

**STEVEN SONBERG**MANAGING PARTNER, HOLLAND & KNIGHT,  
MIAMI

Sonberg, whose practice focused on securities law and mergers and acquisitions, became managing partner in 2008 at the beginning of the economic downturn. "The period of 2008-10 was a time of great uncertainty for not only our firm, but also the legal industry and the country as a whole," he says. "Fortunately, many of our decisions produced very successful results."

**EDUCATION**

New York University (BS, LL.M.), University of Miami (JD)

**LIKES MOST**

The most enjoyable part of my job is recruiting lateral partners to join our firm who provide depth in substantive areas or expand our client relationships.

**FLORIDA ISSUE**

Improving education from pre-school through college

**HOMETOWN INSIGHT**

Miami is quickly becoming a world-class city that excels in the arts, business and culture. Among its biggest challenges is improving the transportation system.

**DAVID SPECTOR**

CHAIRMAN &amp; CEO, AKERMAN, WEST PALM BEACH



Spector, who studied business administration, law and public policy in college, says he "had an interest in law since middle school." He was a litigator before becoming CEO at Akerman, which has more than 700 lawyers and 24 offices throughout the U.S. A legal career, he says, "provides a great variety of career paths: Public service, real estate, mergers and acquisitions, fraud investigation, etc. The degree is a stepping-stone to many different directions."

**EDUCATION**

Syracuse University (BS), University of Miami (JD)

**FLORIDA ISSUE**

We owe it to our children to keep them safe at school.

**CHALLENGE**

Not unique — finding the right balance between family and work

**ADVICE TO YOUNG LAWYERS**

Never forget that the exercise of judgment, deep understanding of the problems our clients face and not being afraid to think outside the box is what differentiates lawyers and can make this a superbly rewarding and meaningful career.

**EUGENE E. STEARNS**CHAIRMAN, STEARNS WEAVER MILLER WEISSLER  
ALHADEFF & SITTERSON, MIAMI

In addition to being the firm's chairman, Stearns also leads its litigation department. He has a long history of involvement in public-policy issues. Issues for Florida? "A fair and robust tax system that generates sufficient revenues to provide and maintain essential public services, provide a good education at all levels, protect the environment for future generations and a political system that reduces the power of extremists."

**EDUCATION**

Florida State University (BA, JD)

**COURSE OF STUDY**

My interest in politics, government and the history of civilization has been abiding since my earliest memories.

**THE FUTURE**

While the practice of law for those my age provided both opportunity and interesting work, the nature of the business of law has made it less enjoyable for young lawyers.

**CHALLENGE**

Accepting losses

**WISH LIST**

Pebble Beach

**JOHN STEMBERGER**PRINCIPAL, LAW OFFICES OF JOHN STEMBERGER,  
ORLANDO

Stemberger is a personal injury attorney who also has been a conservative policy advocate for more than 30 years. He is president of the Florida Family Policy Council and has spoken against equal marriage rights and adoption rights for gay people. Speaker of the House Richard Corcoran appointed him to the Florida Constitution Revision Commission.

**EDUCATION**Daytona College (AA), Florida State University (BS),  
Cumberland School of Law (JD)**PROUD MOMENT**

Watching Justice Alan Lawson unveil his portrait at the Florida Supreme Court historical society dinner. I chaired the 9th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission and argued for Alan to become a trial court judge.

**HOBBY**

Roller skating, two to three times a week

**MOST DON'T KNOW**

I was named Artist of the Year in high school for my elaborate pottery and detailed pen and ink drawings.

**ADELE STONE**SHAREHOLDER, BUCHANAN INGERSOLL  
& ROONEY, FORT LAUDERDALE

"People will always need legal advice. The question is where will they get it? From traditional sources such as lawyers, or from technology-based systems, or from companies that are not law firms, but offer forms and referrals to lawyers? I would tell a young student who is considering law school that the only reason to go into law is because you love the law."

**EDUCATION**

University of Florida (BA), University of Miami (JD)

**FLORIDA ISSUE**

Always education. It pains me that the arts, music appreciation, phys ed and other non-academic offerings of my youth are not given their due in today's educational environment.

**CHALLENGE**

Juggling two children and a full-time career without interruption

**MOST DON'T KNOW**

I love golf. But I'd like to love other hobbies such as photography. Too many interests, so little time!

**JOHN C. SUMBERG**

MANAGING PARTNER, BILZIN SUMBERG, MIAMI



Sumberg co-founded the firm with Brian Bilzin in 1977 and says his relationship with Bilzin has been the biggest influence on the business and his career. The firm has grown to 110 attorneys. Sumberg says that his toughest challenge "is obtaining the right talent to build the firm, which includes technical skills, people skills, character and integrity. Once you have the right talent, everything else follows."

**EDUCATION**

Yale University (BA), Yale Law School (JD)

**COURSE OF STUDY**

I wrote my senior thesis on James Joyce's *Ulysses*: Study of a City because of his intense description of the sights, sounds and smells of Dublin.

**THE FUTURE**

I see our industry being transformed by technology, including artificial intelligence. Despite this, our industry is business of relationships.

**MOST DON'T KNOW**

I have been heli-skiing in Canada, taken trips to Patagonia and Easter Island and recently hiked in New Zealand.