



The following section features attorneys who have demonstrated leadership qualities and have achieved the AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell®.

Martindale-Hubbell®, the company that has long set the standard for lawyer ratings, has supplied ALM with a list of Top Rated Lawyers who have achieved an AV® Preeminent® Peer Review Rating, the highest rating in legal ability and ethical standards. To create this section, Martindale-Hubbell® tapped its comprehensive database of Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings™ to identify lawyers who have been rated by their peers to be AV® Preeminent™.

Martindale Hubbell Peer Review Ratings are driven by the confidential opinions of lawyers and members of the judiciary who receive invitations from Martindale-Hubbell®, via an online survey or by mail, to provide reviews of lawyers of whom they have professional knowledge.

A complete directory of all AV® Preeminent™ lawyers can be found online at Lawyers.com® and Martindale.com, in the Martindale-Hubbell® Law Directory in print and CD-ROM formats, and online through the LexisNexis® services and at lexis.com. Attorneys shown do not constitute the full list of “Top Rated Lawyers”



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PETER L. GLADSTONE &
JEFFREY A. WEISSMAN

led by Principals Peter L Gladstone and Jeffrey A. Weissman, the attorneys at Gladstone & Weissman, P.A., represent their clients with exceptionally high levels of compassion and integrity. Dedicated to first-class client service and legal counsel, the firm provides discreet, sensitive counsel on a full range of complex marital and family law matters, from prenuptial agreements, property distribution, including business valuations, to alimony and parenting plans.

Representing high-net-worth entrepreneurs, business executives, professional athletes and celebrities, Gladstone & Weissman strives to resolve legal matters amicably to protect client privacy and reduce the emotional and financial strain of protracted litigation. However, when litigation is inevitable, the firm’s attorneys are highly skilled, successful trial lawyers. Providing more than just legal counsel, they offer life advice designed to empower their clients.

Gladstone & Weissman is recognized by U S. News & World Report as a “2018 Best Law Firm” and its principals and partners are all Board Certified in Marital and Family Law, and AV-Rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Both Weissman and Gladstone have received high legal honors for excellence in their practice: Weissman as 2018 Family Law Lawyer of the Year and Gladstone as the current President of the AAML Florida Chapter. In addition to being widely respected by clients and peers alike for its expert approach to family law, the firm’s staff of attorneys bring extensive expertise and high quality legal representation to every case and each client. “No one will care more or give more thought to achieving the most favorable outcome for their client,” says Principal Peter Gladstone.



GLADSTONE & WEISSMAN, P.A.

Marital & Family Law Attorneys

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Client Access is at Our Core. FLEITAS PLLC is a law firm dedicated to developing lasting relationships with clients whose focus is on business, banking, and real estate law. Our law firm promotes an environment of client-access, where our clients benefit from direct communication (from concept to completion) with seasoned business, banking, real estate and construction professionals. The attorney-client relationships we foster increase the effectiveness of our representation and allows us to zealously advocate on matters of interest to our clients.

Our Practice. Our Firm is committed to being at the forefront of South Florida's booming business, banking, real estate and construction industries. South Florida is a strategic destination for our target practice areas, which drives both the local and international marketplace. Today's complex and ever-changing regulatory environment has become especially difficult to traverse. We make sure our clients are attuned to current trends in the marketplace, and provide cutting-edge counsel across the Firm's practice segments. We draw on our collective experience and training to provide legal guidance and strategic planning advice to assist our clients in balancing their objectives. Insight into the nuances of foreign legal systems is essential in South Florida. This is true not only for handling cross-border business transactions which abound in today's global economy, but in providing clients with a comparative analysis between the laws of their native country and Florida law. We advise our clients by using our knowledge of the law they are accustomed to, and differentiating it with Florida law to provide them with an accurate and clear legal guidance. Our Firm focuses on providing comprehensive legal counsel and advice on a wide array of real estate investments in South Florida. Our attorneys are well-versed in navigating and negotiating real estate transactions across all cross-sections of the real estate industry, including: Contract Drafting and Negotiation; Real Estate Finance; Acquisition; Development; Disposition; Leasing; as well as Workouts and Asset Repositioning.

Large Firm Representation, Small Firm Attention. As a boutique law firm, we are passionate about helping small businesses thrive. Every entity begins as a start-up, and we know that (especially at the beginning) every dollar counts. That is why at FLEITAS PLLC we pride ourselves on being practical. Established businesses have been around the block, and can always hire larger law firms to handle their business needs. Our clients, however, understand that the size of our Miami law firm gives us the flexibility to promote our client-access model. This streamlined approach, provides for legal representation that is much more cost-effective for the client.

Our clients come from all over the world, but the common thread among them is the desire to have a lawyer that is accessible. At FLEITAS PLLC talented and accomplished attorneys and staff members are committed to our client-access model. When retaining FLEITAS PLLC you get an indispensable legal resource that is available to you when you need it. We take the time to get to know our clients, and we take pride in understanding both their business and personal needs. Our clients receive comprehensive legal representation from an attorney they can talk to, and who understands the full scope of their short-term objectives and long-term goals.

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JEFFREY SONN

Securities Arbitration and Litigation

Did you ever wonder why your financial advisor asks questions about your investment experience, risk tolerance and more? The suitability rule (Financial Regulatory Authority Rule 2111) is based on a fundamental FINRA requirement that brokerage firms and their associated persons (sometimes referred to as brokers, financial advisers or financial consultants) deal fairly with their customers.

Clients often ask us, "Can I sue my financial advisor if I received unsuitable investment advice?" The answer is yes. Many clients save money their entire lives with the help of a trusted financial advisor, and when they lose money, they are often told "hold on, it will come back," and so they do nothing because they trust their financial advisor and often don't realize they received unsuitable (and sometimes fraudulent) investment advice that caused their losses.

Jeffrey Sonn has been representing individual and institutional investors, nationwide, in FINRA arbitration and court litigation, for almost 30 years. Jeffrey Sonn was named a Top 100 Civil Trial Lawyer by the National Trial Lawyers Association, recognized by Superlawyers, and is AV Preeminent rated by Martindale Hubbell. Jeffrey is also a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates forum, an honor reserved for lawyers who have achieved multi-million dollar verdicts or settlements, and a member of the Distinguished Advocates Forum. Jeffrey also serves as a Director of the Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association, the national bar association for securities lawyers. With attorneys in Florida, Georgia and Texas, Sonn Law Group fights for investors, nationwide in Securities Arbitration and Litigation. We gladly cocounsel cases in accordance with Florida Bar Rules.



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TAMA BETH KUDMAN

Tama Beth Kudman represents individuals and corporations under investigation and/or prosecution by State, Federal and regulatory/administrative agencies. She has extensive experience handling a variety of cases from the grand jury stage through trial, including: healthcare fraud; bank fraud; embezzlement; securities fraud; RICO; and Drug-Trafficking. Her work includes the representation of corporations in criminal and regulatory investigations, as well as internal investigations.

Ms. Kudman is known for developing novel defenses strategies, for her meticulous attention to detail, and for her ability to communicate effectively and powerfully with prosecutors and juries. With offices in South Florida and New York, Ms. Kudman treats her practice as a boutique. She prides herself on providing one-on-one attention to clients, updating them continuously throughout the process.

Ms. Kudman is rated AV Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell, recognized by her peers for the highest level of legal abilities and professional ethical standards. She is also named in the 2015-2017 editions of Florida Super Lawyers® for White Collar Criminal Defense. She is also regularly invited to speak before organizations and news channels on legal issues.



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**FLORIDA** FT. LAUDERDALE

OSVALDO F. TORRES, ESQ.

Oswaldo F. Torres, Esq. is 1987 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Penn Law Forum. For the entirety of his professional career Mr. Torres has focused on assisting clients negotiate and effect complex corporate transactions, including securities offerings (both public and private), mergers and acquisitions and cross border joint ventures.

Mr. Torres has nearly 30 years of broad-based experience in corporate transactions, the private placement of equity and debt securities, licensing, distribution and production of entertainment content, and general corporate, limited liability company, and general business matters. He has represented companies, large and small, in their day-to-day operations.

A significant portion of Mr. Torres' practice includes preparing offering documents for real estate investment clients and others. For the past 6 years, Mr. Torres has been immersed in the EB-5 industry, where his rich experience in complex legal matters has allowed him to successfully represent regional centers and projects with their corporate structuring and securities offerings matters. Mr. Torres has worked on numerous EB-5 offerings, including those involving hotel development, multi-family residential construction, senior independent living complexes, healthcare companies, restaurants, franchise concepts and others.

