

PODHURST ORSECK, P.A.

MIAMI, FLORIDA

PODHURST ORSECK, P.A.

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AARON S. PODHURST

ROBERT ORSECK (1934-1978)

ROBERT C. JOSEFSBERG

JOEL D. EATON

STEVEN C. MARKS

PETER PRIETO

STEPHEN F. ROSENTHAL

RICARDO M. MARTÍNEZ-CID

RAMON A. RASCO

JOHN GRAVANTE, III

LEA P. BUCCIERO

MATTHEW P. WEINSHALL

ALISSA DEL RIEGO

KRISTINA INFANTE

WALTER H. BECKHAM, JR. (1920 - 2011)

KAREN PODHURST DERN (OF COUNSEL)

FIRM PROFILE

GENERAL CIVIL AND CRIMINAL TRIAL AND
APPELLATE PRACTICE IN ALL COURTS

PRINCIPAL PRACTICE AREAS

Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Litigation

Aviation Litigation

Class Action

Commercial Litigation

General Tort Practice Concentrating in

Automobile Negligence, Product Liability and Medical Malpractice Litigation

Criminal Litigation

Appellate Practice

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BOUT THE FIRM

Podhurst Orseck continues a legal practice, established in 1967, concentrating exclusively in trial and appellate litigation. The firm is dedicated to offering the highest caliber legal representation in both federal and state trial and appellate courts. The firm's general tort practice places a major emphasis upon aviation, automobile, products liability and medical malpractice litigation. In addition, the firm has a substantial practice in commercial and criminal litigation, as well as complex commercial tort litigation. From its inception, the firm has also cultivated an appellate practice, handling appeals of not only the firm's own trial lawyers, but also of other lawyers throughout the State of Florida, in the various state and federal appellate courts. The firm's practice serves clients and corporations throughout the United States, and in several foreign countries.

Our firm has consistently received an AV-Rating from Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, the highest possible rating, based on legal ability and general ethical standards.

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REAS OF PRACTICE

General Tort Practice Concentrating in Automobile Negligence, Product Liability and Medical Malpractice Litigation

Since its inception, the foundation of the firm's trial practice has been general tort law. Our experience runs the gamut of such cases, from automobile liability to complex products liability, to business-related torts. Literally thousands of general negligence and product liability cases of all sorts have been prepared, negotiated, and either settled or tried by the members of this firm. An abbreviated listing of the types of cases handled would include all types of general negligence cases (from automobile and slip and fall accidents to boating and diving accidents), product liability cases (involving cranes, automobiles, rollover and tire tread separation, trenchers, food-processing equipment, marine engines, hand-tools and ladders, to name a few) and complex medical, legal, accounting, architectural and engineering malpractice claims.

Aviation Litigation

A major emphasis within the firm's general tort practice is aviation litigation. The firm is recognized as one of the premier plaintiffs' aviation law firms in the world. We believe that the firm has handled more plaintiffs' aviation cases than any other firm in the southeastern United States. The firm has represented multiple victims of over 40 major air disasters over the past fifty years. In addition, the firm has handled in excess of 100 small or light plane crashes involving private, non-commercial airplanes.

Members of this firm have chaired the Aviation and Space Committee of the Tort & Insurance Practice Section of the American Bar Association; the Aviation Committee of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America; the Aviation Committee of The Florida Bar; and the Aviation Advisory Committee of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. We have been guest lecturers at more than 100 aviation law seminars, including the American Bar Association's National Institutes on Aviation and Lloyds of London's international meetings; at Florida Bar, The Florida Justice Association, and American Association for Justice seminars. Firm members have been court appointed as lead counsel in federal aviation multidistrict litigation proceedings; and have tried or settled numerous aviation accident cases. Two of our partners are licensed pilots. One served as a naval aviator in the United States Navy from 1965 to 1971, and flew 150 combat missions in Southeast Asia in carrier-based A-7 aircraft. He also worked as an aircraft systems safety engineer and accident investigator for the Vought Aeronautics Division of LTV Aerospace Corporation between his service in the Navy and attending law school.

This firm is proud to have played a prominent role in the development of aviation jurisprudence over the past fifty years. It has acquired in this context specialized expertise on such complex questions as jurisdiction, venue, forum non conveniens, and

choice of law. Members of this firm have appeared before every local federal and state court, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the Florida and U.S. Supreme Courts, the Panel on Multi-District Litigation and the U.S. Congress on behalf of aviation plaintiffs.

Commercial Litigation

Nearly fifty percent of this firm's trial and appellate litigation involves the resolution of corporate and commercial disputes. Our practice varies from the most complex commercial cases to straight forward contract disputes. The firm's commercial clientele includes Fortune 500 companies, small and middle-sized companies, and private individuals.

The firm handles commercial cases under both hourly and contingency arrangements. We employ experienced paralegal and support staff to assist the lawyers in order to ensure cost efficient handling of these cases. In addition, the firm has developed and implemented an advanced, computerized litigation support system to deal with the voluminous documentation usually associated with complex commercial litigation.

A sampling of major commercial matters handled during the past several years includes:

- Defense before the United States Supreme Court (and in intermediate trial and appellate courts) of a challenge to personal jurisdiction conferred under a franchise agreement utilized nationwide by a Fortune 500 company;
- Obtaining a multi-million dollar punitive and compensatory damage award for a local client against a corporate banking customer engaged in fraudulent wire transfers;
- The successful representation of a group of major investors in a proxy battle over control of a large locally-based banking institution;
- Securing a multi-million dollar verdict, including punitive and compensatory damages, for an independent insurance agent whose exclusive agency relationship was wrongfully terminated by a major insurance provider;
- Prosecution of securities and racketeering claims by a group of minority shareholders against entrenched management of a local savings and loan;
- Defense of employee wrongful discharge, Title VII, and ADEA claims for a major local developer;
- Defense of several "Big Six" accounting firms in accounting malpractice cases.

- Successful defense of a high media profile tortious interference claim by well known boxing promoters against a world champion boxer.
- Serving as Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel in a nation-wide, federal class action on behalf of physician providers against all of the major medical insurance providers;
- Serving by court appointment as Lead Counsel in several federal multi-district litigation (MDL) proceedings;
- Serving as Lead Counsel for plaintiffs in a One Billion Dollar securities class action involving 34,000 world-wide investors.

In addition to the areas mentioned, our commercial practice includes securities litigation; business torts; trademark and patent infringement; employment law; lender liability; attorney and accountant malpractice; director and officer liability, products liability, class actions and anti-trust claims.

