



"Pandora's Box is Open and Doing Business": Miami Attorney Offers 2024 Outlook.

"If you're doing just transactional work, you may want to look at expanding your horizons," -Attorney Gary Davidson predicts new trends for the new year.

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By [Lisa Willis](#)



Gary Davidson of Diaz Reus & Targ 1

The 2023 litigation landscape across the nation has seen a dip in domestic, transactional work, hitting certain regions harder than others, according to one South Florida-based attorney who thinks Florida has been well insulated from the dip. And 2024 is looking even brighter.

"I think it's going to be a very good year for both litigation and arbitration, especially on the international side, which is where I spend most of my time if not all of my time," said international litigation and arbitration attorney Gary E. Davidson.

Davidson represents clients from around the globe at Diaz, Reus & Targ's Miami office, which employs 25 attorneys locally and 130 internationally. He said a few factors contribute to this welcome, positive trend.

"I think South Florida has been insulated from a lot of [the dip] because of the sort of unique nature that we have going on, in terms of capital moving into the city, people moving into the city, companies moving into the city of Miami, and other parts of South Florida as well," Davidson said. "But Miami, in particular, has seen a tremendous influx, and that's driving law firms to move here from out of state."

That growth is driving the real estate community as well because he said these people need a place to live.

The uptick in litigation and arbitration has his attention. "Nationally, we've seen an uptick in high-stakes commercial litigation, international litigation, and international arbitration. I don't think there's anything that's going to abate that in South Florida."

Davidson points to many new South Florida firms that have opened their doors in the last 24 months, with more coming in daily. "That influx is going to continue to increase the level of litigation activity. I think it will draw in other players on the transactional side to do business," he said.

According to the firm's website, the board-certified international litigation and arbitration specialist has served as an arbitrator and mediator in several high-profile cases, including representing a Venezuelan state entity in a complex case concerning sovereign immunity. In addition to being an author, Davidson is an adjunct law

professor at the Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center in Davie and is the American Bar Association's liaison to the Slovak government.

Section 1782 litigation and its International Attraction

Davidson says people are just now learning about opportunities to litigate certain things in the United States that are impossible to litigate elsewhere in the world.

"Section 1782 litigation" is where companies and individuals throughout the world and especially in Latin America, are finally figuring out that even though their countries don't allow for discovery domestically, they can go to the United States and file a 1782 action and get discovery on entities and individuals who are up here," he said.

Davidson said the information and deposition testimony can be taken in South Florida without filing a lawsuit directly against those individuals [in the US] and transport the information electronically down to wherever the client is in Latin America.

"When they get the notion that they never have to show up in the US, they don't have to do business in the US, they can go after people here simply by hiring a lawyer such as us to pursue it in federal court, it's basically opening up Pandora's box, and Pandora's box is open and doing business in this in this particular area," Davidson said.

He believes that awareness drives more business to their firm, and he doesn't see it letting up in 2024.

“We continue to see more and more companies using Miami as a choice for seat of arbitration,” Davidson said. “We see more and more law firms that have that niche specialty amongst their many offerings moving into South Florida. So I think the combination of those two things will continue to prepare International Arbitration being seated in South Florida and contracts being entered by companies with arbitration clauses with Miami as a seat.”

Look to Expand the Horizons

“If you’re a law firm that devotes all of its resources to transactional work, whether it be in South Florida, nationally, or internationally ... putting all your eggs in one basket is probably not such a good idea at the moment.”

He said to consider casting the net a bit wider.

“If you’re not already doing litigation and arbitration and you’re a boutique firm and specializing in solely transactional work, look at opportunities to bring people on to do litigation and arbitration work because, for the foreseeable future, there’s not going to be any turndown.”

Davidson suggests the economy is relatively strong.

“There’s not going to be a crash in the economy, Davidson said. “We may have a mild recession, but beyond that, the future is bright, at least in litigation and arbitration. And if you’re doing just transactional work, you may want to look at expanding your horizons.”