- Recommended by *Lexology Index* 2024 (formerly known as *Who's Who Legal*) for Commercial Litigation.
- Selected by *Daily Business Review*, a Florida legal publication, to its inaugural list of 2019 Florida Trailblazers; Digna was a lead partner in a firm team that was recognized for their innovative litigation strategy in a decades-long legal saga that has spanned Miami and Ecuador.
- Recognized by *Latino Leaders* magazine to its 2019 Top Latino Lawyers list; Digna was selected for her leadership in the Latino community through career achievements, community involvement and a successful career path.

## Expertise

### Services

- Litigation

## Industries

- Retail

## About our firm

One of the world's strongest integrated law firms, providing insight at the point where law, business and government meet. We deliver commercially focused business solutions by combining our legal, lobbying and political capabilities and invaluable connections on the ground to a diverse mix of clients, from long-established leading corporations to emerging businesses, startup visionaries and sovereign nations. More than 1,500 lawyers in over 40 offices across four continents provide unrivaled access to expertise.