



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”



TOP RATED LAWYERS

FLORIDA BOCA RATON

MICHAEL K. GRIFE

Attorney Michael K. Grife, Esq., has been representing seriously injured victims of negligence in South Florida for over a decade. He takes great pride in representing those wrongfully hurt or killed in automobile and trucking crashes, medical malpractice incidents, nursing home neglect and premises liability cases. Mr. Grife founded The Grife Law Firm to provide his clients with a very high level of legal services in a luxurious setting designed to maximize their comfort and financial recovery. His representative cases include: wrongful death for the survivor of a 6-year-old girl killed in a car wreck; medical malpractice against an emergency department physician and hospital for failure to diagnose a stroke resulting in a catastrophic fallout with paralysis; wrongful death premises liability for the family of a landscaper who drowned to death when he fell into a dangerous country club pool; automobile negligence and errors and omissions case for a Boca Raton gentleman who suffered traumatic brain injury in a hit-and-run automobile crash.

The results that Mr. Grife has achieved for his personal injury and medical malpractice clients have been recognized by several legal organization and his peers. Mr. Grife is a Life Member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, AV-Preeminent Rated by Martindale-Hubbell and featured in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers. Among some of his other honors, Mr. Grife has been named a Rising Star by Florida Super Lawyers for seven years straight, a Top Attorney in America by Rue Ratings, 10 out of 10 “Superb” rating and Clients’ Choice Award from AVO and America’s Most Honored Professionals by American Registry. While Mr. Grife is honored and humbled by this recognition, it is the positive feedback from his clients that provides him with the most satisfaction.



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2018 EDITION

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION

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Lawyer Ratings

TOP RATED LAWYERS

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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 2015-2018 editions of Florida Super Lawyers® for White Collar Criminal Defense. Ms. Kudman has been selected for Best Lawyers in American in The area of White Collar Criminal Defense, and selected as a Top attorney in White collar and non-White Collar Criminal defense by Palm Beach illustrated magazine. She is also regularly invited to speak before organizations and news channels on legal issues.



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FLORIDA BOCA RATON

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 was recognized by U S. News & World Report as a "2019 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 a 2018 Family Law Lawyer of the Year and Gladstone as the Immediate Past President of the prestigious AAML Florida Chapter. In addition to being widely respected by clients and peers alike for its expert approach to family law, the firm's 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.



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TOP RATED LAWYERS

FLORIDA FT. LAUDERDALE

OSVALDO F. TORRES, Esq.

Oswaldo F. Torres, Esq. is 1987 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. 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. Recently, Mr. Torres has turned his focus on Blockchain, Security Token Offerings and Opportunity Zone offerings.

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 8 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 conferences on securities law and blockchain issues. 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 Leadership, Public Policy and Editorial Committees of EB-5 leading trade organization, Invest In the USA. 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.

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.



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TOP RATED LAWYERS

Cohen Blostein & Ayala PA TRIAL LAWYERS

American Lawyer Media and Martindale-Hubbell™ have named Jay Cohen a 2018 Top Rated Lawyer. He has also been named “Lawyer of the Year” for Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs, Fort Lauderdale by the 2019 by Best Lawyers®, has twice been named a Finalist in Daily Business Review’s Most Effective Trial Lawyer in the Medical Malpractice category, and is the recipient of America’s Top 100 Attorneys® Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as the Broward County Bar Association’s Professionalism Award. Jay is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and is also AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®.

Jay served on The Florida Bar’s Board of Governors for nine years. He has also taught law as an adjunct professor at Nova Law School and St. Thomas University. He completed his own undergraduate studies at the University of Florida, graduating *cum laude* and received his J.D. at South Texas College of Law.

Jay is a senior partner at Cohen, Blostein & Ayala, P.A., a South Florida law firm which obtains significant verdicts and settlements for personal injury and medical malpractice clients who have suffered catastrophic losses.

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Jay Cohen - 2018 Top Rated Lawyer

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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.

When you, a loved one, or someone whom you know is injured or killed due to poor medical care, a car, truck or plane crash, defective machinery, or an accident on the seas – we are your Florida personal injury experts. We take pride in our mission – proving what went wrong, who was responsible, and getting our clients appropriately compensated for their losses.

