

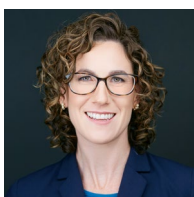
Shareholder Melanie Leitman Elected Vice President of America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend

TALLAHASSEE, FL — August 20, 2024 — Stearns Weaver Miller announced that Shareholder [Melanie Leitman](#) has been elected Vice President of America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend, a Tallahassee-based non-profit that provides healthy food for vulnerable neighbors, including children, seniors, veterans, and low-income families facing hunger and food insecurity throughout 16 counties in its Big Bend service area. Second Harvest serves as a hub for over 149 smaller frontline agencies, such as emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and children's homes.

Melanie has served on the Second Harvest Board of Directors for five years, including as Secretary since 2021. In addition to Melanie's involvement, the firm's Tallahassee office regularly volunteers for the organization, including packing bags for children enrolled in a supplemental weekend feeding program that ensures children receive a healthy breakfast, lunch, and snack every weekend during the school year. To learn more about America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend, [click here](#).

In addition to her involvement with Second Harvest, Melanie is a leader in several other organizations positively impacting the Tallahassee community. She is a Co-Founder and Director of the [Bridge to Law School Program](#), an initiative that integrates academic preparation, mentoring, and professional development to demystify the law school application process, the law school experience, and the practice of law for first-generation college students. The program was recently honored with two Diversity & Inclusion awards, including the [Daily Business Review's 2024 Florida Legal Awards](#) and the [2023 Tallahassee Women Lawyers Diversity & Inclusion Leadership Award](#). Melanie also serves as Treasurer of the William H. Stafford American Inn of Court and is a member of Tallahassee Women Lawyers (TWL).

Melanie's legal practice focuses on employment defense litigation and human resources consultation. She represents clients in various employment-related claims, including Chapter 760, Title VII, ADA, FMLA, FLSA, whistleblower retaliation claims, drafting and enforcement/defense of covenants prohibiting competition, and constitutional claims arising out of employment disputes. She also handles civil and administrative litigation, covering state constitutional issues, general business and contract disputes, and state and federal appellate advocacy. Since 2015, Melanie has been recognized as a Rising Star in *Florida Super Lawyers* and was named as one of *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 2024.



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About Stearns Weaver Miller

Stearns Weaver Miller is a Florida-based law firm with more than 150 attorneys and offices in Miami, Coral Gables, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Tallahassee. For over 40 years, our multidisciplinary team of attorneys and professionals have worked collaboratively to help our clients understand and resolve complex legal issues and disputes. For more information, visit stearnsweaver.com.

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