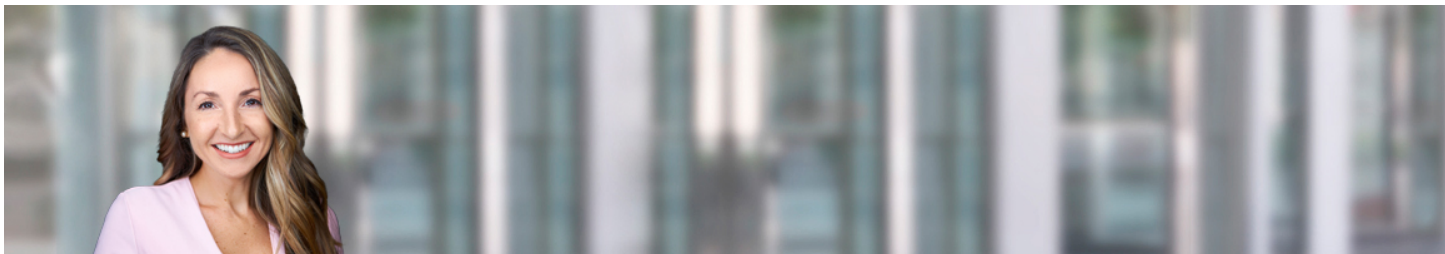


## Maria Arhancet Fehretdinov



Shareholder

Miami Office

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Phone: 305-789-3237

### PRACTICE AREAS

Litigation & Dispute Resolution

International

Healthcare

Antitrust, Competition &

Consumer Protection

Class Actions

Appellate

White Collar Defense &

Investigations

Product Liability

### LANGUAGES

Spanish

### OVERVIEW

Maria Fehretdinov is an experienced litigator. She regularly represents public and private companies and executives in complex litigation matters at the trial and appellate levels in both federal and state courts nationwide, including counseling foreign parties on U.S. matters.

#### Areas of Concentration

Actions involving federal, state and local government entities

Securities and shareholder derivative claims

Antitrust litigation and merger review

Class actions

Product liability litigation

False Claims Act suits

Deceptive and unfair trade practices cases

Anti-corruption and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act investigations

Prior to joining the firm, Maria was a litigation associate in the Washington, D.C. office of a large international law firm. She also served as a law clerk for Judge Stephen H. Glickman in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and worked at the U.S. Department of Justice's Criminal Division, Office of International Affairs. A native of Uruguay, she is fluent in Spanish.

### REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Was Lead Counsel in successfully representing the iconic Ball & Chain and Taquerias El Mexicano/Los Altos, affiliated with The Mad Room LLC, a Hospitality management company, in a federal suit against the City of Miami alleging

violations of substantive and procedural due process, equal protection, unlawful searches and seizures, as well as other constitutional law violations. These were issues of first impression against a prominent municipality where the City developed and deployed a deliberate policy to abolish client's fundamental protected rights to their property. Ultimately, the City of Miami Commission approved a \$12.5 million payout (along with non-monetary benefits) to our clients. Assisted with parallel lawsuit that secured a \$63.5 million jury verdict against City commissioner for the political vendetta predicated on the City's unlawful policies.

Argued before the Third District Court of Appeal to obtain an important victory on an issue of first impression under the Bert J. Harris Private Property Rights Protection Act, which is closely followed by specialists in the property rights arena as only a handful of appellate decisions govern this space. In a unanimous opinion, the Court reversed an order granting summary judgment to the City of Miami and upheld the finding that Ms. Fehretdinov's client had an existing use in advertising murals. Her client sued the City for damages for the loss of property value when the City gerrymandered its map to singularly carve out the property, while preserving rights for all similarly situated properties, as a result of back-room political deals.

Successfully defended six senior executives of Argentina's largest oil and natural gas producer, including the Chairman of the Board, CEO, and CFO, in a \$14 billion action brought by the Maxus Liquidating Trust in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware to recover damages relating to allegedly fraudulent transfers and alleged alter ego liability arising out of the alleged pollution of the Passaic River in New Jersey.

