

**STEARNS WEAVER MILLER EXPANDS LAND DEVELOPMENT & ZONING PRACTICE**

*Maria A. Gralia and Javier E. Fernández Join Firm's Miami Office*

**MIAMI, FL** — July 10, 2014 — Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. is pleased to announce the expansion of its Land Development & Zoning group with the addition of two new attorneys to the firm's Miami office, [Maria A. Gralia](#) and [Javier E. Fernández](#).

Maria and Javier represent clients in all aspects of the land development approval and entitlement process for residential and commercial developments. They regularly appear before local government boards and regulatory agencies on matters involving master plan and zoning approvals and amendments, platting and other required permits.

Maria joins the firm as a Shareholder, and represents real estate developers, investors and lenders. Her experience includes local, state and federal environmental permitting, historic preservation issues, marina permitting, land use litigation and appeals. Prior to joining the firm, she served as Assistant General Counsel to the University of Miami, overseeing the University's extensive real estate portfolio, which included obtaining land use and zoning entitlements for University development projects. She earned her J.D., *cum laude*, from the University of Miami School of Law.

Javier has successfully represented clients in a variety of administrative and quasi-judicial hearings, code enforcement hearings and public hearing processes related to the procurement of land use and zoning approvals, government contracts and public incentive agreements. Prior to joining the firm, Javier practiced in the Miami office of a top 100 law firm in their Land Use & Entitlements Department working on major redevelopment projects in Miami's Brickell and Design District neighborhoods. Prior to practicing law, he served as Chief of Staff to former City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz and as a development manager for an affordable housing development firm in Baltimore, MD. Javier earned his J.D., *cum laude*, from the University of Miami School of Law.

"We are pleased to welcome Maria and Javier to the firm," said Managing Director Rick Schatz. "Their in-depth experience enhances our ability to help clients navigate the complexities of the land development and zoning process."

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**About Stearns Weaver Miller**

From its offices in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Tallahassee, Florida, Stearns Weaver Miller provides a full range of legal services to its business and government agency clients. The firm's lawyers focus on Business Restructuring, Corporate & Securities, Labor & Employment, Litigation, Land Development & Zoning, Real Estate and Tax. For more information, please visit [stearnsweaver.com](http://stearnsweaver.com).