Mr. Torres frequently speaks at EB-5 conferences on securities issues and other aspects of the EB-5 practice. Mr. Torres is a member of the EB-5 SEC Roundtable, a group of distinguished securities law practitioners in the EB-5 space. He also serves on IIUSA's President's Advisory Council and on its Compliance, Public Policy and Editorial Committees. In addition, he also serves on the Steering Committee for the EB-5 Investment Coalition. Mr. Torres is rated AV® Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, ranked a Top 15 EB-5 Securities Attorney by EB-5 Investors Magazine and was selected as a Medallion Partner by NES Financial. Mr. Torres is also rated by Avvo as a "Superb" attorney, the highest available rating offered by Avvo, which uses a completely objective model to evaluate attorneys.

In the past, Mr. Torres worked as a corporate and securities attorney at several large and prestigious firms, including Schulte Roth & Zabel in New York City and Greenberg Traurig in Miami. He has also served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Telemundo Group, the Spanish-language television network, and for HBO Latin America, the premiere cable programmer in Latin America.

Mr. Torres considers himself, above all, a deal lawyer and his principal goal is to see deals successfully close, especially in the seemingly ever-evolving EB-5 space. For that reason, one of the most rewarding aspects of being an EB-5 securities attorney for Mr. Torres is helping clients through the often confusing and complex EB-5 regulatory maze. To date, Mr. Torres has counseled on EB-5 and other offerings for projects valued over \$5 billion.



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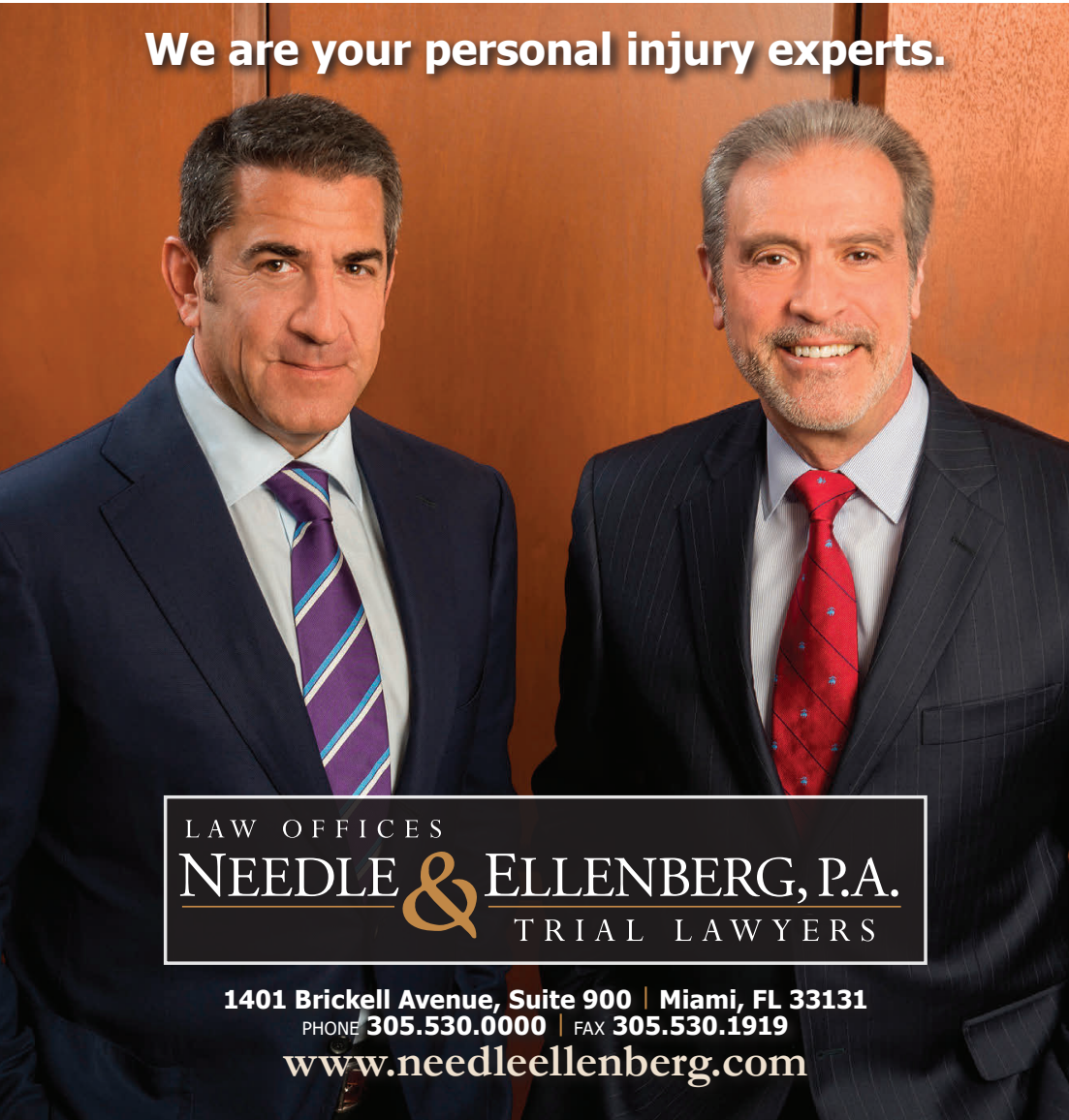
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Andrew Needle and Andrew Ellenberg handle catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death cases throughout Florida. For decades, they’ve taken care of those who’ve suffered terrible injuries or the loss of a family member due to the carelessness of another person or corporation.

