

# Update

December 2006

## 2006: The Year in Review

### A Selection of Significant Deals & Verdicts

- Bob Siegel and Antonio Martinez represented BAC Florida Bank (BAC) in the sale of a portfolio of over \$120 million of residential mortgage loans originated by BAC. This transaction was the largest portfolio sale in BAC's history.
- Stan Price and Bob Krawcheck were successful in supporting the development of Lincoln Pointe Condominiums at a recent City of Aventura moratorium waiver hearing. This significant and hard-fought victory is worth nearly \$90 million to the client.
- William Hill successfully argued an appeal to the Third District Circuit Court, seeking reversal of an order certifying a class of insureds seeking interest on overdue PIP payments allegedly owed by our client, United Automobile Insurance Company. In a published opinion, the Court reserved the trial court's order certifying the class and ordered that the case be dismissed.
- Al Dotson led our client, Concessions International, in winning an RFP for one of the largest food service contracts ever awarded at the Miami International Airport. The vote by the Board of County Commissioners was unanimous.

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### Attorneys Receive Well-Deserved Local & National Honors



Bilzin Sumberg was ranked in the first tier of Florida law firms in both Real Estate and Zoning/Land Use in the 2006 edition of *Chambers USA*. The Bankruptcy/Restructuring, Tax, Construction and General Commercial Litigation practice areas also made the elite rankings. Twelve attorneys were included in the rankings.

Florida Trend's Legal Elite named 13 Bilzin Sumberg attorneys. The Legal Elite list is comprised of the top two percent of practicing attorneys in Florida. Carlos Gimenez was recognized as an "Up & Comer." John Sumberg was recognized as a "Top Managing Partner," only 10 other attorneys were recognized in that category.



Twenty-One attorneys were recognized by the 2006 edition of *Super Lawyers*. Only 5 percent of the lawyers in the state are named to the listing. Scott Baena and Mindy Mora also made the list of "Top 50 South Florida Attorneys." Mindy was also recognized in the "Top 25 Female Attorneys in South Florida" listing.



*Best Lawyers in America* uses a peer-review process for selection, which includes 1.8 million confidential surveys by top attorneys in the country, as well as thousands of telephone interviews throughout the balloting process. Ten attorneys were included in 2007 edition of the guide.

Both Scott Baena and Sam Ullman have appeared on their respective lists for at least 20 years. Eileen Ball Mehta and Stanley Price have made the Environmental and Land Use & Zoning Law lists for at least a decade.

The *South Florida Legal Guide* named 13 attorneys at "Top Lawyers." In addition, Michael Foster and Carlos Gimenez were recognized as "Top Up & Comers." Attorneys are selected through a voting system where licensed lawyers who practice in South Florida nominate the peers they most respect.



Al Dotson was included in *Ebony's* "100+ Most Influential Black Americans" for the second consecutive year.

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### Happy Holidays

#### Year -End Party

December 12, 2006

6 - 9 pm

Bongos Cuban Cafe

Please RSVP to Jessica Buchsbaum at 305.375.6151



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## Significant Deals & Verdicts

- John Kuhn and Deborah Mayo represented Weitzer/Kislak Sawgrass LLLP in obtaining \$146 million in financing for the development of Tao Condos, a luxury residential condominium project in Sunrise, Florida.
- Alan Axelrod, Richard Goldstein, Barry Stein, Serge Pavluk and Diane Lourdes Dick represented Miami-based wire transfer company Intermex in its sale to Intermex Holdings, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Lindsay Goldberg & Bessemer (LGB), a New York based private equity firm with more than \$2 billion of committed capital.
- Carey Stiss and Jason Myers closed two deals back-to-back for Merrill Lynch Capital. On June 28, they closed a \$210 million construction loan for the Trump Royale luxury condo project in Sunny Isles, and on June 29, they closed a \$27.6 million loan for an office condo conversion project in Ft. Lauderdale.
- Alan Axelrod and Bob Siegel completed a \$1.7 billion refinancing of LNR Property Corporation's senior credit and mezzanine facilities on July 12. The complex transaction involved hundreds of related entities throughout the United States, Bermuda, the United Kingdom and other countries.
- Howard Nelson, Mitch Widom and Tony Mesa successfully settled an inverse condemnation suit on behalf of private property owners for \$7.15 million. The matter involved 18 single-family home lots in the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve.
- Michael Kreitzer represented Eller & Company of Ft. Lauderdale in a highly publicized matter regarding the potential operation of six major ports, including the Port of Miami, by DP World, a United Arab Emirates company. DP World was set to takeover the operation of the ports in a \$6.8 million deal. Mike led a national team of lawyers and lobbyists in a strategy designed to challenge the takeover. DP World ultimately agreed to divest itself of the American port operations.

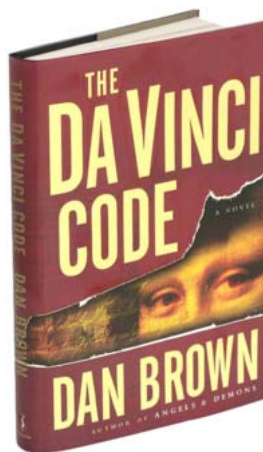
## People News

- Congratulations to **Jay Sakalo** on the birth of his daughter, Maddie Abigail, on November 20.
- Congratulations to **Jason Myers** on the birth of his daughter on November 21.
- Congratulations to **Bill Riley** on the birth of his daughter, Erin Olivia, on November 29.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 7	Showcase on Insolvency Practice Scott Baena and Jay Sakalo will be speaking about the Restructuring & Bankruptcy practice.
December 12	Bilzin Sumberg Year-End Party
December 27	Minority Law Students Networking Reception

## Win a \$50 Starbuck Gift Card



This year's Harvard Law School Parody is entitled *DaVinci's Penal Code*. Bilzin Sumberg is a sponsor of the event. To win a \$50 Starbuck's gift card, create an ad concept for our one-page advertisement in the program book. Please e-mail entries to Jessica Buchsbaum at [jbuchsbaum@bilzin.com](mailto:jbuchsbaum@bilzin.com) and Elle Bertoli at [ebertoli@bilzin.com](mailto:ebertoli@bilzin.com). Entries must be received by December 29. Winner will be announced in January's *Update*.

## December Birthday Greetings

Steve Lear	David Schubauer
Javier Lizarazu	Barry Stein
Alvin Lodish	Carey Stiss
Jim Moon	Ira Teicher
Jerry Proctor	Mitch Widom
Bill Riley	



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