

Michael J. Fichtel

Principal Partner

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Biography

CEO and Principal Partner, Michael Fichtel, joined the law firm of Kelley Kronenberg and quickly rose to partnership within only four years of his admission to the Florida Bar, in 1987. Michael's continued focus on creating value for clients and on maximizing the firm's growth through the development of innovative business-relationship models led to an upward trajectory of growth for the firm and to Michael's selection as the firm's first CEO in 2010.

Over the last ten years, Michael has changed the face of the firm and the industry. By making client-value and client-relationships as important as the legal services he was providing, Michael proved that outstanding attorneys can also be exceptional business leaders with the right mindset and environment. Michael now uses that philosophy to inspire the firm's attorneys to place the power of their success in their own hands and his leadership has ensured that Kelley Kronenberg will always provide our attorneys with the optimal environment for professional and business growth.

With this goal in mind, Michael transformed his client-first philosophy into what became the foundation for the firm's primary core value of "We are a Team," the unwavering commitment to putting our people first. With an understanding that the firm's success would be wholly dependent on the success and satisfaction of its attorneys and staff, Michael's driving vision was to develop a business model that would attract the industry's finest and then retain this superior talent by furnishing leading business and technological resources, providing dynamic professional development programs and mentorship opportunities, creating work environments that allow for collaboration, and establishing a firm culture that insists on personal and professional ethics and places an equally-high value on community service and civic involvement, diversity and inclusion, personal goals and growth, and work-life balance.

Astutely, Michael also recognized that financial security is often at the core of satisfaction and that the compensation structures traditionally offered by law firms were not meeting the needs of today's partners. Michael, therefore, formulated a creative and progressive compensation structure that allows the firm's partners to directly and transparently benefit from their own contributions, essentially becoming the engineers of their own earning potential. Michael realized that the full value of this system could only be actualized if innovation and autonomy were coupled with collaboration and support. Thus, under his leadership, the firm expanded its IT department, with the aim of leveraging technology for efficiency and consistency, and recruited a distinguished C-Level business-support team that meets regularly with each of the firm's partners to provide critical guidance in the areas of financial operations, business development, and marketing.

Under Michael's leadership, the firm has seen great success and, as he envisioned, this has been commensurate to the success of our attorneys and staff. By putting people first, Kelley Kronenberg experienced unprecedented growth. Now one of the largest and most broad-scoped law firms in Florida, Kelley Kronenberg is also amongst the most admired and respected, having received numerous industry awards and repeated recognition as one of Florida's top places to work. Additionally, Michael's innovation and commitment to transparency and fairness have earned him the respect, loyalty and trust of the firm's employees and leadership, the legal and business communities locally and throughout Florida, and his colleagues nationwide.

With the knowledge that the needs of the legal industry and the workforce are ever-changing, Michael remains unwavering in his commitment to the firm's continued growth, driven in his goal to create a workplace that is revered by its employees and the community, relentless in his pursuit for innovative legal and business solutions, and compelled by an aspiration to help others realize that they can be outstanding attorneys and exceptional business leaders once they have the right mindset and environment.

Admissions

- Florida

Education

- Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center, J.D., 1986
- University of Florida, B.A., 1983

