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2 Miami-Dade Lawyers Make History: Meet the New Leaders

Other board members announced for 2023-2024 are Stuart Weissman as vice president, Melissa Jordon as secretary and Adam Finkel to serve as treasurer of the Miami Dade Bar Association.

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Litigation



Lisa Willis



What You Need to Know

- The first black woman Attorney appointed president in the 103 years since the creation of the Miami Dade Bar.
- The first Cuban American female attorney simultaneously voted to equally historic position

The Miami Dade Bar Association has been around for 103 years. In that time there has never been a Cuban-American woman, nor a Black woman president—until now.

The bar's immediate past president, Roger Slade of Haber Law in Miami, announced the new “dream team” of officers and board members elected to take the helm of the 2023 Miami Dade Bar Association.

The group is the largest voluntary bar association in South Florida, approaching 3,500 members, according to its website.

Among the new appointees is the first Cuban-American female Miami Dade Bar president and the first African-American female president-elect.

‘Get Involved’

Suzette Luisa Russomanno, a partner with Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel in Miami, is set to officially take the reigns from Slade as president on June 30, after a June 2 [announcement gala in Miami](#).

“As I take on the esteemed position of Miami Dade Bar president, I am humbled and honored to be the first Cuban-American female to hold this title,” Russomanno said. “My initiatives for the year reflect my commitment to the legal community, and our shared responsibility to foster mental health, diversity, professionalism, and community engagement and outreach. I am dedicated to promoting a culture of inclusivity and excellence, and I look forward to collaborating with my fellow colleagues to achieve these goals.”

Both Russomanno’s husband and father-in-law have held the bar’s leadership position.

“It is long overdue that the Miami Dade Bar finally has elected its first female Cuban-American president. Suzette is a terrific lawyer and is following in the footsteps of her husband Herman Russomanno III and her father-in-law also named Herman Russomanno both of whom served as Presidents of the Miami Dade Bar,” Slade said.

Charise Morgan-Joseph with Zurich NA Miami’s office, as president-elect, says she is grateful for the opportunity to serve the lawyers, judges and members of the Miami-Dade legal community in her historic role.

“I don’t take for granted that they have entrusted me to lead this great organization. I know that my presidency will be historic,” Morgan-Joseph said. “In the 103 years since the creation of the bar, there has never been a Black woman president. On one hand, I feel like Justice Kentanji Brown Jackson when describing the 232 years it took for a Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court. ... On the other hand, I am Jane Bolin, the first Black woman judge in the United States.”

In challenging other attorneys to participate, Morgan-Joseph said, “I strive to advance and protect the interests of our members, and to maintain the integrity of our organization. I personally invite anyone who agrees with our mission to join the Bar and get involved.”

Other Leaders

The bar also announced Robert “Beau” Blumberg with Deutsch Blumberg & Caballero as president of the Young Lawyers Section. “I am truly honored to lead ... along with a dream team of officers and board members,” Blumberg said. “We plan on building off the tremendous success of Tiffany-Ashley Disney’s presidency.”

Slade applauded the new leader.

“We are ... lucky to have Beau Blumberg who will be installed as the president of the Young Lawyers Section. His father, Edward Blumberg, also served as president of the Florida Bar,” Slade said. “What a great family tradition.”

Meanwhile, Blumberg said the bar plans to continue several events and priorities, including its Breakfast With the Judiciary signature event, a mentoring program for young lawyers, International Women’s Day Celebration, the Second Annual MDB YLS 40 Under 40 Awards to be presented at our largest event of the year, Miami Nights, as well as many happy hours and service events throughout the year.”

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