Miami-Dade Bar 108th Installation Gala



June 15, 2024 Mana Wynwood



Salad

Baby Romaine | Shaved Parmesan Reggiano | Homemade Caesar Dressing | Focaccia Croutons

Entree

Duo Plate: Pan Seared Mahi-Mahi + Caribbean Jerk Chicken | to include Coconut Rice, Mango Salsa + Sweet Plantains

Vegetarian Option:

Grilled Purple Cauliflower | Chimichurri | Caribbean Vegetable Kebabs

Dessert

Coconut Éclair | Dark/White Chocolate Mousse | Raspberries

Accompanied by assorted Bread Basket

Program







Miami-Dade Bar Installation

Presenter ------The Honorable Miesha S. Darrough
Passing the Gavel ------Suzette L. Russomanno
Remarks ------Charise A. Morgan
Installation of MDB Officers and Directors





Miami-Dade Bar

2024-2025 Officers and Directors

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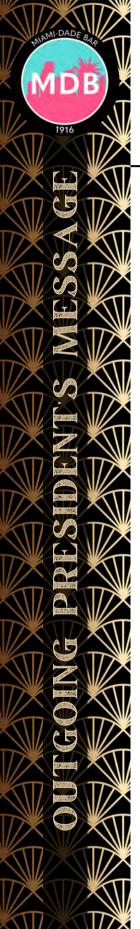
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Suzette L. Russomanno

Miami-Dade Bar President 2023-2024



It has been my honor to serve as the President of the Miami-Dade Bar Association. When I joined this organization 2004. I never dreamed that I would one day serve as its President, let alone the first female. Cuban-American President of the organization. I want to thank my talented officers, Charise Morgan, Stuart Weissman, Melissa Jordon, and Adam Finkel. They sare the epitome of grace, patience, intellect, and drive. I know that the organization that is so dear to me is being left in good hands.

We have rebranded, reconfigured, reconstructed and reinvented ourselves, changing our name, our logo and our

image. We have diversified our Officer corps and rejuvenated the institution. We have done this together and I can't wait to see what the future brings.

Our purpose remains essential, to help improve the public perception of lawyers, to give back to our community and to engender greater understanding between the Bench and Bar.

I am proud of what we have accomplished this year, but there is still more to be done.

Please join us at the Miami Dade Bar. You belong.



Suzette L. Russomanno is a partner at Hamilton Miller & Birthisel. She focuses her practice on commercial litigation, complex tort litigation, construction defect litigation, and medical malpractice defense.

Charise A. Morgan

Miami-Dade Bar President 2024-2025

Our Miami-Dade Bar was founded with the mission to be the voice of Miami-Dade County's legal profession, promoting equal justice, professionalism, civility, excellence and respect for the law. The last 108 years have shown how far we have come in that mission - and the work that remains to be done. I am so proud of what this organization has accomplished but there remain opportunities for us to do more. Or as famed New York lyricist Shawn Carter said: "Go farther, go further, go harder; is that not why we came? And if not, then why bother?"

This year, we are bringing new life and energy to our 30+ committees to ensure that every member has the opportunity to get involved. My predecessor Suzette Russomanno talked about creating a culture of



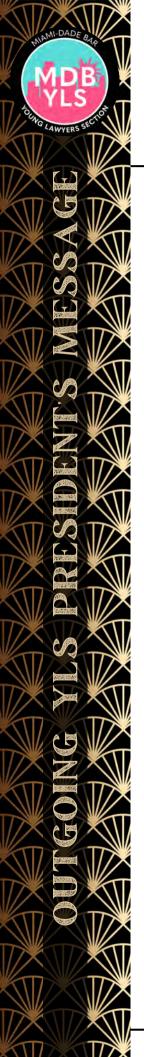
inclusivity and excellence, forged with the collaboration of our members and affiliate bar associations. Because bar service has been the cornerstone of my legal journey, I am eager to continue this pursuit with the goal of making our Bar the best that it can be.

While my installation is historic as the first Black woman to lead this organization, I remember that I am not the first Black woman to have served on the Miami-Dade Bar board and that I should not be the last. I am so grateful to the past presidents, judges, Bar leaders, and advisors who have encouraged me in this position. Our board of directors are so devoted to service and progress that working together has come naturally, in both great times and misfortune. Yes, the harvest is still plenty, but the laborers have come through.

I invite you to connect or reconnect with the Bar this year. We pride ourselves on being a resource for the profession, but our resources are truly our people. Get involved and learn where you can serve. You belong at the Miami-Dade Bar.

Charise A. Morgan





Robert "Beau" Blumberg

Young Lawyers Section President 2023-2024



Thank you for joining us for the Miami-Dade Bar's 108th Installation Gala and for your support of the Young Lawyers Section ("YLS") this past year. It has been a high honor for me to serve as this past year's MDB YLS President. As I pass the baton to incoming President of the MDB YLS, Lauren Allen and President-Elect Erin Weinstock. I am confident that they and the new MDB YLS Officers and Directors will ensure that the YLS continues to thrive as an organization.

