

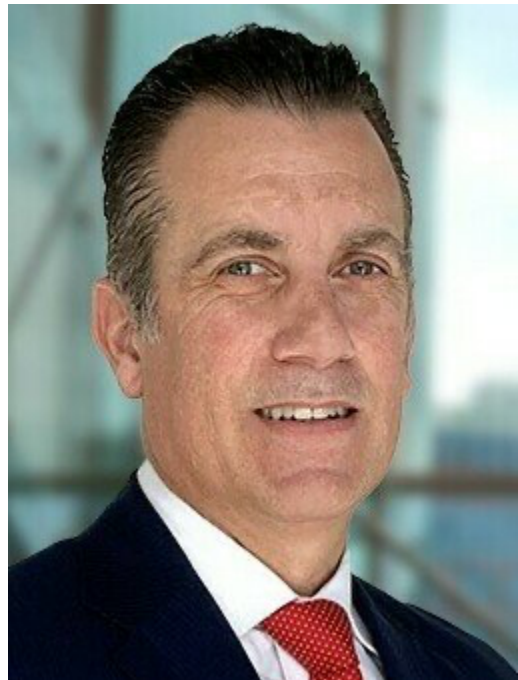
# Becker Adds Community Associations Pro From Fla. Boutique

By **Madison Arnold**

Law360 (February 2, 2023, 4:25 PM EST) -- Becker & Poliakoff PA has boosted its community association and real estate practices with a new shareholder in Miami who ran a boutique real estate practice for 17 years and was also a director at a bank.

Jose Luis Baloyra, who was most recently at Baloyra Law in Miami, is joining Becker, the firm announced on Wednesday. While at Baloyra Law, he also spent seven years on the board of Pacific National Bank NA.

"I had been looking at expanding our community association practice. It is an interesting time, given many of the changes that community associations are facing with additional [local and state regulations] that are being imposed on them," Baloyra told Law360 Pulse on Thursday. "It's the right time for me to make the move for my firm, to have the expertise of Becker that can be brought to all of our clients. That was the main reason for the move, and we're excited about the prospects."



Jose Luis Baloyra

Baloyra said he brought the entire practice and staff of Baloyra Law with him to Becker.

His clients include condominium and homeowner associations who need counseling in community association law. That work often involves covenant enforcement, document review and drafting, analysis and review of bank loans and general guidance to boards and managers on issues like statutory and documentary guidelines for the administration of their association, Becker said.

Baloyra also advises investors, individuals, financial institutions, commercial banks, condominium associations and developers on residential and commercial real estate law.

"To be [condominium association] attorney, you need to know some dirt law, so to speak, real estate. On the transactional side, handling real estate matters, invariably, you run into issues with community association. We've practiced in both areas for many years now, and I enjoy that collaboration between the two areas," Baloyra said.

That work is informed by his time as a director at PNB, which had \$400 million in assets, the firm said. He also chaired the directors' loan committee.

"To understand all the regulations and requirements that are imposed upon banks, in particular in the lending process, knowing how that works now, I'm able to better service my commercial real estate clients when they go to a banking institution to try to obtain a commercial loan," Baloyra said.

Baloyra's practice also involves arbitrating and litigating complex cases, and he is a licensed title insurance agent at Old Republic National Title Insurance Co.

"Jose's wealth of experience in the practice of community association law will add depth to the firm's long-established presence in the Miami market and will augment the services we provide to clients in both the areas of community association and real estate," Kenneth Direktor, chair of Becker's community association practice, said in a statement.

Baloyra is a graduate of the University of Miami School of Law, according to the firm.

He is joining a team of community association attorneys that can counsel clients on whole spectrum of condominium, cooperative, timeshares and homeowners' associations matters, the firm said.

"Prior to making the move I had to reach out to all of [my clients] and they're thrilled that we're moving over, that they're going to have additional resources to assist them. Becker has an extensive amount of resources, particularly in the [condominium association] field to assist clients with all their needs," Baloyra said.

On the real estate side, that has been a major practice group for Becker since the firm was founded in 1973. Those attorneys have represented developers of multi- and single-family residential communities, business and property owners and financial institutions, the firm said.

Becker is based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and employs lawyers, lobbyists and other professionals throughout the East Coast.

--Editing by Brian Baresch.