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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

# MEET THE 2025 POWER LEADERS IN LAW & ACCOUNTING (PART 1)

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By [Jeff Zbar](#) – Correspondent, South Florida Business Journal  
Jun 20, 2025



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Entrepreneurs, CEOs, families, corporations and nonprofits often need professional counsel skilled in helping navigate commonplace and complex events. Those needs can be greater in a dynamic and diverse market such as South Florida. Individuals and organizations face domestic and international issues that require elevated expertise.

Those advisors are often the attorneys and accountants trained to serve a global marketplace. They are the individuals named as this year's Power Leaders in Law & Accounting.

The list includes professional service providers who have helped clients for generations – and some of those they have mentored to become the next generation of leaders. [Check out Part 2.](#)

As South Florida has grown in prominence on the global stage, the importance of these professionals has grown in kind. Together, they possess the skills and acumen to guide clients of all kinds and caliber toward future success.

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**Perry M. Adair**

Office managing shareholder, Becker & Poliakoff

Fort Lauderdale



Image: Courtesy of Becker & Poliakoff

COURTESY OF BECKER & POLIAKOFF

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Adair is Florida Bar board-certified in construction law and focuses on business litigation, land use and construction disputes. Known for strategic cross-examinations, he's a highly effective trial advocate recognized for meticulous preparation and uncovering truth.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.A., [University of Florida](#); J.D., University of Miami

Why I chose my profession: My father was an attorney. I went to court with him as a kid, and I knew I wanted to do what he did.

Most unexpected recent change to my profession: Lawyers relying on AI without checking citations.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Understand what others are dealing with, then decide how to help.

Top of my personal bucket list: Playing a round at Augusta National Golf Club.

Contact: [www.beckerlawyers.com](http://www.beckerlawyers.com), 954-987-7550

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## **Cesar L. Alvarez**

Senior chairman, Greenberg Traurig

Miami

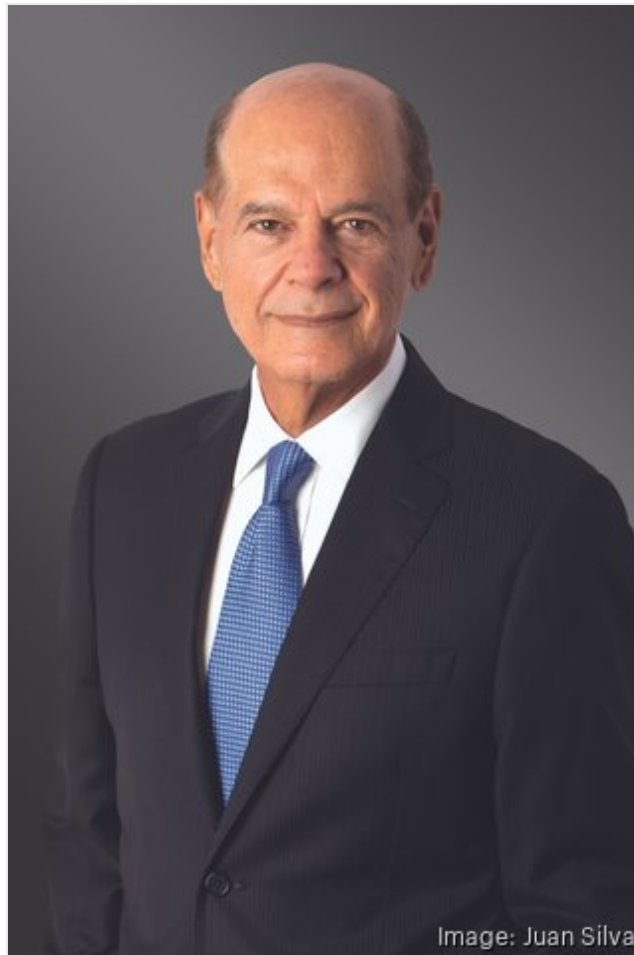


Image: Juan Silva

JUAN SILVA

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Alvarez joined the firm in 1972 as its ninth lawyer, later serving as CEO and executive chair. During his tenure, the firm became one of the fastest-growing and Top 10 firms in the country. It now has 49 offices with 2,850 attorneys worldwide.

Birthplace: Havana

Education: A.A., Miami Dade Community College; B.S., J.D., MBA, University of Florida

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Having to produce more with less at an accelerated rate.

Most unexpected recent change to my profession: Adapting to rapid technological advancements impacting the delivery of legal services.

What I would change in my profession: Increase accessibility to legal services for underserved communities.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Companies give you a title; people make you a leader.

Contact: [www.gtlaw.com](http://www.gtlaw.com), 305-579-0668

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**Tony Argiz**

South Florida managing principal, BDO USA

Miami



Image: Courtesy of BDO

COURTESY OF BDO

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Argiz is known for his community and industry leadership. He previously led the growth of the largest Florida-based professional services firm, and remains a highly respected and nationally recognized practitioner.

Birthplace: Havana

Education: B.B.A., graduate studies in auditing and taxation, Florida International University

Why I chose my profession: I was strong in math, and recognized that accounting was a growing industry.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Regulatory changes, talent acquisition and keeping up with technology.

Most unexpected recent change to my profession: Artificial intelligence and machine learning, remote work and virtual collaboration.

My latest cultural discovery: “Buena Vista Social Club” on Broadway

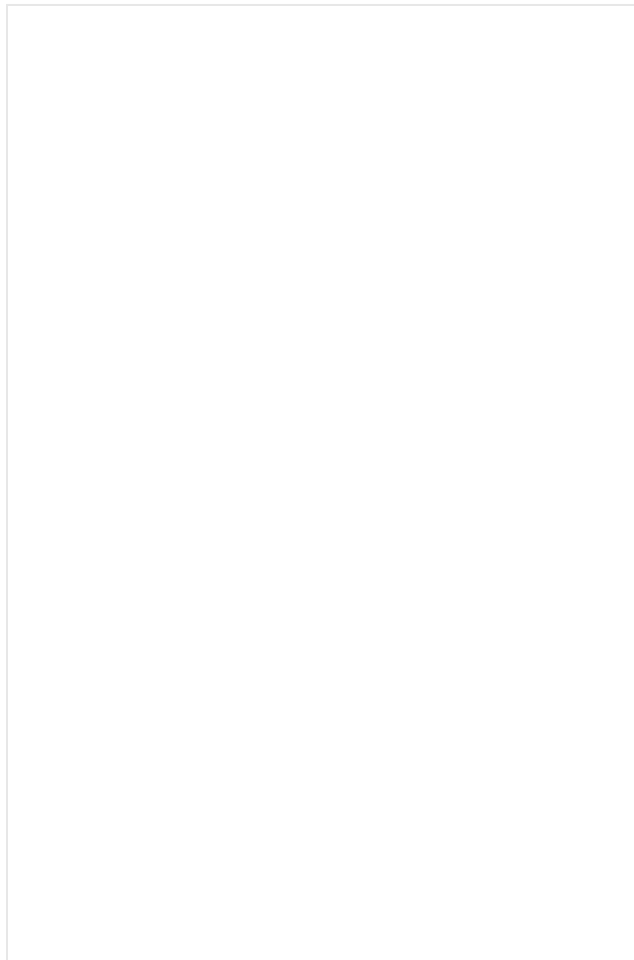
Contact: [www.bdo.com](http://www.bdo.com), [targiz@bdo.com](mailto:targiz@bdo.com), 305-377-9230

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**Craig Armstrong**

Managing partner, Veridian Accountants & Advisors

Miami



Armstrong has over 30 years of public accounting experience, including serving clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to local or middle-market companies, as well as high-net-worth family offices and individuals.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.S., accounting, Florida State University

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Industry standard setters keeping pace with a fast-changing business environment.

Most unexpected recent change to my profession: The volume of consolidation of accounting firms.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Individuals are capable of so much more if we allow them.

Message to future professionals: Critical thinking and soft skills are key for future success.

Top of my personal bucket list: Fly fishing for giant trevally in the Seychelles islands.

Contact: [www.veridiancpas.com](http://www.veridiancpas.com), 305-928-6822

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**Michael Balter**

Southeast regional leader, CBIZ

Fort Lauderdale





JOCK FISTICK / SOUTH FLORIDA BUSINESS JOURNAL

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Balter assumed his current role after CBIZ acquired Marcum in November 2024. At the time, it created the nation's seventh-largest accounting firm, with some \$2.8 billion in revenue.

Birthplace: New York City

Education: B.A., accounting, University of Florida; MBA, Florida Atlantic University

Why I chose my profession: My mom taught accounting and recommended the profession.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Adapting to rapid technological advancements and evolving regulatory requirements.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: Every day I become better at planning, adapting and guiding others.

Message to future professionals: Embrace learning and follow your passion.

Contact: [www.cbiz.com](http://www.cbiz.com), [michael.balter@cbiz.com](mailto:michael.balter@cbiz.com), 954-320-8000

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## **David Barbeito**

CEO/managing partner, De La Hoz, Perez & Barbeito PLLC

Miami



Image: Courtesy of De La Hoz, Perez & Barbeito PLLC

COURTESY OF DE LA HOZ, PEREZ & BARBEITO PLLC

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Over the past decade, Barbeito has led the firm's transformation into a Top 400 U.S. accounting firm, driving sustained growth through strategic and servant leadership, and a relentless focus on client service.

