

# Third DCA Spring Seminar: **Extraordinary Writs & Non-Final Appeals**

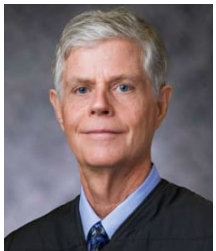
## Speaker Profiles

### **Judge Bronwyn Miller (Fla. 3d DCA)**



Judge Bronwyn C. Miller currently serves on the Third District Court of Appeal, to which she was appointed by Governor Rick Scott in 2018. After receiving her Juris Doctor cum laude from the University of Miami School of Law, Judge Miller began her legal career as a prosecutor at the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office before later appointments to the Miami-Dade County Court and Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court by Governors Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist, respectively. Beyond her judicial duties, Judge Miller contributes to the legal community as an adjunct professor, advisor, and member of various legal committees and projects. She is also a recognized author and recipient of numerous awards for her professional excellence and community service, highlighting her impactful contributions to the legal field and greater Miami community.

### **Chief Judge Thomas Logue (Fla. 3d DCA)**



Thomas Logue has been a judge on the Third District Court of Appeal since 2012, appointed by Governor Rick Scott, and has made significant contributions to the legal community, including teaching at Florida's Appellate Judges College and briefing the Florida Constitutional Revision Commission. His extensive legal background includes serving as an assistant county attorney for Miami-Dade County, where he litigated a broad range of cases and argued appeals in various courts. Chief Judge Logue is also known for his educational contributions as an adjunct professor and author on legal subjects, and he has been recognized for his community involvement and pro bono work, especially for abused children. With a career marked by advocacy, education, and service, he has been honored by multiple legal and civic organizations, reflecting his impact on both the legal profession and the Miami community.

### **Allen Bonner (South Florida Appeals)**



Allen Bonner is a lawyer at South Florida Appeals, PA, a Miami-based appellate firm that focuses on a broad spectrum of cases, including catastrophic personal injuries, class actions, and insurance disputes. Beyond his legal practice, Allen actively contributes to the Miami legal community through leadership roles in the Miami Dade Bar's Appellate Courts Committee and the Florida Bar Appellate Practice Section's CLE Committee, and he has been featured in various legal publications and podcasts. Before establishing his firm, he worked as both a trial at Ver Ploeg & Lumpkin (now Ver Ploeg & Marino) and as an appellate lawyer (for Colson Hicks Eidson). He is an honors graduate of Brown University and Columbia University's School of Law.

**Elaine Walter (Boyd's Richards Parker Colonnelli)**



Elaine D. Walter, Board Certified in Appellate Practice by The Florida Bar, leads the appellate practice group at Boyd Richards Parker & Colonnelli with a focus on appeals and trial support. Born in Detroit and raised in Western Pennsylvania, she moved to Miami for law school at the University of Miami School of Law, graduating Magna Cum Laude. She is recognized for her appellate expertise by Super Lawyers Magazine, holds an AV Pre-Eminent rating by Martindale Hubbell, and actively contributes to the legal community as Secretary of The Florida Bar Appellate Practice Section, Chair of the Appellate Court Rules Committee, and President-Elect of the Florida Defense Lawyers Association. Elaine's involvement extends to policy setting and brief writing for defense-related organizations, underlining her significant impact and leadership within the legal field.

**Shawn Smith (Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority)**



Shawn D. Smith has been a local government practitioner and litigator for more than 20 years. He initially worked at a private firm in Key West before starting his own office. One of his clients included the Monroe County School Board. That work led him to serve as the in house Key West City Attorney for 16 years. He is presently General Counsel for the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority.

**Jack Reiter (Gray Robinson)**



Jack Reiter, leading the nationally ranked Tier 1 Appellate and Trial Support Team at GrayRobinson, has nearly three decades of experience in appellate law, holding Board Certification from The Florida Bar in Appellate Practice. Throughout his career, Jack has successfully briefed and argued hundreds of appeals, demonstrating a profound expertise in commercial disputes, insurance, and product liability cases. He excels in collaborating with clients and co-counsel to offer strategic guidance throughout all case stages. Jack graduated from Florida University and received his J.D., with high honors, for Florida's Levin College of Law.

**Katie Ender (Dinsmore & Shohl LLP)**



Kathryn ("Katie") Ender, a Florida Bar Board Certified Specialist in Appellate Litigation, has 17 years of extensive litigation and appellate expertise, offering comprehensive legal services from pre-suit demands through trials and appeals. Her practice areas encompass insurance coverage, contract law, construction disputes, and professional negligence, among others. Having handled more than 100 appeals and having significant trial-level support experience, Katie excels in complex civil appeals and trial litigation support. She received her J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law, and her BA from the Ohio State University.

### **Judge Leslie Rothenberg (Retired 3d DCA Judge // The Ferraro Firm)**



he Hon. Leslie Rothenberg's distinguished career includes serving as a Circuit Court Judge for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Miami-Dade County for eleven years and as an appellate court judge on the Third District Court of Appeal for fourteen years, where she was elected Chief Judge and President of the District Court of Appeal Judges. In these roles, she not only represented the appellate judiciary state-wide but also managed the judicial education program. Before her judicial tenure, she was a prosecutor handling serious crimes in Miami-Dade and later a commercial and corporate litigator. Judge Rothenberg's extensive experience is showcased by her involvement in over 400 jury trials and authoring nearly 1,000 opinions. Her expertise spans a broad spectrum of legal areas, making her a respected figure in the legal community, effective mediator, arbitrator, and advocate.

### **Michael Davis (Kuehne Davis Law)**



Michael Davis is a partner at Kuehne Davis Law and is Board Certified in Appellate Practice by The Florida Bar. His practice focuses primarily on complex state and federal litigation (civil and criminal trials and appeals). He previously clerked for U.S. District Judge Virginia M. Hernandez Covington in the Middle District of Florida, and then served as Assistant Public Defender for the Appellate Division in Miami-Dade County. He has argued in trial and appellate courts throughout the state, including The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the Florida Supreme Court, and the Third and Fourth District Courts of Appeal.

### **Brigid Cech-Semole (Greenberg Traurig)**



Brigid is an experienced appellate advocate who represents clients throughout the country in federal and state forums. She also has been the lead drafter of substantive case papers filed in the United States Supreme Court, the federal Court of Appeals, and several state supreme courts. In addition, Brigid serves as a legal advisor and legal issues advocate for complex and high-profile litigation matters and at high-stakes trials. Brigid is also active in the Miami community and has served in various leadership and fundraising roles at Chapman Partnership. Currently, she is a member of its Board of Trustees, Executive Board and the Chair Elect.

### **Nancy Copperthwaite (Akerman)**



Nancy Copperthwaite litigates complex disputes, including class actions and appeals, and advises employers on employment law issues. She has handled more than 100 appeals and has argued in all five of Florida's district courts of appeal (DCA) as well as in the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Ranked by *Best Lawyers in America* for appellate work, her diverse experience includes handling appeals of bankruptcy proceedings, class actions, complex commercial matters, employment disputes, land use matters, real estate litigation and securities cases. She served as Chair of the Appellate Court Committee of the Dade County Bar Association.

### **Dwayne Robinson (Koayak Tropin Throckmorton)**



Dwayne Robinson specializes in complex litigation at both the trial and appellate levels, including notable cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and Florida's Third District Court of Appeal. His legal education and early career were marked by significant achievements and contributions, including serving as editor-in-chief of The Independent Florida Alligator and working for The Palm Beach Post, before earning his Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, from the University of Florida Levin College of Law. Beyond his legal practice, Dwayne is deeply involved in community service, including serving on the Board of Directors for The Lotus House women's shelter and holding leadership positions within The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division and the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association.

### **Lauri Ross (Ross & Girten)**



Lauri Waldman Ross of Ross & Girten is a home grown talent, having grown up in Miami Shores, and attended the University of Florida (B.A.) and University of Miami School of Law. She was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1980 and is a board certified appellate lawyer. She began her career as a Research Aide to the Hon. Phillip Hubbard, Third District Court of Appeals, and was a shareholder in the firm Kelly, Black, Black, Byrne, Beasley, Bales and Ross, P.A. before forming her own firm in 1992, which grew to become Ross & Girten in 2005.

### **Jeff Bass (Bass Law)**



Following a thirty-year run as co-founder at Shubin & Bass, P.A. in Miami, Mr. Bass begins the year with the launch of a new boutique practice in which he can continue his tradition of hands-on and focused attention to his clients' matters. The Bass Law team takes great pride in its capabilities to seamlessly handle the most complex matters from the point of initial conflict, throughout trial court proceedings in state and federal court, to the conclusion of the appellate process.

The new firm structure allows Mr. Bass to selectively serve as lead litigation and appellate counsel on complex cases and land use disputes and further allows him to serve as co-counsel alongside national and international firms in need of his subjective matter expertise. The new firm also allows for creative and collaborative fee structures with select clients.

"Bass Law has three simple superpowers: We are hands-on, hyper-focused, and nimble. Our new structure optimizes each of these abilities." Mr. Bass said. "There is a dynamism in South

Florida at this moment that is unlike any other place. The flex and flux of competing policy visions, precious resources, world-class design, deep architectural history, varied cultures, climate challenges, and limited lands make this the most exciting location in the galaxy for what we do. The ability to practice here is a blessing for which we are grateful every single day.” Some of Mr. Bass’ clients include the University of Miami, the City of Miami Beach, Baptist Health South Florida, NR International, Dezer Development, TREO Group.

Mr. Bass’s academic interests in the law have enabled him to train young lawyers and educate the next generation of real estate professionals. He pioneered a course on the regulation of design that he taught at the University of Miami School of Architecture and within the University of Miami’s Masters in Real Estate Development program. He also lectured on comprehensive planning and zoning to a select group of elected officials from across Florida as a faculty-member of the Good Government Initiative at the University of Miami. The nonprofit’s mission was to cultivate leaders of excellence through the development and training of elected officials, as well as those aspiring to run for office, and to engage the community in its governance through outreach and education. Mr. Bass continues to lecture throughout the state on land use and litigation issues.

Mr. Bass is the recipient of the Carnegie Medal for Outstanding Act of Heroism. In 2008, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission recognized Mr. Bass for risking his life to successfully rescue an unconscious and badly injured near-drowning victim in the waters off of Key Largo, Florida. For this life-saving rescue, Mr. Bass was also recognized by the Governor, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Bass is keenly interested in climate. He sits on the Board of Visitors of Duke University’s Nicholas School of the Environment, and he is a frequent participant in the Aspen Institute Water Policy Form co-hosted annually by Duke’s Nicholas School and the Aspen Institute. Mr. Bass served on the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Third District Court of Appeal for 12 years and served as its Chair from 2011-2012.

Mr. Bass is admitted to practice law in the Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, and the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

Mr. Bass’s pursuit of excellence hasn’t gone unnoticed. Holding an AV rating since 2002, he has achieved a Band One ranking by Chambers USA and has been honored as the Lawyer of the Year in 2021 for litigation, land use, and zoning by Best Lawyers and was awarded Wall Street Journal South Florida Lawyer of the Year in 2021.

Mr. Bass earned his B.A. cum laude from Duke University in 1989 and obtained his J.D. from the University of Miami in 1992.