

## Jeffrey A. Collier



Shareholder

Tampa Office

jcollier@stearnsweaver.com

Phone: 813-222-5052

### PRACTICE AREAS

Environmental

Land Development

Government & Administrative

Transportation

### OVERVIEW

*"Jeff is a very good attorney, knowledgeable and is committed to client success."*

**- Chambers USA 2022**

Jeff is a Shareholder in the firm's Tampa office with over 20 years of experience serving private and public sector clients throughout Florida in the areas of environmental, land development and administrative law. Jeff represents clients before federal, state and local environmental agencies on large development-related projects and contamination remediation projects throughout Florida.

As a former managing attorney in the South Florida Water Management District's Office of Counsel and a former senior attorney in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of General Counsel, Jeff brings a unique perspective on challenges related to environmental resource and consumptive use permitting, compliance and enforcement, water quality/water supply issues, sovereign submerged lands, and power plant siting.

#### Areas of Concentration

Environmental resource permitting, compliance, enforcement and litigation

Consumptive use permitting, compliance, enforcement and litigation

Water quality/water supply

Administrative law, DOAH litigation

Protected species/habitat conservation planning

Wetlands regulation and permitting

State lands and sovereign submerged lands

Hazardous waste and substances/contamination remediation

Brownfields Redevelopment

Cultural resources

Land development

Land use and zoning

Comprehensive planning and plan amendments

Power plant siting

Petroleum regulation

Mitigation banking

Coastal regulation, permitting and litigation

Utilities (wastewater, reuse, potable and irrigation water)

---

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Represented the first and leading medical cannabis company in the state of Florida in obtaining an Environmental Resource Permit in one week from initial contact using the Suwanee River Water Management District accelerated permit program. The permit was obtained for a 1,000,000 square foot automated growing facility (the largest, known cannabis growing facility in the world), and twelve 24,000 square foot grow facilities housed on a 93-acre property in Madison County, Florida.

Prevailed in state administrative proceeding (Florida Division of Administrative Hearings). Collier represented All Aboard Florida in an administrative hearing challenging an Environmental Resource Permit Modification issued by the South Florida Water Management District. Following a lengthy proceeding, including a two-week hearing, the presiding Administrative Law Judge issued a Recommended Order which found for All Aboard Florida on all issues and endorsed the permit under review. The permit was for a portion of the aforementioned express passenger rail system which will soon connect the four largest urban population centers in Southern and Central Florida. The Recommended Order, which was adopted by the South Florida Water Management District in its Final Order, contains the most thorough analysis to date on the issue of whether the first element of the public interest test permits consideration of non-environmental factors and provides more predictability and clarity as to the application of the public interest criteria.

Represented an affordable housing developer in obtaining a brownfield area designation for an affordable housing project in the City of Tallahassee during the COVID-19 pandemic. The team coordinated an in-person and virtual community meeting that included a team of consultants and members of the public as well as two virtual public hearings to obtain the brownfield area designation. The designation allowed the developer to take advantage of both state environmental clean-up programs and financial incentives.

Counsel in resolving an annexation challenge and an administrative challenge to a comprehensive plan amendment for a coalition of developer clients with projects at risk due to a long-running dispute between Alachua County and the City of Gainesville. Successfully negotiated with the County and the City for a global settlement allowing clients to move forward with projects that had been stalled for over six months and which were at risk of being delayed for another year or more.

---

## PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

American Bar Association

Association of Florida Community Developers (AFCD)

Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce

Habitat for Humanity Site Selection and Property Committees, 2005-2008

Hillsborough County Bar Association

Leadership Tallahassee Class XXXIV

Leadership Tampa Bay Class of 2018

Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County, 2007-2011

Palm Beach County Bar Association, Chair, Environmental & Land Use Law Committee, 2008-2012

Palm Beach County Planning Congress, 2010-2013

Real Estate Investment Council, Inc. (REIC), Tampa Bay

Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Professionals

Tampa Bay Builders Association

The Florida Bar, Environmental and Land Use Section Executive Council

The Florida Bar's ELULS Reporter, Co-Editor, 2010-2013

U.S. Green Building Council LEED AP, 2008-2011

Urban Land Institute, Tampa Bay

Leaders Council

Urban Plan Volunteer

---

## RECOGNITION

*Chambers USA, Environment (Florida), 2021-Present*

*The Best Lawyers in America®*, 2023

AV Rated by *Martindale-Hubbell*

---

## PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

**Land Development News Update, Publications:** [What's Developing | Fall 2023](#)

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | October 2023

---

**Events: [Overview of Regulations and Emerging Issues Affecting Imperiled Species](#)**

37th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School | | July 2023

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Five Important Environmental Topics You Should Know About](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | February 2023

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Summer 2022](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | September 2022

---

**Events: [Overview of Regulations and Emerging Issues Affecting Imperiled Species](#)**

36th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School | | July 2022

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [USFWS to Revise Critical Habitat Rules For Manatees](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | July 2022

---

**Government Affairs News Update, Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Spring 2022](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | May 2022

---

**Government Affairs News Update, Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Winter 2022](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | February 2022

---

**Events: [WEBINAR: Navigating the Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States" \("WOTUS"\)](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller Webinar | | February 2022

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Bird, Bird, Bird - Bird Is The Word!](#)**

Stearns Weaver Millers News Update | November 2021

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Development Demand Drives Opportunity for Conservation of Gopher Tortoise Sites](#)**

Stearns Weaver Millers News Update | October 2021

---

**Publications: [Federal Court Puts 'Navigable Waters Protection Rule' In Murky Waters for Florida](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | October 2021

---

**Government Affairs News Update, Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Fall 2021](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | September 2021

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [FWC Seeks Public Input on Beach-Nesting Birds Draft Guidelines](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | September 2021

---

**Events: [Overview Of Regulations And Emerging Issues Affecting Imperiled Species](#)**

35th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School | | July 2021

---

**Events: [Navigating The Unique Challenges Of Urban Infill Development](#)**

35th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School | | July 2021

---

**Government Affairs News Update, Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Spring 2021](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | May 2021

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Winter 2020-2021](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | January 2021

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [EPA Approves Florida's Assumption of the Clean Water Act's Section 404 Permitting](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | December 2020

---

**Publications: [Environmental Issues In Real Estate Transactions, Florida Real Property Complex Transactions](#)**

The Florida Bar Environmental & Land Use Law Treatise | November 2020

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Fall 2020](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | October 2020

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [New 'Navigable Waters Protection Rule' is the Controlling Law in Florida - for Now.](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | July 2020

---

**Events: [Overview Of Regulations And Emerging Issues Affecting Imperiled Species](#)**

34th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School | | July 2020

---

**Events: [Navigating The Unique Challenges Of Urban Infill Development](#)**

34th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School | | July 2020

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Tolling and Extension Benefits Available for Pandemic Emergency Declarations](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | July 2020

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Summer 2020](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | July 2020

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [U.S. Supreme Court Requires Clean Water Act Permits When A Point Source Pollutant Discharge through Groundwater into Navigable Waters is "Functionally Equivalent" to a Direct Discharge](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | April 2020

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Spring 2020](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | April 2020

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Florida Department of Environmental Protection Issues a Proposed Rule Seeking to Assume Dredge and Fill Permitting Process from Federal Government](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | March 2020

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Hillsborough County Sets Aggressive Twelve Program to Remake Development Policies - and Increase Fees](#)**

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Replacement of Waters of the United States Rule Narrows the Reach of the Clean Water Act](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | February 2020

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Hillsborough County Continues Discussion on Changes in Land Use and Development Policies to Prepare for Smart and Sustainable Growth](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | January 2020

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Florida Supreme Court Reverses Course to Allow Personal Injury Damages for Some Environmental Claims](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | January 2020

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Major Land Use and Development Policies Discussions Continue in Hillsborough County](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | January 2020

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Winter 2019-2020](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | December 2019

---

**Government & Administrative News Update, Land Development News Update, Publications: [2015 Waters of the United States Rule Repealed, with a New Rule Expected this Winter](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | September 2019

