



**ROBERT P. DIFFENDERFER**  
shareholder

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Mr. Diffenderfer maintains a diverse governmental practice involving complex environmental and land use matters, including representation before local, state and federal legislative and regulatory bodies.

#### AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Chair of the firm's transportation and infrastructure industry group for major public infrastructure projects, including highway, port and airport planning and permitting and Development of Regional Impact (DRI) review.
- Represents private and public clients, counseling on growth management issues and obtaining comprehensive plan and zoning approvals; defends those approvals from third party challenge.
- Represents special districts on a variety of organizational and operational issues and special projects.
- Successfully represented state university interests in obtaining legislation to authorize the transfer of land from the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to the university's foundation.
- Has handled a variety of growth management, land use and regulatory issues for large public infrastructure projects and various Florida Department of Transportation highway projects, including:
  - Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport
  - Palm Beach International Airport
  - North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport
  - Port of Fort Pierce
  - Port of Panama City
  - Panama City Airport

#### CHAIR

Transportation and Infrastructure  
Industry Group

#### PRACTICES

Environmental and Natural Resources  
Law  
Land Use and Real Estate Law  
Administrative, Civil and Appellate  
Litigation  
Governmental Law

#### INDUSTRIES

Transportation and Infrastructure

#### EDUCATION

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,  
1984

B.A., cum laude, Florida State University,  
1980

## PROFESSIONAL, CIVIC AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Martindale Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated.
- Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, Board Member and Chair.
- Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches, General Counsel and Executive Committee.
- The Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea, Chancellor.
- Florida Democratic Party Central/State Executive Committee, Member.
- The Florida Bar: Environmental and Land Use Law Section, Administrative Law Section and City, County and Local Government Law Section, Member.
- Palm Beach and Collier County Bar Associations, Member.
- American Bar Association: Section of Environment, Energy and Resources and State and Local Government Law Section, Member.
- Appointee: 2000 Presidential Rank Review Board.
- Naples Regional Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT) Citizen's Task Force, Committee on Environmental Issues, Member, 1987-1988.
- Listed in Who's Who Legal, Environmental Law, 2010, 2013, 2015.
- Listed in Chambers & Partners USA Guide, an annual listing of the leading lawyers and law firms in the world, 2008-2015.
- Florida Super Lawyer, 2008.

## PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- "Numeric Nutrient Criteria in Region 4: Current Progress and Remaining Challenges," presented at the American Bar Association Key Environmental Issues in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, March 2015.
- "Cleared for Takeoff: Insights on Economic Development and Land Use Compatibility at Airports," presented at the Florida Planning and Zoning Association Conference, June 2014.
- "Accelerated Wetlands Losses in Coastal Watersheds," Journal of American Water Works Association, April 2014.
- "Elimination, Reduction, and Minimization of Impacts," Florida Environmental and Land Use Law Treatise, June 2013.
- "The FAA Begins a New Chapter in Hazardous Wildlife Management," Florida Aviation Business Magazine, July 2013.
- "Where Water and Energy Meet," Journal AWWA, May 2013.
- "Secondary and Cumulative Impacts Analysis and the Clean Water Act," Journal AWWA, July 2012.
- "Numeric Nutrient Criteria for Florida," presented at the Local Government Law in Florida Conference, May 2012.
- "Environmental Issues Facing Florida's Local Government," webinar presented to the Florida City and County Management Association, November 2011.
- "Airport-Community-Environment-Noise Mitigation and More," presented at the Florida Airports Council Conference, July 2011.
- "Top Ten Tips for Quasi-Judicial Hearings," presented at What You Need to Know about Public Records and Open Meetings in Florida, August 2003.
- "Latest Developments and Issues Relating to Florida's Public Records Law," 2003.
- "The Freedom of Information Act 5.U.S.C. 552, as Amended by Public Law No. 104-231, 110 Stat. 3028," 2003.
- "Top Ten Tips for a Quasi-Judicial Hearing," the Florida Bar Environmental and Land Use Law Section Reporter, Vol. XIX, No. 5, July 1998.