Appellate Practice

Two of our partners--Joel Eaton and Stephen F. Rosenthal--devote their practices exclusively to appellate litigation and complex trial-level motions, handling all in-house matters and referrals from attorneys and clients all over the United States. They practice primarily in the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the Florida Supreme Court, and the intermediate Florida District Courts of Appeal, but they also handle appellate litigation elsewhere in the United States. Mr. Eaton has also argued several cases in the United States Supreme Court. Their practice mirrors the substantive diversity of the firm as a whole, and includes plaintiffs' personal-injury, medical malpractice, and wrongful-death cases, including aviation-related matters and commercial matters of all types.

White Collar Criminal Investigations and Litigation

The firm has a special interest and concentration in the areas of white collar crime and commercial fraud. The focus of the practice is the representation of individuals, corporate executives and corporations, in both Florida and federal proceedings, ranging from grand jury investigations to criminal prosecutions and appeals. The firm has handled litigation involving environmental matters, bank fraud, political contributions, tax fraud, mail and wire fraud, RICO violations, securities fraud, anti-trust price fixing, bar grievances, official corruption, and various other economic crimes. The firm has also handled quasi-criminal forfeitures and seizures of assets.

Date of Profile: July 17, 2019

Contact for additional information: Aaron S. Podhurst, Esq. (305) 358-2800

FIRM MEMBERS

AARON PODHURST

Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Litigation

Aviation Litigation

Commercial Litigation

Product Liability

Professional Malpractice

Aaron Podhurst has been a distinguished trial lawyer for more than fifty years. He received his B.A. from the University of Michigan and his Juris Doctorate Degree from Columbia University, where he was a Harland Fiske Stone Scholar. Aaron is admitted to the Florida and New York Bars.

Aaron's distinguished career has brought him honors and offices from virtually every major legal organization, including the presidencies of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, fellowship in the American College of Trial Lawyers, member of Board of Governors of Association of Trial Lawyers of America, membership in the International Society of Barristers and the Inner Circle of Advocates, member of the Cuban American Bar Association and chairmanship of various aviation committees of the American Bar Association, Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers.

Although Aaron made his reputation as one of the nation's premiere plaintiff's aviation lawyers, and continues to hold that status, he has guided the firm in recent years to its status as one of the major commercial litigation firms in South Florida. At the same time, he has managed to devote countless hours to community service, including the presidency of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and membership in many other civic organizations. He is the recipient of the Medallion of Honor from the National Conference for Community and Justice and the 1999 Jurisprudence Award from the Anti-Defamation League, and the 2010 recipient of the "Legal Legends" award presented by the 11th Judicial Circuit Historical Society and the Historical Museum of South Florida. Aaron is also the recipient of the 2014 Honorable Theodore "Ted" Klein Special Recognition Award.

Aaron Podhurst was awarded the distinguished Learned Hand award presented by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and the Lifetime Achievement award by the Daily Business Review.

ROBERT ORSECK (1934-1978)

At the time of his death, Robert Orseck was the firm's appellate attorney. He inspired both friendship and respect, and his loss is felt personally and painfully by all who knew him.

In the fifteen years in which he practiced, Bobby established himself as the premier appellate practitioner in Florida. Although his services were sought by a large variety of clients, he chose to devote his career primarily to the representation of tort plaintiffs, and he often appeared on behalf of the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers as *amicus curiae* in major appeals affecting the rights of accident victims. His deep sense of compassion for the rights and lives of others, combined with his legal genius and abounding energy, produced an impressive anthology of case law containing important decisions familiar to every trial and appellate attorney in Florida. They include *Holl v. Talcott*, *West v. Caterpillar Tractor Co., Inc.*, *Metropolitan Dade County v. Dillon*, *Compania Dominicana de Aviacion v. Knapp*, *Gates v. Foley*, *Auburn Machine Works Co. v. Jones*, *Lincenberg v. Issen*, *Mathews v. Ranger*, *Wood v. Camp*, and *Markert v. Johnson*. The Southern Reporter and Federal Reporter contain over 350 reported decisions in which Bobby appeared as counsel.

Many memorials have been and will be dedicated to Bobby Orseck. His presence will continue to be felt in the appellate process for many years to come, because of his intelligent and untiring efforts in shaping the law of Florida.

ROBERT C. JOSEFSBERG

Commercial Litigation
White-Collar Criminal Litigation

Bob received his B.A. Degree from Dartmouth College. He received his Juris Doctorate Degree from Yale Law School. He is admitted to the Florida Bar and to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Bob is one of Dade County's premiere trial lawyers. He has been listed annually since 1987 in the Best Lawyers in America in two categories—Business Litigation and Criminal Law since 2003 and from 2003 he has been listed in Chambers and Partners as one of the top four commercial litigators in Florida. In 2006 he was listed #1 trial lawyer in Florida by Super Lawyers. In 2007 he was selected as one of 12 Legal Legends by the 11th Judicial Circuit Historical Society. He has received the Dade County Bar David Dyer Professionalism Award, the Bnai Brith Professionalism Award, the Florida Defense Lawyers Rodney Thaxton "Against All Odds" award, the American Bar Association Senior Section Pro Bono Award, the Florida Bar Tobias Simon Pro Bono Service Award in (2009 -2010) and the Florida Bar Foundation's Medal of Honor Award 2013.

In 2012, he was awarded the Florida Bar Criminal Law Section's Selig I. Goldin Memorial Award, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation Theodore "Ted" Klein Special Recognition Award, named as one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers organization, inducted to the Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame and named a Public Justice Trial Lawyer of the Year finalist for outstanding contributions to the public interest through his work in the Checking Account Overdraft Class Action litigation.

He is Past President and Dean of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, Trial Lawyer Honorary Society, Past-President of the Peter T. Fay American Inns of Court and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He has served on the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Judiciary, as Chairman of the Southern District of Florida Judicial Evaluation Committee, served as a member of the Florida Federal Judicial Nominating Commission and the Florida State University Law School Board of Visitors. In addition to extensive involvement in the firm's commercial practice, Bob handles the firm's white-collar criminal defense work--an outgrowth of his background as an assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, as Special Counsel to the Dade County Grand Jury, and as a member of numerous commissions and task forces in the area of criminal law, including the U.S. Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules and Chairmanship of the Florida Bar's Criminal Law Certification Committee. He served as General Counsel to Governor Robert Graham in 1980. Bob has lectured extensively throughout the United States on substantive issues, ethics, professionalism and civility. His 1994 article on civility has been reprinted in more than 20 legal journals and periodicals. Bob is extensively involved

in community activities, with particular emphasis upon the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse by young people.

