# **ROBERT J. FIORE**

**Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer** 



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### **Licenses**

Florida Bar (1986) United States District Court, Southern District of Florida (1987)

# **Education**

Chaminade College Preparatory, Hollywood, Florida Graduated 1979

University of Florida College of Law, Gainesville, Florida

Graduated May, 1986, Juris Doctorate

National Member, *The Order of Barristers* ("Having Exhibited Excellence and Attained High Honor Through the Art of Courtroom Advocacy")

Moot Court

Vice-Chair, Fall, 1985

Competitor in Regional Round of ABA National Moot Court Competition, Spring, 1984

Finalist in University of Florida Challenge Cup Competition, Fall, 1984 Top two Advocate in Intramural Competition, Fall, 1984

Trial Competition Team

Top three advocate in Intramural Competition, Spring, 1984 American Inn of Court, Jacksonville, University of Florida Inn Honorary Invitee to Florida's first Inn Biscayne College, Miami, Florida

Graduated Summa Cum Laude, May, 1983, Bachelor of Arts Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges The National Dean's List Outstanding Young Men of America Editor, *Driftwood*, College literary magazine

#### **Professional Experience**

Robert J. Fiore, P.A. February 1, 1998 to present

Russomanno, Fiore & Borrello, P.A.
Partner, September 1, 1996 to January 31, 1998

Floyd, Pearson, Richman, Greer, Weil, Brumbaugh & Russomanno, P.A. Associate, May, 1986 to August 31, 1994 Partner, 1994-1996

Law Clerk, United States Attorney, Southern District of Florida, May-August, 1985

Law Clerk, Judge Leonard Rivkind, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit May-August 1984

### **Professional and Civic Organizations and Committees**

Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory, Hollywood, Florida, a United States Department of Education "Recognized School of Excellence"

**Chair**, Board of Trustees, April 15, 2000-September 13, 2003 Member, Board of Trustees, 1998-September 13, 2003

Other service:

Chair, 1997 Annual Fund

Dade County Bar Association (Largest voluntary Bar Association in the State of Florida)

**President**, 2004-2005

President-elect, 2003

Vice-President, 2002

Secretary, 2001

Treasurer, 2000

Board of Directors, 1997-June 10, 2005

Other service:

Chair, Meetings and Luncheons Committee, 1993-1994; 2000

Program Chair, Tribute to Retiring State Court Judges, January 29, 2001 Program Chair, Tribute to Senior Status Federal District Court Judges, March 2, 2001

Lawyer Regulation Committee, 2001

Professionalism Committee, 2000-2005

Executive Committee, 1999-2005

Chair, Membership Committee, 1999-2000

Chair, Multidisciplinary Practice Drafting Committee, 2000

## Dade County Trial Lawyers Association

**President**, 1996-1997

President Elect, 1995-1996

Treasurer, 1994-1995

Secretary, 1993-1994

Board of Directors, 1992-1999

#### The Florida Bar

Standing Committee on Professionalism

**Chair**, July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005

Vice Chair, July 1, 2002-June 30, 2004

Member, July 1, 2000-June 30, 2006

Other service:

Chair, New Project Development Committee-2001 Chair, Historical Video Series Committee-2002-2004

### Florida Supreme Court, Commission on Professionalism

Member, July 1, 2004—(currently ex-officio)

Judicial Subcommittee, 2000-2003

Bar Subcommittee, 2003-2005

Diversity Subcommittee, 2005

Budget Subcommittee, 2005

# Florida Appellate Court, Third District Court of Appeal

Member, Third DCA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, 2004—

(Project launched during Dade County Bar Association presidency)

Florida Trial Court, Eleventh Judicial Circuit

**Co-Chair**, The Dade County Courthouse, Historic Courtroom Restoration Project, 2004—

(Project launched during Dade County Bar Association presidency)

Supreme Court Commissioned Professionalism Committee, 1998—

Professional Review Subcommittee, 1999—

Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA, n/k/a AAJ)