Birthplace: San Juan, Puerto Rico

Education: Bachelor's and master's degrees, accounting, Florida International University.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Attracting the next generation of professionals.

What I would change in my profession: The PE talk, which distracts from our core strength of serving clients.

Highlight from my career: Betting on myself when I left my previous firm in 2013.

My latest cultural discovery: Summers in Switzerland

Top of my personal bucket list: The Four Seasons private jet experience

Contact: [www.dbpcpa.com](http://www.dbpcpa.com), [dbarbeito@dpbcpa.com](mailto:dbarbeito@dpbcpa.com), 305-448-5585

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**James L. Berger**

Co-chair, Berger Singerman LLP

Fort Lauderdale



COURTESY OF BERGER SINGERMAN

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Berger focuses his practice on real estate transactions, development and financing. He also advises on equity structuring, out-of-court restructurings and bankruptcy-related deals, bringing deep transactional experience to complex commercial matters.

Birthplace: Brooklyn, New York

Education: B.A., J.D., Duke University

Why I chose my profession: I was intrigued by the crossroads of law and business.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: The transition to becoming technologically reliant.

Message to future professionals: Strive to become a trusted advisor.

Highlight from my career: Helping build a fantastic firm.

Top of my personal bucket list: Travel the world with my family.

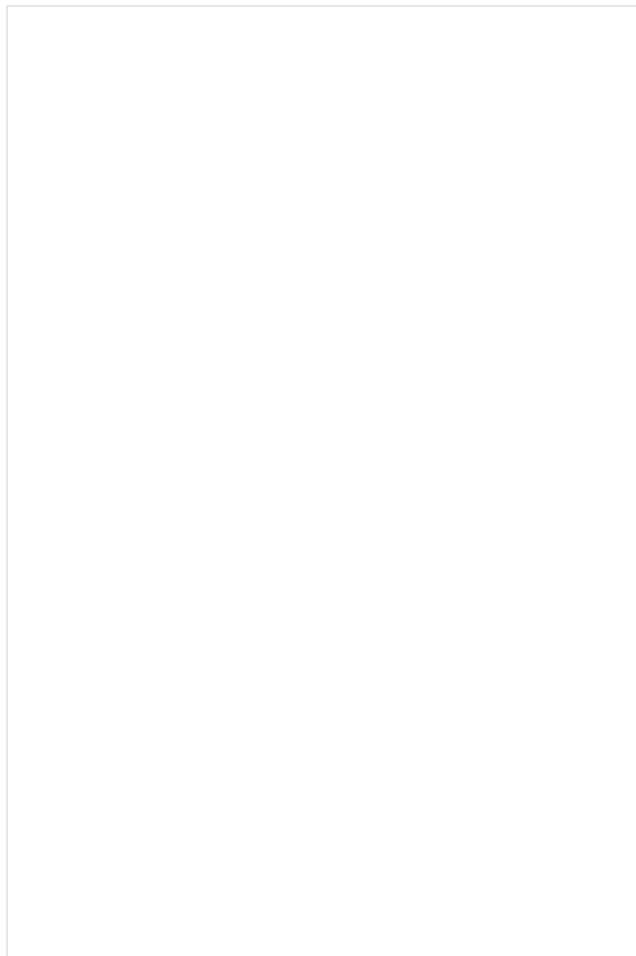
Contact: [www.bergersingerman.com](http://www.bergersingerman.com), 954-525-9900

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**Richard A. Berkowitz**

Founding and executive chairman, Berkowitz Pollack Brant Advisors + CPAs

Fort Lauderdale



Berkowitz launched his practice more than 45 years ago. Today he chairs a Top 100 firm and its affiliates Provenance Wealth Advisors, BayBridge Capital Advisors and BayBridge Real Estate Capital.

Birthplace: Newton, Massachusetts

Education: B.S., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; J.D., University of Miami

What I would change in my profession: Restrict non-CPA ownership of CPA firms.

My latest cultural discovery: Dead & Co. at the Sphere in Las Vegas.

Top of my personal bucket list: See the Northern Lights.

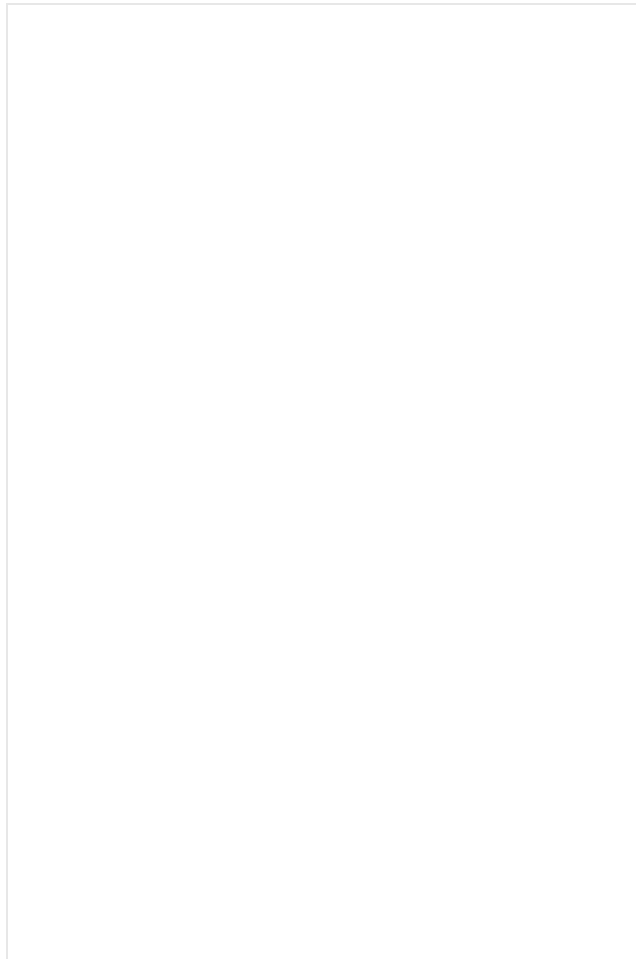
Contact: [www.bpbcpa.com](http://www.bpbcpa.com), [info@bpbcpa.com](mailto:info@bpbcpa.com), 305-379-7000

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**Mark F. Bideau**

Office co-managing shareholder, Greenberg Traurig

West Palm Beach



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In addition to helping oversee the West Palm Beach office, Bideau has tried both jury and non-jury cases in state and federal courts for decades. He was recently part of the team that secured a victory in *Palm Beach Post v. Jeffrey Epstein*.

Birthplace: Plainfield, New Jersey

Education: B.B.A., J.D., Temple University

Why I chose my profession: I like the adrenaline rush of solving complex problems.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: I have become a better listener.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Leading by example is most effective.

Message to future professionals: Remember that it's a profession; get to know your colleagues.

Top of my personal bucket list: Australia/New Zealand.

Contact: [www.gtlaw.com](http://www.gtlaw.com), 561-650-7918

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## **Mitchell Bierman**

Office managing member, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman

Miami



Image: Courtesy of Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman

COURTESY OF WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN COLE + BIERMAN

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Bierman focuses his practice on transportation, housing, air commerce and shared infrastructure. He represents communities, and the people and businesses that build them.



Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.A., philosophy, George Washington University; J.D., New York University

Why I chose my profession: To make positive changes in an intellectually rewarding environment.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: How to harness AI.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: There is always enough time to give everyone a voice.

Highlight from my career: Helping to make the Pérez Art Museum Miami a reality.

Top of my personal bucket list: India

Contact: [www.wsh-law.com](http://www.wsh-law.com), [mbierman@wsh-law.com](mailto:mbierman@wsh-law.com), 305-854-0800

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## **Robert “Chip” Birthisel**

Founding partner, Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel LLP

Miami

Birthisel practices transportation and maritime law, personal injury and wrongful death defense, marine pollution, general liability defense and insurance law. He is a retired Coast Guard officer who spent his final years on active duty as a law specialist and trial attorney.

Education: B.S., University of San Francisco; M.S., The Johns Hopkins University; J.D., cum laude, University of Miami

Contact: [www.hamiltonmillerlaw.com](http://www.hamiltonmillerlaw.com), [rbirthisel@hamiltonmillerlaw.com](mailto:rbirthisel@hamiltonmillerlaw.com),  
813-223-1900

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**Rebecca F. Bratter**

Deputy managing partner, Greenspoon Marder LLP

Fort Lauderdale



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Bratter drives Greenspoon Marder's strategy and growth, playing a key role in national expansion. She manages daily operations, collaborates with co-founders, and recruits new attorneys to grow offices and enhance client offerings.

Birthplace: Columbia, Maryland

Education: B.A., Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University; J.D., Nova Southeastern University

Why I chose my profession: My deep passion for advocacy, which started at age 7.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Embrace innovation, take risks, be transparent and foster a culture of open communication.

Message to future professionals: Find your passion and make it a career, not a job.

My latest cultural discovery: "Unreasonable Hospitality," long walks on our beautiful beaches and joining the board of JFS of Broward County.

Contact: [www.gmlaw.com](http://www.gmlaw.com), 954-491-1120

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**Richard Bruguera**

Office managing partner, EY

Miami



COURTESY OF EY

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Bruguera leads EY's Miami operations and over 750 professionals in serving clients throughout the region.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.B.A., finance, accounting; M.S., taxation; Florida International University

Why I chose my profession: Helping entrepreneurs and corporations achieve their strategic goals energizes me.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Revolutionizing early career opportunities to attract top talent.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: I've become more focused on helping others succeed.