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”.

**FLORIDA** BOCA RATON**RANDALL K. ROGER**

**Condominium association law, Homeowners association law,
Collections and litigation for community associations**

Randall K. Roger is rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®. The Firm concentrates its practice in the area of community associations, representing homeowner, condominium and cooperative associations, throughout the State. Since 1986, Mr. Roger has worked in the area of community associations; originally working with developers of large homeowner and condominium associations. Subsequently, over the past 25 years, Mr. Roger has focused his practice on the issues and concerns faced by boards of directors for homeowner, condominium and cooperative associations in South Florida. The Firm represents hundreds of associations throughout the state of Florida. During such time, Mr. Roger has addressed a myriad of issues which confront community associations, including covenant enforcement, document interpretation and amendments, collections, foreclosure, bankruptcy, litigation, regulatory issues and corporate matters; providing concise, explicit responses to the issues and concerns of his clients. Mr. Roger graduated from George Washington University and The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and served on the Honor Council and as an editor on the Ohio State Journal on Dispute Resolution. He is a Florida Bar Board Certified Specialist in Condominium and Planned Development Law.

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FLORIDA NEW PORT RICHEY

JAMES L. MAGAZINE

Mr. Magazine graduated from Cleveland John Marshall College of law 1989. He received his license to practice in Florida in 1990 and continues to practice in the Middle and Southern Districts of Florida and the United States Supreme Court. In addition, Mr. Magazine is a Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer and National Board of Trial Advocacy Civil Trial Lawyer. He is AV rated by Martindale Hubbell and has been recognized by National Trial Lawyer as Top 100 along with being selected as a member of the Distinguished Counsel. He was one of the winners of the 2014 and 2015 Litigator of the year award. As well as been named a Florida Super Lawyer from 2010-2018. Mr. Magazine is frequently contacted by peers to help litigate their cases. He has been involved in representing many cities against BP and was co-lead counsel in a National Product defect case against a fire helmet manufacturer.

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FLORIDA AVENTURA

JEFFREY SONN

Securities Arbitration and Litigation

Clients often ask us, "Can I sue my financial advisor if I received unsuitable investment advice?" The answer is yes. Often clients save money their entire lives with the help of a trusted financial advisor, and when their investments suffer losses, they are often told "hold on, it will come back," and so they do nothing because they trust their financial advisor, not realizing they received unsuitable (and sometimes fraudulent) investment advice that caused their losses. Sometimes, their financial advisor sells unregistered securities via private placements, often using promissory notes, loan documents, or even syndicated investments in real estate deals which are not approved by their employers. Jeffrey Sonn has been representing individual and institutional investors, nationwide, in FINRA arbitration and court litigation, for over 30 years. Jeffrey Sonn was named a Top 100 Civil Trial Lawyer by the National Trial Lawyers Association, is 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. 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 Class Action Litigation. We gladly cocounsel cases in accordance with Florida Bar Rules.



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Board Certified Attorney in Immigration and Nationality Law

Florida Bar Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law has been Board certified since 1995. AV Rated by Martindale Hubbel, highest rating in competency and ethics. Admitted in Federal Courts in Florida and the 11th Circuit Court Appeals in Atlanta. Recognized as Super Lawyer in Florida (immigration law) for eight consecutive years (top five percent). Past President of the American Immigration Lawyers Association in S. Florida, permanent member of its Board of Directors. Established in 1987.

Specialties: Immigration law, immigration through investment, Immigration court defense, Federal Court Actions, Writs and Petitions in Federal Court in South, Central Florida and the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

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PHILLIP J. SHEEHE
CIVIL LITIGATION & TRIAL PRACTICE

SHEEHE & ASSOCIATES, PA

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION, INSURANCE LITIGATION

When preparing for trial, attorney Phillip J. Sheehe—founding partner of Sheehe & Associates, P.A.—spares no expense with his time or his money. Sheehe 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, Sheehe has been known to work 15 hours a day, seven days a week.

“We don’t cut corners,” Sheehe 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.”

Sheehe 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 Sheehe’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, Sheehe 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.”

