

Ron Weaver Announces Retirement

TAMPA, FL – November 6, 2023 – Stearns Weaver Miller, joined with its long time shareholder [Ronald “Ron” Weaver](#), to announce Mr. Weaver’s retirement from the practice of law, effective at the end of this year. A preeminent attorney and visionary leader, over the last 40 years, Ron played a large role in establishing and growing the firm’s Tampa presence from just two people to an over fifty-person office with robust Tampa roots.

For over four decades, Ron represented landowners, development companies and local governments in environmental, land use and property rights law, real estate acquisition, and financing matters. Notable projects include conversion of the 1905 federal courthouse into a four-star hotel, development of the 5,000 acre Trinity Communities, five regional malls, a dozen industrial parks, four downtown high-rises, and four Westshore and Rocky Point mid-rises. Over his career, Ron played a large role in the acquisition and development of over \$6 billion worth of Florida properties in 32 different counties and 62 cities.

During Ron’s association with the firm, its [Land Development, Zoning and Environmental](#) group has grown to over 30 professionals who provide services throughout the state of Florida.

“Ron has always had command of the issues that stand between good ideas and the successful implementation of them,” said Eugene Stearns, Chairman of Stearns Weaver Miller. “He has been a leader, mentor, colleague and friend, who, in good times and challenging times, never wavered from his core values of integrity and concern for others. He leaves the practice of law having made enormous contributions to the world around him, to the community and to the firm that will continue to proudly bear his name.”

“I have been blessed,” Ron Weaver said. “I married well – thank you Jackie for all these years-- and our children and grandchildren give us both great joy. Tampa Bay has been an unbelievable place to live, raise a family and build a business that has been able to help others more than it helps itself. Practicing law through the decades with people whose character is as important as success has been an extraordinarily rewarding experience.”

The firm’s pride in Ron’s accomplishments both professionally and philanthropically is large.

Ron’s involvement in philanthropic organizations and initiatives matched his commitment to the law. In 2008, he founded [CareerRebound](#), formerly known as Real Estate Lives, a not-for-profit organization that helped support those affected by the Great Recession. With over 100 volunteers, the organization has helped over 4,300 unemployed people to date in real estate and related industries in Tampa Bay. To honor his work, Ron received NAIOP’s President’s Award for Real Estate Lives - Assisting Real Estate Professionals Back to Work four times.

Over the last 27 years, Ron has been one of the most active advocates for Hillsborough County transportation and affordable housing funding initiatives. He has served as Chairman of six Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce committees, focusing on economic development, broad-based education reform, cultural affairs, and transportation funding. To date, Ron has participated in over 700 local government hearings on behalf of clients and civic groups across Florida to assist in improving infrastructure and policies throughout the state.

He has also testified in front of the Florida House and Florida Senate Committees on property rights and growth management and served as lead counsel for Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners to establish the Hillsborough County Housing Finance Authority that has helped thousands to secure shelter.

Ron also held leadership roles with the American Heart Association, Children Cancer Center, Junior Achievement, Baycare Health System, The Children's Home and St. Joseph's-Baptist Hospital as well as co-founded a local parents' support group to support public schools.

Ron was one of three co-founders of Florida's statewide Chapter of National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP). For the local NAIOP Tampa Bay Chapter, he served on the Board of Directors for 35 years including as Vice President of Public Affairs, Chair of the Public Affairs Committee, and Chair of the Government Affairs Committee.

He also served as USF Business School's Board of Advisors, Program Chair of the University of Tampa's Board of Fellows, and was an active member of Urban Land Institute (ULI) and Real Estate Investment Council, Inc. (REIC).

Ron was also a sought-out presenter. Over four decades, he taught growth management and property rights at over a hundred industry seminars. He has written over 200 articles in national, local and regional publications, law journals and newsletters including being quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* on growth management, concurrency, property rights and takings cases. Ron has also published commentaries and articles in NAIOP's *Development* magazine and the ULI's *Urban Land* magazine.

In 2020, he was honored with the [Junior League of Tampa Luminary Award](#) and his biography will be permanently displayed at the Tampa Bay History Center. In 1996, Ron was inducted into the Tampa Bay Real Estate Hall of Fame. Throughout his career, he has been consistently recognized by leading legal publications including *Chambers USA*, *Florida Super Lawyers*, *Florida Trend's* Florida Legal Elite and *The Best Lawyers in America*. Ron has been recognized six times as "Tampa Lawyer of the Year" in Land Use and Zoning Law by *The Best Lawyers in America* and was voted one of *Florida Trend's* "500 Most Influential Business Leaders" three times.

Ron's legacy at Stearns Weaver Miller will endure.



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*Retirement effective December 31, 2023.

About Stearns Weaver Miller

Stearns Weaver Miller is a Florida-based law firm with more than 150 attorneys and offices in Miami, Coral Gables, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Tallahassee. For over 40 years, our multidisciplinary team of attorneys and professionals have worked collaboratively to help our clients understand and resolve complex legal issues and disputes. For more information, visit stearnsweaver.com.