Message to future professionals: Embrace innovation, strive for better and help others along the way.

Top of my personal bucket list: Drive a Formula 1 car.

Contact: [www.ey.com](http://www.ey.com), [richard.bruguera@ey.com](mailto:richard.bruguera@ey.com), 305-358-4111

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## **Mitch Burnstein**

Firm managing director, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman

Fort Lauderdale



Image: Weiss Serota Helfman Cole and Bierman

WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN COLE AND BIERMAN

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Burnstein counsels clients in disputes over property rights and government appropriation of private property and businesses. He is an experienced trial attorney and cheerleader for the wisdom of juries.

Birthplace: Hollywood

Education: B.A., economics, Emory University; J.D., University of Florida

Why I chose my profession: A vibrant judicial branch ensures fairness and preserves our democracy.

What I would change in my profession: Too many lawyers overlitigate cases to generate higher fees.

Highlight from my career: I led a team that preserved an environmentally significant island.

My latest cultural discovery: After visiting Normandy, I'm fixated on D-Day heroism.

Contact: [www.wsh-law.com](http://www.wsh-law.com), [mburnstein@wsh-law.com](mailto:mburnstein@wsh-law.com), 954-763-4242

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**Nestor Caballero**

Partner, CFLG Accountants + Advisors; chair, FICPA Miami Dade Chapter

Miami



COURTESY OF CFLG ACCOUNTANTS + ADVISORS

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Caballero specializes in tax strategies for real estate and small businesses. He is a former president of the Cuban American CPAs, and a member of the Miami Dade College Accounting Hall of Fame.

Birthplace: Havana

Education: M.S., taxation, Florida International University

Why I chose my profession: A passion for problem-solving and helping others grow.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Adapting to regulatory changes and technological advancements.

What I would change in my profession: Greater emphasis on work-life balance and mental health.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Empower others, trust your team and lead by example.

Top of my personal bucket list: Traveling the world.

Contact: [www.cflgcpa.com](http://www.cflgcpa.com), [nestor@cflgcpa.com](mailto:nestor@cflgcpa.com), 305-680-5130

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## **Oscar Cabanas**

Managing partner, Wicker Smith O'Hara McCoy & Ford, P.A.

Miami





Cabanas is the current chair of USLAW Network. He is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell and is perennially listed in Best Lawyers in America, Super Lawyers and other peer review publications.

Birthplace: Havana

Education: B.A., Northwestern University; J.D., University of Miami

Why I chose my profession: Both my parents were lawyers in Cuba, so it seemed like destiny.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: The loss of personal and social development due to remote work.

What I would change in my profession: More civility and kindness not just between lawyers, but between the judiciary and the bar.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Learn to listen, and listen to learn.

Contact: [www.wickersmith.com](http://www.wickersmith.com), [mcabanas@wickersmith.com](mailto:mcabanas@wickersmith.com), 305-448-3939

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**Sidney C. Calloway**

Office managing partner, Shutts & Bowen

Fort Lauderdale



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Along with leading the firm's Fort Lauderdale office, Calloway serves as co-chair of its government law practice group. He is a Florida Bar board-certified specialist in civil trial law.

Birthplace: Alamogordo, New Mexico

Education: A.A., Florida Keys Community College; B.A., Florida State University; J.D., Washington University in St. Louis

Why I chose my profession: Practicing law enables me to actively support and build my community.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Resolving attorney-based generational challenges to law practice.

Highlight from my career: Representation of U.S. Black farmers in *Pigford v. USDA* class action discrimination lawsuit.

My latest cultural discovery: Recently travel to Cape Town, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana and Namibia.

Contact: [www.shutts.com](http://www.shutts.com), [scalloway@shutts.com](mailto:scalloway@shutts.com), 954-847-3833

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## **Danny Castro**

Tax market managing principal for Florida, BDO USA

Fort Lauderdale



Image: Courtesy of BDO

COURTESY OF BDO

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Castro has nearly 20 years of experience delivering corporate and tax accounting

services to publicly traded and privately held clients across a range of industries.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.S., accounting, M.Acc., University of Florida

Why I chose my profession: I knew the industry was stable and growing, so it came naturally while at UF.

What I would change in my profession: Time entry tracking.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Don't take failure personally. It's OK not to win every client.

Highlight from my career: By the age of 33, I was running two offices.

My latest cultural discovery: Health and wellness with a focus on dieting and food to achieve fitness goals.

Contact: [www.bdo.com](http://www.bdo.com), [dcastro@bdo.com](mailto:dcastro@bdo.com), 954-989-7462

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**Matthew Chait**

Office managing partner, Shutts & Bowen LLP

West Palm Beach



JACKIE ARIAS JCA PHOTOGRAPHY

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Chait is a litigator with a statewide practice focusing on commercial real estate and land use litigation, commercial foreclosure and loan guaranty matters, and general business litigation.

Birthplace: New York

Education: B.A., University of Pennsylvania; J.D., Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Incorporating newer technologies such as AI.

Most unexpected recent change to my profession: The extent of the impact of AI.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Listen.

My latest cultural discovery: Any of the top restaurants opening here almost daily.

Top of my personal bucket list: Skiing in South America.

Contact: [www.shutts.com](http://www.shutts.com), [mchait@shutts.com](mailto:mchait@shutts.com), 561-835-8500

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## **Jamie Cole**

Broward office managing director, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman

Fort Lauderdale



Image: Courtesy of Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman

COURTESY OF WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN COLE + BIERMAN

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In the past year, Cole obtained a preliminary injunction on behalf of 175 local elected officials, enjoining Florida from requiring local elected officials to disclose highly personal, financial information.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.S., economics, The Wharton School; J.D., University of Pennsylvania

Why I chose my profession: To use the law to improve the community in which I live.

What I would change in my profession: More personal interaction and less video conferencing.

Message to future professionals: Reread twice before pressing send.

My latest cultural discovery: Iceland. It's like being on Mars.

Contact: [www.wsh-law.com](http://www.wsh-law.com), [jcole@wsh-law.com](mailto:jcole@wsh-law.com), 954-763-4242

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## **Richard Cole**

Managing partner, Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A.

Miami



COLE, SCOTT & KISSANE, P.A.

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Cole practices in the areas of personal injury defense law, medical, legal and professional malpractice. In addition to litigating cases, he has experience defending professionals in administrative investigations related to their licenses.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.S.B.A., J.D., University of Florida

Why I chose my profession: Father and older brothers were lawyers, thus little choice.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Proper use of AI and client acceptance.



Most unexpected recent change to my profession: Significant tort reforms.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: Softer approach needed in managing people.

Message to future professionals: Don't expect any more from people than you are willing to give.

Contact: [www.csklegal.com](http://www.csklegal.com), [richard.cole@csklegal.com](mailto:richard.cole@csklegal.com), 305-350-5305

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## **Alexcia Cox**

Palm Beach State Attorney

West Palm Beach



Image: Courtesy of Palm Beach County

Cox serves as the elected state attorney for Florida's 15th Judicial Circuit. She leads a team of 115 prosecutors and 180 professional staff in five offices throughout Palm Beach County. Cox began as a domestic violence prosecutor in the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office.

Birthplace: Palm Beach County

Education: Bachelor's degree, University of Central Florida; J.D., Florida State University

Contact: [www.a15.org](http://www.a15.org), 561-355-7263

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### **Stephen F. Coxhead**

Managing shareholder, Fowler White Burnett

Miami



COURTESY OF FOWLER WHITE BURNETT

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Coxhead has led the firm through strategic growth, expanded practice capabilities, and significant litigation wins in complex commercial and products liability matters.

Birthplace: New Jersey

Education: B.A., University of Florida; J.D., Stetson University

Why I chose my profession: I love problem-solving.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: AI is redefining everything – staffing, research and billing models.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: Still learning, always evolving and constantly listening.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Listen and build consensus from the ground up.

Message to future professionals: Listen, learn and be patient.

Contact: [www.fowler-white.com](http://www.fowler-white.com), [scoxhead@fowler-white.com](mailto:scoxhead@fowler-white.com), 305-789-9200

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## **Jaret L. Davis**

Senior VP, office co-managing shareholder, Greenberg Traurig

Miami



NICK GARCIA

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Davis helps oversee over 400 attorneys and business staff. His practice focuses on domestic and cross-border corporate transactions. For nearly two

decades, he has helped guide the firm's efforts to be a dominant player in the technology sector.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.A., economics, J.D., University of Miami

Why I chose my profession: Law combines rigorous analytical thinking with working with diverse people.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Those who write the plan will underwrite the plan. Engage.

Message to future professionals: Do not shy away from challenges; opportunities abound there.

Highlight from my career: Advocating for Miami as a global tech hub.

Top of my personal bucket list: Visit the Vatican.

Contact: [www.gtlaw.com](http://www.gtlaw.com), 305-579-0676

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**Luis E. Diaz**

Managing partner, Sharff, Wittmer, Kurtz, Jackson & Diaz P.A.

Coral Gables



SHERI MAZARIEGOS PHOTOGRAPHY

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Diaz joined the firm in 1997 and was promoted to partner in 2000. He has over 20 years of experience in the accounting field, including three years in auditing with EY.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: Bachelor's degree, accounting, Florida International University

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Retaining excellent staff.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Leadership is less about having all the answers and more about creating space for others to contribute theirs.

