

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STEARNS WEAVER MILLER
PROMOTES FIVE ATTORNEYS TO SHAREHOLDERS**

MIAMI — October 31, 2008 — The law firm of Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. announced the promotion of five attorneys from Associates to Shareholders. The newly promoted attorneys are Carlos J. Canino (litigation), Lauren Young Cantor (corporate and securities), Peter D. Lopez (real estate), Gordon McRae Mead, Jr. (litigation), and Bonnie A. Navin (litigation).

Carlos J. Canino joined the Firm in 2001. He earned his J.D. from Florida State University and his B.S. from the United States Military Academy. Mr. Canino is a member of the Litigation Department and regularly represents clients at the trial and appellate levels in both state and federal courts in the areas of Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act litigation, contract and real estate matters, creditor's rights, commercial landlord-tenant relations, aviation, and insurance coverage litigation.

Lauren Young Cantor joined the Firm in 2006. She earned her J.D. from New York University School of Law and her B.A., *cum laude*, from the University of Florida. Ms. Young Cantor is a member of the Corporate and Securities Department. Her practice focuses on a broad range of corporate counseling and sophisticated transactions, including representation of publicly and privately held domestic and international entities, private equity firms and their portfolio companies and senior lenders and entrepreneurs in mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, financings, divestitures, and joint ventures. Prior to joining the Firm, she was an associate in the New York and Miami offices of prominent international law firms.

Peter D. Lopez joined the Firm in 2002. He earned his J.D., *magna cum laude*, from the University of Miami School of Law and his A.B., *cum laude*, from Duke University. Mr. Lopez is a member of the Real Estate Department and has experience in all aspects of commercial real estate lending, including acquisition, development, construction, and permanent financing. Mr. Lopez also has experience in the representation of developers and operators in connection with the acquisition sale, developments construction, and leasing of commercial real estate.

Gordon McRae Mead, Jr. ("Grey") joined the Firm in 2007. He earned his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School with high honors, was elected to be a member of the Order of the Coif and was Editor-in-Chief for Volume 68 of *The University of Chicago Law Review*. He received his B.A., *cum laude*, from Dartmouth College. Mr. Mead is a member of the Litigation Department and practices in all areas of commercial litigation. Prior to joining the Firm, he served as a clerk for the Honorable Jerry E. Smith of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in Houston, Texas and was an associate in a prominent New York law firm.

Bonnie A. Navin joined the Firm in 2005. She earned her J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center and her B.S. from Nova Southeastern University. She is a member of the Litigation Department. Ms. Navin has extensive experience in the defense of doctors and dental professionals in malpractice cases and before the State of Florida administrative agencies, healthcare, maritime, and equine law. She has tried numerous malpractice cases to verdict. Prior to practicing law, Ms. Navin worked as a Director of Worker's Compensation and Director of Maritime Managed Care with one of the nation's largest health maintenance organizations, before becoming Vice President of South Florida Operations for a Florida-based Commercial HMO.

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. is a full service law firm with offices in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and Tampa. On-line at www.stearnsweaver.com