I am eternally grateful to the MDB President Suzette Russomanno for her support and congratulate her on an incredible presidency! Suzette's input was always valuable.

I had the privilege of leading a tremendous team of YLS Officers and

Directors this year. Thank you to Lauren M. Allen, President-Elect; Jessica Gopiao, Treasurer; Erin Weinstock, Secretary (incoming President-Elect!); Tiffany-Ashley Disney, Immediate Past President; Phoenix Barker, Executive Committee Member; Veronica Lopez-Calleja, Executive Committee Member; and Directors: Arda Barlas, Jake Bland, Megan Conkey Gonzalez, Kayla Hernandez, Jae Lynn Huckaba, Amber Kornreich, Spencer Mayer, Daniel Robinson, Audrey-Jade Salbo, Ashley Saul, Oliver Silva, and Tyler Walters for all of your hard work and dedication. It is because of their efforts that the YLS was able to accomplish so much this year.

Special congratulations go to Jae Lynn Huckaba the recipient of the MDB YLS Rookie of the Year Award for her willingness to always lend a helping hand; Jessica Gopiao is the recipient of the MDB YLS MVP Award for consistently going above and beyond the call of duty; and Amber Kornreich is the recipient of the MDB YLS President's Award, for her dedication to the advancement of all young lawyers.

I am looking forward to all that Lauren Allen and Erin Weinstock will accomplish in the upcoming year and to supporting them in my new role as Treasurer of the Miami-Dade Bar.

Lastly, this past year would not be possible without the support of my law firm Deutsch Blumberg & Caballero, P.A. and my partners, Steven K. Deutsch, Edward R. Blumberg, and Cosme Caballero.



Lauren M. Allen

Young Lawyers Section President 2024-2025

Welcome to the 108th Miami-Dade Bar Installation Gala and thank you for joining us for this historic moment. I am honored to serve as the next President of the Young Lawyers Section (YLS).

It goes without saying that the installation of Charise A. Morgan is a historic event for the Miami-Dade Bar. I am proud to stand beside Charise as she enters her presidency and I look forward to all of the amazing things she has planned for the Miami-Dade Bar.

This upcoming year, I am excited to work with my incredible officers, Erin Weinstock, Jessica Gopiao, and Tyler Walters, as well as my entire Board of Directors. The YLS' mission is to plan and implement programming designed to stimulate interest and encourage participation of not only current members, but also future members of the Miami-Dade Bar. The YLS looks



forward to working in tandem with the Miami-Dade Bar to continue the advance of the organization within the Miami-Dade community and statewide.

The YLS has a lot of great programming on the horizon including Breakfast With the Judiciary, Miami Nights, and our annual International Women's Day event. If you are not already, I encourage you follow the YLS on Instagram (@miamidadebaryls) and LinkedIn (@MDB Young Lawyers Section).

Finally, I want to acknowledge the tremendous support I have received from my firm, Sanchez Fischer Levine, LLP, my friends and colleagues, and my husband, Brian Moreno. Without their continued support, none of this would be possible.



Lauren Allen

Lauren M. Allen is an associate attorney at Sanchez Fischer Levine, LLP where she practices commercial litigation in state and federal court. Lauren is licensed to practice in Florida, California, and the District of Columbia. In addition to her involvement with the YLS, Lauren is the Journal Director for the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, a Committee Chair of the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, and a member of The Florida Bar's Student Education & Admissions to the Bar Committee. Lauren received her Bachelor of Arts from the Honor's College at Coastal Carolina University, graduating with honors. She went on to graduate with honors from the American University Washington College of Law, receiving her Juris Doctor.





Suzette Speaks

Mistress of Ceremonies



A modern-day media marketing maven, Radio Talk Show Host and attorney, Suzette Speaks has trail-blazed a unique career path combining both communications and law. As an attorney, she practices Personal injury law and she enjoys fighting for her injured clients and working tirelessly to ensure they get the justice they deserve.

As a communications professional and media personality, she is widely known for her weekly appearances on the Roland Martin Network, where she offers her legal and political commentary on various topics each week. Prior to joining the Roland Martin Network, she worked as a Television Host, most notably for Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) for nearly a decade. This year, she launched her own FM Radio talk show called "The Suzette Speaks Show LIVE," which now airs on *Voice of The Caribbean Radio* every Thursday and Friday from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Voice of the Caribbean Radio is South Florida's 24/7

Caribbean American FM Radio Station. With 6 affiliate stations across Florida from Miami to Orlando, you can listen on 94.3 FM in Miami and 102.1 FM in Ft. Lauderdale and 102.3 FM in North Miami and Hollywood. You can also follow Suzette on all social media platforms and watch her YouTube channel, just search Suzette Speaks.

Daniella Levine Cava

Mayor, Miami-Dade County



Daniella Levine Cava was elected Miami-Dade County's first-ever woman mayor in November 2020. As mayor, she oversees a metropolitan government of nearly 30,000 employees, serves nearly 3 million residents, and manages an annual budget of nearly \$12 billion.

A social worker, lawyer, and nonprofit leader, Mayor Levine Cava entered the Mayor's Office following a 40-year career fighting for South Florida families. At Legal Services of Greater Miami, she served special needs children, low-income families and immigrants, and then went on to lead the Guardian Ad Litem Program, representing our most vulnerable children in the foster care and adoption systems.

In 1996, Mayor Levine Cava founded Catalyst Miami to help

low- and middle-income families through service, education, and advocacy. Catalyst still thrives today and helps approximately thousands each year to become more self-sufficient and civically engaged.

She is the Past Chair of the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) and served as Council Member from 2015 – 2020. She has served on the Florida Bar Committee on Legal Needs of Children; the boards of League of Women Voters, Orange Bowl Foundation, North Dade Medical Foundation, South Florida Health Information Initiative, and several national boards. She's won numerous awards from various organizations including: the Commission on Ethics, Red Cross, American Society for Public Administration, ACLU, National Council of Jewish Women, League of Women Voters, among others.

Pastor Wayne Lomax

Founder and Pastor of the Fountain Church

Pastor Lomax is a visionary leader with more than twenty-five years of pastoral leadership in South Florida. He began his work in ministry forty-five years ago and his love for God and people increases as each year goes by. With a deep passion and conviction for personal and spiritual development, the mission of Growing and Serving Others reflects Pastor Lomax's heart and work.

With exceptional courage and foresight, Pastor Lomax successfully facilitated the merger of Miami's New Life International Church and the Fountain of Pembroke Pines into a thriving congregation serving with relevance and compassion. Through the many partnerships forged by Pastor Lomax, families are fed, students are supported, the bereaved are comforted, inmates are encouraged, and the neighborhood know that our church cares.



Pastor Lomax is a member of the Progressive Kingdom Baptist Association, 100 Black Men of South Florida, and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Chairperson of the Board of OIC of South Florida, Founder and CEO of Youth Development Institute. Pastor Lomax formerly served on the Board of Trustees at Florida Memorial University.

Melissa Lawrence

Heartbeat Entertainment

Melissa Lawrence is a passionate singer, songwriter, musician, producer, and vocal coach with a great love for the performing arts. She graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Creative Writing including Theatre Studies. Through the company Heartbeat Entertainment, Melissa has opened for Gospel legends including Cece Winans, Erica Campbell, Shirley Caesar, and Sandi Patty. Dedicated to inspiring others to lead purposeful lives filled with love and compassion, Melissa also helps aspiring singers find their voice through her coaching.







The Honorable Stephanie Silver

Judge, Miami-Dade County Court



Judge Stephanie Silver has been a County Court Judge since July 1, 2019. She is currently assigned to the County Civil and County Criminal divisions at the Miami Beach Branch Court. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Silver was an Assistant State Attorney with her last assignment being the Chief of the County Court Division. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her law degree from Florida State University.

Judge Silver's personal hobbies include travelling, trying new restaurants in Miami and running half marathons.

Amber Kornreich

Partner, Kornreich & Associates



Amber is a passionate Family Law Attorney and Partner at Kornreich & Associates. As the immediate President of the Miami-Dade Association for Women Lawyers, and a Past President of The First Family Law American Inn of Court, she is a leader in championing the rights of women in the legal profession, and promoting the ethical and professional practice of Family Law. Recognized as a "Badass Woman of the Year" in 2022 by the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce, and with an Above and Beyond Award by The Florida Bar Family Law Section in 2023, Amber is dedicated to community service and advancing thought leadership in Family Law. Amber handles complex and sensitive personal matters providing clients with exceptional and discreet representation during critical life transitions.

The Honorable Miesha Darrough

Judge, Miami-Dade County Court

Judge Miesha Darrough is currently a Miami-Dade County Court Civil Judge serving at the Miami-Dade County Courthouse. Prior to her appointment to the bench in December 2019, Judge Darrough was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. During her time at the Miami office, she worked in the Appellate, Major Crimes, and Economic Crimes divisions where she investigated and prosecuted numerous federal cases. She also served as Special Counsel to the U.S. Attorney. Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Judge Darrough worked for the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office where she served as a Felony Division Chief and later in the Public Corruption Unit.



Judge Darrough has also been very involved in the legal profession and her community. Judge Darrough

serves on the Miami-Dade County Canvassing Board, the Florida Bar's Federal Court Practice Committee and is a member of several local and national bar associations, including the Miami-Dade Bar Association. Additionally, she serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Miami Law School and as a visiting faculty member for Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Program.

Judge Darrough's leadership endeavors and consistent commitment to excellence in the legal profession and community have been recognized by local and national organizations. She has been awarded the Miami-Dade Bar Association's Rising Legal Star Award, the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association's Rising Star Award, selected by Legacy Magazine as one of South Florida's 50 Most Powerful Black Leaders in Business and Industry, the National Bar Association (NBA) - Judicial Council's Outstanding Member Service Award in 2021, and the NBA - Judicial Council's Outstanding Leadership and Service Award in 2023.

Judge Darrough is a proud graduate of Howard University School of Business and Howard University School of Law.







Johnnie M. Ridgely Presidents Award

The Honorable Jennifer Bailey



Judge Jennifer D. Bailey (ret.) has been a circuit court trial judge in Miami-Dade, Florida, for twenty-seven years. She is the Administrative Judge for the 25-judge Circuit Civil Division, and handles a docket of Complex Business Litigation cases, and previously served in the Family and Criminal Divisions. During the pandemic, Judge Bailey has served as leader of the Pandemic Digital Workgroup setting up Virtual Courtrooms for Miami's state courts. Bailey planned and served as managing judge for Florida's first hybrid zoom trial.

Judge Bailey serves on the Board of Governors of of Directors of the National Center for State Courts and on the Board of Advisors for the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) and the NCSC Institute for Court Management.

She is a member of the Florida Commission on Trial Court Performance and Accountability and earned her L.L.M. in Judicial Studies at Duke University Law School in 2018, where she wrote her thesis on "Why Don't Judges Case Manage?" From 2013-2016, Bailey chaired the Court Operations subcommittee of the Civil Justice Initiative, a task force created by the Conference of Chief Justices to evaluate and recommend best practices to reduce cost and delay in state civil courts. She chaired the Florida Supreme Court Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Task, served as Dean of the Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies, served as Chair of the Florida Bar Civil Procedure Rules Committee and on the Florida Supreme Court Civil Jury Instruction and Business/Contracts Jury Instruction Committees.

David W. Dyer Award

The Honorable Gill Freeman



Gill Freeman sat on the Miami Dade Circuit Court for nearly 20 years. She was the first judge to preside over the Complex Business Division, serving there for five years. She also has served several rotations in the family, criminal, and general civil divisions of the trial court.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Ms. Freeman practiced commercial, insurance, securities, and family law for twenty years at a major South Florida law firm. Her move to the bench was largely driven by her desire to effectuate change and fairness in the court system. Ms. Freeman is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards honoring her for her dedication and commitment to fairness, diversity, and the elimination of bias in the legal profession. Most recently, the Young Lawyers Section of The Florida Bar named her "Jurist of the Year" for her outstanding contributions.

Gill S. Freeman (Retired Judge 11th Judicial Circuit) joined JAMS from the Miami Dade Circuit Court, where she was highly regarded in a broad range of legal matters, especially complex business/commercial, construction, and family law matters.

Meenakshi A. Hirani, P.A.



Meenakshi (Meena) A. Hirani, Esq.

LL.B., MCL, MBA, JD.
Licensed to Practice in Florida, District of Columbia, and Mahastra-India

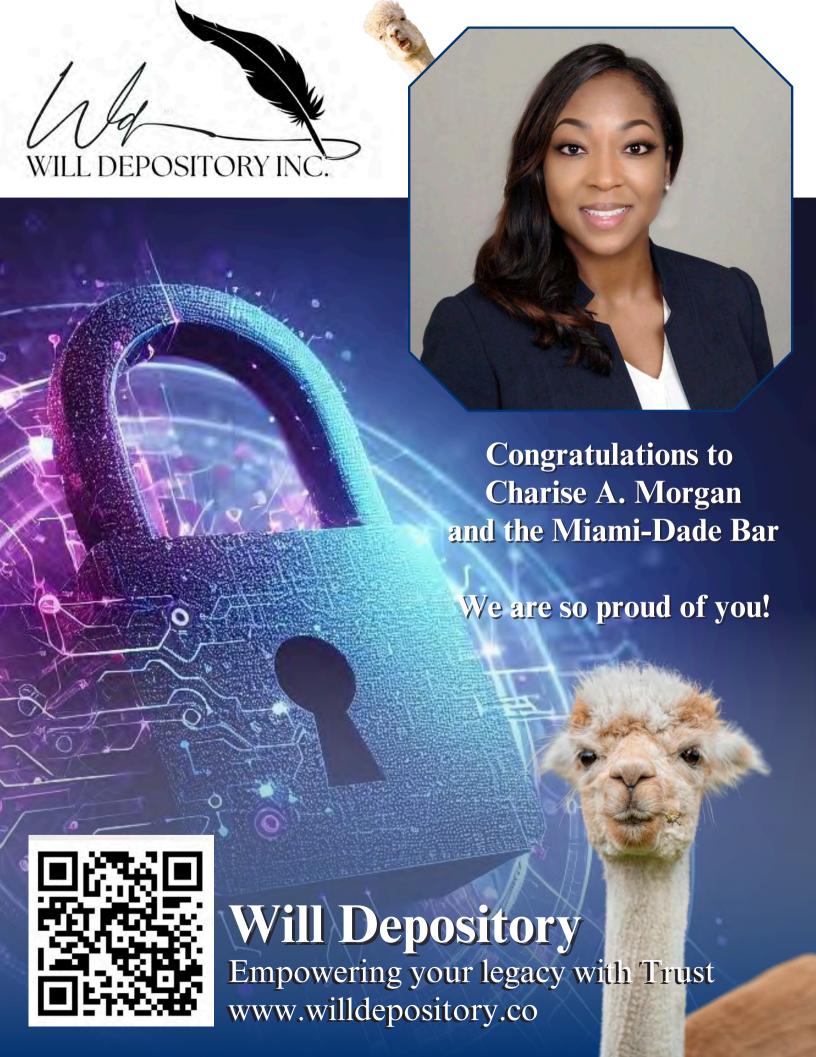
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on his installation as Treasurer of the

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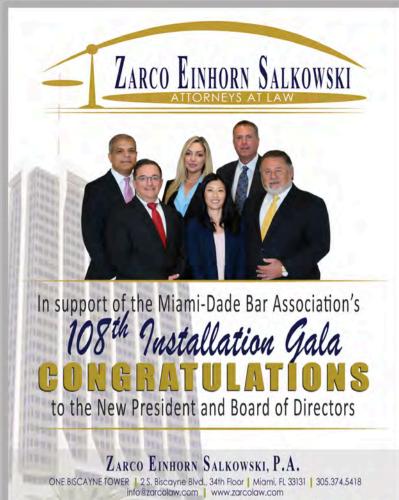
The firm also congratulates incoming Presidents **Charise Morgan** and **Lauren Allen**





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We congratulate the incoming President, Charise Morgan, and all incoming Officers and Board Members



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Gill S. Freeman

Judge & JAMS Neutral

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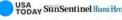












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Charise A. Morgan



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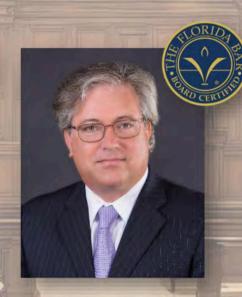


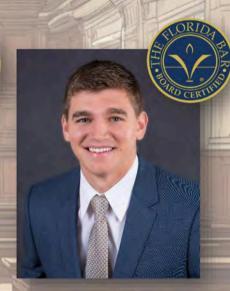
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Charise A. Morgan and the new board of the Miami Dade Bar Association.



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Congratulates

Charise A. Morgan
MDB President

Lauren M. Allen YLS President

and the new Board of Directors!



Congratulations Charise
Morgan on leading the Miami
Dade Bar Association. We look
forward to working with you.

-Adam Moskowitz





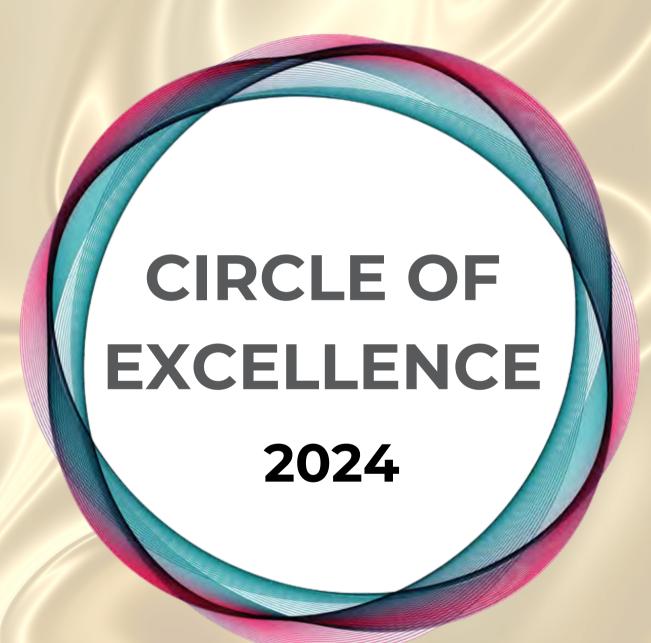


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rett Biondo, 96th President, Miami Dade Bar



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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL INCOMING
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Proud Supporter of the Miami-Dade Bar

We congratulate our alumna

Evelina Libhen ('99)

Director

and all the incoming officers and directors!

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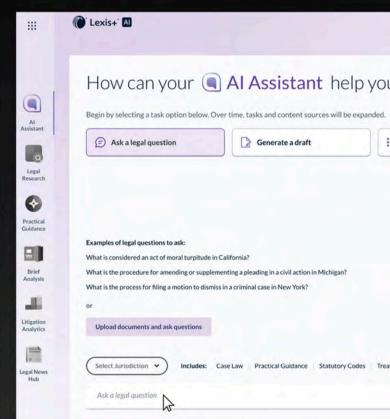
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ON THE MDB'S 108TH INSTALLATION GALA, WE CONGRATULATE OUR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

Miami-Dade Bar President
Charise A. Morgan
Young Lawyer Section President
Lauren M. Allen



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We are proud to support Charise A. Morgan and the 108th Annual Miami-Dade Bar Installation Gala



NELSON MULLINS

Nelson Mullins is proud to attend and sponsor the 108th Annual Miami-Dade Bar Installation Gala. We are excited for incoming president **Charise A. Morgan** to take on her new role and we look forward to the bright future ahead for the Miami-Dade Bar.

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP is a full-service law firm with offices from coast to coast, including more than 35 attorneys in its Miami office. Our attorneys and legal professionals firm-wide send their best wishes to Charise as she begins her presidential term. We are grateful to be a part of such a special event.









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Mycki and Jude congratulate Charise A. Morgan on her installation as Miami-Dade Bar Association President and thank Suzette Russomanno and the entire board for their service to the organization over this past year. Your dedication and commitment to the Miami-Dade legal community is very much appreciated.



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Congratulations to

Charise A. Morgan & Lauren M. Allen

We are looking forward great things as they lead the Miami-Dade Bar and Young Lawyers Section



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Congratulations to Charise A. Morgan



and the Miami-Dade Bar Team











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CONGRATULATIONS

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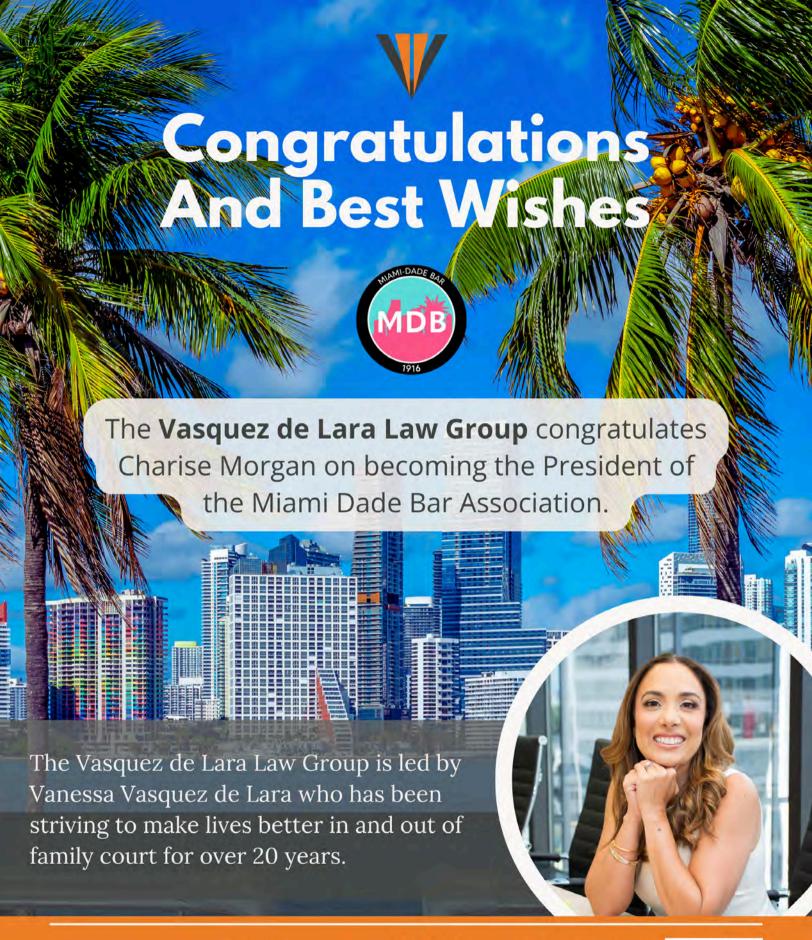
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Well done!

Zurich congratulates Charise Morgan on being installed as president of the Miami-Dade Bar Association.







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We extend our congratulations to President *Charise A. Morgan* and the rest of the 2024–2025 Board of Directors on what is sure to be another successful year.



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Miami-Dade Bar Young Lawyer's Section

1958-'59 Fred Davant	19 91	Peter Reinert
1959-'58 Walter Beckham	1991-'92	Raquel Rodriguez
1960-'61 Richard M. White	1992-'93	Kathy Adams Gibbs
1961-'62 Frank A. Howard, Jr.	1993-'94	Madeline Auerbach
1962-'63 Robert J. Beckham	1994-'95	Steven E. Eisenberg
1963-'64 William H. Peeples	1995-'95	Anthony N. Upshaw
1964-'65 William M. Hicks	1996-'97	Carroll J. Kelly
1965-'66 Richard Pettigrew	1997-'98	Roberta R. Loomar
1966-'67 Sandy D'Alemberte	1998-'99	Mark S. Shapiro
1967-'68 Tom Schulte	1999-2000	Andrea Stone Hartley
1968-'69 Aaron Podhurst	2000-'01	Barbara Perez
1969-'70 Robert Josefsberg	2001-'02	Sheri E. Nott
1970-'71 Robert L. Parks	2002-'03	Jennifer Ator
1971-'72 James F. Crowder	2003-'04	David Sampedro
1972-'73 Guy B. Bailey	2004-'05	Russell Jacobs
1973-'74 Sam Holland	2005-'06	Tiffani Lee
1974-'75 William T. Huggett	2006-'07	Garrett Biondo
1975-'76 Stephen Zack	2007-'08	Damian Thomas
1976-'77 Douglas Lyons 🍵	2008-'09	Gisela Munoz
1977-'78 Bruce Harper	2009-'10	Joshua J. Hertz
1978-'79 Jay Durie	2010-'11	Stephanie Carman
1979-'80 John Cosgrove	2011-'12	Sorraya M. Solages
1980-'81 Henry H. Harnage	2012-'13	Suzette Russomanno
1981-'82 Byron Petersen	2013-'14	Ethan Wall
1982-'83 Celeste Hardee Muir	2014-'15	Geri Satin
1983-'84 Herman Russomanno	2015-'16	Joshua L. Wintle
1984-'85 Kendall Coffey	2016-'17	Stuart J. Weissman
1985-'86 Sara Herald	2017-'18	Eric Bluestein
1986-'87 William C. Crenshaw	2018-'19	Evian White de Leon
1987-'88 Hilarie Bass	2019-'20	Isabella Poschl
1988-'89 Jennifer Bailey	2020-'21	Kristen Corpion
1989-'90 Gary Siplin	2021-'22	Scott Merl '
1990-'91 Valerie Jahn Grandin	2022-'23	Tiffany-Ashley Disney
	2023-'24	Robert "Beau" Blumberg





A Timeline

1916: Although perhaps established earlier, first evidence of Dade County Bar Association

1920: Incorporated DCBA as non-profit corporation in Circuit Court of Dade County

1939: Organized Legal Aid Society

1941: Authorized Judicial Poll of the members of DCBA on Supreme Court Justices

1943: Established first "Lawyers Reference Plan" and referral program for military personnel and general public

1949: Junior Bar Section was in existence in June, 1949; Legal Aid Society of DCBA was chartered

1950: Terminated DCBA Grievance Committee

1952: Transferred Unauthorized Practice of Law obligations to The Florida Bar

1954: Opened Executive Office; hired Executive Director and part-time Lawyer Referral Service secretary

1957: Earned seat in American Bar Association House of Delegates

1965: Hosted American Bar Association Annual Meeting; started fundraising campaign to build headquarters building; leased land; began construction of DCBA building; Johnnie M. Ridgely begins 41 year term as Executive Director.

1966: Completed construction of a four-story office building in downtown Miami that now houses DCBA, Legal Aid, "Put Something Back" and various other pro bono projects. Won ABA "Award of Excellence" for the most outstanding nationwide local bar.

1972: Established Judicial Trust Fund to provide filing fees and campaign funds for Circuit and County Court judicial candidates.

1974: Received the American Bar Association Harrison Tweed award for achievement in preserving and increasing access to legal services to the poor.

1975: Purchased land on which our building is situated.

1976: Established Appellate Filing Box in Dade County Courthouse.

1978-79: Approved concept of Public Interest Law Bank, now Volunteer Lawyers and "Put Something Back."

1981-82: Established first formal pro bono program.

1986-87: Established Judicial Campaign Practices Commission to hear complaints about judicial candidate conduct.

1987-88: Consolidated Lawyer Referral Service with The Florida Bar statewide LRS.

1988-89: The Florida Bar award winning program, Partners for Professionalism, is established where law students, lawyers and judges, come together to discuss ethical and professional issues. The program is still in existence at the University of Miami School of Law.

1991-92: Formed partnership with Chief Judge of Eleventh Circuit for "Put Something Back" program and consolidated DCBA pro bono projects into "PSB"

1992-93: Co-Founded "Children First" pro bono program. Established legal information and assistance programs for victims of Hurricane Andrew Established "Children Whose Parents Have Died of Aids" program.

A Timeline

Continued

1997-98: Established "David W. Dyer Professionalism Award"; Chaired fundraising committee for restoration of the historic lobby of the Dade County Courthouse; raised in excess of \$350,000 in contributions from lawyers. Established "Teen Court" in cooperation with Dade School Board

1999-00: Participated in dedication of the restoration of the lobby of the historic Dade County Courthouse

2000-01: Received The Florida Bar award for Most Outstanding Professionalism Committee in Florida

2001-02: Sponsored, with Third DCA, dedication of Thomas D. Barkdull Third District Court of Appeals Building; Instrumental in having new family court building named Lawson E. Thomas Courthouse Center and sponsored dedication; Established DCBA Website; Established World Trade Center Fund; Co-Sponsored reception on Freedom Schooner Amistad; Sponsored Diversity Training for DCBA members

2002-03: Sponsored training for new electronic countywide voting machines

2003-04: Re-established monthly luncheon meetings

2004-05: Endowed Alan R. Schwartz, Mario P. Goderich and Robert L. Shevin service awards2004-05: Endowed the following service awards: The Johnnie M. Ridgely President's Award of Merit, Alan R. Schwartz Judicial Excellence Award, Mario P. Goderich Legal Ethics Award, Robert L. Shevin Outstanding Public Service Award, and Daily Business Review Sookie Williams Award. Launch of the Ceremonial Courtroom 6-1 Restoration Project. Creation of the DCBA lapel pin.

2005-06: Restoration of the Dade County Courthouse ceremonial courtroom 6-1 begins as DCBA lawyers contribute over \$300,000; Historic address to DCBA by both U.S. Senators Nelson and Martinez from Florida on the importance of a fair and independent judiciary

2006-07: Johnnie M. Ridgely passes after 41 years as DCBA Executive Director. Boardroom named in her honor. Established Legal Line Pro Bono Call-In Program; Approved Life Members eligibility to serve on Board of Directors.

2007-08: Launch of the eMentoring online program and the *Put More Back* Pro Bono Initiative. Instrumental in the restoration and dedication ceremony of the Historic Courtroom 6-1.

2008-09: Won Florida Supreme Court's Voluntary Bar Association Pro Bono Award; Portrait unveiling and dedication of the Johnnie M. Ridgely Board Room; Initiated and sponsored dedication ceremony at the once segregated drinking fountains at the Dade County Courthouse; held inaugural "Diversity Summit"; Commenced membership benefits and recruitment drives; Approved formation of University of Miami School of Law Student Chapter

2009-10: Conducted twelve Mortgage Foreclosure Seminars/Public Forums. Successfully lobbied the Federal Government for the granting of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian nationals and completed the first ever DCBA "webinar" entitled "Immigration Solutions for Haitian Families in Crisis" in the wake of the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Established Paralegal Committee and Solo/Small Firm Committee.

2010-11: Launch Lawyer Referral Service; Celebrated 60th Anniversary of Legal Aid; Justice Stephen Breyer addressed DCBA membership; One of first bar associations to issue state-wide resolution opposing attacks on Judicial System by Florida Legislature; presented the Johnnie M. Ridgely President's Award.





A Timeline

Continued

2011-12: Inaugural Bench and Bar Conference; Launch Technology and Business Development seminars; Battle of the Bands Legal Aid Society Fundraiser.

2012-13: Re-Design Dade Bar Bulletin; Inaugural "Legal Legends v. Young Guns" Mock Trial Competition; Inaugural Judicial Retirement Reception at Vizcaya in partnership with AOC. Passed Joint Civility Resolution with 40 Voluntary Bar Associations in So. FLA; Expanded DCBA Bench and Bar Conference, attended by 700 attorneys and judges, most profitable conference in the DCBA history.

2013-14: Adopted the Uniform Standards of Professional Courtesy and Civility; Hosted Retirement Luncheon for Sharon L. Langer, Led initiative to insure accessibility at facilities for DCBA events and passed Non-Discrimination and Inclusiveness Resolution; Re-Design of DCBA Website; Governor Rick Scott addressed the membership.

2014-15: Joint initiative for a new civil courthouse; Co-hosted ADA Summit for all Voluntary Bar Associations; Held Over the Rainbow fundraiser for Dade Legal Aid and DCBA Centennial Book; DCBA Bench and Bar Conference attended by over 1,000 attorneys and judges.

2015-16: Hosted Diversity Summit; Promoted Clemency Project; One of first bar associations to issue state-wide resolution opposing judicial term limits for appellate judges in Fla.; Hosted grand opening reception for Children's Courthouse; Hosted town hall meeting regarding Florida Bar's Vision 2016 and presented Mark Britton – Avvo as keynote presentation at Bench and Bar Conference; Produced the DCBA's Centennial Book by Dr. Paul George.

2016-2017: Held for first time Federal Bench and Bar Program – a sold out conference for Federal Judges and former FL Bar Presidents. "Together We Rise" ceremony honoring the African-American in our profession and community and also for the first time ever "Women of Distinction" to honor the importance of women jurists and attorneys.

2019-2020: Established an operating building committee under the leadership of Jane Muir; established required active diversity components within all committees and events while participating in inter-bar activities and initiatives with Broward and the Palm Beach Bar Associations; promoted and held Arbitration event(s) with JAMS, AAA, ICDR, and CPR geared to introduce arbitration to Minority Bar Associations and law student associations; worked on building stronger relationships with our State and Federal Judiciary and sister Voluntary Bar Associations; Additionally, board of directors approved new name, Miami-Dade Bar.

2020-2021: Found innovative new ways to hold seminars and meetings virtually during COVID-19 pandemic; launched a new name and logo; implemented a new plan to renovate our 1960's vintage building and hired Bret Berlin as the new Executive Director.

2021-2022: Closed on the loan for building renovation; activated Ad Hoc Champlain Support Committee; Inaugural Service Day revitalizing garden in Opa Locka with Little Lighthouse Foundation and Health in the Hood; and held Miami Law Con, the Bar's reimagined Bench and Bar virtual CLE.

2022-2023: Started work on the new MDB building. Expanded Miami Law Con into a statewide conference -Florida Law Con. Celebrated the first annual Circle of Excellence Awards and started a Permit Clinic with the Miami Downtown Development Authority.

2023-2024: Miami-Dade Bar was under the leadership of Suzette Russomanno, the first female Cuban-American President of the MDB. Hosted the "Passing of the Gavel" from Chief Judge Ivan Fernandez to Chief Judge Thomas Logue. This year's mission was to focus on more mental health issues, and the bar created additional programming to assist in these efforts.

Congratulations to Charise Morgan



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Akerman is proud to support Miami Dade Bar and its more than a century of serving the public and the bar by promoting equal justice, professionalism and civility, and respect for the law. We congratulate our leadership and wish them success for the coming year!

Jacqueline M. Arango Board Member jacqueline.arango@akerman.com Miami, FL

Elizabeth Hughes Board Member liz.hughes@akerman.com Miami, FL

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