Highlight from my career: Having one of my daughters, Gaby, decide to work with me.

My latest cultural discovery: I really enjoyed travelling to Cartagena, Colombia, for the first time with my family.

Top of my personal bucket list: Improve my golf skills.

Contact: [www.swkj-cpa.com](http://www.swkj-cpa.com), [ldiaz@swkj-cpa.com](mailto:ldiaz@swkj-cpa.com), 305-666-7229

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**Al Dotson Jr.**

CEO and managing partner, Bilzin Sumberg

Miami



COURTESY OF BILZIN SUMBERG

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Dotson leads the firm's attorneys and professionals to provide a client experience that represents the firm's pillars of excellence. He is also nationally recognized for his work on infrastructure and public-private partnerships.

Birthplace: Detroit

Education: A.B., Dartmouth College; J.D., Vanderbilt University

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Balancing tech innovation with personalized, strategic client service.

Most unexpected recent change to my profession: AI transforming legal research and routine legal tasks.

What I would change in my profession: Accelerate inclusion and diversity in leadership roles.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: Greater focus on mentorship and leveraging professional skills for the community.

Contact: [www.bilzin.com](http://www.bilzin.com), [adotson@bilzin.com](mailto:adotson@bilzin.com), 305-350-2411

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## **Ed Duarte**

Chair, Florida Institute of CPAs; CFO, Foreign Parts Distributors

Miami





COURTESY OF FOREIGN PARTS DISTRIBUTORS

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In his role with the Florida Institute of CPAs, the largest network of accounting and finance professionals in the state, Duarte works with the FICPA board and its executive leadership to protect and promote the profession in Florida.

Birthplace: New York City

Education: B.A., accounting and finance, Florida International University

Why I chose my profession: Accounting is the language of business.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Talent shortages, an evolving regulatory landscape and shifting legislative policies.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Change is constant, and adaptability is key to success.

Top of my personal bucket list: Visit Italy and Rio de Janeiro.

Contact: [www.fpd.com](http://www.fpd.com), [eduarte@fpd.com](mailto:eduarte@fpd.com), 305-885-8646

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## **Olympia Duhart**

Interim dean and professor of law, Shepard Broad College of Law, Nova Southeastern University

Fort Lauderdale



COURTESY OF SHEPARD BROAD COLLEGE OF LAW, NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

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Duhart teaches legal research and writing, constitutional law, First Amendment law, and a current constitutional issues seminar. She has received numerous awards for teaching and service.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.A., English, J.D., Nova Southeastern University

Why I chose my profession: Teaching law allows me to help others and advance justice.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: I am more collaborative.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Lead with empathy and gratitude – and a sense of humor!

My latest cultural discovery: Hugh Taylor Birch State Park.

Contact: [www.law.nova.edu](http://www.law.nova.edu), [olympia@nova.edu](mailto:olympia@nova.edu), 954-262-6313

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## **Christopher Duke**

Office managing partner, Akerman LLP

West Palm Beach and Boca Raton



GITTINGS PHOTOGRAPHY

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With a diverse practice in employment law and complex commercial litigation, Duke represents clients in federal and state courts, as well as in various arbitration forums and before federal, state and local administrative bodies.

Birthplace: New Orleans

Education: B.A., Davidson College; J.D., University of Florida

Why I chose my profession: To make an impact.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Technology and AI outpacing the courts and the rule of law.

Most unexpected recent change to my profession: The rise of remote work and virtual proceedings becoming the norm.

Highlight from my career: Winning a large noncompete trial and subsequent appeal for a great client.

Top of my personal bucket list: Dive the South Pacific.

Contact: [www.akerman.com](http://www.akerman.com), [chris.duke@akerman.com](mailto:chris.duke@akerman.com), 561-653-5000

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### **Todd R. Ehrenreich**

Office co-managing partner, Lewis Brisbois

Coral Gables

Along with leading the firm's Miami office, Ehrenreich co-chairs its general liability practice. His practice focuses on civil litigation, with an emphasis on catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death, products liability, construction defect, premises liability and negligent security, and mass tort/class actions.

Education: B.A., Colgate University; M.S., St. Thomas University; J.D., University of Miami

Contact: [www.lewisbrisbois.com](http://www.lewisbrisbois.com), [todd.ehrenreich@lewisbrisbois.com](mailto:todd.ehrenreich@lewisbrisbois.com), 786-353-0223

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### **Nelson Epelbaum**

Partner, Haller Robbins Epelbaum Misiunas

Miami

Epelbaum has over 25 years of public accounting experience serving as a key financial advisor to businesses, entrepreneurs and high-net-worth individuals. He previously worked with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Birthplace: Miami Beach

Education: B.S., accounting, M.S., taxation, University of Florida

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Attracting and retaining talent.

What I would change in my profession: The hours compression issue in public accounting.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: You can't micro-manage everything. Hire good people, train them properly and trust them.

Message to future professionals: Never stop learning.

My latest cultural discovery: My youngest son has shown me that they are still making some good alternative rock music today.

Top of my personal bucket list: Surfing in Hawaii.

Contact: [www.hrem-cpa.com](http://www.hrem-cpa.com), 305-858-5800

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## **Rabecca Eunis**

Chair, FICPA Broward Chapter; CEO, The Eunis Group

Fort Lauderdale

Eunis is co-founder and CFO of The Eunis Group, co-creator of The Launch Financial Literacy Program, co-creator of LLCs and S-Corp Program, and the

voice behind “The Entrepreneurs Edge with Rabecca Eunis” podcast. A second-generation CPA, she has been in the industry for over 40 years.

Education: B.B.A., accounting, Bryant University

Contact: [www.eunisgroup.com](http://www.eunisgroup.com), [rabecca@eunisgroup.com](mailto:rabecca@eunisgroup.com)

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## **Amanda Fernandez**

President, Cuban American Bar Association; managing partner, Rivero Mestre

Miami



Fernandez heads the 1,000-member organization and is the immediate past president of CABA Pro Bono, which provides free legal services to low-income families. In her practice, she focuses on complex business, securities, and cross-border litigation.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: Bachelor's degree, political science, Florida International University; J.D., Villanova University

Why I chose my profession: I enjoy solving complex problems and navigating high-stakes legal challenges.

What would I change in my profession: Increase access to justice for underserved communities through expanded pro bono.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Balancing tech benefits with risks to privacy and data security.

Highlight from my career: Successfully defending the self-proclaimed inventor of bitcoin in a \$600 billion trial.

Contact: [www.cabaonline.com](http://www.cabaonline.com), [afernandez@riveromestre.com](mailto:afernandez@riveromestre.com), 305-445-2500

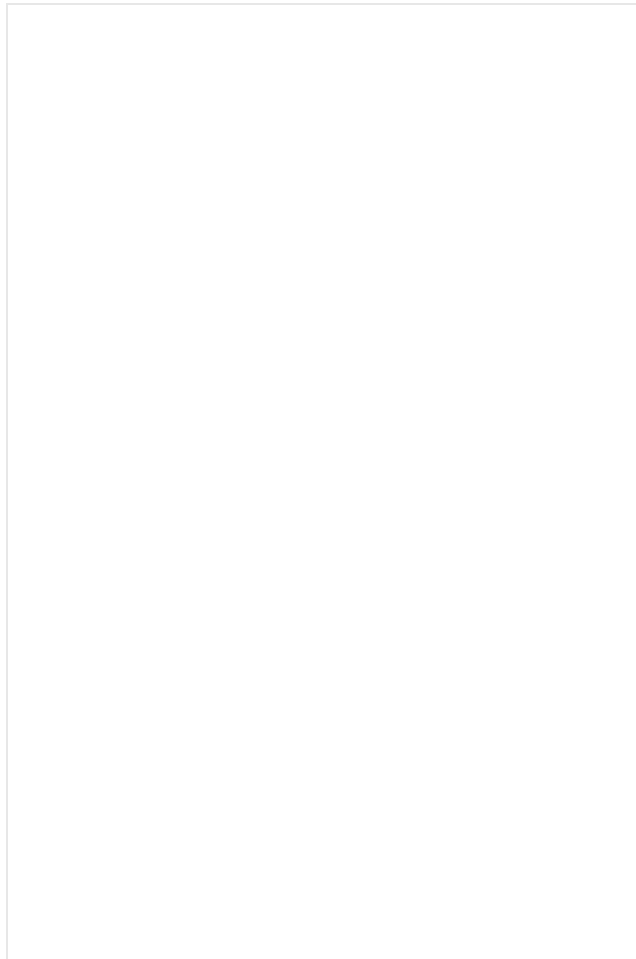
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**Barbara Fernandez**

Office partner-in-charge and capital partner, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP

Coral Gables





COURTESY OF HINSHAW & CULBERTSON LLP

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Fernandez practices in the areas of consumer finance litigation in the defense of individual and class action claims. She recently won an appeal to the 11th Circuit involving the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.S., Florida International University; J.D., University of Miami

Why I chose my profession: The law is intellectually stimulating; I enjoy its storytelling and research aspects.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: The increase in remote work forced me to adapt to new ways of managing teams and fostering collaboration.

Message to future professionals: I encourage them to devote time to mentoring to make a measurable difference in the career paths of others.

My latest cultural discovery: Skiing Aspen Snowmass.