LEGAL LEADERS


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FLORIDA MIRAMAR

CHRISTINA A. MCKINNON

Christina McKinnon is the founding attorney of **McKINNON LEGAL** and is the firm's primary attorney. Her legal career began in labor and employee relations in the healthcare industry, but Ms. McKinnon soon realized that her true calling lay in assisting individuals as they face some of life's greatest challenges.

Since entering private practice, Ms. McKinnon has focused her career entirely on Florida personal injury and family law. Her experience, tenacity, and incredible work ethic have earned her the respect and recognition from both the legal and business communities.

In addition to her work in the courtroom, Ms. McKinnon regularly volunteers with a number of organizations in South Florida. Her Pro Bono work has resulted in a number of honors and awards, including a volunteer award from the Community Partnership for the Homeless (now known as Chapman Partnership) and a Pro Bono award from Dade Legal Aid for her work with the "Put Something Back" program for indigent litigants. Ms. McKinnon was appointed to the 17th Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission for a term ending July 2020, where she presently serves as Chair.



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FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE

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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ENA T. DIAZ

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

Ena T. Diaz is an employment lawyer who offers bilingual, personal, and professional legal services to businesses and individuals, particularly, high-level executives.

Ms. Diaz assists employers in understanding employment law issues and recommends solutions for the business that advance their business objectives. Ms. Diaz also has extensive experience with ADA compliance and litigation matters.

Her solid employer-side background is an asset when Ms. Diaz represents an individual employee as she may quickly assess the strengths and weaknesses of potential cases.

Ms. Diaz has been certified by the Supreme Court of Florida as a circuit civil and family mediator. She mediates cases in the areas of employment law, business disputes, and family law.

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 FORT LAUDERDALE, ORLANDO

RUDWIN AYALA



Rudwin Ayala, a partner at Cohen, Blostein & Ayala, P.A., is a 2019 Best Lawyers® for Personal Injury – Plaintiff. He received his Juris Doctor as a Goodwin Scholar from Nova Southeastern University in 2010. Rudwin is a member of the Broward County Bar Association; Palm Beach County Bar Association; Broward County Hispanic Bar Association; Puerto Rican Bar Association of Florida; and the Hispanic National Bar Association. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Puerto Rican Bar Association of Florida as Regional Vice President (Fourth District of Florida), and as Region VIII Representative for the Young Lawyers Division of the Hispanic National Bar Association. He is a past president and member of the Board of Directors for the

Broward County Hispanic Bar Association and was appointed to serve on the Florida Bar’s Grievance Committee, 17th Judicial Circuit. Rudwin was named a Super Lawyers Rising Star (2015 – 2018) and is AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®. He is fluent in Spanish and practices out of the firm’s Fort Lauderdale and Orlando Offices.



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FLORIDA PALM BEACH GARDENS

JENNIFER S. CARROLL

APPELLATE

Jennifer S. Carroll concentrates on state and federal civil appeals as well as complex civil litigation, including post-judgment proceedings. Ms. Carroll is a Board Certified Appellate Lawyer, is AV-rated, and is listed in the *Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers*. She is admitted to practice before all state courts, the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the U.S. District Courts for the Middle and Southern Districts of Florida. Ms. Carroll has argued cases involving significant issues related to health care, elder law, antitrust, class actions, tort claims, libel, commercial and business disputes, construction engineering and management, contract interpretation, probate and estate law, and other areas of complex civil litigation.



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FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE

JACK T. FROST

Jack T. Frost is a veteran civil trial lawyer in Kelley Kronenberg’s Fort Lauderdale office. He maintains a state-wide practice and is admitted to the U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Middle, and Southern Districts of Florida. He is Board Certified by the Florida Bar as a specialist in Civil Trial Law and has extensive experience in personal injury and insurance law advising and advocating for insurance carriers and their insureds. Jack represents clients in all facets of General Liability, Auto Liability, Premises Liability, Products Liability, Professional Liability, and Construction Defect litigation, including associated insurance coverage disputes. Throughout his career, Jack has defended wrongful death and catastrophic injury claims and has defended and prosecuted insurance coverage and bad faith matters. He frequently speaks on insurance topics regarding the latest developments in insurance law and claims handling. Jack has been named in Florida Super Lawyers Magazine and holds the prestigious AV® Preeminent™ rating from Martindale-Hubbell. He received his bachelor’s degree from Florida State University and his law degree from the University of Miami School of Law.



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TOP RATED LAWYERS

FLORIDA BOCA RATON

JENNIFER E. ZAKIN

Jennifer Zakin is the Chair of Redgrave & Rosenthal LLP's Asset Preservation and Business Succession Planning Group. With over 20 years' experience, Ms. Zakin has an extensive background in sophisticated estate and tax planning. She provides clients with customized estate plans to maximize and protect the transfer of wealth to each subsequent generation.

Ms. Zakin works extensively with clients who are business owners to transfer ownership of business interests to future generations while minimizing transfer tax cost and without disruption of the family business. Additionally, Ms. Zakin assists doctors and other professionals in need of asset protection planning; specifically, she recommends and executes intricate asset protection plans involving entities such as family limited partnerships and limited liability companies, irrevocable trusts, and a combination of these techniques.

Ms. Zakin received the highest rating (AV-rated) for legal ability and ethical standards from Martindale-Hubbell. In 2013, Ms. Zakin was named a Top Attorney – Florida's Outstanding Young Lawyers and a Florida Rising Star by Super Lawyers magazine, an honor bestowed upon no more than 2.5 percent of attorneys in the state.

A member of the Florida Bar, Ms. Zakin received her law degree from Nova Southeastern University and her LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Miami School of Law. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan.



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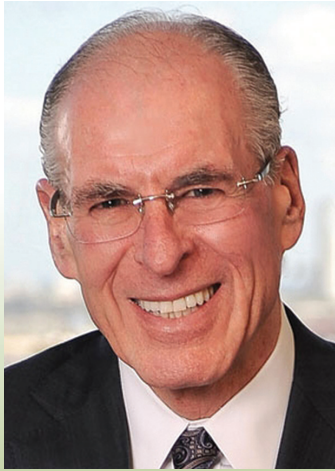
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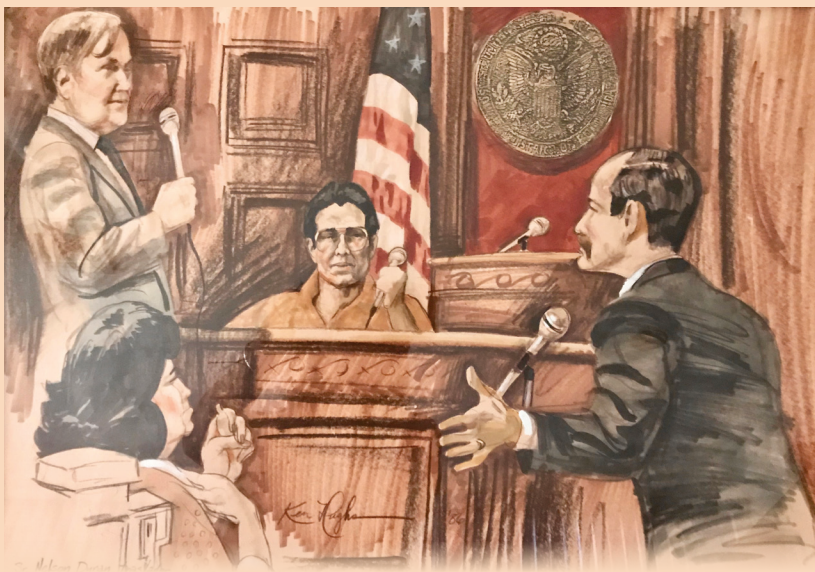
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A lot of time has passed since I was one of the lead defenders in the infamous "Miami River Cops" case, but some things never change: I defend cases *extremely* aggressively, in courts (primarily federal) all over the country and, as in the past, on three other continents, sometimes to the chagrin of prosecution-oriented judges; I use highly-aggressive investigative techniques (and investigators); I engage in sophisticated pre-trial motion practice; and I prepare every case as though it were going to trial unless or until a client tells me that she or he has some other preference, and then, take pains to secure the best alternative possible. A (former) chief federal judge once said, in a public document: "Among the five best ever to appear before me." I'm about to be joined in practice by a well-known, well-respected, highly-experienced appellate attorney. We're committed to what we do.

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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.

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