

## **Darrell Payne Honored With Legal Services of Greater Miami's Inaugural Julie Azuaje Volunteer Leadership Award**

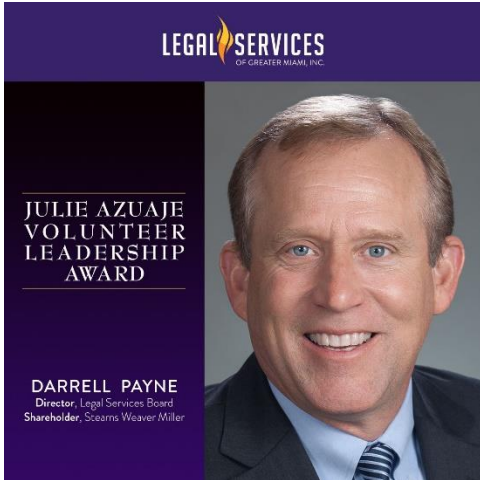
**MIAMI, FL** – October 1, 2021 - Stearns Weaver Miller announced that Litigation & Dispute Resolution Shareholder Darrell Payne was awarded Legal Services of Greater Miami's inaugural Julie Azuaje Volunteer Leadership Award. The award, named after the late Miami lawyer and pro bono advocate Julie Azuaje, was established to be presented annually to a volunteer whose leadership has made a lasting impact and who is committed to building a community of equal justice. The recipient must demonstrate exceptional commitment, service, compassion, and/or leadership to Legal Services of Greater Miami.

"I am incredibly honored to receive an award named after Julie Azuaje. Recently, Julie passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. She was a long-time and particularly dedicated Legal Services volunteer and Board Member. Julie is an example of selfless service to the critical mission of Legal Services – without committed volunteers and donors like Julie, the talented lawyers at Legal Services would not be able to do what they do for Miami's low-income community," said Darrell Payne.

Darrell has been a Board Member of Legal Services for over 20 years, including serving as Past President from 2005-2008. During his tenure, he has contributed to nearly every facet of the organization including fundraising, governance, leadership development, and community engagement. Darrell is passionate about expanding pro bono opportunities and services to indigent individuals in Miami-Dade County. He routinely provides pro bono representation to Legal Services of Greater Miami and its clients, including assisting a cancer patient who was experiencing homelessness return home after being deceived out of his lease and assisting Legal Services' interests in a litigation dispute against a large telecommunications company. Darrell also participates in the Cuban American Bar Association ("CABA") Pro Bono project representing juvenile immigrants in obtaining visas. He is an active member of the Miami-Dade community, and [currently serves](#) on the United Way of Miami-Dade's Executive Committee.

"Darrell is always providing guidance and looking for creative ways for our team to develop their professional skills and take on leadership opportunities in the community. Despite his growing professional and community engagement responsibilities, he has always selflessly prioritized our mission and has done so quietly and always avoiding any fanfare. I am pleased to present the inaugural Julie Azuaje Volunteer Leadership Award to Darrell Payne," said Monica Vignes-Pitan, Legal Services of Greater Miami Executive Director.

Darrell's legal 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. He handles all phases of litigation in state and federal courts throughout Florida, including mediation, arbitration and appeals.



**Contact Darrell Payne:**

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## About Stearns Weaver Miller

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson is a full service law firm with offices in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, Tallahassee, and Coral Gables, Florida. We offer multidisciplinary solutions with a focus on Litigation & Dispute Resolution, Business Restructuring, Corporate & Securities, Government & Administrative, Labor & Employment, Real Estate, Real Estate Finance, Commercial Finance and Loan Restructuring & Workouts, Land Development, Zoning & Environmental, Marital & Family Law and Tax. For more information, visit [stearnsweaver.com](http://stearnsweaver.com).