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Fall 2019](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | September 2019

---

**Events: [Overview Of Regulations and Emerging Issues Affecting Imperiled Species](#)**

33rd Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School | | July 2019

---

**Events: [Navigating the Unique Challenges of Urban Infill Development](#)**

33rd Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School | | July 2019

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Important Land Development and Environmental Issues Following Florida's 2019 Legislative Session](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | July 2019

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Summer 2019](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | July 2019

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Opportunities Ahead as Florida Prepares for Three New Tollways](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | May 2019

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What Have We Learned After Two Years of Reporting Under Florida's Public Notice of Pollution Act?](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | April 2019

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [EPA Provides Clarity on CWA Regulation of Groundwater - for Now](#)**  
Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | April 2019

---

**Government & Administrative News Update, Land Development News Update, Publications: [Permit Applicants May Need to Reevaluate Strategies Following New Constitutional Amendment Prohibiting Agency Deference](#)**  
Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | February 2019

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Act Now to Secure Tolling and Extension Benefits Related to Hurricanes, Algal Blooms and Red Tide Emergency Declarations](#)**  
Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | January 2019

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Major Water Policy Reform Ahead in Florida](#)**  
Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | January 2019

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Unanimous Property Owner Win as U.S. Supreme Court Limits the Reach of the Endangered Species Act](#)**  
Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | January 2019

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Calmer Waters Ahead? Environmental Protection Agency Proposes New](#)**  
Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | January 2019

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [New Bipartisan Federal Law Presents Opportunities for Public-Private Partnerships](#)**  
Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | November 2018

---

**Events: [Overcoming Redevelopment Obstacles for an Urban Residential Brownfields Site](#)**  
Florida Brownfields Association 2018 Conference | | October 2018

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Summer 2018](#)**  
Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | September 2018

---

**Ad Valorem Tax News Update, Government & Administrative News Update, Land Development News Update, Publications: [Upcoming Vote on Amendment Two Has Significant Tax Implications for Non-Homestead Property Owners](#)**  
Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | August 2018

---

**Events: [Navigating the Unique Challenges of Urban Infill Development](#)**  
Florida Chamber's Environmental Permitting Summer School | July 2018

---

**Events: [Emerging Issues Affecting Conservation of Florida's Imperiled Wildlife Species, Including Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Wildlife Communities](#)**  
Florida Chamber's Environmental Permitting Summer School | July 2018

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Proposed Changes Would Relax Endangered Species Act Restrictions](#)**  
Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | July 2018

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing? | Spring 2018](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | June 2018

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Important Land Development and Environmental Issues Following Florida's 2018 Legislative Session](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | April 2018

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Back to Local Control Over Growth Management: HB 1151 Eliminates State and Regional Review Requirements for Existing Developments of Regional Impact \(DRI\) and Other Large Projects in Florida](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | April 2018

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Important Land Development and Environmental Issues Following Florida's 2018 Legislative Session](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | March 2018

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing? | Winter 2018](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | March 2018

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Opportunities for Permit Extensions Available - But Claiming Them Not Always Straightforward](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | January 2018

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [A New, Narrower Take on the "Incidental Take" of Bird Species under the MBTA](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | January 2018

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Fall 2017](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller Update | December 2017

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [DOAH Recommended Order Clarifies ERP Public Interest Criteria](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | October 2017

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [How Are Your Permits Affected by Hurricane Irma?](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | September 2017

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Summer 2017](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | September 2017

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [State of Emergency for Tropical Storm Emily Presents Another Opportunity to Extend Permits, As Previous Opportunity Comes to a Close](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | August 2017

---

**Events: ["Issues Affecting Florida's Imperiled Wildlife"](#) and ["Coastal Construction Control Line Permitting"](#)**

Florida Chamber's 31st Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School | July 2017

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Important Land Development and Environmental Issues Following Florida's 2017 Legislative Session](#)**

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Spring 2017](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | May 2017

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [What's Developing | Winter 2017](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | January 2017

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Florida's New Emergency Rule Requiring Public Notification of Pollution: What You Need to Know](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | October 2016