Industry Updates

- Broward County Bar Association, Member
- Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD), Member
- Moderator, "Shaping the Future: Today's Problems are Tomorrow's Innovations", Invest Miami, December 2020
- Featured, "[Ultimate CEO Insights: Michael Fichtel on taking approach to leading a law firm](#)", *South Florida Business Journal*, October 2023
- Featured, "[2022 Power Leaders 250](#)", *South Florida Business Journal*, January 2022
- Quoted, "[How South Florida Law Firms Are Capitalizing on the Great Florida Migration](#)", *Daily Business Review*, June 2021
- Quoted, "[Specialized and Out-of-State Law Firms Dominated Florida Lawyer Hiring in 2020](#)", *Daily Business Review*, June 2021
- Quoted, "[Kelley Kronenberg Continues First-Party Expansion with New Training Program, More Hiring](#)", *Daily Business Review*, June 2021
- Featured, "[Who's Who Men of Influence](#)", *Lifestyle Magazine*, May 2021
- Quoted, "[How Eight CEOs Are Making Diversity Happen \(Really\)](#)", *Chief Executive*, February 2021
- Quoted, "[Where Law Firms Shouldn't Cut Costs in 2021](#)", *Law.com The Mid-Market Report*, January 2021
- Featured, "[Kelley Kronenberg Enters a New Era \(And Its Fifth Decade\)](#)", *Attorney at Law*, January 2021
- Featured, "[Michael Fichtel: Expanding Kelley Kronenberg locally and beyond Florida](#)", *Miami Today*, December 2020
- Featured, "[Apogee Awards Honorees: Michael Fichtel](#)", *South Florida Business and Wealth*, December 2020
- Quoted, "[6 People on the Move](#)", *Risk & Insurance*, December 2020
- Featured, "[Surge of Hurricane Insurance Disputes Attracts Kelley Kronenberg to New Orleans](#)", *Daily Business Review*, December 2020
- Quoted, "[Kelley Kronenberg Expands into N.O. with Addition of Partner Sean P. Sullivan](#)", *Biz New Orleans*, November 2020

- Quoted, “Kelley Kronenberg Expands into New Orleans with Addition of Partner Sean P. Sullivan”, *PR Newswire*, November 2020
- Featured, “The 561 One of Florida’s Fastest Growing Law Firms”, *Boca Magazine*, November 2020
- Featured, “40 Years of Building on Firm Relationships”, *Miami Herald Indulge Magazine*, October 2020
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Expands Tech C-Suite”, *Daily Business Review*, October 2020
- Featured, “Who’s Who Men of Influence”, *Lifestyle Magazine*, October 2020
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Celebrates 40 Years in Business”, *Miami Herald Indulge Magazine*, September 2020
- Quoted, “Kelley Kronenberg Recognized by 2020 Sun-Sentinel Top Workplaces”, *South Florida CityBizList*, September 2020
- Quoted, “Kelley Kronenberg Recognized by 2020 Sun-Sentinel Top Workplaces”, *Attorney at Law*, September 2020
- Featured, “Law Firm Leaders: Kelley Kronenberg’s Michael Fichtel”, *Law 360*, August 2020
- Quoted, “Navigating the Perils of Reopening: Three Questions With the CEO of Kelley Kronenberg”, *South Florida Business Journal*, July 2020
- Featured, “Firms Are Designing New Offices With COVID-19 in Mind”, *The American Lawyer*, July 2020
- Quoted, “Why Some Law Firms won’t Make it Through COVID-19?”, *South Florida Business Journal*, May 2020
- Featured, “Executive Profile: Kelley Kronenberg CEO on Operating a Law Firm like a Business”, *South Florida Business Journal*, May 2020
- Quoted, “Interview: Technology Investments Help Improve Operations & Serve Clients”, *South Florida Legal Guide*, February 2020
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Honored in the 2019 South Florida Legal Guide”, *Attorney at Law Magazine*, June 5, 2019
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg named one of South Florida’s “Top Law Firms”; Seven Partners also named in the 2019 South Florida Legal Guide”, *Legal Learning Series*, June 5, 2019
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Partners Named to 2019 South Florida Legal Guide”, *CityBizList*, June 5, 2019
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg named one of South Florida’s “Top Law Firms”; Seven Partners also named in the 2019 South Florida Legal Guide”, *Sun-Sentinel*, June 14, 2019
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Starts Construction on New Corporate Headquarters,” *Sun-Sentinel*, November 9, 2018
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Starts Construction on New Corporate Headquarters,” *Sun-Sentinel*, November 9, 2018
- Quoted, “Kelley Kronenberg Takes Lawyer Recruiting Personally in New Documentary-Style Video Series”, *Marketing Dive*, October 31, 2018
- Quoted, “Kelley Kronenberg Takes Lawyer Recruiting Personally in New Documentary-Style Video Series”, *HR Dive*, October 31, 2018
- Kelley Kronenberg Takes Lawyer Recruiting Personally in New Documentary-Style Video Series, *CityBizList*, October 19, 2018
- Quoted, “Kelley Kronenberg Named One of South Florida’s “Top Law Firms,” *Attorney at Law Magazine*, February 19, 2018
- Featured, “Seven Kelley Kronenberg Partners named in the 2018 South Florida Legal Guide”, *Sun-Sentinel*, February 16, 2018
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Named One of South Florida’s “Top Law Firms”; Seven Partners also Named in the 2018 South Florida Legal Guide”, *CityBizList South Florida*, February 15, 2018
- Featured, “Law Office Supports Salvation Army Donation Drive”, *Sun-Sentinel*, January 16, 2018
- Featured, “Michael Fichtel Power Leaders in Law”, *South Florida Business Journal*, May 26, 2017
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Named One Of South Florida’s “Top Law Firms” Eight Attorneys Also Honored”, *Attorney at Law Magazine*, February 23, 2017
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Named One of South Florida’s “Top Law Firms”; Eight Attorneys also Named in the 2017 South Florida Legal Guide”, *CityBizList South Florida*, February 19, 2017
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg named one of South Florida’s “Top Law Firms”; Eight Attorneys also named in the 2017 South Florida Legal Guide”, *Sun-Sentinel*, February 17, 2017

