



# Utibe I. Ikpe

**Associate**

## **Commercial Litigation**

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### **About Utibe I. Ikpe**

Utibe I. Ikpe, an associate with Meland Russin & Budwick, 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 multinational corporations, insurance companies, financial institutions, and small businesses in complex litigation disputes. Utibe has litigated high stakes matters, including class actions, shareholder disputes, FDIC professional liability claims, and commercial contract disputes.

Utibe has litigated matters in state and federal court, and she has experience in all aspects of litigation, having successfully taken matters to trial and arbitration.

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 where she assisted in drafting court orders and opinions in civil and criminal cases.

Utibe also has an interest in African affairs, and she is a frequent contributor to the World Roundup Section of the Florida Bar International Law Quarterly Newsletter where she writes about current legal developments in Africa.

## 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

## Memberships

- Member, National Bar Association
- Business Law Section, The Florida Bar

## 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)

## **Bar Admissions**

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

## **Community**

- Member, Women's Chamber of Commerce of Miami-Dade County
- Akwa-Ibom Association of Nigeria, USA Inc.

## 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.