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Andrew Ellenberg and Andrew Needle are AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, are each included in *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Super Lawyers, and the annual listings of the top lawyers in Florida.

Needle & Ellenberg, P.A., is ranked Tier 1 in Miami for Medical Malpractice Law - Plaintiffs and Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs by U.S. News - Best Lawyers® “Best Law Firms” for 2017.

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Mitchell F. Green

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Craig M. Greene

AV-rated by Martindale Hubbell, **Mitchell F. Green** focuses his practice on health law, mergers and acquisitions, corporate law, estate planning, and wealth preservation.

AV-rated by Martindale Hubbell, **Craig M. Greene** focuses his practice on litigation, including insurance and commercial litigation, large loss subrogation and recovery, business torts, and disability claims/litigation.

The firm also proudly recognizes associate **Brad J. Mitchell**, who earned his AV rating from Martindale Hubbell earlier this year.

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JAY COHEN

Plaintiff Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice

Jay Cohen represents individuals and families who have suffered a loss due to the negligence of others. His experience has earned him membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates, peer recognition from Super Lawyers, Florida's Legal Elite and The Best Lawyers in America, two years as a Finalist in the DBR Most Effective Trial Lawyer in the Medical Malpractice category, America's Top 100 Attorneys® Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Broward County Bar Association's Lynn Futch Professionalism Award.

Jay is an elected member of The Florida Bar's Board of Governors and the Board of the Urban League of Broward County. He has taught law at Nova Southeastern University Law School and St. Thomas University School of Law. Jay was an undergraduate at the University of Florida and received his J.D. at South Texas College of Law.



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Founded by David C. Silver and Jason S. Miller, Silver Miller is a boutique of litigators and trial lawyers committed to helping individuals and companies who have been victimized in business relationships and investments misrepresented by fraud or other forms of deceit. ***If we are not successful in helping recover money or property for our clients, they do not have to pay us a fee.***

As described in *Reuters*, *The Financial Times*, *Bloomberg BNA* and other media outlets, Silver Miller is one of the preeminent plaintiffs' law firms in cryptocurrency litigation, with numerous cases, including class actions, successfully being prosecuted against wayward cryptocurrency exchanges and misleadingly presented crypto-investment offerings. David Silver has become a nationally-featured speaker on the subject, and his presentations have been called engaging, brutally honest, and entertaining. ***Our judgments and recoveries are valued at more than \$150 million in the past five years alone.*** We are not only engaged in cutting-edge litigation, we are at the forefront of shaping the law in this emerging field.

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PHILLIP J. SHEEHE
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When preparing for trial, attorney Phillip J. Sheehee—founding partner of Sheehee & Associates, P.A.—spares no expense with his time or his money. Sheehee will spend months poring over thousands of documents, interviewing scores of witnesses, and lining up experts from across the country. As the trial date approaches, Sheehee has been known to work 15 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We don't cut corners," Sheehee says. "Our theory is that when we go into a courtroom we want to give our client the best opportunity to win, which means leaving no stone unturned."

Sheehee is AV[®] Preeminent[™] rated by Martindale-Hubbell[®]—the organization's highest rating for legal ability and professional ethics—and has handled complex litigation for more than three decades. He focuses his practice on commercial, products liability, and insurance cases that often require several weeks, if not months, to try. Indeed, one of Sheehee's cases involved a six-month jury trial in Miami that resulted in a favorable outcome against a national products company.

With offices in Miami, Lake Mary and Pensacola, Sheehee is able to represent major corporations and individuals throughout the state of Florida. He also handles cases in federal court, and makes a point of taking on a range of cases so that he can remain skilled in multiple areas. "Being in the courtroom and fighting for my clients brings me a lot of pleasure," he says. "I enjoy winning, and I'm good at it."

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When you need an advocate to right the wrongs caused by someone's negligence, deceit, or fraud, select a team of nationally-recognized attorneys who will aggressively represent their clients. Dollars are not the only measure of success. Inside or outside the courtroom, in legislative chambers, and in political arenas, the attorneys at Searcy Denney are committed to finding justice for their clients. Our national reputation comes from the thousands of victims who we have helped reclaim the right to a better life.



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JASON R. ALDERMAN

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LITIGATION, AND CORPORATE LITIGATION

Results matter at The Alderman Law Firm. Jason R. Alderman is a *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of Miami School of Law (Class of 1999). He founded The Alderman Law Firm after having practiced in the Miami Office of Carlton Fields. Mr. Alderman specializes in trying complex business disputes in state and federal courts with a particular emphasis in banking litigation, real estate litigation, corporate divorces, creditors rights, fiduciary litigation, and international business litigation matters. The firm's clientele include Fortune 10, 100 and 500 companies, national companies, multinational companies, national and state chartered banks, real estate developers, medical companies, other lawyers and law firms, and high net worth individuals. You can learn more about the firm by visiting its website at www.thealdermanlawfirm.com



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Richard E. Berman
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who was named a
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FLORIDA MIAMI

JOSE A. RAPOSO, Esq.

**PLAINTIFF PERSONAL INJURY AND
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE**

Jose A. Raposo, Jr., Founding Partner at Raposo Walled, P.L., handles catastrophic personal injury, medical malpractice, and wrongful death cases throughout Florida. Jose was born and raised in Miami and prides himself in making our community safer by holding people and corporations accountable for their negligent acts. When you or someone you know is injured or killed due to negligent medical care, an auto, truck or plane crash, defective machinery, or an accident at sea—Raposo Walled, P.L. works tirelessly to prove what went wrong, who's responsible and obtaining appropriate compensation for their clients.

Joseph is AV® rated by Martindale Hubbell® and has been named by his peers and included in Florida Trend's Florida Legal Elite, Florida Super Lawyers, and Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum.

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FLORIDA BOCA RATON



Joshua S. Widlansky and Stephen J. Padula

Padula Bennardo Levine proudly congratulates attorneys Stephen Padula and Joshua Widlansky for being selected as a 2017 Top Rated Lawyers. Stephen Padula and Joshua Widlansky continue to achieve excellent results for their complex business/commercial litigation clients, and are deserving of being recognized as 2017 Top Rated Lawyers.

Padula Bennardo Levine, LLP combines the distinguished reputations and knowledge of its attorneys to provide distinct value for its clients through excellent work product, a high degree of ethics, and trusted performance. The Firm utilizes a collaborative and comprehensive approach in its handling of all business, real estate, employment, and estate matters.

The Firm's attorneys recognize that business related disputes can be complex, time consuming and expensive for its clients. As such, the Firm always attempts to resolve matters prior to litigating. However, when litigation is inevitable, Stephen Padula and Joshua Widlansky, both of whom are AV Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell®, are highly skilled and successful business/commercial litigators.

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ADRIAN PHILIP THOMAS, LL.M., J.D.

Adrian P. Thomas is the senior partner of a boutique law firm concentrating its practice in probate, estate, trust and guardianship litigation throughout the State of Florida.

Mr. Thomas received his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida, his law degree from Nova Southeastern University, and his Masters of Law from the University of Miami. Mr. Thomas has been practicing in South Florida for 24 years and his firm has represented more than 2,000 clients in estate-related disputes, both prosecuting and defending. Mr. Thomas is rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell, 10-Superb by Avvo, and has been recognized by *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite and *South Florida's Top Rated Lawyers*.



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FLORIDA MIAMI

EDUARDO E. NERET

Eduardo E. Neret is rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®. He received his B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Florida and his J.D. with Honors from Florida State University. Mr. Neret clerked for the Florida Supreme Court and for the Third District Court of Appeal. Mr. Neret has 25 years of experience specializing in Workers' Compensation and general civil litigation. He is the founding member of Neret, Finlay & Nguyen, LLP. The firm concentrates its practice on defending employers, insurance carriers, third party administrators, public entities and uninsured employers in state and federal workers' compensation cases, as well as in general liability insurance claims involving automobile negligence, premises liability, negligent security, first-party property defense and insurance coverage disputes. Aside from ensuring the each and every client receives individualized, quality legal representation, the firm prides itself in providing its clients with the highest level of legal service with superior results in a cost-effective manner.



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FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE

WILLIAM C. DAVELL

William C. Davell is an established attorney and a Director with the firm of Tripp Scott who has more than 40 years of experience, specializing in construction and banking litigation. For 25 years prior to joining Tripp Scott he was a partner in May, Meacham & Davell. Tripp Scott is a regional firm with a multitude of practice areas. The firm remains committed to developing innovative approaches in its practice areas in order to achieve timely and creative solutions. This approach has resulted in the firm's representation of a spectrum of clients from large, international firms to small closely held corporations and individuals.

Mr. Davell received his B.S. *Summa Cum Laude* and his M.B.A. from Wright State University and his J.D. *Cum Laude* from Stetson College of Law. He is AV Preeminent rated, admitted to practice before the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. He has been actively involved in the Florida Bar serving on various committees and in the community serving on the board of 4KIDS of South Florida, the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast committee and as a graduate and coach in Lifework Leadership.



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Ena T. Diaz is an experienced employment lawyer who offers bilingual, personal and professional legal services to businesses and individuals, particularly high-level executives. Ms. Diaz assists employers understand employment law issues and recommends solutions for the business. Ms. Diaz offers a practical and straightforward approach to resolving employment law disputes without extensive litigation, when possible. Her solid employer-side background is an asset when Ms. Diaz represents individual employees. This experience allows her to quickly assess the strengths and weaknesses of potential cases. She is a frequent speaker at programs and seminars on employment law matters.

Ms. Diaz also serves as a mediator and arbitrator on employment law matters. She is a certified Circuit Civil Mediator by the Florida Supreme Court and a certified mediator by the U.S. District Court, S.D. of Fla. Ms. Diaz is AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell. She earned her law degree with honors from Southern Methodist University and received her undergraduate degree from Duke University.



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FLORIDA KEY WEST

NATHAN E. EDEN

Nathan Eden graduated Magna Cum Laude from Stetson University College of Law in 1969 after completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Florida. After being admitted to the Florida Bar in 1969, he has served as Chief Assistant State’s Attorney for Monroe County, Florida as well as being the youngest elected County Solicitor (Prosecutor) for Monroe County, Florida. He served as an Assistant Public Defender as well as a U.S. Magistrate for the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida. In addition to handling cases all over Florida, he has handled cases in New Jersey, Illinois, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama and Louisiana.



His expertise includes personal injury law as well as criminal law. He is currently legal counsel for the Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida as well as for the Monroe County (Florida) Tax Collector’s Office. His representations included the Clerk of Court for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit, Monroe County, Florida for over 13 years. Mr. Eden has been recognized by the National Trial Lawyers as a Top 100 Trial Lawyer in the nation since 2013. Capping an illustrious career, in June, 2017 Mr. Eden was awarded the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from the Marquis Who’s Who organization.

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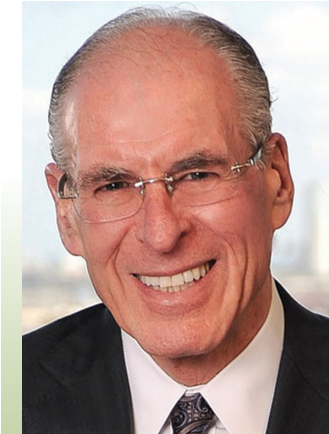
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Corey R. Chivers is a partner in Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP’s Capital Markets practice. He has represented corporations, investment banks, national governments and multinational financial institutions in a wide range of public and private securities offerings, including initial public offerings, major high-yield transactions and investment grade debt offerings.