Young Lawyers Division (approximately 15,000 members)

Chair, 1995-1996

Vice-Chair, 1994-1995

Board of Governors, 1996-1998

(Also served on numerous other Committees/Sections, including Convention Planning Committee, Insurance Law Section, Judicial Independence Committee, Exchange Advisory Committee and National Student Trial Advocacy Competition)

Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers (AFTL, n/k/a FJA)

Board of Directors, 1993-2003

Young Lawyers Section (approximately 650 members)

Chair, 1994-1995

Chair-Elect, 1993-1994

Secretary, 1993

Other service:

Program Chair, Ultimate Trial Notebook Seminar, 1994

Nursing Home Task Force, 2000

(Also served on numerous other Committees/Sections)

Cuban American Bar Association

Member

Florida Association of Women Lawyers

Member

Miami Beach Bar Association

Member

Alliance for Ethical Government

Lobbying Task Force, 1999

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Miami

Committee of 100 (yearly commitment)

ArtCenter/South Florida

Board of Directors, 2000

Murano at Portofino Condominium Association, South Beach Vice-President, 2006—

### **Professional Honors**

Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer (Specialist and Expert in Civil Trial Law)

Martindale-Hubbell "AV Preeminent" rated trial lawyer and firm (Signifies the legal abilities of the firm are of the very highest standard and that the professional ethics of the firm are unquestioned)

Florida Trend's Legal Elite selection, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2011—Top 1.7% of Florida Lawyers, as chosen by peers—Civil Trial Practice

South Florida Legal Guide's selection, 2005-2012—One of South Florida's "Top Lawyers," as chosen by peers—Civil Trial Practice

Florida Super Lawyers, 2007-2012—Top 5% of Florida Lawyers, as chosen by peers—Personal Injury, Plaintiff

The Million and Multimillion Dollar Advocates Forum (Membership limited to attorneys who have won million and multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements. Membership demonstrates, in an objective and tangible way, ability to accomplish superior results in complex cases)

The Lawdragon 3000 Leading Plaintiffs' Lawyers in America-2007 (Among the most elite forms of recognition for American Lawyers as this designation is awarded to less than one-half of one percent of America's 1.1 million lawyers)

### **Professional and Civic Awards**

Association of Trial Lawyers of America, New Lawyers Division, "Most Dedicated Public Servant Award," 1994Association of Trial Lawyers of America, New Lawyers Division, "National Public Service Award," 1994

Association of Trial Lawyers of America, New Lawyers Division, "Most Outstanding Young Lawyers Section National Award," 1995 (Awarded for leading the most outstanding State Young Lawyers Section as Chair of the Young Lawyers Section of the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, 1994-1995)

Dade County Trial Lawyers Association, "Exceptional Service and Leadership Award," 1996

Chaminade High School, "Alumni Hall of Fame Award," 1997 (Awarded for dedication and commitment to community, family and for work "Toward a Better World")

Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, "EAGLE Talon Award," October 17, 1997 (Awarded for dedication to the highest ideals of the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers)

Dade County Trial Lawyers Association, "Leadership and Service Award," for serving as President, 1997

Who's Who in American Law, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Editions

Association of Trial Lawyers of America, New Lawyers Division, "F. Scott Baldwin Most Outstanding Young Trial Lawyer Award," July 12, 1998 (Awarded for Exemplifying the Highest Ideals of a Trial Lawyer by Demonstrating Excellence, Compassion, Honesty, and Caring in his Profession through Protecting Consumers from the Abuse of Corporate Power and by Acting as a Trustee of Individual Liberties)

Association of Trial Lawyers of America, Wiedeman/Wysocki Award, 1997, 1998 (Awarded for Service and Commitment to ATLA)

### Significant Cases Resulting in Changes in Law

Consumer Dispute with HMO: *Pasteur Health Plan Inc.*, v. *Salazar*, 658 So.2d 543 (Fla. 3<sup>rd</sup> DCA, 1995). The first case in the State of Florida in favor of consumers holding Health Maintenance Organization contracts are "contracts of adhesion" and holding HMO's accountable to consumers similar to traditional insurance companies. Defendant HMO forced to pay over \$750,000.00 in hospital/medical bills incurred by a child before he died as a result of an ATV accident, in addition to the attorneys' fees and costs incurred by the child's mother in litigating against the HMO.

Diet Litigation: National *Nutri/System* litigation. Served as Co-Lead Counsel in National litigation against Nutri/System, an international weight loss chain, leading to several Congressional Hearings, nationwide media coverage, changes in the way the diet industry advertises services and a settlement for approximately 580 claimants across the country.

# **Pain Clinic Reforms**

Represented the family of a prescription-overdose victim whose death became the centerpiece of investigative reports on South Florida's loosely regulated pain-clinic industry. The articles were highlighted during legislative hearings that led to the passage

of tighter regulations of clinics and greater scrutiny of doctors who prescribe addictive painkillers.

### **Speaking Engagements/Program Participant**

Speaker, Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, "Demand Packages and the Trial Notebook for Law Office Staff," November, 1993

Speaker, Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, "Homeowner Insurance," October, 1996 Speaker, (DCTLA), "The do's and don'ts of establishing and maintaining a Countywide Trial Lawyer Organization," January 9, 1997 (At the request of the Palm Beach County Trial Lawyers Association)

Speaker, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, "Civility in an Uncivil Environment," July 20, 1997 (At the ATLA Annual Convention in San Diego)

Speaker, Dade County Legal Secretaries Association, "Thoughts on Civility and Becoming a Better Person," July 9, 1997

Speaker, University of Miami Law School, "Pre-trial procedure," October 9, 1997

Participant, First Statewide Professionalism Summit, headed by Florida Supreme Court Justice Harry Lee Anstead, February 26, 1998, Miami, Florida

Speaker, First Statewide Symposium on Professionalism, headed by Florida Supreme Court Justice Major Best Harding, February 27, 1998, Stetson Law School, St. Petersburg, Florida ("How to conduct a Professionalism Luncheon")

Speaker, University of Miami Law School, "The Taking of Depositions," March 24, 1998

Speaker, University of Miami Law School, "Responding to Discovery Requests," September 17, 1998

**Program Chair**, The Stephen R. Covey Professionalism Program for Lawyers, Judges and Staff, March 11, 1999 (Introduced Dr. Stephen R. Covey, author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, to the legal community through a unique professionalism program dedicated to lawyers, judges and legal staff. Attended by approximately 750 persons from throughout Florida)

Speaker, Miami-Dade Legal Support Association, "The Two Most Pressing Issues of Our Profession," March 14, 2000

Speaker, Miami-Dade Legal Support Association, "Legislative Update" following the May 5, 2000 closure of the 2000 legislative session, May 6, 2000

Speaker, Wealth & Wisdom with Joyce Boyer & Michael Lee, WXEL-TV, "Nursing Home Abuse and Neglect," April 4, 2002

Speaker, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, "Finding A Niche-Nursing Home Abuse," July 22, 2002 (ATLA Annual Convention, Atlanta)

Speaker, County Court Investiture Ceremony, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Honorable Shirlyon McWhorter, October 3, 2003

Speaker, Miami-Dade Legal Support Association, "The Two Most Pressing Issues of Our Profession," July 27, 2004

Speaker, "Practicing With Professionalism," August 6, 2004 (Presented Multi-Media Professionalism/Ethics seminar to approximately 300 new members of The Florida Bar)

Speaker, County Court Investiture Ceremony, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Honorable Maria Ortiz, February 5, 2004

Speaker, County Court Investiture Ceremony, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Honorable Darrin Gayles, July 9, 2004

Speaker, New Lawyer Induction Ceremony, Third District Court of Appeal, October 4, 2004

Speaker, Retirement Celebration, Third District Court of Appeal Judges Robert L. Shevin, Mario P. Goderich and Alan R. Schwartz, October 29, 2004 (Attended by 700)

Speaker, Installation Ceremony, Miami Beach Bar Association, December 20, 2004

**Program Chair**, The Stephen R. Covey Professionalism Program for Lawyers, Judges and Staff, Part II, January 7, 2005 (Re-introduced Dr. Stephen R. Covey, author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, and *The 8<sup>th</sup> Habit, From Effectiveness to Greatness*, to the legal community through a unique professionalism program dedicated to lawyers, judges and legal staff. Attended by approximately 600 persons from throughout Florida)

Speaker, County Court Investiture Ceremony, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Honorable Ada Pozo Revilla, February 4, 2005

Speaker, Circuit Court Investiture Ceremony, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Honorable Barbara Areces, February 11, 2005

Speaker, Appellate Court Investiture Ceremony, Third District Court of Appeal, Honorable Richard Suarez, February 11, 2005

**Program Chair**, David Boies, February 17, 2005 (Introduced famed trial lawyer David Boies, author of *Courting Justice*, to the South Florida legal community. Attended by approximately 300 persons)

Speaker, County Court Investiture Ceremony, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Honorable Judy Rubenstein, February 18, 2005

Speaker, Circuit Court Investiture Ceremony, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Honorable William Thomas, March 4, 2005

Speaker, Appellate Court Investiture Ceremony, Third District Court of Appeal, Honorable Leslie B. Rothenberg, March 4, 2005

Speaker, Circuit Court Investiture Ceremony, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Honorable John Schlesinger, March 18, 2005

Speaker, Appellate Court Investiture Ceremony, Third District Court of Appeal, Honorable Angel Cortiñas, April 8, 2005

**Program Chair**, Tribute to Senator Bob Graham, April 13, 2005 (Celebrating the service of Senator Graham, author of *Intelligence Matters*, to the people of Florida and the United States. Attended by approximately 250 persons)

Speaker, North Dade Justice Center Law Day Program, "The American Jury: We The People In Action," May 5, 2005

Speaker, New Lawyer Induction Ceremony, Third District Court of Appeal, May 9, 2005

Speaker, Juvenile Justice Center Gallery of Honor Ceremony, May 11, 2005

Speaker, The Richard E. Gerstein Justice Building Law Day Program, "The American Jury: We The People In Action," May 12, 2005

Speaker, Twenty-Ninth Annual Installation, Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Miami Chapter, May 21, 2005

Speaker, Columbian American Bar Association, "Diversity in the Legal Profession," June 1, 2005

Speaker, Circuit Court Investiture Ceremony, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Honorable Christina Pereyra-Shuminer, June 2, 2005

Speaker, County Court Investiture Ceremony, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Honorable Bronwyn Miller, June 3, 2005

Program Participant, "Criminal Justice And Our Constitutions: That Delicate Balance," An Open Forum, Ethics Roundtable, March 24, 2006 (Sponsored by The Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Miami Chapter and The Dade County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section)

Speaker, Circuit Court Investiture Ceremony, 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Honorable Valerie Manno Schurr, March 9, 2007

Program Participant, "Venturing Into A Solo Practice," April 17, 2007 (Sponsored by the Dade County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section)

Program Participant, "People of Make a Difference," January 13, 2011 (Introduced *Miami Herald* Investigative Reporter Scott Hiaasen, Author of the "Pill Mill" series that uncovered massive prescription drug abuse leading to changes in Florida law; cosponsored by the Dade County Bar Association and the Miami-Dade Justice Association)

Speaker, Miami-Dade Legal Support Association, "Preparing a Trial Notebook," May 22, 2012

## **Other Activities and Hobbies**

Top 100 runner, Robert "Ravin" Kraft running team (<u>www.ravenrun.com</u>)

Leadership Miami, Graduate

Co-Organizer, "Halloween for Hurricane Kids", October, 1992

Participant, "Doctors and Lawyers Join Hands to Combat Family Violence," October, 1993

Member, Shula's Steak House, 48 ounce Club (Inducted August 1, 1998 and December 16, 2001)

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