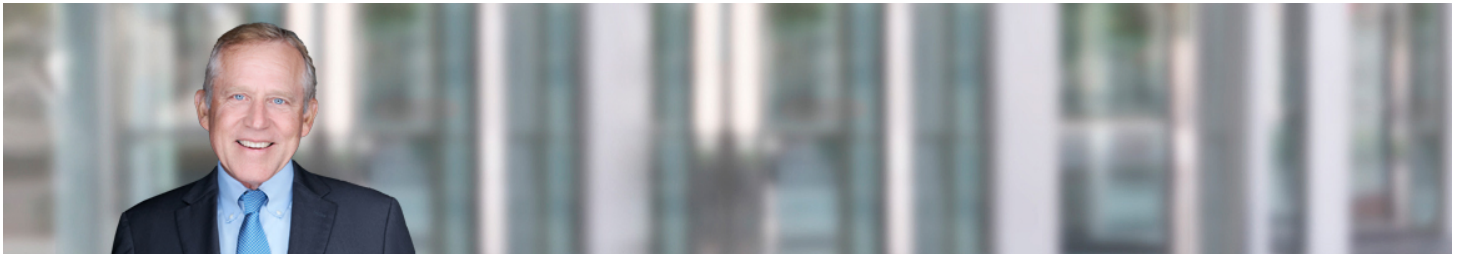


## Darrell Payne



Shareholder

Miami Office

dpayne@stearnsweaver.com

Phone: 305-789-3415

### PRACTICE AREAS

Litigation & Dispute Resolution  
Litigation - Land Use,  
Environmental & Property Rights  
Ad Valorem Tax  
Banking & Financial Institutions  
Real Estate  
Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights  
Transportation

### OVERVIEW

Darrell Payne is a Shareholder in the Litigation Department and a member of the Firm's Board of Directors. His practice covers a wide range of complex commercial litigation and business torts. He regularly represents clients in contract disputes, intellectual property litigation & lawsuits involving banking, real estate and construction. Darrell also has experience with claims involving title to real property, title insurance disputes, tax assessment challenges, eminent domain and land use claims, cargo loss claims, distributorship issues, and accounting negligence. He handles all phases of litigation in state and federal courts throughout Florida, including mediation, arbitration and appeals. Darrell served as a law clerk to United States District Judge Kenneth L. Ryskamp, in the District Court for the Southern District of Florida, from 1988-1989.

Darrell has been a leader of professional and community organizations, including Legal Services of Greater Miami, which provides free civil legal services for the economically disadvantaged. He is passionate about expanding pro bono opportunities and has made many presentations on lawyer professionalism for The Florida Bar and The Dade County Bar.

### REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Successfully defended one of the world's largest non-vessel operating common carriers in the United States District Court for the Central District of California, in an action brought by one of its main competitors, seeking more than \$10 million dollars, and alleging misappropriation of trade secrets, unfair trade practices, and tortious interference with contract and business relationship. After a multi-day bench trial, Defendant prevailed on all claims.

Secured \$2.4 million non-jury verdict in trademark/distributorship dispute involving organic food manufacturer.

Successfully challenged land-use/zoning change for multi-million dollar condominium project near national historic landmark.

Obtained \$1.7 million non-jury verdict in a partnership buyout dispute.

Successfully litigated complex commercial and multi-unit residential development foreclosures for lenders and loan-holders, including bankruptcy and workout issues.

Successfully prosecuted corporate valuation/appraisal rights proceeding involving master-planned communities and other significant real estate assets.

Successfully litigated trade secret theft / employee non-compete dispute involving international distillery / alcoholic beverage company.

Successfully challenged tax assessments in administrative proceedings and circuit court lawsuits for a range of commercial properties and businesses, including a major shopping mall, a high-rise rental development, an apartment complex, gaming facilities, and funeral homes/cemeteries.

Defended multi-million dollar business tort jury trial involving international commodities trading.

Defended chemical company in multi-million dollar jury trial involving alleged damage to aquaculture concern in Ecuador.

Successfully handled distributorship litigation for various companies, including international chemical company, international electronics company and Latin American distributor of medical products.

Represented international fast-service food franchisor in trademark/trade dress/franchisee litigation.

Successfully represented pro bono client in quit claim action, recovering clear title and allowing client to remain in his home of more than 30 years.

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## PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Florida Bar

Rules of Judicial Administration Committee

Standing Committee on Professionalism

Eminent Domain Committee

Young Lawyers Division - Board of Governors

Dade County Bar Association

Board of Directors

Professionalism Committee

Federal Courts Committee

Schools Committee

American Bar Association, Litigation Section

Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.

Board President

Board Treasurer  
Executive Committee  
Campaign Committee  
Audit & Finance Committee

United Way Miami

Executive Committee  
Board of Directors  
Community Impact Committee, Co-Chair  
School Age Education Impact Council, Past Co-Chair  
Public Policy Committee

WLRN Public Television and Radio, Community Advisory Board Chair

University of Florida College of Law

Law Center Association  
Alumni Council  
Law & Technology Conference Steering Committee

Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center Association, Inc.,  
Board Member

Friends of Gables High, Board Chair

Miami Pro Bono Round Table

Drug Free Youth in Town (DFYIT)

South Dade Family YMCA, Adventure Guides Program, Volunteer

Coral Reef Yacht Club

Youth Sailing Committee  
Audit & Finance Committee

Dade County Children First Program, Guardian *Ad Litem* Attorney

Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc.

Florida High School Mock Trial Program, Advisory Committee

Cities in Schools/Corporate Academy, Mentor

Big Brothers Big Sisters, Bigs at Work

Florida Baptist Children's Home, Big Brother

Volunteer Youth Sports Coach, various sports

The Education Fund, Teacher Champion/Volunteer

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## RECOGNITION

LSGMI Julie Azuaje Volunteer Leadership Award, 2021

Pro Bono Honoree, Legal Services of Greater Miami, 2019

*Florida Super Lawyers*, 2006-2019

The Education Fund, The Sapoznik Insurance Public School Alumni Achievement Award, 2017

President's Distinguished Leadership Recognition – Pro Bono, Dade County Bar Association, March 2017

*Florida Trend's Florida Legal Elite*, 2016

Legal Services of Greater Miami, 50 Voices Honoree, 2015

*ALM/Law.com South Florida's Top Rated Lawyers*, 2012

*Super Lawyers, Corporate Counsel Edition, Business Litigation*, 2010

*South Florida Legal Guide - "Top Lawyers in South Florida,"* 2006-2007

*Miami Metro Magazine Legal Guide, Top Lawyer*, 2001

Put Something Back Joint Pro Bono Project of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, *Pro Bono Award*, 1992, 1994, 1999, 2002

AV Rated by *Martindale-Hubbell*

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## PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

**Publications:** [Environmental Concerns Chapter, Florida Eminent Domain Practice and Procedure](#)

The Florida Bar (5th ed. (2006) through 12th ed. (2021)) | January 2021

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**Ad Valorem Tax News Update, Land Development News Update, Publications:** [Should You Challenge Your Property Tax Assessment?](#)

Stearns Weaver Miller News Update | August 2017

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**Events:** [Miami Pro Bono Roundtable's Pro Bono Fair and Poverty Simulation](#)

Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus | | March 2016

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**Publications:** [Commentary: A Report Card on Check 21](#)

Bank & Lender Liability Litigation Reporter | September 2007

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**Publications:** [Juris Federal Law Clerk Training Handbook](#)

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida | January 1994

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## NEWSROOM

**Firm Announcements:** [Darrell Payne Honored With Legal Services of Greater Miami's Inaugural Julie Azuaje Volunteer Leadership Award](#)

| October 2021

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**Firm Announcements:** [Darrell Payne Elected to United Way of Miami-Dade Executive Committee](#)

| July 2020

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**Firm Announcements:** [Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2019](#)

| June 2019

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**Firm Announcements:** [Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2018](#)

| June 2018

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**In the Media:** [Students, Celebrity Chefs Join The Education Fund in honoring top donors: Wells Fargo, Sapoznik Insurance, Assurant & Miami Marlins](#)

PR Newswire || February 2018

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**Firm Announcements:** [Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2017](#)

| June 2017

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**Firm Announcements:** [Darrell Payne Honored with 2017 Public School Alumni Achievement Award](#)

| May 2017

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**In the Media:** [Going the Distance](#)

The Florida Bar Journal || March 2017

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**Firm Announcements:** [Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2016](#)

| June 2016

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**Firm Announcements:** [Stearns Weaver Miller Lawyers Recognized in Florida Super Lawyers 2014](#)

| June 2014

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**Firm Announcements:** [Darrell Payne Joins Stearns Weaver Miller](#)

| November 2009

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## EDUCATION

J.D., with honors, University of Florida Levin College of Law, 1988

B.A., with honors, University of North Carolina, 1985

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## ADMISSIONS

Florida

United States District Courts for the Middle and Southern Districts of Florida

United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit