

Book of Law

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LEADING LAWYERS

MITCHELL J. BURNSTEIN

*Broward office partner-in-charge,
Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza
Cole & Boniske PL*

■ **Education:** B.A., Emory University; J.D., University of Florida College of Law

■ **Career highlights:** Burnstein handles real property litigation matters for the firm, specializing



in eminent domain, inverse condemnation, constitutional takings, and all aspects of private property rights litigation. He established

the firm's Eminent Domain and Private Property Rights Practice Group in 2001, and represents regional and local condemnor clients, private property owners, businesses, title companies and institutional lenders. Burnstein is an AV-rated lawyer and has served as lead counsel in more than 80 jury trials in state and federal courts. He has served as an expert witness in eminent domain cases, and is an author and lecturer on takings issues.

JAMIE ALAN COLE

*Managing Director, Weiss
Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole &
Boniske PL*

■ **Education:** J.D.; University of Pennsylvania; B.S.E., Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania



■ **Career highlights:** Cole was instrumental in establishing the firm's Broward office more than 10 years ago, and now

serves as its managing director. Through the firm, Cole has served as the city attorney for Weston and Miramar, and as special litigation counsel for numerous municipalities in Palm Beach and Broward counties. He also protected local governments and voters by obtaining an injunction that removed a misleading question relating to property taxes from the Jan. 29, 2008, ballot. He recovered \$8 million from Broward County on behalf of 11 municipalities related to the breach of an agreement that prevented the dual taxation of city residents for fire-rescue services and drafted legislation, proposed by the city of Weston and enacted by the Florida Legislature, that allowed municipalities incorporated after 1995 to appoint an equity study commission to revise their business license fees.

MICHAEL S. POPOK

*Miami-Dade office partner-in-charge,
Weiss Serota Helfman
Pastoriza Cole & Boniske PL*

■ **Education:** B.A., New York University; J.D., Duke University School of Law



■ **Career highlights:** Popok is the former chairman of the firm's Litigation Division. He is an experienced commercial and construction

trial attorney, focused on public and private sector clients. Recent successes include obtaining a multimillion dollar judgment against Waste Management on behalf of Hallandale Beach regarding solid waste disposal contract; obtaining a \$5 million settlement during a construction defect trial on behalf of the city of Boca Raton; representing six cities in constitutional challenges to red-light camera program; representing a New York-based financial services company in suits regarding viatical purchases; and representing a Chicago-based bank in several high-profile commercial foreclosures of hotel properties.