

## SOUTH FLORIDA 100

# South Florida 100: Bills are being filed for the March legislative session



**Marlon A. Hill, partner, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.**

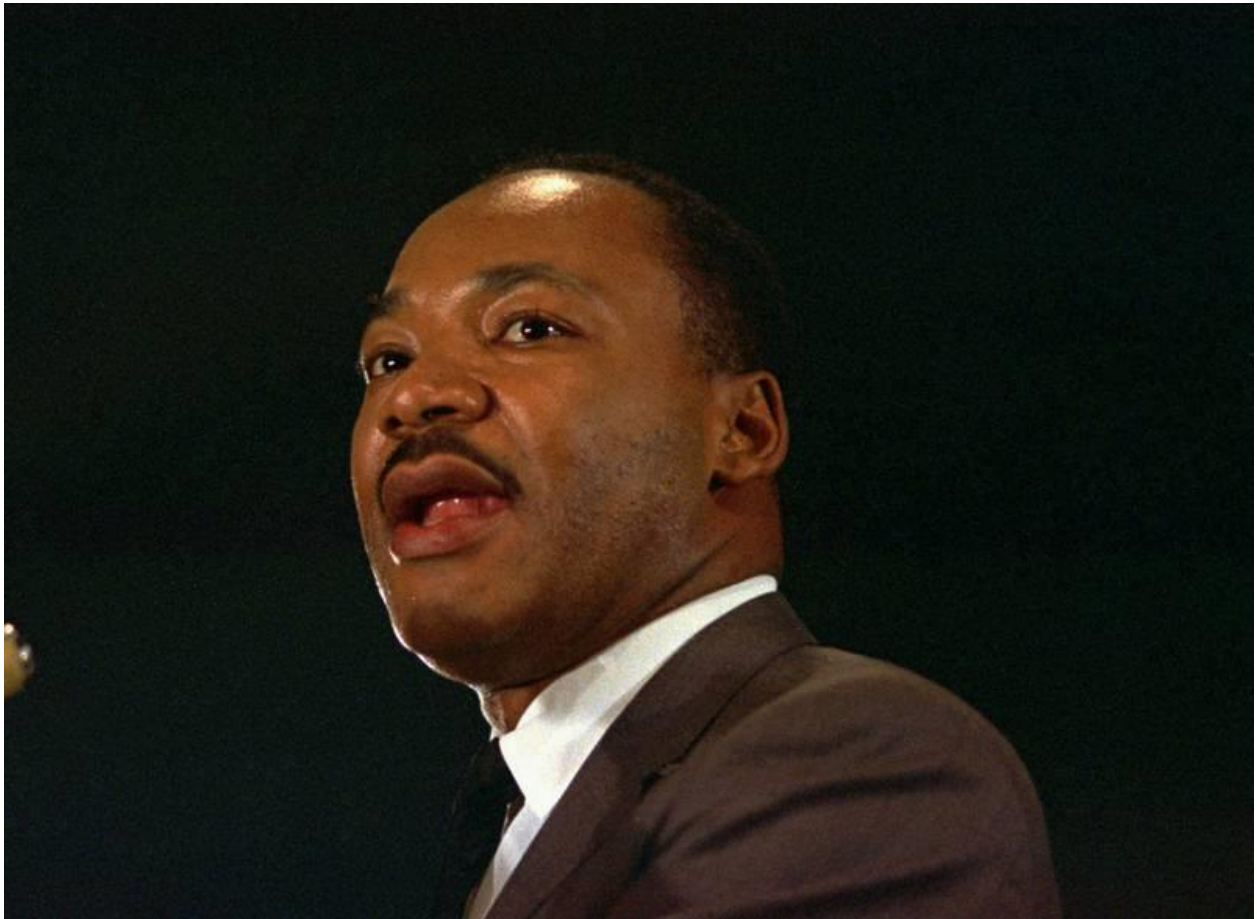
**Last week:** As we approach our annual commemoration of Black History Month in February, it is troubling to experience this public assault on the teaching of Black history in our public classrooms. Though I recognize the political theater of our governor's intentions in denying the teaching of AP African American studies in Florida schools, it saddens me that more people are not pushing back on these legislative and executive actions that essentially aim to dehumanize the true experiences of millions of Floridians. In disregarding the truths of our history, we are preventing wholesome opportunities to learn more about each other, our challenges and aspirations, in a transparent manner. This is truly unfortunate.

