

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STEARNS WEAVER MILLER ANNOUNCES
TWENTY-THREE ATTORNEYS FROM NINE PRACTICE GROUPS
SELECTED FOR INCLUSION IN *THE BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA***

Miami, FL (August 12, 2009) – Twenty-three attorneys from nine practice areas at the law firm of Stearns Weaver Miller have been selected for inclusion in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

PRACTICE AREAS

Appellate Law
Banking & Finance
Bankruptcy/Restructuring
Corporate/M&A
Employee Benefits

Labor & Employment
Litigation
Real Estate
Real Estate (Zoning/Land Use)

INDIVIDUALS

APPELLATE

Paul Regensdorf is a Shareholder practicing in the Litigation Department. Mr. Regensdorf has been trying cases in Florida and throughout the country for 30 years. He has tried virtually every type of commercial case, including medical malpractice and other professional liability cases, construction disputes, shareholder and corporate governance cases, commercial fraud, government contract disputes and insurance coverage disputes. He has tried to conclusion more than 100 cases. He is Board Certified in appellate law, and has argued more than 150 appeals.

BANKING & FINANCE

Stuart D. Ames is a Shareholder in the Corporate Department and heads the Firm's commercial and asset-based finance practice. His practice focuses on commercial and asset-based lending, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate and securities. Mr. Ames is a frequent lecturer on various business entities, corporate and secured financing law topics.

BANKRUPTCY/RESTRUCTURING

Drew Dillworth is a Shareholder in the Business Restructuring Department and also serves on the Firm's hiring committee and Board of Directors. He represents parties involved in work-outs, debt restructuring, foreclosure, bankruptcy, insolvency, and related commercial litigation matters. In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Dillworth routinely serves as a court appointed fiduciary in bankruptcy proceedings.

Hal Moorefield is a Shareholder and a member of the Firm's Board of Directors and heads the Business and Restructuring Department. He also serves on the Board of Directors. His broad-ranging bankruptcy practice specializes in the representation of major institutional creditors and trustees in bankruptcy and insolvency cases. He is a frequent lecturer on complex Chapter 11 and finance issues.

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Patricia Redmond is a Shareholder in the Business Restructuring Department. Ms. Redmond's practice focuses on bankruptcy with a concentration in creditors' rights and insolvency counseling in Bankruptcy Court and in out-of-court workouts. She has extensive experience representing trustees, creditors' committees, secured creditors and debtors in Chapter 11 cases. Ms. Redmond lectures locally and nationally on various aspects of bankruptcy, particularly on Chapter 11 issues, and is frequently quoted in The Miami Herald and other business publications.

CORPORATE SECURITIES/M&A

Alison Miller is a Shareholder and heads of the Firm's Corporate and Securities Department and serves on the Board of Directors. She has more than 25 years of experience advising public and private companies in all aspects of business, including securities offerings, mergers and acquisitions and periodic securities reporting and compliance. Ms. Miller's clients are engaged in a wide range of industries including banking and financial services, pharmaceutical, real estate, and hospitality. Ms. Miller frequently lectures on topics relating to securities law, acquisitions, compliance and accounting topics.

Jeffrey M. Oshinsky is a Shareholder in the Corporate and Securities Department. His practice includes a broad range of general corporate commercial representations, including representation of numerous issuers and underwriters in public and private offerings of equity and debt securities. He has also worked with institutional investors, private investors and other financing sources in negotiating and documenting debt and equity placements including venture capital transactions. He also has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, having represented a number of buyers, sellers and intermediaries in transactions involving assorted industries.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Sharon Quinn Dixon is a Shareholder in both the Tax Department and Labor and Employment Department. Ms. Dixon's practice focuses on employee benefits and estate planning. She counsels business clients about their employee benefit plans and executive compensation, including 401(k) plans, medical and other welfare benefit plans, COBRA issues, Section 125-Cafeteria Plans, Code Section 409A issues and tax and ERISA compliance and litigation matters. Additionally, Ms. Dixon is experienced with merger and acquisition due diligence reviews, planning for employee benefits in implementing Family Leave Act policies and incentive and nonqualified stock option plans. She counsels individual clients in the development and implementation of their estate plans, including federal estate and gift tax issues. Ms. Dixon represents corporate and individual fiduciaries in connection with the administration of estates and personal trusts.

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

W. Russell Hamilton, III is a Shareholder in the Labor and Employment Department. Mr. Hamilton's practice focuses on labor, employment and employee benefits matters, representing exclusively employers, employer associations, and employee benefit plans and fiduciaries. Mr. Hamilton routinely represents clients in: equal employment opportunity and affirmative action matters (compliance, litigation, and representation before state, local and federal agencies); wage and hour laws compliance and litigation; traditional labor/management relations; arbitration of all types of employment issues; employee benefits laws (e.g., ERISA, COBRA, MPPAA, OWBPA) compliance, involving both single and multiemployer plans, and both pension and welfare benefit plans; employee benefits and fiduciary litigation; WARN, USERRA, Sarbanes-Oxley and FMLA compliance and litigation; and litigation of employee torts.

Robert S. Turk is a Shareholder and Co-Chair of the Labor and Employment Department. He practices in the areas of employment litigation, supervisory training, employment audits, equal employment opportunity claims, affirmative action, wage and hour representation, union avoidance, wrongful discharge, employment and union contracts, trade secrets contracts, non-competition agreements, employment policies, drug-free workplace policies and representation of unionized employers in collective bargaining.

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Robert Kofman is a Shareholder and Co-Chair of the Firm's Labor Law Department. He also serves on the Firm's Board of Directors. Mr. Kofman has extensive experience in representing employers in virtually all areas of the labor and employment law, including defending employment discrimination lawsuits, whistleblower litigation, wage hour compliance and litigation, ERISA litigation, Sarbanes-Oxley litigation, counseling employers on day to day human resources issues, and traditional labor issues involving union organizational campaigns, National Labor Relations Board ("NLRB") proceedings collective bargaining, advising employers during union strikes, and securing injunctions for unlawful mass picketing and secondary boycotts.

Jon Stage is a Shareholder in the Labor and Employment Department. Mr. Stage has litigated and tried a wide variety of employment law claims arising under various aspects of Title VII, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Florida Civil Rights Act. Mr. Stage has also litigated and tried cases alleging discrimination in public accommodations and has also counseled clients regarding workplace safety matters arising under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). Mr. Stage has also handled numerous matters for management clients seeking to enforce covenants not to compete and regularly advises clients regarding compliance issues with respect to all of the state and federal laws mentioned above.

LITIGATION (COMMERCIAL)

Ana T. Barnett is a Shareholder in the Litigation Department. Ms. Barnett has over 25 years of federal litigation experience at both the trial and appellate levels. In addition to general complex litigation matters, her litigation practice focuses on defending civil, criminal and regulatory enforcement proceedings involving the Bank Secrecy Act, anti-money laundering laws, and antitrust laws. Ms. Barnett works with clients to design and implement compliance programs, conduct internal investigations, and monitor and improve corporate compliance positions. Ms. Barnett has consulted and lectured extensively, in the United States and abroad, on asset forfeiture and money laundering.

Alan Fein is a Shareholder in the Litigation Department and also serves on the Firm's Board of Directors. Mr. Fein has successfully handled some of South Florida's most important civil jury trials, developed one of the region's few sports law practices, and brought vision to a number of community leadership roles. In particular, Mr. Fein focuses his practice on complex civil litigation, professional sports representations and litigation, defamation and libel law, corporate governance disputes, directors' and officers' liability, accountant malpractice, architect malpractice and banking litigation.

David Pollack is a Shareholder in the Litigation Department. Mr. Pollack also serves on the Firm's Board of Directors. Mr. Pollack has been litigating complex cases in federal and state trial and appellate courts for more than thirty years. His practice focuses on professional malpractice defense, federal and state securities litigation, creditors' rights, contract litigation, business torts and antitrust litigation.

Eugene Stearns, a trial lawyer since 1972, serves as Chairman of the Firm's Board of Directors and Chairman of its Litigation Department. His trial experience over three decades has been in jury and non-jury trials in federal and state courts in Florida and other jurisdictions (a substantial percentage of which were tried to verdict and final judgment), and extensive arbitration and administrative law proceedings. Mr. Stearns has briefed and argued appeals to Florida's appellate courts including the District Courts of Appeal, the Florida Supreme Court, and in the federal system to the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fifth, Eleventh, Ninth and Third Circuits and he has successfully argued before the United States Supreme Court in a matter that, when decided, ended almost a decade of disagreement among the federal circuits involving federal diversity jurisdiction.

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REAL ESTATE

Richard Alhadeff is a Shareholder and a senior member of the Firm's Real Estate Department. Mr. Alhadeff also serves on the Firm's Board of Directors. Mr. Alhadeff has extensive experience representing lenders and developers with a wide variety of real estate matters including acquisition, development, construction, financing, disposition, and joint ventures. Mr. Alhadeff has been an integral part of the construction of many of the area's most notable properties, including The Setai, Downtown Dadeland, Uptown Lofts, The Plaza on Brickell, Aventura Marina, The Village of Merrick Park, The New World Symphony Campus Expansion and Trump Hollywood.

Chava Genet is a Shareholder in the Real Estate Department and serves on the Firm's Board of Directors and the Firm's Hiring Committee. Ms. Genet counsels clients in all aspects of real estate transactions, including the acquisition, sale, leasing and development of office, retail, hotel, and multi-use properties.

Robert Gallagher is a Shareholder in the Real Estate Department. In addition, he Chairs the Firm's Business Development Committee. Mr. Gallagher's practice focuses on real estate, disposition and restructuring of mortgages, loans, purchases and sale of commercial real estate and commercial and ground leases. He also focuses on commercial real estate lending including: acquisition, development, construction, financing, disposition and joint ventures. Mr. Gallagher is currently appointed by the Miami-Dade County Circuit Court to serve as guardian.

Francisco J. Menendez is a Shareholder in the Real Estate Department. Mr. Menendez has a national and Florida real estate transactional practice, focusing primarily on the purchase, sale and financing of commercial properties (including hotel properties), IRS Section 1031 like-kind exchanges, real estate secured and mezzanine lending, including construction, term, low-income housing, conduit, and securitized loans. Mr. Menendez also deals with commercial leasing, including airspace and synthetic leases and the development, construction, financing and direct and indirect disposition of real and personal property.

Brian McDonough is a Shareholder in the Real Estate Department. Mr. McDonough is a member of the Firm's Board of Directors as well as its Executive Committee and also is the Chairs the Firm's Affordable Housing and Tax Credit Practice Group. Mr. McDonough represents developers using government loan programs, community housing development organizations and 501(c)(3) organizations using qualified 501(c)(3) bonds for multifamily housing developments. Mr. McDonough assists clients with matters involving multifamily housing, low income housing tax credits and loan programs implemented by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. McDonough also represents lenders in all types of real estate loans and in particular loans related to affordable housing.

Robert I. Weissler is Chairman of the Firm's Real Estate Department and serves on the Firm's Board of Directors. Mr. Weissler is a transactional attorney, specializing in high-value acquisitions and dispositions of hospitality-related assets, including hotels, resorts, golf clubs and casinos. His clientele includes developers, operators, investors, lenders and mezzanine lenders in the development, sale, management, construction and financing of all types of commercial real estate.

REAL ESTATE (ZONING/LAND USE)

Ronald Weaver is a Shareholder and the Chairman of the Land Use, Environment and Government Affairs Department. Mr. Weaver has extensive experience in advising landowners, development companies and local governments in environmental, land use and property rights law and real estate acquisition and financing. He has conducted land use, environmental, zoning, Developments of Regional Impact (DRI), comprehensive plan, and concurrency due diligence for the acquisition and development of over \$3 billion worth of Florida property in 30 different counties and 50 cities, including a \$600 million due diligence of 12 properties for one acquisition/financing.

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About the Firm

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. is a full-service law firm with 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, bankruptcy, and corporate and securities.

While we are proud of the landmark legal victories achieved for our clients, we are equally proud of our *pro bono* efforts on behalf of those unable to afford counsel. We are dedicated to community-based, charitable organizations and provide regular contributions of time and financial resources to those in need.

Consistently recognized as among the best in Florida, we enjoy numerous accolades from top publications, including *The National Law Journal*, *Chambers USA*, and *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Online at stearnsweaver.com

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