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Executive Orders Present Opportunities to Extend the Duration of Qualified Development Permits Across Florida](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | October 2016

---

**Election & Political Law News Update, Government & Administrative News Update, Publications: [Amendment 4 Could Spur Solar Energy Investment and Development in the Sunshine State](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | August 2016

---

**Events: [Emerging Issues Affecting Conservation Of Florida's Imperiled Wildlife Species, Including Potential Impacts Of Climate Change On Wildlife Communities](#)**

Florida Chamber's 30th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School | | July 2016

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Executive Orders Present Opportunities to Extend Development Permits in 36 Florida Counties](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | July 2016

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [U.S. Supreme Court Gives Landowners the Right to Challenge Army Corps' Jurisdictional Determinations in Court](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | June 2016

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Legal Issues Raised by Climate Change, Sea Level Rise, and Coastal Resilience](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | May 2016

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Important Recent Developments in the Federal Regulation of Wetlands](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | April 2016

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Challenges in South Florida Coastal Permitting Projects Mount, with Statewide Implications](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | February 2016

---

**Land Development News Update, Publications: [Updates to Joint Coastal Permit Rules Provide Expedited Review and Longer Permit Duration](#)**

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | January 2016

---

**Events: [Emerging Issues Affecting Conservation of Florida's Imperiled Wildlife Species](#)**

Florida Chamber's Environmental Permitting Summer School | | July 2015

---

**Events: [The Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#)**

University of Florida Levin College of Law 19th Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference | | February 2013

---

**Events: [Zoning and Land Use in Florida: Challenges for Property Owners and Real Estate Professionals](#)**

Institute of Real Estate Management | | October 2011

---

**Events: [Liabilities and Causes of Action Associated with Offshore Oil Spills: The Future of Offshore Drilling after Deepwater Horizon](#)**

Florida Bar's Environmental & Land Use Section Annual Update | | August 2011

---

**Events: [Science Based Solutions to Permitting and Mitigating in the Coastal Marine Environment](#)**

Florida Chamber's Environmental Permitting Summer School | | July 2011

---

**Events: [Green Building Strategies & Certification Programs](#)**

Florida Chamber's Growth Management, Energy, Climate Change & the Environment Short Course | | February 2010

---

**Events: [Navigating the Course for Successful Corps Appeals](#)**

Florida Chamber's Environmental Permitting Summer School | | July 2007

---

**Publications: [Chapter 163 Development Agreements: A Quasi-Permitting Process for a Negotiated Solution to Land Development Issues](#)**

Land Use Law | September 2006

---

**Events: [Chapter 163 Development Agreements](#)**

CLE International's Land Use Law Seminar | | September 2006

---

**Events: [Federal Wetlands Permitting](#)**

Florida Chamber's Growth Management & Environmental Permitting Short Course | | February 2006

---

**Events: [Innovative Site Remediation](#)**

Florida Chamber's Environmental Permitting Summer School | | July 2005

---

## NEWSROOM

**Firm Announcements: [29 Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers in 11 Practice Areas Ranked In Chambers USA 2023](#)**

| June 2023

---

**Firm Announcements: [28 Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers in 12 Practice Areas Ranked In Chambers USA 2022](#)**

| June 2022

---

**Firm Announcements: [29 Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers in 12 Practice Areas Ranked In Chambers USA 2021](#)**

| May 2021

---

**Firm Announcements, Land Development News Update: Stearns Weaver Miller Launches Executive Order Permit Extension Tool For Tracking States Of Emergency**

| May 2017

---

**Firm Announcements: Land Development, Zoning & Environmental Shareholder Jeffrey A. Collier Joins Tampa Office**

| March 2017

---

**Firm Announcements: South Florida Water Management District Attorney Jeffrey A. Collier Joins Stearns Weaver Miller's Land Development, Zoning & Environmental Group**

| November 2015

---

## EDUCATION

J.D., University of Denver Sturm College of Law, 1999

*University of Denver Law Review*

B.A., University of Florida, 1996

---

## ADMISSIONS

Florida

United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida