

FLORIDA • MIAMI

Victor M. Diaz, Jr.

Podhurst Orseck
City National Bank
Building, Suite 800
25 West Flagler Street
Miami, FL
33130
Tel: 305-358-2800
Fax: 305-358-2382
vdiaz@podhurst.com



Victor Manuel Diaz, Jr., graduated in 1982 from Duke University as the Valedictorian of the College of Arts and Sciences, obtaining a double degree in accounting and management science. Thereafter, Victor attended the Yale Law School where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Yale Law and Policy Review*.

For the past 20 years, Victor has been a trial lawyer handling a broad range of civil litigation, including complex commercial litigation and mass tort litigation. Victor has been recognized by numerous national and regional publications as one of the state's premier civil trial attorneys, including *Best Lawyers in America*; *Chamber's USA Guide to Leading Lawyers for Business*; *South Florida Legal Guide*; *Florida Trend Magazine's Florida Legal Elite* and *Who's Who In American Law*. In 2000, the Florida Supreme Court awarded Victor the Tobias Simon Award, the state's highest recognition for public and pro bono service. In 2003, he was elected by his peers as a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Victor has lectured on mass tort, aviation and commercial litigation to numerous bar groups including The Florida Bar, the Dade County Bar Association, and the American Trial Lawyers Association. He has also lectured at several international comparative law conferences on the subjects of mass tort litigation, choice of law and complex civil litigation.

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TRIAL & APPELLATE LAWYERS

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Robert C. Josefsberg

Podhurst Orseck
City National Bank
Building, Suite 800
25 West Flagler Street
Miami, FL
33130
Tel: 305-358-2800
Fax: 305-358-2382
rjosefsberg@podhurst.com



Bob was born September 23, 1938, in Brooklyn, New York. He received his B.A. Degree from Dartmouth College in 1959. He graduated from the Yale Law School in 1962, and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1962 and to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1970.

Bob is one of Dade County's premiere trial lawyers and listed annually since 1987 in the Best Lawyers in America in two categories—Business Litigation and Criminal Law. Past President and Dean of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Bob has served on the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Judiciary, as Chairman of the Southern District of Florida Judicial Evaluation Committee, and the Florida State University Law School Board of Visitors. In addition to commercial practice, Bob handles the firm's white-collar criminal defense work—an outgrowth of his background as an assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, as Special Counsel to the Dade County Grand Jury, and member of numerous commissions and task forces in the area of criminal law, including the U.S. Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules and Chairmanship of the Florida Bar's Criminal Law Certification Committee.

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Aaron S. Podhurst

Podhurst Orseck
City National Bank
Building, Suite 800
25 West Flagler Street
Miami, FL
33130
Tel: 305-358-2800
Fax: 305-358-2382
apodhurst@podhurst.com



Aaron Podhurst has been a distinguished trial lawyer for more than forty years. He was born April 29, 1936, in New York City, and received his B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1957, and his Juris Doctorate Degree from Columbia University, where he was a Harland Fiske Stone Scholar. Aaron was admitted to the Florida and New York Bars in 1961.

Aaron's distinguished career has brought him honors and offices from virtually every major legal organization, including the presidencies of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, fellowship in the American College of Trial Lawyers, member of Board of Governors of Association of Trial Lawyers of America, membership in the International Society of Barristers and the Inner Circle of Advocates, and chairmanship of the important aviation committees of the American Bar Association, Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers. Although Aaron made his reputation as one of the nation's premiere plaintiff's aviation lawyers, and continues to hold that status, he has guided the firm in recent years to its status as one of the major commercial litigation firms in South Florida. At the same time, he has managed to devote countless hours to community service.

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