Represented Flagstone Island Gardens LLC and Flagstone Development Corporation in a suit against the City of Miami in connection with Flagstone's right to develop and lease a \$1.2 billion mixed-used hotel, retail and marina project on Watson Island. Flagstone sued for breach and repudiation of the parties' agreements, and the City counterclaimed to declare Flagstone in default and order it to vacate the property. The case was bifurcated between liability and damages. Ms. Fehretdinov second-chaired a 7-day bench trial on liability and obtained a 27-page order finding against the City and in favor of Flagstone on every disputed issue. In regards to the remedies phase, Ms. Fehretdinov achieved a settlement allowing Flagstone to recover all of its fees and costs of about \$5 million, an additional \$5 million for other expenses and an additional \$10 million over time. Additionally, the City accepted development agreements providing substantial economic value. The project was fiercely opposed by community activists, who also filed suit to block its development for alleged violations of the City Charter; Ms. Fehretdinov obtained the prompt dismissal with prejudice of their complaint against Flagstone, which was affirmed by the Third District Court of Appeal.

Represented Perry Ellis International in an appraisal litigation against various professional appraisal arbitrators, including Burford Capital Investment Management's (BCIM) Strategic Value Master Fund LP and other hedge funds with billions under management, which sought over \$160M for the fair market valuation of their shares in connection with a take-private transaction. Perry Ellis brought an action for declaratory relief on the basis that the hedge funds lacked standing under Florida's appraisal statute to assert appraisal, in an issue of first impression in the State on an important statute affecting Florida corporations. In Feb. 2020, Ms. Fehretdinov obtained a complete dismissal of the hedge funds' appraisal claims on summary judgment after a contentious 14 months of discovery and thousands of pages of briefing on the issue.

Developed novel component product tracing theory to help obtain the fourth largest antitrust settlement ever – \$151,250,000 – for an indirect-purchaser class, after defeating appeals to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court by the leading manufacturers of polyurethane foam.

Second-chaired a three-week product liability jury trial defending the leading distributor of defective Chinese-manufactured drywall in the Southeastern United States and secured a favorable verdict with nominal damages.

Achieved a favorable settlement for one of the largest insulation contractors in the U.S. in a class action based on an

alleged hub-and-spoke price-fixing conspiracy with claimed damages in excess of \$750 million.

Successfully represented two targets of an investigation by the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services (“OIG”) into a multi-million dollar healthcare kickback scheme; the OIG closed its investigation without bringing any charges. Also, successfully defended those clients in a complex civil litigation, involving more than twenty parties, spawned by the investigation.

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## PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (MDFAWL), Judicial Liaison, 2024-2025

Women's White Collar Defense Association, Communications Coordinator, 2018-Present

American Bar Association

National Hispanic Bar Association

Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL)

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## RECOGNITION

*Chambers USA*, Litigation: General Commercial (Florida), Up & Coming, 2024-Present

*Benchmark Litigation*

Future Star, 2024-Present

40 & Under Hot List, 2018-2021

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 40 Under 40 Outstanding Lawyers of South Florida, 2017

Pro Bono Honor Roll, U.S. District & Bankruptcy Courts of the Southern District of Florida, 2016

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## PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

**Events:** MDFAWL Twelfth Annual Trial Skills Workshop

Miami Dade Florida Association for Women Lawyers (MDFAWL) | | February 2024

**Publications:** [A Look Back at South Florida's First Female United States Attorney](#)

Women's White Collar Defense Association | April 2021

**Events:** [Webinar: Trial Strategy in a Virtual World](#)

Broward County Bar Association and U.S. Legal Support | | October 2020

**Events:** [Faculty, Seventh Annual Women's Litigation Skills Workshop](#)

Miami-Dade Florida Association for Women Lawyers | | February 2020

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**Publications: Miami Turns Up the Heat On Corruption**

Women's White Collar Defense Association | May 2019

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**Publications: Billionaire Kraft's Claims of Prejudicial Pretrial Publicity Trump Florida's Sunshine Laws**

