

# Bilzin Sumberg Update

What's new with us...



September 2006

## Bilzin Sumberg Attorneys among Florida Trend's Legal Elite



Congratulations to the following attorneys for being recognized by the 2006 edition of *Florida Trend's*

*Legal Elite*. A special congratulations to John Sumberg for being recognized as a Top Managing Partner. He is one of only 11 attorneys recognized in that category.

Published by *Florida Trend* magazine, *Legal Elite* is widely regarded as one of the preeminent referral guides to the legal profession in the United States. Honorees are nominated by other members of the Florida Bar, and are then selected based on the number of votes they receive by an independent research firm and a Blue Ribbon Panel of prominent lawyers. The *Legal Elite* list is comprised of the top two percent of practicing attorneys in Florida.

### Legal Elite:

Alan Axelrod	Corporate & Securities
Scott Baena	Restructuring & Bankruptcy
Brian Bilzin	Real Estate
Raquel Fernandez	Litigation
Richard Goldstein	Tax
William Hill	Litigation
Alvin Lodish	Litigation
Mindy Mora	Restructuring & Bankruptcy
Marshall Pasternack	Corporate & Securities
Stan Price	Land Use
Bob Turken	Litigation
Sam Ullman	Tax
Mitch Widom	Litigation

### Up & Coming Legal Elite:

Carlos Gimenez	Land Use
----------------	----------

**Top Managing Partner:** John Sumberg



## Back to School Cost-Savings Tips

The start of each semester means plenty of shopping; new books, new supplies, new clothes. Planning ahead makes for a successful budget. Keep a journal and chart your expenses. At the end of a week evaluate your spending patterns and make adjustments accordingly. Here are some good suggestions to help minimize the strain on your bank account:

- Share expenses with a roommate
- Take advantage of student discounts and coupons
- Shop around: buy in bulk, buy generic brands
- Purchase used books (you might even get lucky and find a highlighted copy)
- Use public transportation
- Bring your lunch & snacks
- Make long distance calls sparingly
- Limit credit card usage: use checks & debit cards.

## Associate Joins Litigation Group



We are pleased to welcome **John Houchin** to the firm's Litigation Group.

John's experience includes complex commercial litigation, class actions and intellectual property. John has significant trial and appellate experience in state and federal court. Prior to joining Bilzin Sumberg, he was an associate at the Miami office of Hunton & Williams. He received his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law, and a B.S.E. from the University of Central Florida.

## This Month's Dealmakers

- **Arnold Brown** represented Aventura Commons Associates Ltd., an affiliate of Berkowitz Development Group, in obtaining \$28.25 million in refinancing from Principal Life Insurance for an Aventura retail center.

## This Month's Verdicts & Settlements

- **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.

## People News



**Al Dotson** threw the opening pitch at the Florida Marlins game against the New York Mets on August 3rd. Al was invited to throw the first pitch in his capacity as President of the Orange Bowl Committee. Dolphin Stadium, which is the Marlins' home turf, also hosts the FedEx Orange Bowl football game each year. The Marlins scored a 4-3 victory over the Mets that night.



**Bilzin Sumberg** was inducted into the Ibis Society of the University of Miami. The Ibis Society was established in 1985 by the UM Board of Trustees to recognize organizations and individuals who have provided at least \$250,000 in support of the University's research and academic missions. **John Sumberg** represented the firm at a reception hosted at the school's Lowe Art Museum, and was presented with a medallion in honor of the firm's induction into the Ibis Society.

## Celebrate with Our September Birthdays

Scott Baena  
Michael Foster  
William Hill  
Mindy Mora  
Marshall Pasternack

Jay Sakalo  
Jeffrey Snyder  
Jeffrey Watkin  
Erik Weinick



For more information on current firm news and events, visit our web site at [www.bilzin.com](http://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](mailto:jbuchsbaum@bilzin.com).

BILZIN SUMBERG BAENA PRICE & AXELROD LLP

200 S. Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 2500, Miami, FL 33131-5340 Tel 305.374.7580 Fax 305.374.7593

## In the News

- **John Sumberg** was quoted in a *Daily Business Review* article regarding litigation firms, their success and client service.
- **Bob Siegel** was featured in a *Daily Business Review* article regarding the \$1.7 billion refinancing of LNR Property Corporation's senior credit and mezzanine facilities.
- **Mindy Mora** was mentioned in the *Miami Herald Business Notes* regarding her speaking engagement to the Commercial Finance Attorneys regarding recent legislative amendments and the resulting changes in commercial bankruptcy.
- **Michael Kreitzer** was named during a public radio broadcast as a member of WLRN's "Circle of Friends."

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Sept 12 After the Default: Litigation Under UCC Article 9

This program is an ABA-CLE telephonic seminar. All attorneys representing parties to secured transactions will benefit from this presentation. Panelists will discuss the remedies available to a secured creditor, under UCC Article 9, following a debtor's default.

### Sept 25 Revisions to Ethics Rules

CLE Seminar by **Michael Kreitzer**. On May 26, 2006, 39 revisions to the rules regulating the Florida Bar became effective. Mike will be advising our attorneys of these changes as they relate to our practice.

### Sept 26 Road to Partnership

Partners, both new and senior, will discuss the criteria for partnership, the logistics of partnership, partnership expectations and the rewards of partnership. The program will be moderated by **Alvin Lodish**.

## Correction to July's Update

We inadvertently excluded **Matt Rosenkoff** from the list of Mentor Team members. The Mentor Team was the winner of July's Trivial Pursuit Challenge against the Summer Associates.

[www.bilzin.com](http://www.bilzin.com)