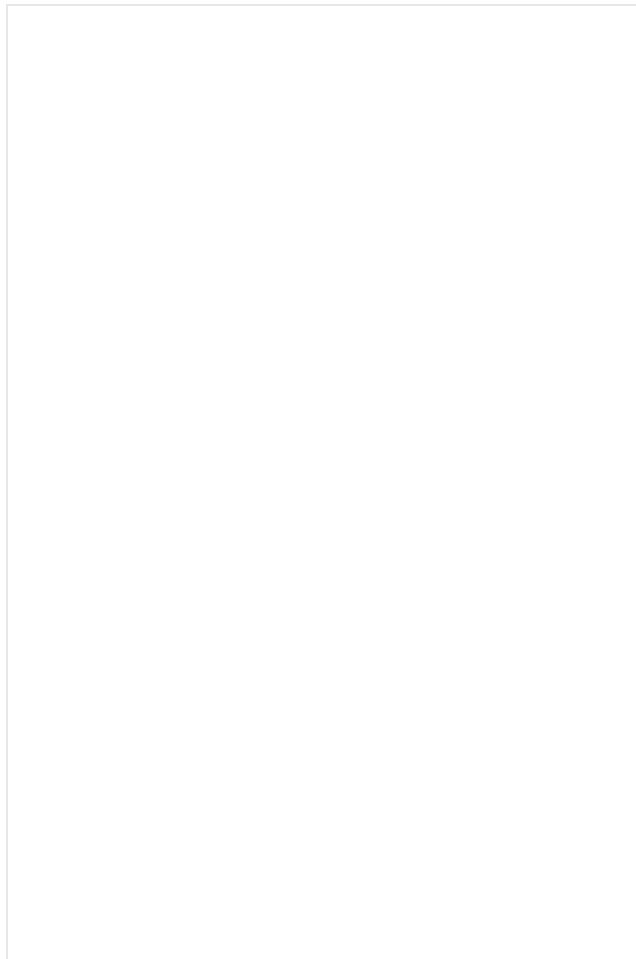
Contact: [www.hinshawlaw.com](http://www.hinshawlaw.com), [bfernandez@hinshawlaw.com](mailto:bfernandez@hinshawlaw.com), 305-428-5031

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**Katherine Fernandez Rundle**

Miami-Dade State Attorney

Miami



J. ALBERT DIAZ

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Prior to her 1993 appointment, Fernandez Rundle worked as a prosecutor. Her work has advanced prosecutions for human trafficking, domestic violence, child sexual assault and elderly exploitation, and helped further the creation of treatment courts.

Birthplace: Washington, D.C.

Education: Bachelor's degree, University of Miami; law degree, University of Cambridge Law School

Why I chose my profession: My father was Miami's first Hispanic judge and a founder of the Cuban American Bar Association.

Most unexpected recent change to my profession: The rise of artificial intelligence as a tool in the law.

What I would change in my profession: I would wish for a return of respect, civility and courtesy by all criminal justice professionals.

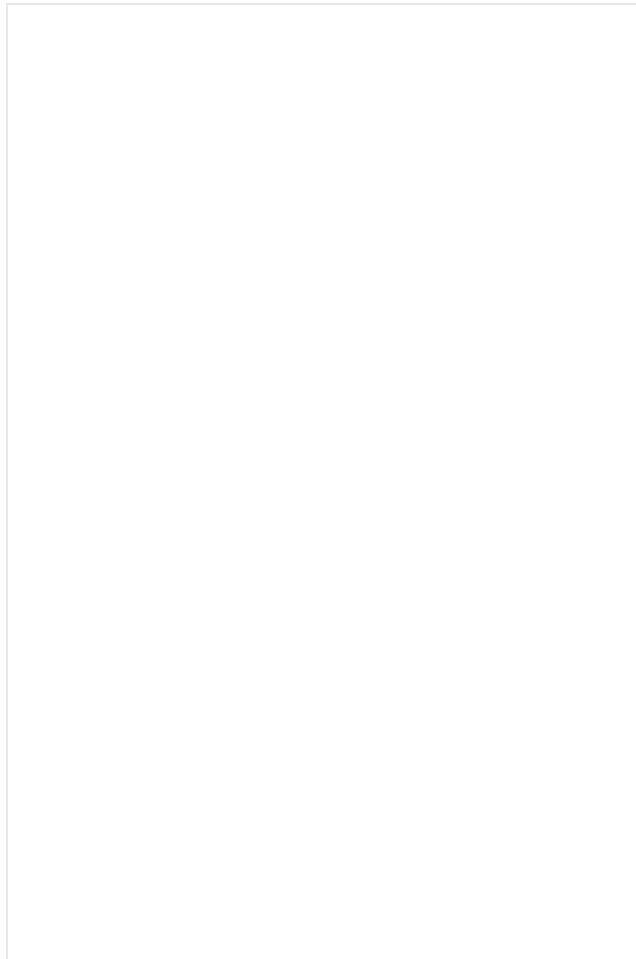
Contact: [www.miamisao.com](http://www.miamisao.com), 305-547-0535,  
[katherinefernandezrundle@miamisao.com](mailto:katherinefernandezrundle@miamisao.com)

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## **Wifredo Ferrer**

Executive partner, Holland & Knight LLP

Miami



COURTESY OF HOLLAND & KNIGHT

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Ferrer, a former U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida, chairs the firm's global compliance and investigations team. He focuses his practice primarily on internal corporate investigations, corporate compliance and training, and white-collar criminal defense.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: A.B., economics, University of Miami; J.D., University of Pennsylvania

Why I chose my profession: Legal Aid attorneys saved my family when I was young. I wanted to pay it forward.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Navigating global compliance in an evolving regulatory landscape.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Listen first, then lead with purpose and integrity.

Highlight from my career: Convicting a political torturer from Cuba – the first case of its kind in the U.S.

Top of my personal bucket list: Visit Cuba.

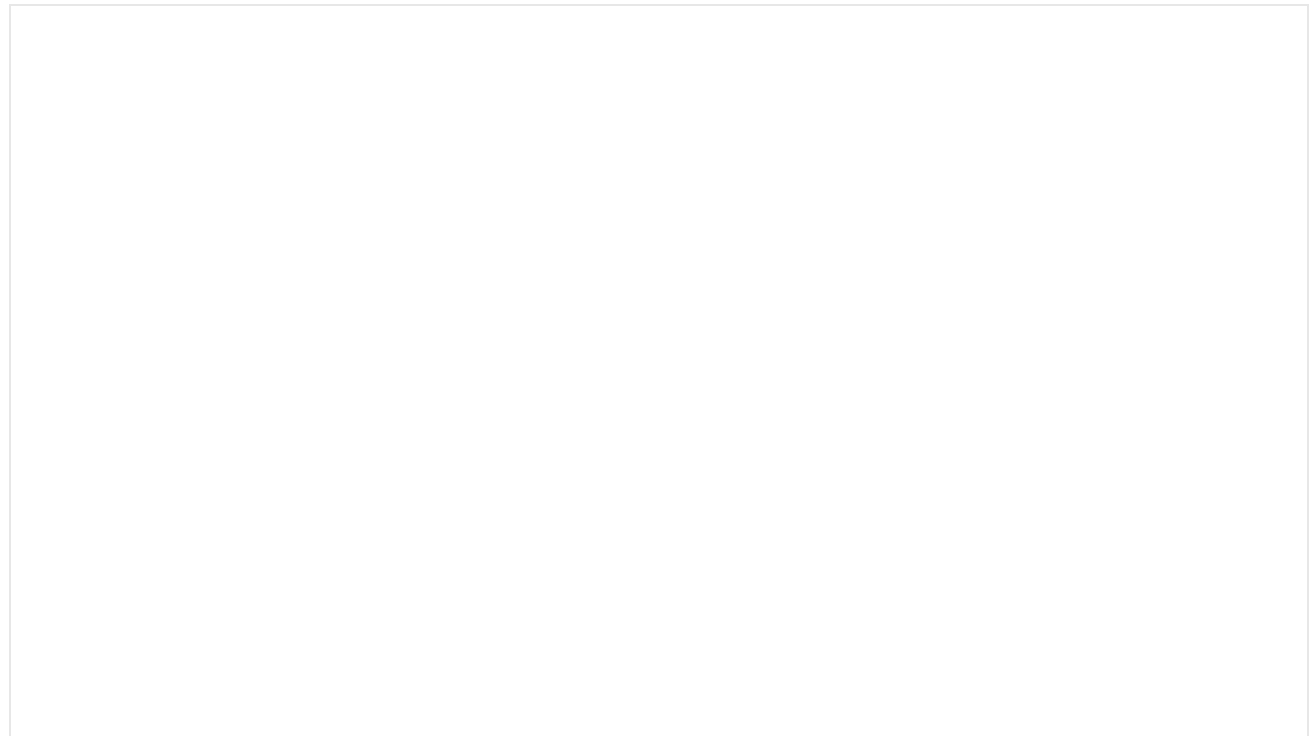
Contact: [www.hklaw.com](http://www.hklaw.com), 305-789-7780

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**Michael Fichtel**

CEO and principal partner, Kelley Kronenberg

Fort Lauderdale



Fichtel heads a firm with more than 400 employees in 12 locations throughout the U.S. In 2023, it opened a second building at its Fort Lauderdale headquarters, plus offices in New York City and Indiana.

