

Michael J. Napoleone

Partner

West Palm Beach, FL | (561) 803-3518

mnapoleone@daypitney.com

Overview

Michael Napoleone is a seasoned litigator with a proven track record of success representing businesses, individuals, and fiduciaries in complex, high-stakes disputes. He has litigated a wide array of matters, including theft of trade secrets, corporate shareholder disputes, contested wills and trusts, claims of fiduciary misconduct, land use conflicts, and high-value real estate litigation. His extensive courtroom experience spans jury trials, bench trials, appeals, and alternative dispute resolution forums such as arbitration and mediation.

Known for his strategic approach and persuasive advocacy, Michael is regularly called upon to handle cases where the outcome is critical and the legal issues are complex. His clients rely on him not only for his legal acumen, but for his ability to navigate sensitive, high-conflict situations with clarity and confidence.

In addition to his legal practice, Michael has held many leadership roles within the legal profession and local government. He is a past president of the Palm Beach County Bar Association and served on the Executive Board of the Palm Beach County Early Learning Coalition. He currently serves as the elected Mayor of the Village of Wellington, Second Vice President of the Palm Beach County League of Cities, and on the Executive Board of the Palm Beach County Transportation Planning Agency—positions that reflect his dedication to public service and his deep understanding of governmental and regulatory systems.

Michael's dual background as a skilled courtroom advocate and respected civic leader makes him a trusted advisor in both legal and policy arenas.

Experience

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

Obtained jury returned verdict in favor of the firm's client against client's former employees and their competing business, where jury determined that the company's client list constituted a protectable trade secret and found defendants liable on all counts and awarded plaintiff damages for the business losses resulting from the defendants' wrongful conduct, even though the former employees were not bound by non-competition or non-solicitation agreements

Practices & Industries

Complex Commercial Litigation

Fiduciary and Probate Litigation

Intellectual Property Litigation

Litigation

Mergers & Acquisitions

Real Estate Litigation

Obtained multi-million dollar jury award in favor of residential developer client against party who breached right of first refusal in development agreement that gave client the right to acquire the remaining developable land

Obtained seven-figure award following bench trial on former employees' claims against former employer for breach of employment agreements for failure to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in earned commissions with additional damages including over $1 million in attorney fees and costs to client; representation also included successful defense of counterclaims by former employer for alleged violations of non-compete agreements and theft of trade secrets

Prosecuted claims in arbitration on behalf of subsidiary rights holder against author and producer of national production of off-Broadway musical and negotiated favorable settlement following multi-million dollar arbitration award in favor of client

Represented members of closely-held, family-owned businesses in settlement of shareholder derivative litigation involving allegations of breach of fiduciary duty, usurpation of corporate opportunity, conversion and civil conspiracy

Successfully represented the five adult children of a decedent in defense of a multi-million dollar surcharge action, which was aggressively pursued by the successor personal representative on behalf several financial institutions; negotiated settlement of all claims and obtained releases in favor of all clients and a discharge from the probate court

Represented national fast food franchisor in settlement of federal court litigation with franchisee over claims of fraud, misrepresentation and tortious interference with business relationships

Defended a group of doctors and their medical practices against RICO, fraud and deceptive trade practice claims, asserted by insurance carriers seeking million in damages related to their performance of certain surgical spinal procedures; matter settled to clients satisfaction

Defended businesses and individual family members in multi-jurisdiction litigation involving claims of alleged fraudulent transfers where plaintiffs claimed that clients transferred of millions of dollars in assets to avoid the reach of judgment creditors

Successfully defended a law firm in an investigation by the attorney general in assessing whether fraudulent documentation had been created and filed by the firm in an effort speed up foreclosure processes, where the law firm denied all allegations and successfully quashed the subpoena; upheld on appeal and created new law in the State of Florida as to the power of the attorney general to investigate law firms

Represented condominium association in multi-year litigation against former country club owner arising from club operator's breaches of covenants contained in the Declaration of Condominium; obtained final summary judgment in favor of client and later pursued post-judgment proceedings against successor club owner and obtained final judgment in favor of condominium association resulting in successor club owner conveying millions of dollars in waterfront property to client

Education and Credentials

Education

St. John's University School of Law, J.D.

University of Florida, B.S.

Admissions

State of Florida

State of New York

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

U.S. Supreme Court

Affiliations

Palm Beach County Bar Association, Past President; Board of Directors, Former Member; Committee on Professionalism, Former Chair; Committee on Diversity and Gender Sensitivity, Former Chair; Leadership Academy, Creator and Former Chair; Judicial Campaign Practices Commission, Former Chair

The Florida Bar, Constitutional Judiciary Committee, former Chair; Standing Committee on Professionalism, former Member

Leadership Palm Beach County, 2022

Leadership West Palm Beach, 2005

Business Development Board of Palm Beach County

The Forum Club of the Palm Beaches

Recognition and Community

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Recognitions

Finalist for *Leadership Palm Beach County* Leadership Excellence Award, 2025

Selected to list of *Top Lawyers*, Business Litigation, by *Palm Beach Illustrated*, 2022

Selected to the Top Lawyers list in the Commercial Litigation category by the *Boca Raton Observer* (A&A Publishing Corp) and DataJoe, 2022

Selected to the list of Florida *Super Lawyers*®, Business Litigation, 2010-2026

Selected to the list of Florida *Super Lawyers*® Rising Stars, Business Litigation, 2009

Chosen for inclusion on the list *Florida Legal Elite* by *Florida Trend* (Trend Magazines Inc.), 2009-2018

Selected to list of *South Florida's Top Lawyers* by the *South Florida Legal Guide*, 2018

Chosen for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* (Woodward/White, Inc.), Commercial Litigation, 2015, 2020-2027

Chosen for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* (Woodward/White, Inc.), Real Estate Litigation, 2015

Recipient of the Key Partners Award from the *South Florida Business Journal* (American City Business Journals), 2012

Finalist for the list of "Most Effective Lawyers" in International Law by *Daily Business Review* (ALM Media Properties, LLC), 2010

Installed as a member of the Florida Blue Key leadership honorary society at the University of Florida, 1992

AV Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell (LexisNexis)

Community Involvement

Village of Wellington, elected Mayor, 2024-Present

Village of Wellington, elected Council Member, 2016-2024

Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County, Board of Directors, 2011-2021

Palm Beach County Transportation Planning Agency, Governing Board, 2017-Present; Executive Board, 2021-Present

Palm Beach County League of Cities, Second Vice President, 2025-Present; Board Member, 2019-Present

Florida League of Cities, Board of Directors, 2025-Present

Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, Board of Directors

Insights

Florida's CHOICE Act: Empowering Employers, Challenging Employees
Day Pitney Alert, July 2, 2025

FinCEN Imposes CTA Reporting on Certain Dissolved Entities
July 12, 2024

Corporate Transparency – Where Are We Now?
April 23, 2024

The "STOP WOKE Act" – Florida's Attempt to Prohibit Mandatory Employee Diversity Training Put on Hold for Now
October 21, 2022

President Biden Issues Executive
Day Pitney Advisory, July 29, 2021

Florida Votes to Increase Minimum Wage to $15 per Hour Over Six Years
November 30, 2020

Florida Governor Issues Stay-at-Home Order, Designates Essential Services During COVID-19 Pandemic
April 7, 2020

News

Day Pitney Partner Michael J. Napoleone Re-Appointed Vice-Mayor of Wellington
May 9, 2023

Michael Napoleone Reelected to Board of Directors for the Palm Beach County League of Cities
May 31, 2022

Michael Napoleone Appointed to Executive Committee for Palm Beach County Transportation and Planning Agency
December 8, 2021

Michael Napoleone Elected to Board of Directors for the Palm Beach County League of Cities
April 30, 2021

Florida Partner Michael Napoleone Re-Elected As Vice Mayor of Wellington Village
January 24, 2020

Day Pitney Sponsors PBCBA's Committee for Diversity and Inclusion Legacy Celebration
November 5, 2019

Day Pitney Partner Michael J. Napoleone Appointed Vice-Mayor of Wellington
April 10, 2019

Day Pitney LLP: Firm Expands to Better Serve South Florida Clients
March 19, 2022

Michael Napoleone Elected Vice Chair and Interim Chair of Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County
February 11, 2013

In The Media

December 1, 2025, News and Notes
Florida Bar News, December 1, 2025

Celebrity Estates: The John Amos Estate Dispute with Michael Napoleone
October 29, 2025

Michael Napoleone Serves as Firm Representative to the Business Development Board of Palm Beach
Palm Beach County Profile, 2023-2024

Top Lawyers 2022; Palm Beach Illustrated
Palm Beach Illustrated, September 2022

Top Lawyer 2022; Boca Raton Observer
Boca Raton Observer, September 2022

News and Notes
Florida Bar News, February 1, 2022

Leadership PBC Accepts 48 into Engage Program
Florida Weekly Palm Beach, August 12, 2021

Betensky and Napoleone Commended for Pro Bono Work by Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County
Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County & Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association, August 9, 2021

Michael J. Napoleone Accepted Into Leadership Palm Beach County Engage Program
Leadership Palm Beach County, July 14, 2021

Partner Michael Napoleone Secures Affirmance of Trial Victory
December 31, 2020

Wellington Councilman Michael Napoleone Appointed to Palm Beach County League of Cities Board of Directors
wellingtonfl.gov/Newsletter, June 4, 2020

Day Pitney and Richman Greer Complete Merger, Further Expanding Presence in Florida
Day Pitney Press Release, January 1, 2019

Facebook 'friendship' with a judge - standing alone - insufficient for disqualification
Day Pitney Advisory, November 15, 2018

Letter: Why Judicial Elections Matter
Town-Crier, July 20, 2018

Privacy in the Golden Age of Social Media
Day Pitney Advisory, April 12, 2018

Rule to Enable Consumers to File Class-Action Lawsuits Against Banks Rejected by the Senate
Day Pitney Advisory, October 25, 2017

No Disqualification of Judge for being Facebook 'friend' with Attorney
Day Pitney Advisory, August 24, 2017

Critical Contract Mistakes - and How to Avoid Them
Day Pitney Advisory, June 12, 2017

After 20 Years, Constitution Revision Group Faces New Hurdles
Daily Business Review, December 23, 2016

Here's How Local Governments Can Get Up To Speed On The New Overtime Regulations
American C&C, September 14, 2016

Focus On The Local Judicial Races, Too
Miami Herald, August 5, 2016

How to Avoid 5 Common E-Discovery Mistakes
Law360, July 15, 2015

Business Strategy: Plan for the End at the Beginning
The Business Know-How, July 14, 2015