

STEARNS WEAVER MILLER WEISSLER ALHADEFF & SITTERSON, P.A.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STEARNS WEAVER MILLER PROMOTES FOUR ATTORNEYS TO SHAREHOLDER

MIAMI —October 2009— The law firm of Stearns Weaver Miller is pleased to announce the promotion of four attorneys from Associates to Shareholders. The newly promoted attorneys are Kelly Ruane Melchiondo (Litigation), Jason A. Post (Real Estate), Marina I. Ross (Real Estate) and Andrew E. Stearns (Litigation).

Kelly Ruane Melchiondo joined the Firm in 2002. Ms. Melchiondo's practice focuses on complex contract litigation, business torts litigation, professional malpractice defense, appellate litigation and USA PATRIOT/Bank Secrecy Act Compliance. Prior to joining the Firm, Ms. Melchiondo served as a legal intern for the Honorable Judge Mario P. Goderich of the Florida Third District Court of Appeals. She earned her J.D. from Boston University School of Law and her B.S. from the University of Miami.

Jason A. Post joined the Firm in 2005. Mr. Post's practice includes all areas of commercial real estate transactions, including the financing, acquisition and development of commercial, residential and resort real estate projects. He is experienced in representing securitized and syndication lenders in the origination and sale of loans, developers in the negotiation of joint venture agreements and hotel owners, operators and managers in the acquisition, financing and management of hotel properties. He earned his J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law and his B.A., *cum laude*, from the University of Pennsylvania.

Marina I. Ross joined the Firm in 2005. Ms. Ross handles commercial real estate and finance transactions, including acquisitions, development and construction. She is also experienced in drafting and negotiating leases for Class A/B+ office/retail buildings and commercial real estate lending, including special servicing of securitized loans. She earned her J.D., *magna cum laude*, from the University of Miami School of Law and her A.B., *summa cum laude*, from the University of Mississippi.

Andrew E. Stearns joined the Firm in 2003. Mr. Stearns' practice is focused on complex commercial litigation within the Firm's commercial litigation department. His practice areas include trademark litigation, securities litigation and arbitration, antitrust and civil RICO litigation, land use litigation, construction litigation and arbitration, premises liability, Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act (FDUTPA) litigation, contract litigation, and USA PATRIOT Act/BSA/AML compliance litigation and consulting. While pursuing his

undergraduate degree, Mr. Stearns worked in the Florida Governor's office and the Criminal Justice and Corrections Council of the Florida House of Representatives. While pursuing his law degree, Mr. Stearns worked in the Council for Ready Infrastructure of the Florida House of Representatives. He earned his J.D. from Florida State University College of Law and his B.A. from Florida State University.

Stearns Weaver Miller is a full-service law firm with more than 120 attorneys serving clients throughout Florida and nationwide. With offices in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Tallahassee, we serve business clients facing a wide array of legal issues, with a focus on litigation, real estate, labor and employment, business restructuring and corporate and securities. Online at www.stearnsweaver.com

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Distributed by:

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