Birthplace: Monroe, New York

Education: B.A., University of Florida; J.D., Nova Southeastern University

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: I wake up every day with my mission being how I can improve both the business and me today.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Never be the smartest person in the room.

Message to future professionals: Today's legal practice is a business, and success depends on quality of work, preparedness and responsiveness.

Highlight from my career: Celebrating 38 years with my firm – my first and only job since law school.

Contact: [www.kklaw.com](http://www.kklaw.com), [info@kklaw.com](mailto:info@kklaw.com), 800-484-4381

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## **Jack Fintz**

President, FICPA North Dade/South Broward Chapter; owner and president, Fintz CPA

Sunrise

Fintz heads a local chapter of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants, which serves more than 18,500 members statewide. He co-founded Fintz CPA with his wife, Betsy Fintz, in 2008.

Birthplace: South Florida

Education: Bachelor's degree, finance and accounting, master's degree, accounting, Florida International University

Contact: [www.fintzcpa.com](http://www.fintzcpa.com), [jack@fintzcpa.com](mailto:jack@fintzcpa.com), 954-440-0320

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## **Sheri Fiske Schultz**

Managing partner, Fiske – a Springline company

Fort Lauderdale



ALISON FRANK

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Fiske Schultz is a nationally recognized expert in forensic accounting, litigation support and business valuation. She provides expert witness testimony and helped shape national valuation standards for certified public accountants.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: Bachelor's and master's degrees, accounting, University of Florida

Why I chose my profession: My father was a CPA, and I wanted to be like him.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Florida attempting to deregulate the CPA license.

Most unexpected recent change to my profession: The influx of private equity acquiring CPA firms.

Message to future professionals: Accounting enables you to obtain a job in almost any profession.

Top of my personal bucket list: Travel to all seven continents.

Contact: [www.fiskeco.com](http://www.fiskeco.com), [sheri@fiskeco.com](mailto:sheri@fiskeco.com), 954-236-8600

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## **Gina M. Fraga**

President, Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association; partner, Acosta & Fraga Law PLLC

Lake Worth

Since 2007, Fraga has focused her legal career in immigration law. She is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has chaired the AILA South Florida West Palm Beach USCIS Committee. She also works with Americans for Immigrant Justice, the Legal Aid Society of PBC and the Guatemalan-Maya Center in Lake Worth.

Birthplace: Puerto Rico

Education: Bachelor's degree, J.D., University of Florida



Contact: [www.pbchispanicbar.com](http://www.pbchispanicbar.com)

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## **Amy Furness**

Office co-managing shareholder, Carlton Fields

Miami



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Furness' law practice represents both domestic and foreign corporations in the pharmaceutical, aviation, chemical, tobacco and consumer products industries in complex civil litigation, particularly product liability and commercial litigation.

Birthplace: Philadelphia

Education: B.S., Drexel University; J.D., Widener University School of Law

Contact: [www.carltonfields.com](http://www.carltonfields.com), [afurness@carltonfields.com](mailto:afurness@carltonfields.com), 305-539-7253

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## **Alan Garcia**

Office managing partner, EY

Boca Raton



EY

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Garcia leads the firm's Boca Raton team of professionals, as well as its Florida and Puerto Rico audit practice.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.B.A., accounting, M.S., accountancy, University of Miami

Why I chose my profession: To bring trust and transparency to investors and users of the financial statements.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Access to talent as the number of enrolling CPAs declines.

What I would change in my profession: Review requirements for CPA licensure.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: I am more patient and open to alternative perspectives.

Message to future professionals: Stay on top of the evolving technologies like AI.

Contact: [www.ey.com](http://www.ey.com), 561-955-8000

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**Paul A. Garcia**

Managing partner, Garcia, Santa Maria, De Armas Trujillo PLLC

Coral Gables



Garcia has over 40 years of experience in U.S. taxation of individuals, businesses, trusts and estates, as well as taxation of nonresident aliens and foreign corporations. He has been an expert in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Monroe county courts.

Birthplace: Cuba

Education: B.B.A., Florida International University

Why I chose my profession: I was inspired by a professor at Miami Dade College.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Lack of staffing due to the drop in accounting graduates at universities.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Communicate and lead by example.

My latest cultural discovery: I just came back from an incredible golfing trip to Bandon Dunes, Oregon.

Top on my personal bucket list: Various European destinations and attend a Ryder Cup golf tournament.

Contact: [www.gsmcpas.com](http://www.gsmcpas.com), 305-448-0404

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**Tracy L. Gerber**

Office co-managing shareholder, Greenberg Traurig

West Palm Beach



COURTESY OF GREENBERG TRAURIG

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Gerber co-chairs the firm's broker-dealer securities litigation practice. She defends major Wall Street firms in multimillion-dollar arbitrations in FINRA, AAA and JAMS. Recent cases include victories for Morgan Stanley, J.P. Morgan and Fidelity.

Birthplace: Tampa

Education: B.A., history, Tulane University; J.D., University of Florida

Why I chose my profession: I love problem-solving, teaching and public speaking. Law combines all three.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Invest early in others to nurture their potential.

Message to future professionals: Never underestimate the value of hard work and preparedness.

Highlight from my career: Receiving PayPal's Legal Leaders Award, honoring my commitment to mentoring.

My latest cultural discovery: Exploring Maori history in New Zealand.

Contact: [www.gtlaw.com](http://www.gtlaw.com), 561-650-7985

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## **Katie Gilden**

Partner and COO, Fiske – a Springline company

Fort Lauderdale



Gilden specializes in business valuation, forensic accounting and litigation support. She leads complex financial investigations and provides expert consulting to attorneys and clients across a wide range of legal and financial matters.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.B.A., accounting; M.S., taxation; MBA, University of Miami

Why I chose my profession: I love numbers and puzzles; forensic accounting mashes them together.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Talent shortage.

What I would change in my profession: The focus on hourly billing, rather than value billing.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: I am more comfortable doing uncomfortable work.

Message to future professionals: Respect is not a given; it must be earned.

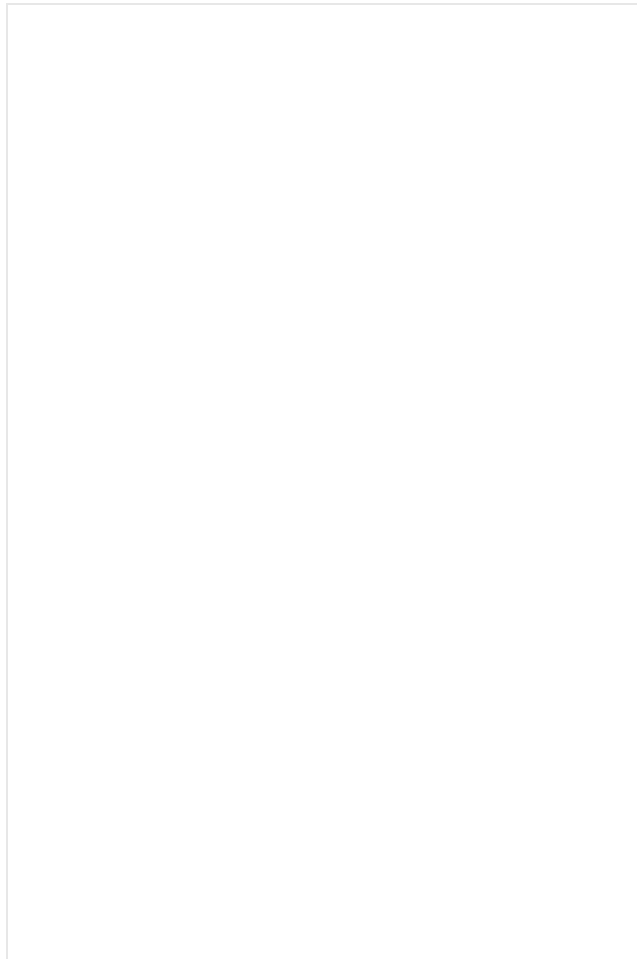
Contact: [www.fiskeco.com](http://www.fiskeco.com), [katie@fiskeco.com](mailto:katie@fiskeco.com), 954-236-8600

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**Glenn E. Goldstein**

Office co-managing shareholder, Greenberg Traurig

Fort Lauderdale



LENA ISELY PHOTOGRAPHY

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Goldstein is a trial attorney with over 40 years of experience. He has handled commercial, corporate, financial institution, real estate, health care and product liability litigation matters, including class actions.

Birthplace: Birmingham, Alabama

Education: B.A., University of Alabama at Birmingham; J.D.,  
Samford University

Why I chose my profession: Being a high school debate champ ignited an interest in advocacy.

What I would change in my profession: Bring back more civility among advocates.



Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: To be thoughtful, measured and consistent.

Message to future professionals: Always seek out opportunities for growth.

My latest cultural discovery: The National Tile Museum in Lisbon, Portugal.

