



## Fernando M. Leal

Senior Counsel

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### EDUCATION

JD, State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Law, 1996

BA, Fordham University, 1991

### BAR ADMISSIONS

New York

Fernando M. Leal, Senior Counsel with Hickey Smith, is a seasoned litigator and trial lawyer with a proven record of successfully achieving desired results and objectives for clients. With his extensive experience in litigation and trial, Fernando has prosecuted and defended high profile cases from both sides of the courtroom. Because the unique strategies developed and used by Fernando resulted in favorable outcomes, Verdict Search has published many of his jury verdicts.

Before joining the Hickey Smith team, Fernando served as in-house counsel for Allstate and handled all aspects of the company's legal matters, including settlement negotiations, arbitrations, mediations, and trials. Following his tenure with Allstate, Fernando was retained as outside counsel for State Farm, York Claims, Hereford Insurance, and the New York State Liquidation Fund. He has represented plaintiffs and defendants in all forms of personal injury litigation and has in-depth experience handling most types of motor vehicle accidents, premises cases, worksite accidents, and property damage subrogation matters.

With particular expertise in analyzing the details of a case, and structuring trial preparation from the plaintiff's perspective, Fernando has the proven ability to design a strategy that leverages a client's case through identifying opportune vulnerabilities. Fernando has conducted numerous depositions, taken several cases to successful verdicts and is a Small Claims Arbitrator for the Civil Court of the City of New York.

### ACTIVITIES & MEMBERSHIPS

- Chapter Funder and Member Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity
- Member of Phi Alpha Delta International Law Fraternity
- Certified Arbitrator Small Claims Court City of New York