

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

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CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE TO JOIN STEARNS WEAVER MILLER

Miami, FL (May 10, 2011) – Circuit Court Judge Mary Barzee Flores announced today that she will be leaving the court and joining Stearns Weaver Miller as a Shareholder in the Firm's litigation department. Barzee, a circuit judge for eight years, said, "While I am sad to be leaving the court that I love, I am excited to return to the other side of the bench, as an advocate. Private practice will also allow me to speak freely about our state courts. The enthusiasm among some in Tallahassee to slash spending on our court system, coupled with the staggering volume of new case filings driven by current economic conditions, poses a grave threat to our society. I hope that the insight I gained as a member of the court will allow me to make a difference in speaking out about the needs of our judicial system. I am happy to be joining a firm whose culture encourages speaking out on matters of public importance."

Barzee, who will concentrate her practice on commercial litigation, looks forward to helping the Firm to develop a private-judging practice. Stearns Weaver has, in its offices, a state-of-the-art courtroom with full facilities for jury and non-jury trials and arbitration proceedings before a single arbitrator or an arbitration panel.

Gene Stearns, Chairman of Stearns Weaver Miller, said: "Whenever a respected judge leaves the bench it diminishes the court, but we are thrilled that she will be joining us."

As a member of the Circuit Court, Judge Barzee presided over more than 100 jury trials, more than a dozen bench trials, hundreds of appeals from county courts, adjudicated thousands of civil and criminal cases resolved before trial, and served by designation on the Fourth District Court of Appeal. Prior to her judicial service she was an Assistant Federal Public Defender for thirteen years, and an associate at the law firm of Sonnet, Sale and Kuehne, P.A.

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, it serves business clients and government agencies with a focus on litigation, real estate, labor and employment, business restructuring, corporate and securities and local government representation.

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