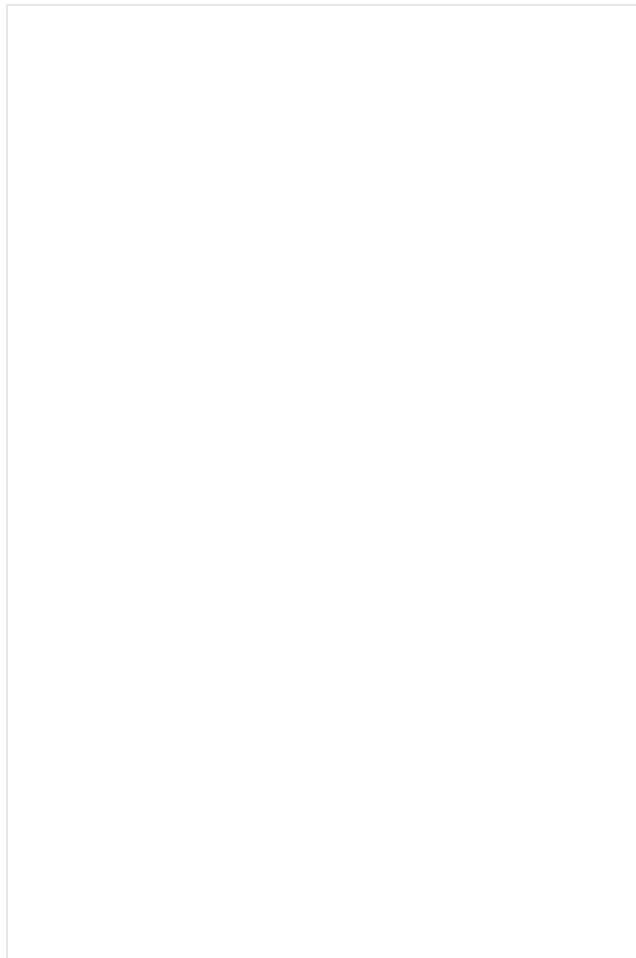
Contact: [www.gtlaw.com](http://www.gtlaw.com), 954-768-8205

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**Andrew Gordon**

Office partner-in-charge and capital partner, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP

Fort Lauderdale



Gordon is a management-side labor and employment litigator who also counsels employers on a range of human resources policy and compliance issues. Recently, he

successfully argued several employee retaliation claims under Florida's Public Whistleblower Act.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.A., international affairs and political science, Florida State University; J.D., St. Thomas University

Why I chose my profession: I've always had a strong interest in justice and advocating for the rights of others.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: How to coexist with and identify ways of utilizing AI to benefit all.

Most unexpected recent change to my profession: Zoom replacing so many face-to-face interactions.

My latest cultural discovery: "A Land Remembered" by Patrick D. Smith. I should have read this book sooner.

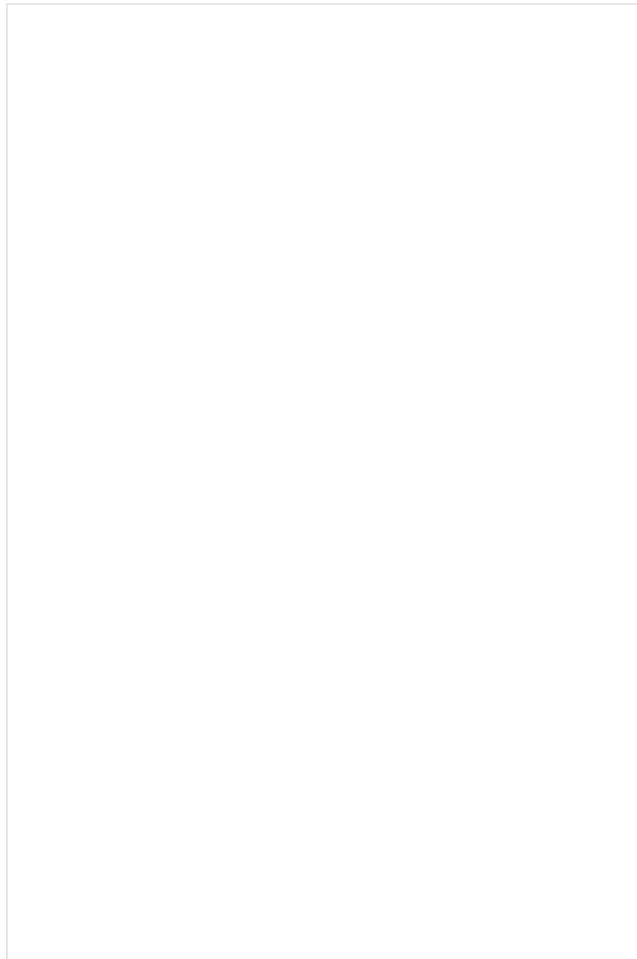
Contact: [www.hinshawlaw.com](http://www.hinshawlaw.com), [agordon@hinshawlaw.com](mailto:agordon@hinshawlaw.com), 954-375-1182

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**Matthew B. Gorson**

Senior chairman, Greenberg Traurig

Miami



COURTESY OF GREENBERG TRAURIG

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A leader in law and real estate, Gorson played a pivotal role in transforming the South Florida skyline through major projects from downtown Miami to Sunny Isles Beach. He also serves many organizations in voluntary leadership roles.

Birthplace: Philadelphia

Education: B.A., Tulane University; J.D., University of Chicago

Why I chose my profession: Real estate law became tradition; my father and grandfather were attorneys.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: Encouraging younger professionals to think big and broaden their practice areas.

Message to future professionals: Be a problem-solver and develop close relationships with your clients.

Highlight from my career: Helping to build the firm's reputation in real estate law into global prominence.

My latest cultural discovery: Haas Brothers sculptures.

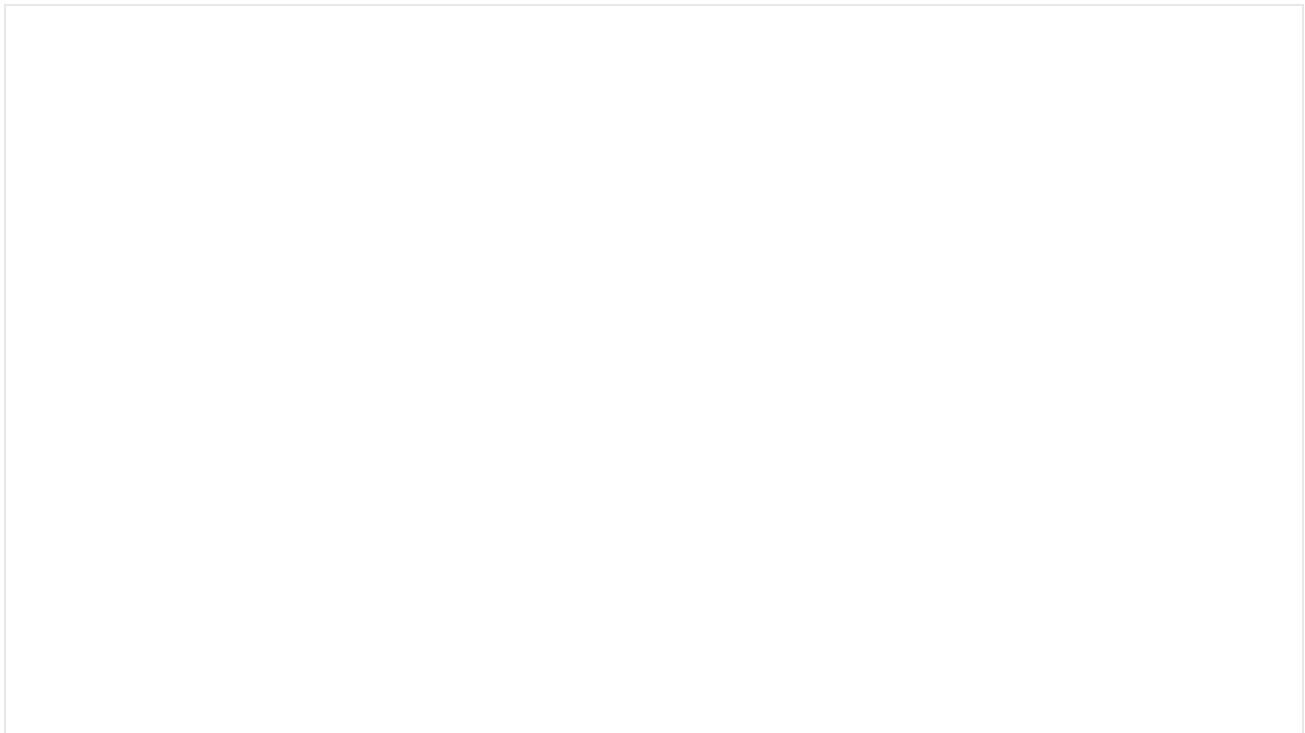
Contact: [www.gtlaw.com](http://www.gtlaw.com), 305-579-0777

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## **Frank Gramlich**

Chair, FICPA Atlantic Chapter; managing member and founder, Xavier Financial Services LLC

Boynton Beach



COURTESY OF XAVIER FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC

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As the chair of the Atlantic Chapter of the FICPA and a leader at IPP Boynton Beach, Gramlich brings professional knowledge and a network of resources to

his clients and peers.

Birthplace: Philadelphia

Education: B.B.A., accounting, Florida Atlantic University

Why I chose my profession: Honestly? Accounting provided the fastest path to opening my bagel shop.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Balancing IT, AI and automation, while maintaining personal client service.

Most impactful leadership lessons I've learned: Be authentic, build trust, own mistakes, teach to empower.

Top on my personal bucket list: I would like to visit every MLB stadium.

Contact: [www.xavierfinancialservices.com](http://www.xavierfinancialservices.com), [frank.gramlich2@xaviertax.com](mailto:frank.gramlich2@xaviertax.com), 561-739-4320

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**Gerry Greenspoon**

Co-managing director, Greenspoon Marder LLP

Fort Lauderdale



JOCK FISTICK / SOUTH FLORIDA BUSINESS JOURNAL

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Greenspoon co-founded the firm in 1981. Today, the firm has over 240 attorneys across the U.S. Greenspoon has gained national attention in the areas of real estate, resort and timeshare development; condominium conversions; and finance and transactions.

Birthplace: Montreal

Education: Bachelor of Commerce, Sir George Williams University; License of Laws, University of Ottawa; J.D., Nova Southeastern University

Why I chose my profession: I had a great interest in business and real estate, and the legal field filled that role.

Biggest challenge: Inflation and government deficits negatively affect economic outlook.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Trust your team.

Highlight from my career: Observing the success of clients and colleagues.

Contact: [www.gmlaw.com/attorneys/gerald-greenspoon](http://www.gmlaw.com/attorneys/gerald-greenspoon)

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## **Kim Griffin-Hunter**

South Florida managing partner, Deloitte LLP

Miami



DELOITTE

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Griffin-Hunter oversees over 600 people and is responsible for the strategy and direction of Deloitte's efforts and activities in South Florida. Since starting her career with the firm in 1989, she has led numerous client relationships, both large global companies and mid-market companies.

Education: B.B.A., MBA, accounting, University of Miami

Contact: [www.deloitte.com](http://www.deloitte.com), [kgriffin@deloitte.com](mailto:kgriffin@deloitte.com), 305-372-3159

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## **Jordi Gusó**

Managing partner, Berger Singerman LLP

Miami



Image: Courtesy of Berger Singerman

COURTESY OF BERGER SINGERMAN

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Along with his client work, Gusó is committed to pro bono service, expanding access to justice for those in need. As the firm celebrates its 40th anniversary, it continues to support legal services for underserved communities.



Birthplace: Havana

Education: B.S., Spring Hill College; J.D., University of Miami

Why I chose my profession: I enjoyed the bankruptcy class in law school and was offered a judicial clerkship following graduation. There's been no turning back since.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: Patience, empathy and clarity now guide every decision.

Message to future professionals: Work hard, stay humble, give back and serve others meaningfully.

Highlight from my career: Resolving all claims relating to the FIU pedestrian bridge collapse in under nine months.

Top on my personal bucket list: More travel with our extended family.

Contact: [www.bergersingerman.com](http://www.bergersingerman.com), 305-982-4093

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## **Gregory R. Haller**

Partner, Haller Robbins Epelbaum Misiunas

Miami

Haller has over two decades' experience working in public accounting, as well as coordinating the planning and execution of various client engagements. Practice areas include health care, real estate, family offices and litigation support.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.S., accounting, University of South Florida; Master of Accounting, Florida International University

Why I chose my profession: I come from a long line of accountants.

The biggest challenge facing my industry: Keeping up with demand as the supply of CPAs has decreased in recent years.

What I would change in my profession: The April 15 deadline. There's no reason why every American needs the same deadline.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: I lead by doing and try to be very understanding that there is a world outside of work.

Top of my personal bucket list: Coaching my 12-year-old and his team in Cooperstown, New York, this summer.

Contact: [www.hrem-cpa.com](http://www.hrem-cpa.com), 305-858-5800

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**Jerry D. Hamilton**

Organization managing partner, Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel LLP

Miami



HAMILTON, MILLER & BIRTHISEL LLP

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Hamilton leads one of the country's largest Black-owned law firms, which holds both national and metro rankings in the 2023 Best Law Firms report by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Birthplace: Kingston, Jamaica

Education: B.A., University of Miami; J.D., University of South Florida

Contact: [www.hamiltonmillerlaw.com](http://www.hamiltonmillerlaw.com), [jhamilton@hamiltonmillerlaw.com](mailto:jhamilton@hamiltonmillerlaw.com), 305-379-3686

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### **Michelle Harper**

President, Broward County Hispanic Bar Association; supervising VOCA attorney, Florida Legal Services

Fort Lauderdale

Harper specializes in domestic violence and has secured both temporary and permanent injunctions for protection. Throughout her career, she has guided hundreds of survivors through the complexities of the legal system to secure needed protection. She also serves as a supervising attorney at Florida Legal Services, and is involved with the Hate Crimes Task Force for the Office of the State Attorney and the Domestic Violence Committee of the Florida Bar's Family Law Section.

Education: B.A., political science and philosophy, University of Miami; J.D., Western Michigan University

Contact: [www.floridalegal.org](http://www.floridalegal.org)

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## **John Hart**

Office managing shareholder, Carlton Fields

West Palm Beach



Hart has more than 40 years of experience focused on commercial real estate litigation, contract and business disputes, trust and estate matters, commercial leasing, property management, and distressed assets and loan workouts.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: B.A., University of Miami; J.D., University of Virginia

Biggest challenge facing my industry: The advent of AI and its impact on our judicial system.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Be humble and respectful of others.

Highlight from my career: Coaching the Miami Lakes Middle School Mock Trial Team to the 2025 State Finals.

My latest cultural discovery: Taipei City

Top of my personal bucket list: Stay physically fit and make the most of each day.

Contact: [www.carltonfields.com](http://www.carltonfields.com), [jhart@carltonfields.com](mailto:jhart@carltonfields.com), 561-650-8024

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**Blain Heckaman**

CEO, Kaufman Rossin

Miami



## KAUFMAN ROSSIN

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As CEO, Heckaman has propelled Kaufman Rossin to be ranked among the Top 50 CPA and advisory firms in the U.S. He leads the firm's strategic vision, growth plans and innovation initiatives, including digital transformation and tech-driven advancements.

Birthplace: Elkhart, Indiana

Education: B.S., accounting, Ball State University

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Evolving the business model in the age of AI.

Most unexpected recent change to my profession: PE-driven mergers and acquisitions are rapidly consolidating the industry.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: As leaders, we serve others – not the other way around.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: A shift to preparing the next generation for success.

Top of my personal bucket list: Travel to other continents.

Contact: [www.kaufmanrossin.com](http://www.kaufmanrossin.com), [bheckaman@kaufmanrossin.com](mailto:bheckaman@kaufmanrossin.com), 305-858-5600

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**Mark Hendricks**

Managing partner, Lydecker LLP

Miami and Boca Raton



COURTESY OF LYDECKER

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Hendricks maintains a trial and civil litigation practice in federal, state and appellate courts statewide. His areas of practice include commercial litigation, professional liability/malpractice defense, insurance/tort liability defense, and labor and employment.

Birthplace: New London, Connecticut

Education: B.A., J.D., University of Miami

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Civility and professionalism.

How my leadership approach has evolved with age: I have and will always lead by setting the example.



Message to figure professionals: Play the long game and avoid moves based on short-term gains. Experienced mentors that will develop your skill set are worth far more than a larger paycheck.

My latest cultural discovery: Galapagos expedition.

Top of my personal bucket list: Hawaii and the French Polynesian Islands are my next stops this year.

Contact: [www.lydecker.com](http://www.lydecker.com), 305-416-3180

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## **Armando Hernandez**

CEO, H&CO

Miami



Image: Courtesy of H&CO

Hernandez is a *Forbes*-recognized CPA who scaled H&CO to over 900 professionals across 30 countries. He led key acquisitions, building an integrated platform for entity setup, staffing, SAP solutions and international tax services.

Birthplace: Florida, Cuba

Education: MBA, Duke University; master's degree, taxation, Florida International University

Why I chose my profession: To help companies grow through global expansion and investment.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Rapid transformation driven by AI and globalization.

What I would change in my profession: More innovation, fewer compliance burdens.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Hire great people, then trust and empower them.

Top of my personal bucket list: Live one year in Europe.

Contact: [www.hco.com](http://www.hco.com), [hernandez@hco.com](mailto:hernandez@hco.com), 305-444-8800

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**Carlos Hernandez**

Office managing partner and board member, RSM

Miami



TORREGROSA,SUSAN

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Hernandez has practiced public accounting and financial management for 25 years, focused on the health care industry. The firm was named to Fortune's 100 Best Companies to Work For and Great Places to Work in 2022, and among *People* magazine's People Companies that Care in 2021.

Birthplace: Miami

Education: Bachelor's degree, accountancy, MacMurray College

Contact: [www.rsmus.com](http://www.rsmus.com), [carlos.hernandez@rsmus.com](mailto:carlos.hernandez@rsmus.com)

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**Aaron J. Horowitz**

President, Broward County Bar Association; managing shareholder, Horowitz Law Firm, P.A.

Fort Lauderdale



GREG HERNANDEZ

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The current president of the Broward County Bar Association, Horowitz serves as outside general counsel to businesses, advising on transactions, contracts and disputes. He is a Florida Supreme Court-certified circuit civil mediator and a AAA commercial arbitrator.

Birthplace: Fort Lauderdale

Education: B.S.B.A., J.D., University of Florida

Why I chose my profession: To guide businesses through growth and conflict.

Biggest challenge facing my industry: Balancing tech disruption with traditional legal standards.

Most impactful leadership lesson I've learned: Clear direction builds trust and momentum.

Message to fellow professionals: Business acumen matters as much as legal skill.

Top of my personal bucket list: Join an active dig at Jerusalem's City of David excavations.

Contact: [www.horowitzfirm.com](http://www.horowitzfirm.com), 954-712-7444

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**T H E L I S T**

## **Here are the 25 largest accounting firms in South Florida**

S. Fla. CPAs