



## Fernando M. Leal

Senior Counsel

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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, arbitration, mediations, and trials. Before his role at Allstate, Fernando was retained as outside counsel for State Farm, Hartford Insurance, and a 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.

### EDUCATION

JD, SUNY at Buffalo, School of Law, 1996

BA, Fordham University, 1991

### BAR ADMISSIONS

New York

### ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIP

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

## REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented individuals in personal injury actions as a plaintiff and defendant attorney with favorable settlement of the disputes
- Successfully defended high exposure motor vehicle case, with a beneficial outcome for the client
- Provided defense of premises liability actions, utilizing unique methods and strategies resulting in successful verdicts