# SunSentinel

January 13, 2023

## South Florida 100: Remembering the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

South Florida Sun-Sentinel  
Jan 13, 2023 at 8:00 am



The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speaks April 15, 1967 at a peace rally in New York City. (ASSOCIATED PRESS)



**Marlon A. Hill, partner,  
Weiss Serota Helfman Cole  
& Bierman, P.L.**

**Looking ahead:** For MLK Day 2023 and beyond, we must re-commit to getting back to work of direct impact in our local communities, outside of our recurring ceremonial parades, breakfasts and church services. The distasteful tone of our

politics across our nation demands a forceful counter reaction of “good trouble” deeds outside of our comfort zones. This is the only way that we will get any closer to the essence of the Dream of this revered national holiday. Our history is instructive of the fact that our perfect union requires constant and purposeful bending of the arc of justice.

# SunSentinel

January 6, 2023



**Marlon A. Hill, partner,  
Weiss Serota Helfman Cole  
& Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** Every New Year, we all share the zeal for outlining personal resolutions for health, work life, familial relationships and other aspiring milestones. Let's try something new for a change in establishing resolutions for our local

communities: How about adopting a local school to support and mentor? How about starting a fund to address a recurring community issue? How about tithing a few hours at a local youth center? How about actually recycling the right items in the right place? We cannot all be healthy people living in unhealthy and distressed communities. We must coexist in sync.

# SunSentinel

December 16, 2022

## South Florida 100



**Marlon A. Hill, partner,  
Weiss Serota Helfman Cole  
& Bierman, P.L.**

**Looking ahead:** On Dec. 30, South Florida will be hosting the most orange of Orange Bowls at Hard Rock Stadium. The real news is the extraordinary contributions made to our community from the bright lights of the game. With your support,

the Orange Bowl Committee has contributed millions of dollars to county parks renovation projects, upgrades of middle school media centers, activation of a civic leadership academy, hosting of high school showcases for scholarships in basketball and football for local talent, and a number of other youth sports activities. Thank you to all football fans and corporate partners for inspiring excellence.

# South Florida 100: Congratulations and consternation over Respect for Marriage Act

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

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Dec 02, 2022 at 8:26 am



**Marlon A. Hill, of counsel, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** It's futbol! No, it's soccer! Who really cares? It's the world's greatest quadrennial sports spectacle, filled with geo-political drama and cultural dynamism. For a multilayered region like South Florida, the World Cup offers a special moment for us to see each other in the mirror of our own

loyalties to the nations on the field. In 2026, it will be our region's turn as the United States, Mexico and Canada host the World Cup. It will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase our cultural dexterity and vibrant arts and entertainment assets. Despite the drama heading into Qatar, we must get ready to score our own goooooooooooooooooals.

November 26, 2022

## South Florida 100



**Marlon A. Hill, of counsel,  
Weiss Serota Helfman Cole  
& Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** Recently, the Miami City Commission usurped the governance powers of the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Beach Park Trust responsible for the management and preservation of Miami's historic Black beach park. Many in the Black

community lament this move as an effort to not only disregard the trust afforded to the appointed leaders of the community but also to jeopardize the preservation of a legacy asset of the soul of the Black community. In a world in which teaching and learning Black history is increasingly under attack, it is critical that Miami's political and executive leaders assure us that they will provide the resources and political will to ensure that the vision of this community space is preserved for all to enjoy.



# SunSentinel

November 11, 2022

## South Florida 100



**Marlon A. Hill, of  
counsel, Weiss Serota  
Helfman Cole & Bierman,  
P.L.**

**Last week:** Whew! The midterm election is over. This was one of the weariest election cycles, with the onslaught of TV ads, text messages and mail collateral.

Congrats to the state GOP team for running a hard-nosed registration, mobilizing and messaging effort, especially in South Florida. I know this takes much effort, and this type of sweat must be saluted on its merits. Notwithstanding, with expanded power comes a heightened scrutiny for what it is used for, how it is deployed, and to whom it will benefit or impact, negatively or positively. The next election cycle, local and national, has already begun. Be sure to update your vote-by-mail request or update your registration. Your role is critical in the balance of power.

# SunSentinel

November 5, 2022

## South Florida 100: If you don't vote, you can't complain!

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Nov 05, 2022 at 8:00 am



**Marlon A. Hill, of counsel, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.**

**Looking ahead:** Once again, Florida is one of the key temperature gauges of the American political universe. With its diverse

geographic markets and cultural-heritage smorgasbord, the Sunshine State appears to be beaming a brighter red light into the homes of Floridians. This may be based more in a cultural shift or solidification in the state as opposed to the real impact of policy proposals, laws passed or budget priorities. In a state that has shifted before, no one should get too comfortable as long as polls remain open now and in the future.

October 7, 2022

## South Florida 100



**Marlon A. Hill, of counsel,  
Weiss Serota Helfman  
Cole & Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** This week, tens of thousands of vote-by-mail ballots landed in our mail boxes. With rescue and recovery from Hurricane Ian underway, some voters likely didn't receive their ballots. It is my hope that plans are in

motion to ensure that displaced and homeless voters have the opportunity to exercise their constitutional right to vote. Irrespective of our state in life, socioeconomic status or other self-identifiers, it is fundamental to ensure that Floridians are able to take advantage of all three voting options. Their mere survival and recovery will depend on it.

September 30, 2022

## South Florida 100



**Marlon A. Hill, of  
counsel, Weiss Serota  
Helfman Cole &  
Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** Though the width of the eye of the storm in the relationship between our president and governor could not be any wider, nothing brings us

more together than the wrath of Mother Nature. Hurricane Ian reveals the necessity for collective marshaling of resources and swift action. A storm surge of 15 feet does not single out homes by party affiliation or any other status. We are at the mercy of the kinetic energy of the heavens above and the seas around us. Irrespective of the imminent midterm elections, I pray we will do everything humanly possible to help our neighbors to rebuild.

September 23, 2022

## South Florida 100



**Marlon A. Hill, of counsel,  
Weiss Serota Helfman Cole &  
Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** The emotions stemming from Gov. Desantis' actions to plan and fund the deceitful movement of migrants from Texas to other locations is one of the most hurtful things to

witness since arriving here as a teenage immigrant. Though my entry to America was thankfully under different circumstances, I immediately identify with the anxiety of being in an uncertain environment without a support system. This could not have been the only way for the governor to make a political point on border security or immigration. It truly saddens me that our political schisms have descended to this place of inhumanity.

**Looking ahead:** Over the next three weeks until Columbus Day weekend, South Florida will be inundated with the sounds, aroma and pageantry of Caribbean culture for the staging of the 38th annual Miami Broward Caribbean Carnival. Thousands of visitors from across the world will descend on our hospitality industry to celebrate the last major carnival on the global cultural calendar with local friends and family. With the growth of the number of Caribbean-Americans in our tri-county area, this annual commemoration serves as a source of buzzing economic activity, social connections and cultural pride. It's time to play más at [miamicarnival.org](http://miamicarnival.org).

## South Florida 100



**Marlon A. Hill, of  
counsel, Weiss Serota  
Helfman Cole &  
Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** With budget hearings being held in city and county halls across our region, South Floridians have the unique opportunity to focus their priorities to

reflect their collective values. These hearings are a unique opportunity in our democracy to provide guidance to city management and elected officials in the determination of the baseline fiscal tax rate and how to allocate our tax dollars to meet our needs in housing, social services, parks, infrastructure and public safety, among other services. Unfortunately, not enough of us voice our interests. The price of not speaking up translates into an unfettered permission for someone else to spend your money and that of your neighbors. Depending on your city, you may have one more shot before the end of the month.

September 9, 2022

## South Florida 100



**Marlon A. Hill, of counsel, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.**

**Looking ahead:** The summer is over. Sorry to remind you. The general election is approaching in less than 10 weeks. If

Democrats intend to have an impact on the direction of statewide elected offices, Broward County, and equally important Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties, stand at the center of the storm with the largest pool of voters. The race is already on for every county to outperform the others. Without an inspired turnout, breaking old habits beyond this 60% threshold and connecting with independent voters in Broward County, the other counties are unlikely to feel the peer pressure to overperform.

August 26, 2022

## South Florida 100



**Marlon A. Hill, of counsel, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** The race has just begun for Floridians. We will have a transparent opportunity to sunshine our thoughts on how we feel about the direction and

leadership of our state at the federal, state and local levels. Clearly, a primary voter turnout of only around 20% on average did not accurately reflect the full breadth of the dynamism of our electorate. Democrats and Republicans showed proportional passion for their partisan nominees, while independent voters essentially bowed out of participation. As such, the fight in November will center on capturing the hearts of minds of independent voters for our future direction.

**Looking ahead:** The deep Floridian sea is approaching a parting of epic proportions as to who we are and who we want to be as Floridians. The essential tension is grounded in who determines the freedoms of, for example, what we learn, how we train, when we make health choices, among other liberties impacting our daily lives. Though some may say those powers come from a higher being, the reality is that those who govern us are the ones making policies impacting all of us. If democracy is the determining factor balancing these freedoms, then the sacred responsibility of the voter is a daunting one on Nov. 8.



August 26, 2022

## South Florida 100



**Marlon A. Hill, of counsel, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** The stunning news of the loss of Jason Jenkins, the Miami Dolphins' "Chief Community Connector," is still reverberating across the

South Florida landscape. His omnipresence and purposeful leadership on the boards of numerous organizations or at community activities impacted critical issues such as food insecurity, youth mentorship, cancer awareness and social justice, among other societal challenges. He leveraged his position and influence with our beloved Dolphins to elevate our consciousness. We can learn from his legacy by always asking, "How can I help?"

# SunSentinel

August 20, 2022

## South Florida 100



**Marlon A. Hill, of counsel,  
Weiss Serota Helfman Cole  
& Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** Imagine living in a fictional county of only 100 persons and each election cycle, only 20 persons continuously make the decisions on who will be leading and governing the

city, implementing policies and passing budgets that impact everyone. This has been the case in South Florida where for at least the last four midterm primaries, only 20% of all registered voters turn out to vote by mail, at an early voting location or at their precinct. This type of voter engagement is unsustainable for residents to see the type of change or accountability they wish for. We must step up our game.

# SunSentinel

July 30, 2022

## South Florida 100



**Marlon A. Hill, of counsel,  
Weiss Serota Helfman Cole &  
Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** As an engaged citizen, let me say without any reservation that there is nothing wrong or negative with being "woke," or in other words, "aware," "informed," "value-centered" or the like. The mere fact that we are legislating from the desk or the chamber that we are going to start penalizing or criminalizing citizens for living a value-centered life that promotes the greater good should be alarming to all who truly believe in freedom. There is nothing wrong with promoting freedom, but not at the cost of using a sword to eliminate any thought you dislike.

# SunSentinel

July 3, 2022

## OPINION

# South Florida 100

*Our panel of 100 influential leaders discusses the most important issues affecting you.*



**Marlon A. Hill**, *of counsel, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.* This past week, the Marcano-Scarbriel family realized a small triumph from their pain in witnessing the signature of Miya's Law by Gov. Ron DeSantis. With this new law, thousands of tenants in multi-unit properties will be safer with the requirement of background

checks for employees, a log for master key distribution, and 24-hour notice for unit entry for any repairs. The statewide Caribbean community learned a lesson of collective will, resilience and advocacy toward a common goal benefiting thousands of others. Thank you, Miya Marcano, for leaving this legacy.

# SunSentinel

July 1, 2022

## South Florida 100



**Marlon A. Hill, of counsel, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** This week, the Marcano-Scarbriel family realized a small triumph from their pain in witnessing the

signature of Miya's Law by Gov. Ron DeSantis. With this new law, thousands of tenants in multi-unit properties will be safer with the requirement of background checks for employees, a log for master key distribution, and 24-hour notice for unit entry for any repairs. The statewide Caribbean community learned a lesson of collective will, resilience and advocacy toward a common goal benefiting thousands of others. Thank you, Miya Marcano, for leaving this legacy.

Apr 15, 2022



**Marlon A. Hill, of counsel, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** It appears that the current trend in legislative intent is to advance the institutionalization of living in a supposed race-neutral world of electoral boundaries, education, procurement, employee training and other areas of public life. This assumes that our society has been built in a race-neutral manner, while not confronting and dealing with self-evident truths of the vestiges of slave-based economies. Unfortunately, if we continue to tread down a path of turning a blind eye, we will not be able to fully become a more perfect union. We cannot legislate away the imperfections of our history. In fact, the more we try to do so, the more history reveals itself.

APRIL 1, 2022



**Marlon A. Hill, of counsel, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** March Madness is one of the most underappreciated sporting phenomena on the planet. It offers a window of opportunity for the Davids and the Goliaths in NCAA men's and women's basketball to demonstrate their heart, soul and skill. It is heartwarming to witness the smaller institutions have their moment in the spotlight. In the end, this is what it is all about: The opportunity to give your best and create believers out of doubters. We all dream of making it to the Final Four, where the possible meets the impossible. Take your shot.

March 4, 2022

## South Florida 100



**Marlon A. Hill, of  
counsel, Weiss  
Serota Helfman Cole  
& Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** The Russian invasion into Ukraine should be of grave concern to our American system of freedom

and democracy. Concurrently, there are also two noteworthy residual consequences. First, the fact that we have folks publicly praising or silently condoning the actions of Vladimir Putin on our own soil for political gain corrupts the sanctity of free speech. Second, the news reports of Ukrainian foreign students of color from the Caribbean and Africa being denied access to transportation for their safety and security at the border exacerbates an already unbearable scene. Clearly, we need to reconnect with our humanity.

**Looking ahead:** President Joe Biden is in a tough spot. Irrespective of what he has said or done for the greater good or expected to do post his State of the Union, he is highly unlikely to receive any credit in this current political environment. The broader American populace is already emotionally worn out from the last election cycle and immediately thereafter into the pandemic. We are about to see his true credentials of resilience. Until the soul of America is replenished and renourished, there is not going to be much appetite for good or even bad news. He simply needs to put his head down and do the work of the people.





## **Marlon A. Hill, of counsel, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.**

**Last week:** The biggest news story of the year should be the insurrection on the highest institution of our democracy on Jan. 6. Unfortunately, the memory of our nation will be shallow. The manner in which we have disregarded the seriousness of what actually occurred on that day is symptomatic of how we arbitrarily choose to bend the law toward the arc of injustice in favor of some and not others. The most egregious act of that day is how the highest office of our land chose not to act with full notice of what was occurring. This should concern us the most.

**Looking ahead:** The upcoming year of 2022 will welcome the intersection of the political prickles of midterm elections and a skittish economy tiptoeing around an unyielding pandemic. These dynamics will be reflective of the unstable climate atmosphere plaguing our fair land. High pressures are

clashing with low pressures. Political tensions remain high and toxic. It is unlikely that we will find any stabilizing forces that President Biden will find helpful in his second year. One thing is for sure: He must harness whatever powers from the Oval Office to survive the unstable atmosphere that is forthcoming.

November 19, 2021



**Marlon A. Hill, of  
counsel, Weiss  
Serota Helfman  
Cole & Bierman,  
P.L.**

**Last week:** The recent special election for the vacant congressional

District 20 seat reveals some glaring reminders in our changing community dynamics. First and foremost, all politics remains very local between Broward and Palm Beach counties. Candidates cannot afford to overlook deepening personal relationships on all fronts. Secondly, despite some cultural affinities based on a candidate's heritage, all voters are not created equal. Not all Jamaicans vote for Jamaicans and not all Haitians vote for Haitians. To presume such would be a grave oversight. The candidate who paid (or pays) more attention to this fact will have the edge going forward.

**Looking ahead:** The regular person in the street heading into the holidays is looking at their pocketbook at each visit to the gas pump. They don't care why the gas prices are higher, they simply wish to find someone responsible. That person will be President Biden, whether rightful or not. Despite the kudos for the recent infrastructure bill, President Biden must be mindful that voters have short memories and shallow pockets. They are looking for the next gift under the Christmas tree not next year, but today. He should close his touchdown dance in less than 10 seconds.