

# Hodgson Russ Hires Longtime Business Litigator In Florida

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Hodgson Russ LLP has expanded its business litigation group in Florida, with an attorney joining from Wargo French Singer, who focuses his practice on representing corporate clients in a range of civil litigation, the firm announced Friday.



Anthony R. Yanez

Anthony R. Yanez has joined the firm's Palm Beach office as a partner and will continue his work representing businesses who work in a broad number of industries. His clients work in the agricultural, consumer goods, hospitality and healthcare industries, and he helps counsel clients in state and federal litigation.

In an interview with Law360 Pulse on Friday, Yanez said his joining of the firm was part of addressing a need to service the firm's "long term, individual and institutional relationships, whose interests are increasingly pointing towards being in or doing business in Florida."

"Hodgson has been around for a long time, has a great history in New York State," Yanez said. "And they certainly see Florida as an area of growth."

Yanez said part of capitalizing on those opportunities for growth was hiring someone like himself, whose practice contains a wealth of experience navigating the Florida legal system.

"I really think it's a good fit, I think it's a great culture and I'm certainly excited and I look forward to helping them build their brand in Florida,"

Yanez said.

Yanez earned his law degree from the University of Miami School of Law and started his career as an attorney with Cole Scott & Kissane PA, according to his LinkedIn profile. He's from the South Florida area and officially joined Hodgson Russ last month, he said.

Yanez told Law360 Pulse that he was inspired to go to law school while interning at what was formerly one of the oldest South Florida's firms, Steel Hector & Davis LLP. That firm eventually was absorbed into Squire Patton Boggs, and Yanez worked for Steel Hector while pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting, according to his LinkedIn profile.

What led Yanez to go back to school for his law degree was that initial exposure to working with attorneys and in a law firm environment.

"It was that experience and that exposure, and particularly the lawyers there who took an interest in me, and who helped me and were patient with me, and who really gave me the impression that lawyers can, not only work under pressure and work on high-stakes cases, but they can also be accessible people who really enjoy what they do," Yanez said.

Yanez went with a team of attorneys from Steel Hector to Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, he told Law360 Pulse, where he worked for a little over a year. After graduating from law school in 2007, Yanez took his first role as a litigation attorney with Cole Scott.

But his initial internship with Steel Hector taught Yanez the importance of relationship building and its utility to his practice, he said.

Yanez spent almost three years with Cole Scott before moving to Shutts & Bowen LLP, where he worked as an associate for over five years, according to his LinkedIn profile. Following that role, Yanez joined Blank Rome LLP where he worked for over 6 ½ years.

In 2022, Yanez joined Wargo French Singer, where he was an of

counsel. That role was his most recent before making the move to Hodgson Russ.

For Yanez, who is in his 18th year of private practice, the variety of legal issues and clients has kept him passionate about his work.

"I've represented large, multinational corporations, and I've represented small businesses and individuals; I've had a very diverse client base," he said. "And the rewarding thing about that is that it has challenged me to adopt varying perspectives on how to tackle a solution to a problem."

Yanez also credits his passion for business-related litigation to studying accounting while pursuing his undergraduate degree. For Yanez, his accounting background now works as a foundation to better understand the needs of his business clients, and to better explain complex accounting issues when necessary.

"What I'm most excited about also and being in Palm Beach with my new colleagues, is to use that accounting background to work in the tax and controversy and trusts and estates groups, because those disputes really involve the ability to understand complex financial statements and make those concepts accessible to a trier of fact," Yanez said.

He added: "That's a challenge that I certainly welcome and embrace, and I think it's why this match also made sense, because there seems to be a lot of that work that's certainly going to be coming out of Florida, not just in their individual relationships, but their institutional relationships."

The firm **tapped** James M. Bandoblu Jr. to head up its Palm Beach office in early 2023. Bandoblu previously served as leader of Hodgson Russ' federal tax controversy practice.

--Additional reporting by Madison Arnold. Editing by Alyssa Miller.