- Featured, “Power Leaders in Law – Michael Fichtel”, *South Florida Business Journal*, May 27, 2016
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Grows”, *Daily Business Review*, May 25, 2016
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Named a Top Law Firm in South Florida”, *Attorney at Law Magazine*, March 28, 2016
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Named One of South Florida’s “Top Law Firms”; Seven Partners Also Named in the 2016 South Florida Legal Guide”, *CityBizList South Florida*, March 28, 2016
- Featured, “Top Lawyers”, *South Florida Legal Guide*, January 2016
- Featured, “Statewide Business: Firm Shifts Into High-Growth Mode,” *South Florida Legal Guide*, January 2016
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Ranked 26 Out of Top 100 Law Firms in Daily Business Review’s Review 100,” *CityBizList*, July 23, 2015
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Ranked No. 23 Among South Florida Law Firms by South Florida Business Journal”, *Citybizlist*, July 14, 2015
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Ranked No. 23 Among South Florida Law Firms”, *Attorney at Law*, July 14, 2015
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Adds Litigation Group and Expands into Downtown Miami with a New Office in the Heart of Brickell”, *CityBizList*, March 17, 2015
- Featured, “New job titles reflect economic challenges, changing career expectations for lawyers”, *ABA Journal*, January 2014
- Featured, “Top Lawyer”, *South Florida Legal Guide*, 2014
- Featured, “Kelley Kronenberg Adds Foreclosure Litigation Group”, *Law360*, June 28, 2013
- Quoted, “Kelley Kronenberg Expands Law Office in Houston,” *CityBizList*, April 18, 2013
- Featured, “As economy and optimism improve, law firms ramp up hiring”, *South Florida Business Journal*, March 22, 2013
- Featured, “Top Lawyers”, *South Florida Legal Guide*, January 2013
- Quoted, “Summer in the workplace: How casual is too casual?”, *Miami Herald*, July 26, 2011
- Featured, “People on the Move,” *South Florida Business Journal*, June 24, 2011
- Featured, “On the Move”, *Florida Bar News*, June 15, 2011
- Featured, “Michael Fichtel Named Managing Partner of all Kelley Kronenberg Offices around Florida”, *Sun-Sentinel*, June 8, 2011
- Featured, “Lauderdale attorney named firm’s Managing Partner”, *Daily Business Review*, May 31, 2011
- Featured, “Michael Fichtel Named Managing Partner of all Kelley Kronenberg Offices,” *dBUSINESSNEWS*, May 26, 2011
- Featured, “Top Lawyers,” *South Florida Legal Guide*, 2011

Awards

- *Florida Trend Legal Elite Notable*, “Managing Partners”, 2023 – 2024
- *South Florida Business Journal*, “Ultimate CEO”, 2023
- *South Florida Business Journal*, “Power Leaders in Law”, 2014 – 2023
- *South Florida Business & Wealth*, Apogee Awards, “CEO”, Honoree, 2020
- *Florida Trend*, “Florida 500 Most Influential Business Leaders”, 2019
- *Martindale-Hubbell*, AV® Preeminent™
- *South Florida Legal Guide*, “Top Lawyers,” 2011 – 2021