



Margarita, anyone?

Did you know?

Cinco de Mayo marks the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the Battle of Puebla in 1862.

Source:
www.vivacincodemayo.org

Two Partners Join Trusts & Estates Group

Dan Heller and **Alex Espenkotter** recently joined the firm as partners in the Trusts, Estate & Wealth Transfer Group. Both attorneys come to Bilzin Sumberg from the law firm of Ruden McClosky.

Dan concentrates his practice in the areas of estate planning, tax planning, probate administration, guardianship administration and trust law. In the more than 25 years of legal practice, Dan has handled the administration of hundreds of decedents' estates, trusts and guardianships. He is Board Certified in wills, trusts and estates by the Florida Bar Board of Certification, a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, and frequently lectures and authors works related to his area of practice.

Dan received his law degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. Dan also holds an LL.M. in Estate Planning from the University of Miami.

Alex focuses his practice on estate planning, asset protection planning, gift tax planning, generation-skipping transfer tax planning, charitable giving, retirement planning, and probate and trust administration. In addition, he is experienced in handling litigation arising from the creation and administration of wills, estates and trusts, as well as probate and fiduciary litigation.

A frequent lecturer, Alex has spoken on a variety of topics ranging from asset protection to advanced estate planning and tax reduction techniques. He has also addressed charitable organizations on issues of estate planning and tax benefits of charitable giving.

Alex received his law degree and LL.M. in Estate Planning from the University of Miami School of Law.

Congratulations



For the fifth consecutive year, **Scott Baena**, Restructuring & Bankruptcy Group Chair, was the only Florida attorney listed in *The K&A Restructuring Register: America's Top 100*. This elite registry is a peer listing of the top attorneys and financial advisors who practice in the restructuring, reorganization, insolvency and bankruptcy arenas in the United States.

For the third consecutive year, **Al Dotson**, Land Use & Government Relations Group partner, was included in the 2007 issue of *Ebony* magazine's "100+Most Influential Black Americans." The list included prominent leaders in business, politics, law, higher education, and Fortune 500 corporations, among others.

The honorees are chosen based on two criteria including: whether the individual transcends his or her position and demonstrates widespread national influence, and whether the individual affects in a decisive and positive way the lives, thinking and actions of large segments of the African-American population.

First-Years Share Bar Study Tips

Congratulations to our upcoming 2007 graduates: Corinne Aftimos, Ashley Aronowitz, Julia Kim, Shawn Heller, and Alex Hunt. As you begin studying for the bar exam, listen to the words of our first-year associates.



Kaara Martinez: Try to stay focused and organized. Follow the study outline provided by your bar course as much as you can, but remember to switch it up a bit so that you do not burn out. Try studying at coffee shops or with a partner, and remember that it's ok to get out and take a break. Good luck!

Jeremy Sahn: Put down the outlines and spend as much time as possible doing practice questions and exams. Pay special attention to your timing on both questions for the multi-state and essays for the Florida portion. Break a leg!

Jordan Taylor: Regardless of what anyone tells you, the best way to ace the bar exam is reading and making flash cards for every page of the large BarBri outlines. If you understand the book and the examples that they give in the outlines, you will easily pass the bar exam. You will be proud of your hard work when it is all over!

Real Estate Group Receives National Recognition

The Real Estate Group is a national finalist for the prestigious **Chambers Award for Excellence 2007**.

Each year Chambers and Partners evaluates and ranks the nation's leading real estate departments. Bilzin Sumberg and eight large national law firms are finalists in the real estate category. The nomination reflects the national recognition our group has earned and the commitment of our lawyers to the success of their clients.

The Chambers nomination follows an eventful year in which our Real Estate Group handled:

- \$75 billion of CMBS transactions, representing 36% of the entire U.S. market;
- Over \$5.3 billion in financings, including over \$1.7 billion in construction loans;
- Over \$1 billion in sales and acquisitions; and
- 1.5 million square feet of leasing transactions.

In the News

- **Al Dotson** was featured in the "Power Issue" of *South Florida CEO* magazine.
- **Danny Aronson** was featured in the *Tampa Bay Business Journal* regarding his position on the Board of Directors of the Florida Venture Forum.

DealMakers

- **Marty Schwartz** and **Javier Granda** represented lender Mellon United National Bank Loan in closing of a \$30 million acquisition and renovation loan for a proposed office condominium project in the jewelry district in downtown Miami.



May Birthday Greetings

Diane Lourdes Dick

Eric Gilbert

Javier Granda

Mary Margaret Langton

Carter McDowell

Howard Nelson

David Trench

Bob Turken

Associate Joins Corporate Group



We are pleased to welcome **Andy Mendoza** to the firm's Corporate & Securities Group. Before joining Bilzin Sumberg, Andy was an associate at Hughes Hubbard in New York. He received his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law. Andy also holds an M.B.A. from

the University of Miami. He received his B.A. from the University of Virginia.

People News

- **Steve Lear** was invited to attend the University of Florida Book Award Presentation on April 13 in Gainesville. Bilzin Sumberg sponsors two book awards.
- Congratulations to **Javier Lizarazu** on the birth of his son, Lucas David, on April 11.
- Congratulations to **Shawn Heller** for scoring 100% on last month's "Fact or April's Fools" game.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 1	Financing Agreements (Credit & Guaranty) presented by Bob Siegel and Jay Sakalo
May 10	Representing Official & Ad Hoc Committees presented by Scott Baena
May 18	Lake Excavations/Wellfields presented by Howard Nelson
May 22	Challenges & Solutions in a Changing Real Estate Market. Panelists include: Suzanne Amaducci , Vicky Garcia-Toledo , Scott Kravetz , and Carey Stiss . Moderator: Mindy Mora .
May 22	Negotiating Senior/Mezzanine Intercreditor Agreements presented by Alan Kazan
May 23	Formulating a Case Strategy presented by Bob Turken
May 28	Memorial Day

For more information on current firm news and events, visit our website at www.bilzin.com. If you are interested in attending any upcoming events or would like to request copies of news articles, please contact Jessica Buchsbaum at 305.375.6151 or jbuchsbaum@bilzin.com.