He is also listed in Florida Trend's "Florida Legal Elite" and "Legal Elite Hall of Fame", (2009, 2016-2018) and ; Florida Super Lawyers - "Top 10" and "Top 100" (2006-2018); South Florida Legal Guide, "Top Lawyers", (2007-2017); Best Lawyers in America - "Bet the Company Litigation", "Commercial Litigation", "Non-White-Collar Criminal Defense" and "White-Collar Criminal Defense" (2007-2018); Chamber's USA's Guide to Leading Lawyers for Business (2003-2017); Judicial Circuit Historical Society - "Legal Legends" (2007) and Miami Today "Gold Medal Award" (2008).

JOEL D. EATON

Appellate Practice

Joel received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Yale University and his Juris Doctorate Degree (cum laude) from Harvard University. He is admitted to the following bars: Florida; U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit; U.S. Supreme Court; U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit and the U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit.

Joel handles appellate litigation--a practice which has taken him to all of the appellate courts of Florida, including innumerable appearances in the Florida Supreme Court, to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits on many occasions, and several times to the United States Supreme Court. Joel authored "The American Law of Defamation Through *Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc.* and Beyond: An Analytical Primer," *Virginia Law Review*, Vol. 61, Issue No. 7, in 1975; and Ch. 6, "Making a Proper Record," *Florida Civil Trial Practice*, Eighth Edition, in 2010. His article, "Jumping Through the Hoops to Meaningful Appellate Review: Protecting the Record at Trial," which was published in the May, 1988 *Florida Bar Journal*, won first prize for the best *Journal* article published in 1988. Joel is also heavily involved in organizations concerned with appellate practice, including a former chairmanship of the Appellate Court Rules Committee of the Florida Bar, Adviser to The Reporter of the American Law Institute's Restatement of the Law of Torts (Third), two terms as a member of the Florida Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instructions in Civil Cases, membership in the prestigious American Law Institute, the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and the American Association for Justice, and is a Diplomat of the Florida Justice Association. Joel served as a Lieutenant, Naval Aviator, in the U.S. Navy from 1965-1971 and flew 150 combat missions during two tours in Southeast Asia.

STEVEN C. MARKS

Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Litigation

Product Liability

Aviation Litigation

Commercial Litigation

Steven C. Marks holds a BA from the University of Florida (cum laude) and a JD from the University of Miami (cum laude), where he was editor-in-chief of the Law Review. He is an alumni editorial-board member of the University of Miami Law Review. Steve is admitted to the Florida Bar. He is a member of the Bar and Gavel Law Society and the Order of the Coif, and is on the Board of Directors of the University of Miami Law School Alumni Association (2003 to 2006). Steve is also an inaugural member of the University of Miami Law School Dean's Council and a member of the University of Miami Law Review Alumni Advisory Board.

He is a member of the Dade County Bar Association, American Bar Association (former Chair, Aviation & Space Law Committee, Program Planning Committee for National Institute on Aviation Litigation, editorial board member, Torts and Insurance Practice Section and Tort and Insurance Law Journal Committee, and The Brief); The Florida Bar; The Florida Justice Association; The American Association for Justice (former Chair Aviation Law Section, Aviation Section); Dade County Trial Lawyers; Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association; American Board of Trial Advocates (Miami Chapter); Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America, Trial Lawyers Honorary Society, and the Inns of Court.

Steve was recently appointed to the Legal Advisory Committee for the International Civil Aeronautical Organization.

Steve is also a Trustee for the National YoungArts Foundation.

He is listed in Florida Trend's "Florida Legal Elite," 2009, 2013; Florida Super Lawyers, 2006-2018; Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators "New Star" 2006 and 2007; South Florida Legal Guide, Top Lawyers, 2007-2018; The Expert Guide to the World's Leading Aviation Lawyers, 2006, 2008, 2013, 2016, 2017; Best Lawyers in America 2007-2020; Chamber's USA's Guide to Leading Lawyers for Business 2008-2010, 2014-2017, named in the Daily Business Review's "Most Effective Lawyers" 2010 and "Professional Excellence – Distinguished Leaders" 2017 .

Steve focuses on personal injury and wrongful death litigation, product liability, aviation litigation, commercial litigation, class actions, medical malpractice, premise liability, and admiralty.

He has acted as lead counsel, appointed court counsel and/or counsel representing victims in a number of commercial class actions and major airline crashes, including: NFL Concussion Litigation Executive Committee Member and co-lead settlement class counsel, 2014; acting as lead Plaintiffs' counsel in the American Airlines Flight 331, crash in Jamaica, 2010; acting as co-lead trial counsel for the California State Court plaintiffs' after a Silk Air crash between Jakarta and Singapore in 1997; acting as lead liaison counsel for the State Court and Federal multi-district litigation (MDL) plaintiffs' steering committees over the ValuJet Ft. 592 crash, Everglades, 1996, and acting as a member of the MDL plaintiff's steering committee for the Arrow Air military charter crash, Newfoundland, 1985.

General and major commercial airline crashes he has handled include: Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, crash just six minutes after take-off en route to Nairobi, 2019; Lion Air Ft. 610, Jakarta, Indonesia, crash 13 minutes after takeoff, 2018; FlyDubai Ft. 981, from Dubai to Rostov-on-Don, Russia, 2016; Metrojet Ft. 9268, from Egypt, en route to Saint Petersburg, Russia, 2015; Germanwings Ft. 9525, from Barcelona, Spain to Dusseldorf, Germany; 2015; Malaysian Airlines, Ft. MH370, from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, 2014; Gulfstream IV, crash on take-off, Bedford, Massachusetts, 2014; IBC Airways, La Alianza, Puerto Rico, 2013; Dana Air, Ft. 992, Abuja, Nigeria, 2012; Central American Airways Flight 731, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 2011; Conviasa Airlines, Ft. 2350, Bolivar, Venezuela, 2010; Aires Airlines Ft. 8250, San Andres Island, Colombia, 2010; Ethiopian Airlines Flight 409, Mediterranean Sea, 2010; American Airlines Ft. 331, Kingston, Jamaica, 2009; Air France Ft. 447, Atlantic Ocean, 2009; Colgan Air – Continental, Ft. 3407, Buffalo, New York, 2009; Aeroflot-Nord, Ft. 821, Perm Airport, Russia, 2008; SpanAir, Ft. 5022, Barajas Airport, Spain, 2008; TACA Airlines, Ft. 390, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 2008; Santa Barbara Airlines, S.A., Ft. 518, near Merida, Venezuela (2008); TAM Airlines, Ft. 3054, Congonhas Airport, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2007; Comair, Ft. 5191, crash on takeoff from Lexington, Kentucky, 2006; Sibir Airlines Ft. 778 from Moscow Russia, 2006; GOL Airlines, Ft. 1907, mid-air collision in the Amazon, Brazil (2006); Chalk's Ocean Airways Ft. 101 air disaster, Miami, FL, 2005; Helios Airways air disaster near Cyprus, 2005; Tropical Air, LET 410, Cap Haitian, Haiti, 2003; mid-air collision over German airspace involving Bashkirian Airlines Ft. 2937 and DHL Ft. 611, 2002; American Airlines, Ft. 587, crash in Belle Harbor, Queens, N.Y., 2001; Papillon Airways, Inc. Eurocopter AS350-B2 helicopter in the Grand Canyon, AZ, 2001; Scandinavian Airlines at Linate Airport, Milan, Italy, 2001; Air France Concorde tragedy 2000; Bell Helicopter BH 407 in Brazil, 1999; Cubana Air, Ft. 3010, YAK-42, Valencia, Venezuela, 1999; TAESA Airlines Ft. 725 from Uruapan, Michoacán, Mexico, 1999; Hot Air Expeditions, near Cave Creek, AZ, 1999; Occidental Petroleum's chartered Boeing 737 in Peru's northern jungle, 1998; American Airlines, Ft. 1420, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1999; TAME Flight 422 near Bogota, Colombia, 1998; Swissair, Ft. 111, Atlantic Ocean near Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1998; Silk Air, Ft. MI185, Palembang, Indonesia, 1997; Fine Air, Ft. 101, Miami, FL, 1997; Bell 407 helicopter in the Andros Islands, 1996; Millon Air Ft. 406 en route to Miami, Florida from Manta, Ecuador, 1996; ValuJet, Ft. 592, Florida Everglades, 1996; Aero-Peru Ft. 603 en route to Santiago, Chile from Lima, Peru, 1996; Aviation Development Corp. Airlines, Nigeria, 1996; Tarom Airlines, Ft. R0371, Bucharest, Romania, 1995; El Al cargo, Amsterdam, Holland, 1992; Surinam Airways Ft. PY764 in Paramaribo, Surinam, 1989; Grand

Canyon Airlines, Grand Canyon National Park Airport, AZ, 1989; and Independent Air Flt. 1851, Bergamo, Italy, 1989 and Arrow Air Flight 1285, Gander, Canada.

He also acts as lead trial counsel for countless victims of general aviation and military accidents, many involving foreign claimants, ranging from air balloons, flight training, ground school, air ambulances, banner planes, aerobatics, helicopters, and propeller, turbo-prop and jet-powered aircraft, including, but not limited to, Cessnas, Cirrus, Beechcraft, Pipers, Bellancas, Lear Jets, Citation Jets, Bell Helicopters, Sikorsky Helicopters, Robinson Helicopters, Aerospatiale Helicopters and countless other aviation manufacturers, operators, maintenance facilities and private & public air traffic control centers.

In addition to his aviation, general personal injury and wrongful death practice, he also counsels foreign governments, including the Russian Federation, the Republic of Venezuela, Ecuador, Belize, Honduras and numerous Brazilian states.

Among his many speaking engagements have been:

- “An Introduction to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act,” invited guest lecturer, Embry-Riddle 2001. Also an invited lecturer on the Embry-Riddle Aviation Program 2006;
- “Recent Developments in Aviation Law,” ABA Litigation in Aviation Seminar 1991 (co-author);
- Masters of the Courtroom Seminar, Dade County Trial Lawyers, 2002 and the Dade County Trial Masters Program, 2002-2003;
- Forum Non-Conveniens panel member and co-chair, ABA Aviation & Space Law Convention Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section Conference 2003;
- ABA Panel on Forum Non-Conveniens, “An Update of Recent Decisions and An Analysis of the Legal Criteria,” 2003;
- Discovery in Aviation cases, ABA Conference, Washington DC 2004, invited lecturer;
- ATLA Aviation Section Program, Chicago, Program Chair;
- Miami-Dade County Bar Association Young Lawyer Section’s First Annual “SuperLawyer Mock Trial Demonstration Seminar 2006”;
- “A Discussion on the Basics of Litigating the Foreign Crash”, ABA Aviation & Space Law Convention 2006;
- ABA Conference, Washington, D.C., October 2007 session on Aviation and Space Law Litigation, lectured on “Foreign Accidents--U.S. Defendants Frequently Argue Forum Non-Conveniens Motions; How are they Doing?”;
- National Association of Legal Investigators, Inc., Mid-Winter Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, January 2008;

- Embry Riddle Aeronautical University's 19th Annual Aviation Law and Insurance Symposium, lectured on "Handling Foreign Crash Litigation in the U.S. and Abroad";
- American Association for Justice, Annual Convention in Philadelphia, lectured on "The Fundamentals of Obtaining a Just or Full Compensation Aviation Jury Verdict", July 2008;
- Speaker at the Conference of the International Bar Association, Vancouver, Canada, October 2010;
- McGill Conference on International Aviation Liability and Insurance, Moot Court Panels, Legal Argument, Forum non-conveniens and Mediation, Montreal, Canada, May 2011.
- 5th Annual McGill Conference on International Aviation Liability and Insurance, Moot Court Panels, Legal Argument, Forum non-conveniens and Mediation, Montreal, Canada, October 2013.
- Florida Justice Association, Workhorse Seminar; Into the Wild Blue Yonder: Exploring New Frontiers in Aviation Litigation, February 2014
- FIU Law Legal Seminar (LATAM) December 3, 2014
- Embry Riddle Aeronautical University / Aviation Law & Insurance Symposium in Orlando - January 28-30, 2015
- FIU Aviation and Space Law Symposium in Miami - February 20, 2015
- 8th Annual McGill Conference on Aviation Liability and Insurance Conference, Complexity of International Aviation Litigation Against Multiple Tortfeasors, April 17-18, 2015
- 21st Annual ABA Conference, National Institute on Aviation Litigation, New York City, June 4, 2015
- South Florida Trial Bar - Superstars Mock Trial and Expert Jury Selection, February 12, 2016
- December 2, 2016, Panelist at Miami Law Class Action & Complex Litigation Forum on the discussion of Settlement and Resolution of Class Action litigation, discussing mediation, confirmation discovery, objectors, attorneys' fees and notice issues.
- Panel Chair for the 10th McGill Conference on Aviation Liability & Insurance, Montreal Canada, June 22-23, 2017

Steve has made several guest appearances on CNN News, Wall Street Live News, BBC News and CBS News and CBC Sky News. Steve is also the co-author, "Recent Developments in Aviation Law," ABA Litigation in Aviation Seminar, 1991 and ABA Guide "Litigating the Aviation Case", 2017. Author, "The Admissibility and Use of Demonstrative Aids," ABA, The Brief Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section, Vol. 32, No. 4, Summer 2003; "Handling Foreign Aviation Cases in the United States"; ABA Publication entitled "Litigating the Aviation Case from Pre-trial to Closing Argument," Third Edition, 2008. Author, "The Admissibility and Use of Demonstrative Aids," ABA, The Brief (2003); and "Handling Foreign Aviation Cases in the United States", ABA Publication entitled "Litigating the Aviation Case from Pre-trial to Closing Argument", Third Edition, 2008.

PETER PRIETO

Commercial Litigation
Class Actions
White-Collar Criminal Litigation

Peter Prieto received a Bachelor's Degree, *summa cum laude*, from St. Thomas University, and his Juris Doctorate, *cum laude*, from the University of Miami School of Law. While in law school, he served as a member of the Moot Court Board and as an articles and comments editor for the *Law Review*.

For more than twenty-five years, Peter has focused his practice on complex commercial litigation, including class actions, and white collar criminal defense. He has represented clients—both individual and corporate—in a wide array of civil litigation, including business and employment disputes, healthcare, antitrust, products liability, RICO and class action litigation. Peter has also represented clients in criminal investigations and prosecutions involving public corruption, business, banking and healthcare fraud, aviation, environmental violations, antitrust and money laundering.

Some of Peter's most significant engagements in his civil litigation practice have involved 1) successfully representing - at trial and at summary judgment - former executives of a pharmaceutical company who brought claims for securities fraud after the company's merger; 2) successfully representing and obtaining settlements in excess of over \$1 billion on behalf of classes of millions of bank customers who were wrongly charged overdraft fees; 3) obtaining dismissal of claims of malicious prosecution and abuse of process on behalf of national law firm; 4) successfully obtaining summary judgment on behalf of an international athletic and footwear company against claims that the company had stolen the "idea" of using a famous singer as its spokesperson.

Some of Peter's significant white collar criminal engagements have included 1) conducting internal investigation for, and subsequently representing, a public company in connection with possible violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act ("FCPA"); 2) representing a cargo airline and its principals in a criminal investigation involving allegations that airline had falsified maintenance records; and 3) conducting internal investigation for Fortune 100 company in connection with allegations of price-fixing.

Peter also has significant experience in multidistrict litigation proceedings ("MDL"). Through the firm, he currently serves on the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in *In Re: Checking Account Overdraft Litigation*, MDL No. 2036. He is also Chair of the Experts Committee in *In Re: Blue Cross Blue Shield Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 2406.

During his career, including his several years as a federal prosecutor, Peter has obtained substantial trial and appellate experience. He has tried over 30 criminal and civil cases and has argued over a dozen appeals before the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

For his litigation skills, he has been recognized as one of the "Top Lawyers in South Florida," according to the South Florida Legal Guide, and is listed in The Best Lawyers in America, Florida's Legal Elite, and Chambers USA, which has praised Peter for being "thorough in his advice" to clients, and for his "trial experience and plain speaking good judgment."

Peter was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1985, and is also a member of various other Bars, including the Supreme Court of the United States, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida Trial Bar, the Dade County Bar, the American Bar Association and the Cuban-American Bar Association.

Peter recently served as the Eleventh Circuit's representative on the America Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, the committee responsible for assessing the professional qualifications of all federal judicial nominees. Additionally, from 2006-2014, he was a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Third District Court of Appeal, and previously served, pursuant to appointments by Governors Lawton Chiles and Jeb Bush, as a Commissioner on Florida's Commission on Ethics. He serves on the Advisory Board of the University of Miami School of Law's Center for Ethics & Public Service and on the Alumni Advisory Board of the University of Miami Law Review. Peter is also a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Thomas University.

Prior to joining the firm, Peter was a federal prosecutor, first with the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida, and later with the Office of Independent Counsel in Washington, D.C. where he worked on the criminal investigation of the late Secretary of Commerce, Ronald H. Brown. For over a decade, he was also a partner and trial lawyer with the firm of Holland & Knight LLP, where he served as Executive Partner of the firm's Miami office, and as the Chair of the firm's 400-lawyer litigation section.

STEPHEN F. ROSENTHAL

Appellate Practice
Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Litigation
Aviation Litigation
Product Liability
Commercial Litigation
Constitutional and Election Law

Stephen focuses on complex litigation and appeals. He has tried cases to verdict in state and federal courts and has argued nearly 40 appeals in state and federal appellate courts across the country. His practice spans class actions, aviation accidents, personal injury, commercial disputes, professional malpractice, and whistle blower claims.

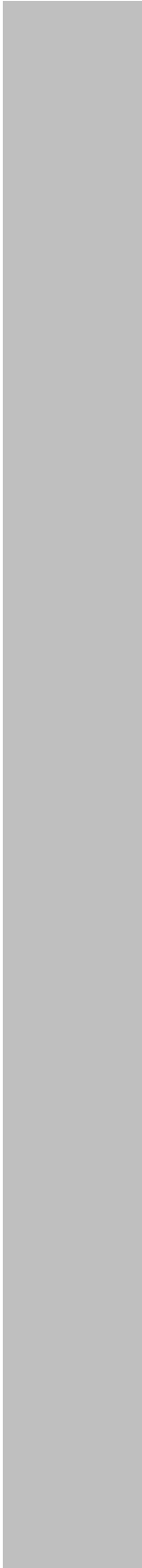
His abilities have been recognized in numerous publications. Benchmark Appellate has observed that Stephen "possesses the rare skill set allowing him to excel at both trial and appellate litigation." Other national publications have praised his "sharp intellect" and "extremely creative legal analysis skills," listing him among the best lawyers in the country in the categories of appellate and personal injury litigation.

Stephen is also an experienced hand at election litigation. He was appointed by the President's re-election campaign to serve as State Counsel for Florida, a general counsel-like position where he developed legal strategy and oversaw 4,500 volunteer lawyers in voter-protection efforts. He played a similar role in the 2010 gubernatorial and 2008 presidential elections. He has advised numerous candidates on legal issues affecting campaigns.

He joined the firm in 2001 and has been a partner since 2005. Prior to entering private practice, he worked at the Department of Justice in Washington, defending federal programs and agencies. He had the honor of serving as a law clerk to Judges Rosemary Barkett on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and Mark Wolf of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School (J.D., cum laude, 1996) and of Harvard College (A.B., magna cum laude, 1992), and spent the year after college in England as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar.

He was appointed in 2009 by the judges of the -U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit as one of six lawyers in Florida on its Lawyers Advisory Committee. Stephen is an active member of his community. He serves on the Steering Committee of the fund-raising arm of Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc., is active in leadership at Temple Judea of Coral Gables, and has previously served as Chairman of the Board of the American Constitution Society, South Florida Chapter, and was on the Board of Directors of the Florida Justice Association. He is a member of the Leadership Florida Class of 2007.

He has lectured on a wide range of topics, including appellate practice, class action law, Florida's Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act, attorney's fees in wrongful death



cases, and the treatment of worker's compensation liens in wrongful death cases, and has published work on the law of religious freedom under the First Amendment. He speaks Spanish and has previously worked in Spain and Central America.

RICARDO M. MARTINEZ-CID

Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Litigation

Product Liability

Aviation Litigation

Commercial Litigation

Ricardo M. Martinez-Cid is a partner at Podhurst Orseck, P.A., in Miami. He earned his undergraduate degree in only three years at the University of Miami (B.A. cum laude 1997) and his Juris Doctorate at Yale Law School (J.D. 2000) where he was the William S. Beinecke Scholar. While a law student, Ricardo was a director at Yale's renowned clinical program. He served on the Board of Directors of the Latino Law Students Association, and was an editor of the Yale Journal of International Law. Before joining the firm, Ricardo served as a law clerk to the Honorable James Lawrence King on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. He joined the firm in 2002 and was named a partner in 2005.

Ricardo is an accomplished trial lawyer, having obtained multi-million dollar verdicts on behalf of his clients in both federal and state courts. He has been named "Legal Elite" by Florida Trend Magazine, "Top Lawyer" by both Expert Guides and the South Florida Legal Guide, and is listed in The Best Lawyers in America. According to the National Law Journal, his verdict of over 195 million dollars in the Fondo Vision matter was one of the ten largest jury verdicts of 2010. On multiple years, The Daily Business Review has recognized him at its Most Effective Lawyers' event.

Although Ricardo handles select commercial matters, much of his practice involves personal injury, wrongful death, and product liability cases with a focus on mass torts and aviation litigation. He is experienced in Multi-District Litigation and currently serves on the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee for the NFL Concussion Litigation.

Ricardo is Board Certified in Aviation Law, thereby accrediting him as an expert within that field of practice. According to the Florida Bar, certification is its highest level of evaluation of competency and experience within an area of law, as well as professionalism and ethics in practice. In addition to handling general aviation cases involving fixed-wing and rotary aircraft, Ricardo regularly represents victims of commercial aviation disasters. He has been appointed lead counsel or otherwise taken a leadership role in many of these cases, including American Airlines Flight 331, Jamaica (2009); SpanAir Flight 5022, Spain (2008); TACA Airlines, Flight 390, Honduras (2008); Santa Barbara Airlines, S.A., Flight 518, Venezuela (2008); TAM Airlines, Flight 3054, Brazil (2007); GOL Flight 1906, Brazil (2006); Comair Flight 5191, Lexington, Kentucky (2006); Chalk's Ocean Airways Flight 101, Miami Beach, Florida (2005); Helios Airways Flight 2U522, Cyprus (2005); Tropical Air Flight 1301, Haiti (2003); Scandinavian Airlines Flight 686, Milan, Italy (2001); TAESA Airlines Flight 725, Mexico (1999); and Silk Air Flight MI 185, between Jakarta and Singapore (1997).

Ricardo was appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to serve on the Standing Committee on Fairness and Diversity and by the Chief Justice to serve on his Pro Bono Advisory Committee. He is Co-Chair of the Aviation and Space Law Committee of the American Bar Association, a Past Chair of the Aviation Law Section of the American Association for Justice, the Immediate Past President of the Cuban American Bar Association, and he serves on the Board of Governors of the American Association of Justice and of the Florida Justice Association.

Ricardo has authored and published work for the American Bar Association, Westlaw Journal, and the American Association for Justice. He is a frequent lecturer on aviation law and general trial tactics. The many venues he has been invited to speak at include American Bar Association programs in New York and Washington, D.C.; the Southern Methodist University Air Law Symposium in Dallas; the PEOPIL/McGill University Conference on Aviation Law and Insurance in Amsterdam; the Embry-Riddle University Aviation Law and Insurance Symposium in Orlando, and AviCon Conferences in London and New York City. He has also served on the faculty of the Al J. Cone Trial Advocacy Institute.

He is fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

RAMON A. RASCO

Commercial Litigation
Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Litigation
Product Liability
Aviation Litigation
White-Collar Criminal Litigation

Ray was born on August 18, 1976 in Miami, Florida. He earned his undergraduate degree with a concentration in Government from Harvard College (A.B. magna cum laude 1999) and his Juris Doctorate degree from Columbia University School of Law (J.D. 2002). Following law school, Ray worked for three years in the corporate, securities and financial institutions department of Greenberg Traurig, P.A. Ray joined the firm in November 2005 and has primarily focused his practice on personal injury/wrongful death litigation, complex commercial litigation, products liability, aviation litigation, class actions and white collar criminal defense. Over the past four years, Ray has tried 10 cases, eight of which were successfully tried to verdict. Those include:

- Six wrongful death cases brought under the US Anti-Terrorism Act on behalf of the families of the victims, six US citizens who were kidnapped and killed in Colombia by the FARC. The cases were brought against Chiquita Brands International for its admitted support of the FARC, a terrorist organization, and were consolidated in a large MDL (In re Chiquita Brands International, Anti-terrorism Litigation, No. 08-md-01916). Trial was scheduled for February 5, 2018. All six cases were settled on the first day of trial, just before jury selection, pursuant to confidential settlements;
- Commercial real estate dispute in defense of a large commercial unit owner, resulting in a favorable final judgment and an award on November 26, 2018 of \$237,000 in fees and costs. See *Waverly at Las Olas v. Waverly 1 and 2, LLC*, No.15-5333-CA-21 (17th Jud. Cir., Broward Cty.);
- A \$464,364.85 final judgment, based upon a \$257,540.25 verdict, in June 2016, against Banif Financial for breach of fiduciary duty with respect to investment advisory services provided to an investor. See *Teva Trading LTD v. Banif Financial Services, Inc.*, No. 11-13497-CA-22 (11th Jud. Cir., Miami-Dade Cty.);
- A \$60 million verdict in April 2015 against a sports bar for knowingly and illegally serving alcohol to a minor, resulting in a tragic car accident which permanently disabled the minor. See *Crowe v. Spectators 3, LLC*, No. 07-0858 (20th Jud. Cir., Collier Cty.);
- Three trials against Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp. for failure to warn about the risks associated with its drugs Aredia and Zometa, specifically the risk of developing osteonecrosis of the jaws (ONJ). See *Guenther v. Novartis* (M.D. Fla. 2013), resulting in a \$1.3 million verdict for the plaintiff, and *Chiles v. Novartis* (M.D. Fla. 2013), resulting in a \$250,000 verdict for plaintiff. These cases were

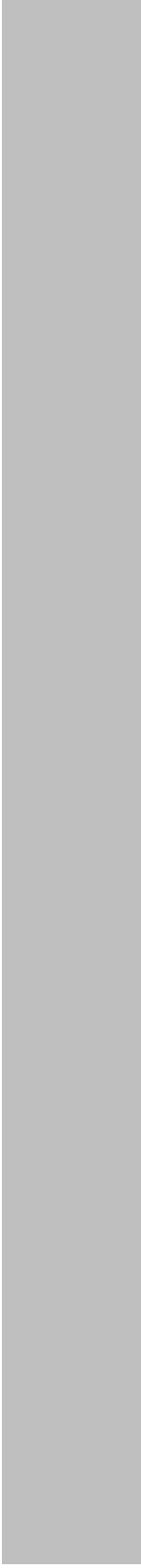
part of a federal multidistrict litigation (MDL) (In re: Aredia and Zometa Products Liability Litigation; Case No. 3:06-md-1760) (M.D. Ten.). An additional 12 of these cases were handled by Ray throughout Florida and successfully settled pursuant to a confidential, global settlement.;

- A \$210,300 verdict in November 2014 on behalf of a plaintiff for negligent misrepresentations made to her involving an investment in promissory notes. See *Conrad Family Trust v. Edgar B. Pearce, III*, Case No. 13-19977 CA 02 (11th Jud. Cir., Miami-Dade Cty.).and
- A successful verdict in September 2015 against Yellow Cab Co. for injuring a pedestrian. See *Jimenez v. Yellow Cab Co.*, No. 13-20919 CA 15 (11th Jud. Cir., Miami-Dade Cty.).

Additional representative cases include:

- A successful, seven-figure confidential settlement in 2016 on behalf of an individual claiming various interests in a large probate estate.
- A successful verdict against the FAA for the negligence of an air traffic controller, resulting in a final judgment of \$4.37 million. See *Zinn v. USA*, Case No. 1:08-cv-22056 (S.D. Fla. 2011).
- Representation of former, professional football players in a lawsuit against the NFL for intentionally and fraudulently misleading players about the risks posed by concussions and head trauma, resulting in a settlement valued at over \$1 billion. See *NFL Players' Concussion Injury Litigation*, Case No. 2:12-md-02323 (E.D. Pa.).
- A settlement of \$175,000 in May 2015 against Miami-Dade County for the wrongful death of an elderly woman caused by the negligence of a Miami-Dade County bus driver.
- Representing the fund manager of the largest private equity investor in the \$1.2 billion Ponzi scheme orchestrated by Scott Rothstein in several, related commercial litigation matters, SEC litigation and federal criminal prosecution.
- Representation of community banks, including Gibraltar Private Bank and US Century Bank, in various commercial litigation matters.
- Representation of victims in numerous wrongful death and personal injury actions arising from commercial and general aviation accidents, including fixed-wing and rotary aircraft. Representation of the victims of the TAM Airlines crash, Flight 3054, Congonhas Airport, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2007.

Ray has been actively involved in various community and civic activities throughout his career. Ray serves on the board of the Chapman Partnership, the private sector partner of the Miami Dade County Homeless Trust, where he was a founder and chair of their junior board, the NextGen Council, and where he chaired the organization's second-largest fundraiser from 2008 – 2010. Ray was elected to the Orange Bowl Committee in 2009 as the organization's youngest member and served on the OBC until 2013. From 2006 - 2014, Ray also served on the board of DFYIT, an organization focused on the



prevention of drug and alcohol abuse among adolescents. He was profiled on the cover of Miami Today, September 11, 2008 for his professional and civic accomplishments.

Ray has received three Top 40 Under 40 Outstanding Lawyers Awards – in 2010 by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, in 2013 by the South Florida Business Journal and in 2015 by the Daily Business Review.

Ray was selected in Florida Trend’s Legal Elite in 2011 in the area of business litigation and has been recognized by Florida Trend’s Legal Elite in every year since then.

Ray was profiled in SuperLawyers in 2009 as a Rising Star and in a 2009 article on his work for the homeless. He has been in Super Lawyers every year since 2011. Most recently, Ray was awarded the 2015 “On the Rise” award, a selection of South Florida lawyers under the age of 40 who are making a difference in the community and will continue to do so in the future. In addition, Ray was recognized by the South Florida Legal Guide as one of its 33 Top Lawyers, Class of 2016.

Ray’s professional memberships include the Cuban American Bar Association, the American Association for Justice, the Florida Justice Association, The Florida Bar and the Dade County Bar Association.

He is fluent in Spanish and proficient in Portuguese.

JOHN GRAVANTE, III

Commercial Litigation

Class Actions

White-Collar Criminal Litigation

John Gravante was born in New Haven, Connecticut. He received his B.A. in English from Florida Atlantic University in 1999, and his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law, graduating summa cum laude and finishing second in his class in 2002. While in law school, he served on the University's Law Review and was champion of the 1L Moot Court competition.

After law school, John served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Adalberto Jordan in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. He also served as an adjunct professor of Legal Research and Writing at the University of Miami.

As a plaintiff's attorney, John has extensive experience litigating complex commercial cases, class actions, and personal injury matters. Among the representative engagements in which he has been actively involved includes a RICO action on behalf of a nationwide class of doctors against major HMOs for systematic reduction and denial of payments, which resulted in settlements valued at hundreds of millions of dollars. Additionally, he has handled numerous securities fraud class actions on behalf of bilked investors, complex commercial disputes involving fraud, as well as a suit against a health insurance company for denial of benefits resulting in the death of the insured. Currently, he is involved in a multi-district class action against major banks for deceptive practices related to imposition of improper overdraft fees against their customers.

John was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2002, and is a member of the American Bar Association, Dade County Bar, American Association For Justice, and Florida Justice Association. He served on the Board of Directors for the Miami-Dade Justice Association during 2008 and 2009.

LEA P. BUCCIERO

Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Litigation

Product Liability

Aviation Litigation

L is a Miami native. She is an honors *summa cum laude* graduate from the University of Miami School of Law. During law school, Lea was a member of the Moot Court Board, was an Articles and Comments Editor for the University of Miami Law Review, interned for a federal magistrate judge and interned at the Federal Public Defender's Office.

Lea is also a *magna cum laude* graduate of Florida International University in International Business and Management. Prior to attending law school, Lea worked as a sales engineer for a satellite and fibre media-broadcast company.

Lea's practice includes personal injury, wrongful death, and product liability cases with a focus on aviation litigation. Lea is a member of the Florida bar.



MATTHEW P. WEINSHALL

Matthew is an honors graduate of Harvard College (A.B. cum laude 2002) and of the University of Miami School of Law (J.D. summa cum laude 2010), where he was an editor of the University of Miami Law Review. Prior to law school, Matt worked as an equities trader for three years and as a foreign exchange trader for two years. After law school, Matt served as a law clerk to Judge Rosemary Barkett of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Matt is admitted to the Florida Bar and focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation and class actions.

ALISSA DEL RIEGO

Alissa received her Bachelor's Degree (*summa cum laude*) from the University of Miami and her Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School. While in law school, Alissa interned for the Honorable Bonnie H. Macleod at Suffolk County Superior Court in Boston, Massachusetts. She also served as editor and chief for the *Harvard Latino Law Review* and as an article editor for the *Harvard Journal of Law & Technology*. After law school, Alissa began her career in private practice at Holland & Knight LLP's Miami office as a litigation attorney, where she focused on commercial litigation and white collar criminal defense matters. Before joining Podhurst, Alissa served as a law clerk to the Honorable Adalberto Jordan on the United States Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Her practice focuses primarily on complex commercial litigation matters, including class actions and white collar criminal defense. She has represented both corporate and individual clients in matters involving the False Claims Act, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, internal investigations, healthcare fraud, wire fraud, and securities fraud.

Alissa has authored and published several articles on tort law, privacy law, and commercial law in both local and national publications. She is also currently an adjunct professor at the University of Miami's Business Law Department, where she teaches Introduction to Business Law, an undergraduate level course designed to provide students with an overview on U.S. tort and contract law.

Alissa is fluent in English and Spanish.

KRISTINA INFANTE

Kristina's practice focuses on products liability claims, complex commercial litigation, and class actions.

Prior to joining Podhurst Orseck, Ms. Infante practiced at Boies Schiller Flexner where she focused on products liability cases and complex commercial litigation on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants. She has experience in all aspects of trial strategy and preparation having worked on several jury trials, including as first chair in a federal criminal trial and as second chair in a two-week bench trial in a federal tort claim against the United States. She has also served as court-appointed amicus curiae in an appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Ms. Infante previously served as a law clerk to the Honorable Adalberto Jordan of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and interned for the Honorable Cecilia Altonaga of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

She received her Juris Doctorate magna cum laude from New York University School of Law in 2014, where she was a member of the Order of the Coif and served on the New York University Law Review. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and International Studies from Northwestern University.

WALTER H. BECKHAM, JR. (1920 - 2011)


At the time of his death, Walter Beckham was Of Counsel to the firm. Along with Aaron Podhurst, Walter Beckham was a founder of our firm, and it is fair to say that few other lawyers in America have as distinguished a record or reputation. He maintained his close association and long relationship with the firm until his death.

In 1941, Walter received his B.A. degree with honors in American History from Emory University. Immediately after graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Walter was on active duty from 1941-1946 in the Pacific Theater of World War II. By the end of the war, he had earned the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Walter continued his service in the U.S. Naval Reserve after the war and retired with the rank of Captain after 28 years.

After leaving active duty in 1946, Walter entered Harvard Law School where he graduated cum laude in 1948 with a L.L.B. degree. While at Harvard, Walter was awarded the James A. Rumrill Scholarship and served as an editor of the *Harvard Law Review* (Vol.61). After graduating from Harvard, Walter returned to Miami and joined the University of Miami faculty as an Associate Professor of Law. In 1949 he was admitted to the Florida Bar as one of its 151 charter members and joined the law firm of Dixon, DeJarnette and Bradford of Miami; he continued on the faculty of the Law School for 2 years, teaching classes at night. In October, 1950, he joined the Law Firm of Nichols, Gaither & Green, making partner in 1952. When the firm dissolved in 1967, Walter became Of Counsel to his then-associate Aaron Podhurst's new firm.

In 1967, Walter also returned to teaching at the University of Miami as a professor of Law. He taught torts, medical-legal trial tactics, and with the assistance of Dean Fred Lewis, he started the school's civil trial advocacy course. While there, he also founded the Medical Institute for Attorneys and served as its Director for 15 years. He retired in 1982 as a Professor Emeritus. Walter and his wife, Ethel, established a scholarship at the University of Miami School of Law – the Walter and Ethel Beckham Scholarship – for students enrolled in the J.D. Program.

During his extraordinary career as a trial attorney, Walter was widely recognized as one of the best trial lawyers in the nation. He was accepted to membership in the American Law Institute, the American College of Trial Lawyers, the Inner Circle of Advocates, and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, where he served as President. He was a founding member and trustee of the National Board of Trial Advocacy, and served as Chairman respectively of the Aviation Law Section of the American Trial Lawyers Association, the Trial, Tort and Insurance Practice Section of the American Bar Association, the National Institute for Trial Advocacy and the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. Walter is the only non-judge to have served as Chair of the National Judicial College. Walter was also a member and frequent speaker in the



House of Delegates of the American Bar Association from 1979 - 1995, during which time he served a four-year term as Secretary of the Association.

Walter received several awards for his contributions to the legal profession: in 1984, he received the Perry Nichols Award from the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers; in 2004, he was the recipient of the William M. Hoever Award from the Center for Ethics & Public Service at the University of Miami School of Law; and in 2009, he received the Legal Legends Award from the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Historical Society. Walter was listed in both *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World*.

KAREN PODHURST DERN

Of Counsel

Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Litigation

Commercial Litigation

Product Liability

Employment Discrimination

K

aren was born January 28, 1962, in Hollywood, Florida. She received her education at the University of Michigan, where she obtained a B.A. Degree in 1983. She received her Juris Doctorate Degree in 1987 from the University of Denver. She was admitted to the Colorado Bar in 1987 and the Florida Bar in 1990. From 1987-1990, she was an associate of the law firm of Ireland, Stapleton, Pryor & Pascoe in Denver, Colorado. From 1990-1991, Karen worked as a law clerk to the Honorable Federico A. Moreno, United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. She is admitted to the following bars: Colorado, 1987; United States Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit, 1987; Florida, 1990; United States Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit, 1991; United States Supreme Court, 1992. Karen is also a Member of the Dade County and American Bar Associations and the American Trial Lawyers Association. She also participates in a number of civic activities, currently serving on the Executive Committee of the Young Leadership Council of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and the Women's Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal.