

JUNE 2012

# PROYECTO

THE MAGAZINE OF THE LATIN BUILDERS ASSOCIATION



## LBA FISHING CHALLENGE 2012

One of the  
Most Anticipated Events  
of the Year

August 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>  
Ocean Reef Club  
Key Largo, Florida



## GUNSTER EXPANDS IN MIAMI

SIX NEW ATTORNEYS EXPAND  
BREADTH AND SCOPE OF FIRM'S  
BUSINESS LITIGATION AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND USE  
PRACTICES

MIAMI, FL (April 18, 2012) — Gunster, one of Florida's oldest and largest business law firms, has grown at an unprecedented rate over the past three years, beating the trend of downsizing in the legal services market. The 85-year-old firm has significantly expanded its presence in Tallahassee and Jacksonville and established an office in Tampa in 2011. Gunster's record revenues year over year contributed to its recent recognition by the National Law Journal as one of the top 250 largest law firms across the nation. The firm also augmented their Miami practice with the addition of six attorneys who contribute to the firm's international business litigation, real estate, and environmental and land use practice areas.

"Now that Gunster has grown to nine offices across the state, we truly have a statewide footprint and are fulfilling our vision of being Florida's leading law firm for business," said managing shareholder H. William "Bill" Perry. "Establishing a stronghold in the Greater Miami market was paramount to supporting this vision. The attorneys who have rounded out that office, plus our new presence in Tampa, has rooted us firmly in key Florida markets."

Gunster opened its downtown Miami office nearly 20 years ago. There are 27 attorneys, of which 16 are partners, with diverse experience in banking and financial services, immigration, real estate, litigation, international law, tax, corporate law and private wealth management. The banking and financial services attorneys are internationally known for their counsel to domestic and foreign banks, with an emphasis on developing and implementing policies and procedures to prevent, detect and react to the movement of illicit capital. Among their accomplishments, the team established the first ever banking license for the first Colombian bank to win federal approval.

"Anti-money laundering and OFAC compliance continue to be one of the most significant challenges facing banks and financial institutions today," said Gunster shareholder and board member Clemente Vazquez-Bello, who has been with the firm since 1979. He also serves on the board of the Florida International Bankers Association (FIBA) and chaired their 2012 conference in February in Miami.

The multi-lingual Miami office is also home to some of Florida's highest ranked immigration attorneys who focus on working with domestic and international companies to maintain a legal workforce. The Miami real estate team continues to navigate the challenges of a recovering economy. For example, a team of Gunster attorneys represented US Sugar Corp. in the largest land transaction in the state's history in 2010. Gunster also has one of the largest groups of Board Certified tax attorneys in Florida, who provide proactive counsel to companies doing business both domestically and across international borders.



Andy Fernandez | Attorney

# IN *the* NEWS

NEW HIRES, PROMOTIONS, EVENTS AND OTHER COMPANY NEWS?  
PLEASE SEND PRESS RELEASES AND DIGITAL PHOTOS WITH  
IDENTIFICATION TO [EDITOR@PROXYMAGAZINE.COM](mailto:EDITOR@PROXYMAGAZINE.COM).  
MAKE SURE TO SPECIFY IT IS FOR THE IN THE NEWS SECTION.

"Gunster is doing some of the most important litigation work in the state," said Hill. "We are noticing a rise in international arbitration cases, and we recognize that Miami is positioned as a leader to arbitrate cases for international companies. We're well prepared to capitalize on that hometown advantage."

Gunster also recently added a cadre of attorneys who will bolster the firm's property rights and eminent domain litigation team. In early March, Amy Brigham Boulris joined the firm as shareholder. Boulris previously worked in property rights defense and as head of the appellate practice for Brigham Moore where she was partner; she currently serves as a board of trustee member for the Pacific Legal Foundation. She reunites with three of her previous colleagues from Brigham, John W. Little, III, Juan Muñoz and Annette Lopez, who joined Gunster's environmental and land use practice in 2011.

"The Gunster team is both unique and highly efficient because we are a diverse group of attorneys with a variety of skills and experience that complement each other – not typical in other firms' condemnation areas," said Boulris. "I have worked with Juan, John and Annette for many years. These kinds of long relationships pay big dividends to the client in terms of efficacy and efficiency."

Over the past 10 years, the Gunster property rights and eminent domain team has handled some of the largest and most complex condemnation cases in Florida, including obtaining a \$10 million gain for Hertz rental car in the condemnation of their Miami International Airport facility by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT); and obtaining the highest unit price paid by FDOT to date in the defense of the owners and developers of the proposed Opus project in downtown Miami.

The addition of these new attorneys strengthens Gunster's position for future growth by cementing a turn key spectrum of services for clients in need of real estate and land use solutions.

"Many companies need to use several different law firms to handle their legal needs," added Perry. "At Gunster, we have more than 165 attorneys networked across 18 practice areas efficiently linked across the state. That clear advantage, with the quality of our attorneys, keeps us on track to be the best commercial law firm in Florida."

In addition to high-profile legal work, Gunster as a company maintains a high profile in the Miami community. Attorneys are engaged at leadership levels with the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Beacon Council, as well as work with cultural and philanthropic organizations including the Florida Grand Opera and Operation Hope for Haiti. Involvement with industry groups, such as the Latin Builders Association, ULI, FIBA, Florida Israel Business Forum and the South Florida Banking Institute keep Gunster's attorneys connected to the Miami business communities. It's clear the firm's strategy is working to become the leader among Florida's commercial law firms.

### About Gunster

Established in 1925, Gunster is a full service Florida law firm with nine offices around the state providing counsel to leading businesses and individuals. Our statewide presence and culture reflect the firm's status as Florida's law firm for business. Gunster services clients from its offices in Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Miami, Palm Beach, Stuart, Tallahassee, Tampa, Vero Beach and its headquarters in West Palm Beach with more than 180 attorneys and 200 committed support staff.

