

Shareholder Patrice Boyes Joins Land Development, Zoning & Environmental Group in Tampa

TAMPA, FL – August 1, 2024 – Stearns Weaver Miller announced that [Patrice Boyes](#) has joined the firm’s Tampa office as a Shareholder in the [Land Development, Zoning & Environmental](#) group. Patrice has more than three decades of experience representing property owners, institutional clients, business owners and local governments in state and administrative hearings regarding land use and environmental matters.

Patrice manages teams of diverse legal and expert consultants to develop strategic solutions to complex permitting and economic development matters. Patrice is experienced in conceptualizing and executing paths for securing approvals, including matters involving environmental issues. She has overseen numerous transformative mid-rise projects in an urbanizing college town, and secured approval of the largest mixed-use development ever approved in Alachua County.

Patrice also serves as a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit & Appellate Court Mediator and is highly skilled in mediation, facilitation and negotiation regarding complex legal problems that require creative resolutions. She regularly facilitates the negotiation of complex agreements, including private sector parties intending to form or exit a business relationship, and parties negotiating development agreements or permitting resolutions in the public sector. She also serves as a Special Magistrate under the Florida Land Use and Environmental Dispute Resolution Act (§ 70.51).

“Patrice’s experience is unique and expansive. Not only does she actively handle transformative land use and environmental matters, but also related litigation. She will make a wonderful addition to our team and continue to elevate our statewide objectives and capabilities,” said Reggie Bouthillier, Shareholder and Chair of the group. “We are looking forward to her joining in Tampa while continuing to strongly serve and build our presence in the region between Central and North Florida, including Gainesville and Alachua County from where Patrice has proudly assisted clients for over thirty years.”

Prior to joining the firm, Patrice served as principal and founder of her own firm in Gainesville, Florida. She served clients in a wide range of industries including mining, agriculture and silviculture, healthcare, hospitality, and real estate. Patrice also co-founded a hydro-geologic consulting firm and served for 16 years in various positions, including Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel.

“The firm’s collaborative, cross department culture will enable me to draw on knowledge and extensive resources to efficiently guide clients through multifaceted matters,” said Boyes. “I am looking forward to returning to Tampa, and thank my colleagues, clients and friends in Gainesville for your support over the last 38 years. I am excited to start this new chapter at Stearns Weaver Miller.”

Patrice's addition is part of the ongoing growth of the firm's Land Development, Zoning & Environmental group. Over the past five years, the group has strengthened its presence statewide with the addition of 18 new members including attorneys, planners and a Geographic Information System (GIS) Analyst.

Patrice earned her J.D. from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, her M.A. in Journalism from the University of Michigan and her B.A. from Dickinson College. Prior to law school, she was a journalist and worked as Political Editor of the *Tampa Tribune*, and as a contributor to the *New York Times*. She also worked for newspapers in Washington, D.C., Jacksonville, FL., and York, PA.

Patrice is also an artist who paints contemporary fine art inspired by the natural world and built environment. She has had solo exhibitions of her work in private, civic and college galleries and numerous group exhibitions within the United States. She is a Signature Member of the National Association of Women Artists in New York, co-editor of the Association's national magazine, and a board member of the Florida chapter.



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