STEARNS WEAVER MILLER

Stuart D. Ames



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PRACTICE AREAS

Banking & Financial Institutions
Corporate
Mergers & Acquisitions
Commercial Lending & Asset-Based Financing

OVERVIEW

"Terrific experience, insight and advice on all corporate and financing matters… Excellent practitioner… A great banking and finance attorney."

- Chambers USA 2018-2020

Stuart D. Ames, who heads the Firm's Commercial Lending & Asset-Based Finance practice, is a Shareholder in the Corporate Department. His practice focuses on commercial and asset-based lending, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate and securities matters. Stuart is a frequent lecturer on business entities and corporate and secured financing law, and regularly serves as an expert witness on business entity and commercial finance matters.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

$75 million syndicated working capital and partner investment financing to international law firm.

$33 million revolving credit facilities for Austrian-based international bank.

$22,750,000 credit facilities to partner-employees of private equity firm for limited partner capital investment financing.

$22 million acquisition financing for major money-center bank.

Represents major commercial banks and other financial institutions in leveraged buyout and acquisition financing, private equity investor financing, development bond and tax credit project financing, aircraft and vessel financing, syndicated financings, international finance, credit enhancement transactions, debt restructurings, and workouts.

Recent transactions for commercial banks included over $200 million in aircraft acquisition financing.

Represented a major money-center bank as Agent in a $700 million syndicated financing for a twenty-bank syndicate to a national home builder.

Represented major commercial banks in connection with two $15 million unsecured lines of credit, $15 million secured letter of credit for cruise line, $50 million unsecured letter of credit and banker's acceptance facility to holding company of Central American automobile dealerships, $235 million of secured revolving lines of credit and term loans to various law firms throughout the United States, $5.6 million private jet aircraft term loan.

Represented REITs in $181 million secured acquisition lines of credit.

Loan counsel in $50 million syndicated Fixed Rate Senior Note offering.

Experienced expert witness in cases involving corporate, partnership, LLC and commercial financing disputes.

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

American Bar Association, Section of Business Law, Special Consultant for State Liaisons to Corporate Laws Committee, 2006-2017

American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers
- Fellow, 2008-Present
- Board of Regents, 2012-2016

The Florida Bar Business Law Section
- Executive Council, 1987-Present
- Secretary - Treasurer, 1990-1991
- Section Chair, 1992-1993

The Florida Bar Business Law Section's Corporate Law Revision Committee, Former Co-Chair, responsible for drafting the Florida Business Corporation Act (1989) and subsequent amendments

The Florida Bar Business Law Section's Entity Legislation Revision Committees, participated in drafting extensive revisions to the Florida Business Corporation Act, the Florida Revised Limited Liability Company Act, and the Florida Revised Limited Partnership Act

The Florida Bar Business Law Section's Corporations and Securities Committee, Chair, 1987-1990

Key Biscayne Yacht Club, Past Commodore

Village of Key Biscayne Charter Revision Commission, 2002 and 2007

RECOGNITION

Chambers USA, Banking and Finance: Transactional (Florida), Band 1, 2005-Present

The Best Lawyers in America®, 2005-Present

Miami Corporate Law Lawyer of the Year, 2014, 2021

Miami Banking & Finance Law Lawyer of the Year, 2011, 2019

Florida Super Lawyers, 2006-Present

International Financial Law Review 1000 (IFLR1000), Highly Regarded – Florida, Banking, 2018-Present

South Florida Legal Guide, Top Lawyers in South Florida - Corporate and Business; Commercial Finance, 2008-2017

Florida Trend's Florida Legal Elite, 2008, 2010 - 2011, 2017

Business Law Section of The Florida Bar, Outstanding Member of the Year Award, 2014

American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers, Fellow and Member of the Board of Regents

AV Preeminent® Top Rated Lawyer, Martindale-Hubbell

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Events: Virtual Webinar - Recent Amendments to the Florida Business Corporation Act
| April 2020

Publications: **It's Easy Being Green in Florida: Corporations for the 'Socially-Minded'**
BeLabor The Point Blog | September 2016

Publications: **Now It's Easier Being Green: Florida's New Benefit and Social Purpose Corporations**
The Florida Bar Journal | November 2014

Publications: **Florida Legislative Development: Corporations for the "Socially-Minded"**
BeLabor the Point Blog | July 2014

Publications: **The Promise: Creditor, Guarantors and Discharge Protections**
Business Law Today, ABA Section of Business Law | January 2005

Publications: **Florida Business Laws Annotated**
Thomson-Reuters | 2021-2022, continuously published 1993-present

NEWSROOM

Firm Announcements: **29 Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers in 11 Practice Areas Ranked In Chambers USA 2023**
| June 2023

Firm Announcements: **28 Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers in 12 Practice Areas Ranked In Chambers USA 2022**
| June 2022

Firm Announcements:

Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in 2021 Florida Super Lawyers
| June 2021

Firm Announcements: **29 Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers in 12 Practice Areas Ranked In Chambers USA 2021**
| May 2021

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Attorneys Recognized in Thirtieth Edition of International Financial Law Review 1000 (IFLR1000)**
| October 2020

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in 2020 Florida Super Lawyers**
| June 2020

Firm Announcements: **24 Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers in 12 Practice Areas Ranked In Chambers USA 2020**
| April 2020

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2019**
| June 2019

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Attorneys Recognized in International Financial Law Review 1000 (IFLR1000) 2019**
| June 2019

Firm Announcements: **21 Stearns Weaver Miller Attorneys, 10 Practice Areas Ranked in Chambers USA 2019**
| May 2019

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Attorneys Recognized in International Financial Law Review 1000 (IFLR1000) 2018**
| August 2018

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2018**
| June 2018

Firm Announcements: **23 Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers in 10 Practice Areas Ranked In Chambers USA 2018**
| May 2018

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2017**
| June 2017

Firm Announcements: **19 Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers, 8 Practice Areas Ranked In Chambers USA 2017**
| May 2017

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2016**
| June 2016

Firm Announcements:

17 Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers, 7 Practice Areas Ranked In Chambers USA 2016
| May 2016

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Attorneys Recognized by South Florida Legal Guide 2016**
| January 2016

Firm Announcements: **15 Stearns Weaver Miller Attorneys, 7 Practice Areas Ranked In Chambers USA 2015**
| May 2015

In the Media: **11th Circ. To Hear Fight Over Shareholder, Pension Payments**
Law360 | | April 2015

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Attorneys Recognized by South Florida Legal Guide 2015**
| January 2015

In the Media: **Fla. Woos Do-Gooders With New Benefit Corporation Law**
Law360 | | July 2014

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2014**
| June 2014

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Continues To Receive Top Rankings In Chambers USA 2014**
| May 2014

In the Media: **Stearns Weaver Trio Helps Close $75M In Refinancing**
Daily Business Review | | April 2014

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Recognized by South Florida Legal Guide 2014**
| January 2014

Firm Announcements: **Sixteen Stearns Weaver Miller Shareholders recognized by South Florida's Best Lawyers 2012**
| November 2011

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Attorneys Garner Recognition in Prestigious Florida Trend Magazine**
| July 2011

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Receives Top Rankings in Chambers and Partners USA**
| June 2011

Firm Announcements: **Ten Attorneys and Six Practice Groups Ranked in Chambers USA**
| June 2010

Firm Announcements: **Twelve Attorneys and Seven Practice Groups Ranked in Chambers USA**
| June 2009

Firm Announcements: **Twenty-Three Attorneys from Nine Practice Groups Selected for Inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America**
| June 2009

Firm Announcements: **Stearns Weaver Miller Receives Top Rankings in Chambers**
| June 2008

EDUCATION

J.D., Rutgers University School of Law, 1966

B.S., Fairleigh Dickinson University, 1963

ADMISSIONS

Florida