Women's White Collar Defense Association | May 2019

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**Events: Litigation Skills Luncheon**

Miami-Dade Florida Association for Women Lawyers | February 2019

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**Events: Redeeming Gideon: Access to Counsel 50 Years Later**

2013 District of Columbia Judicial and Bar Conference | April 2013

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**Publications: Mexico's Tough New Approach to Antitrust Enforcement**

Law360 | June 2011

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**Publications: Noted with Interest – Assessing Circumstantial Evidence in Price-Fixing Conspiracy Cases: A Comparison of the Seventh Circuit's Recent Decisions in Text Messaging and Omnicare**

ABA Antitrust Section Joint Conduct Committee E-Bulletin | June 2011

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**Publications: The Effect of Twombly/Iqbal and Newly Rigorous Class Certification Standards on the Substantive Viability of Class Actions in Federal Court**

Unpublished manuscript, on file with The Sedona Conference® | October 2010

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**Publications: Noted with Interest**

ABA Antitrust Section Joint Conduct Committee E-Bulletin | September 2010

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**Publications: Analyzing the Past and Future of the National Procurement Fraud Task Force in Light of Its Expanded 2010 Mission**

Federal Contracts Report (BNA) | June 2010

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**Publications: Mission Impossible? With a Proven Track Record Combating Procurement Fraud, The National Procurement Fraud Task Force Takes on a New Mission: Recovery Act and Other Financial Fraud**

Client Alert | August 2009

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**Publications: Commission on Wartime Contracting First Public Hearing: Burgeoning Waste, Fraud and Abuse Investigations**

Client Alert | February 2009

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**Publications: A Political Response to Crisis in the Immigration Courts**

Georgetown Immigration Law Journal | July 2006

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## NEWSROOM

**In the Media: Miami Approves \$12.5M Deal To End Little Havana Bar's Suit**

Law360 | September 2024

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**In the Media: 'Put this chapter behind us': Miami agrees to pay \$12.5M to settle Ball & Chain lawsuit**

The Miami Herald | | September 2024

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**In the Media: Rumble in Little Havana: Ball & Chain owner sues city of Miami for \$28M**

The Real Deal | | October 2021

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**In the Media: Negocios demandan por \$28 millones a Miami por "acoso" y "pérdidas millonarias"**

Diario Las Americas | | October 2021

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**In the Media: Calle Ocho Restaurants Allege City of Miami Shut Them Down With Intimidation: Stearns Weaver Repping Plaintiffs**

Daily Business Review | | October 2021

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**In the Media: Miami's Watson Island Flagstone Project Wins on Appeal**

Daily Business Review | | July 2019

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**In the Media: Miami Residents Can't Revive Suit Against \$400M City Project**

Law360 | | July 2019

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**In the Media: Miami Strikes \$20M Damages Deal Over \$400M Eviction Effort**

Law360 | | May 2019

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**In the Media: Lawsuit over Miami billboards suggests commissioner's uncle wanted to sell influence**

The Miami Herald | | March 2019

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**Firm Announcements: Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Named Among Benchmark Litigation's 2018 "Under 40 Hot List"**

| July 2018

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**In the Media: Watson Island Developer Wins Case Against Miami, Plans to Seek Damages**

Daily Business Review | | March 2018

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**In the Media: Developer Beats City Of Miami In Suit Over \$400M Project**

Law360 | | March 2018

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**Firm Announcements: Maria Arhancet Fehretdinov Named Among 40 Under 40 Outstanding Lawyers of South Florida by Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**

| September 2017

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**In the Media: \$151 Million Settlement Approved in Foam Class Action**

Daily Business Review | | March 2016

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**Firm Announcements: Stearns Weaver Miller Names New Shareholders**

| September 2014

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## EDUCATION

J.D., *cum laude*, Georgetown University Law Center, 2007

B.S., *magna cum laude*, Georgetown University, 2004

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## **ADMISSIONS**

Florida

District of Columbia

United States District Courts for the Middle and Southern Districts of Florida

United States District Court for the District of Columbia

United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit