

RISING STARS

Danielle Price
Holland & Knight



Danielle Price exemplifies what it means to be a successful working mom.

Starting as a summer associate at Holland & Knight in 2001, she joined the firm after law school in 2002.

In eight years, Price became a partner after proving herself in corporate law, securities, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate governance.

She negotiated a \$430 million acquisition of a pharmaceutical company for Sunovion Pharmaceuticals Inc. last year and was involved this year on the \$40 million OPKO Health Inc. acquisition of a national chain of clinical laboratories. She also was on a team that worked three transactions at once in a refinancing deal that involved a \$210 million note offering.

Price and colleague Rod Bell were finalists this year for a Daily Business Review Dealmaker of the Year award in the Corporate Domestic category.

Born in Miami and raised in both Jamaica and Miami, Price, a mother of two, belongs to a large multicultural family. Her mother is Chinese-Jamaican, and her father is Irish-American. She credits them for her strong work ethic.

She received her bachelor's and law degree from the University of Miami. While in law school, Price was a certified legal intern at the Securities and Exchange Commission's enforcement division in Miami.

She now uses her knowledge of corporate law and finance to mentor young entrepreneurs at the UM Launch Pad and UM's business school. She also oversees Holland & Knight's sponsorship of the Entrepreneur's Organization's accelerator program a series of educational events aimed at helping first-stage entrepreneurs get to the next level.

Rene F. Ruiz
Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler
Alhadeff & Sitterson



Labor and employment shareholder Rene F. Ruiz became a partner for the first time at 30. Five years later, he has switched firms and now is a shareholder at Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson with a list of national and international clients including Florida Crystals, Airbus, Macy's, Academica, and Areas USA Inc.

Ruiz handles collective bargaining, administers union grievances and arbitrations and defends unfair labor disputes before the National Labor Relations Board and the Public Employees Relations Committee. He also trains employers on union avoidance and strike preparation, litigates wage and hour disputes, discrimination, retaliation and harassment cases, and actions involving the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In the past year, he successfully negotiated six collective bargaining agreements without a single work stoppage. He also successfully defended a number of restaurant and retail clients across the state against cases alleging barriers to disabled access and won a summary judgment against the application of the overtime exemption for various agricultural employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Additionally, he serves as board chair for the Miami Children's Museum Charter School and the Sports Leadership and Management Academy Charter School, and volunteers with Legal Up!, a program aimed at teaching life skills to underprivileged and incarcerated juveniles.

While in law school, he interned with U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen T. Brown and Ted E. Bandstra in Miami.

Christina C. Russo
Akerman Senterfitt



A shareholder in Akerman Senterfitt's Miami office, Christina C. Russo is a leader in the firm's securities and merger and acquisition practices, serving as a go-to resource for public company clients, including many listed on the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq.

Since joining the firm in 2005, Russo has worked on dozens of deals and offerings, moving up rapidly from supporting associate to a lead shareholder. "Christina has quickly mastered the very intricate nuances of securities and M&A transactions," said Neisen Kasdin, office managing shareholder.

In the past year, Russo has served as a lead attorney in several major securities transactions on behalf of clients, including a \$175 million private offering by OPKO Health Inc., a Miami-based biopharmaceutical and diagnostics company. She also was lead attorney in multiple public offerings by Armour Residential REIT Inc. and a complex \$123.3 million disposition by Swisher Hygiene in its acquisition of Choice Environmental Services Inc., a residential and commercial solid waste services company.

Russo also played a leading role in a \$150 million initial public offering by Javelin Mortgage Investment Corp. — a rarity in today's mortgage market.

In 2011, she represented Cardo Medical Inc. in the asset sale of its joint arthroplasty division to Arthrex Inc. "These transactions require an in-depth expertise of securities laws, and Christina has acquired uncommon proficiency at an early stage of her career," Kasdin said.

At Akerman, Russo also focuses her practice on corporate law and corporate governance, advising public companies and boards of directors on disclosure and compliance matters arising out of federal securities laws and stock market regulations.

A member of the Cuban American Bar Association, Russo is a powerful advocate for women and minority lawyers within the firm. She serves as an active mentor, helping young attorneys develop their legal skills and advising on career development strategies.

Adam Schachter
Gelber Schachter & Greenberg



The last year has been big for Adam Schachter. The 39-year-old co-founded his own firm, has been co-lead counsel on numerous high-profile cases including representing the League of Women Voters of Florida and other organizations challenging the congressional and state Senate voter redistricting plans, and argued before the Florida Supreme Court and the First District Court of Appeal.

The Supreme Court sided with Schachter, allowing a trial court to consider Senate redistricting issues.

Since starting in September 2012, Gelber Schachter & Greenberg has taken on a string of complex civil and criminal cases including representing a former TD Bank office in Scott Rothstein's Ponzi fraud litigation. The firm also serves as special counsel to Bal Harbour in a Justice Department investigation of the village's police department.

Before starting the firm, Schachter was a litigation shareholder and associate at Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson for nearly a decade. While there, he served as trial partner on a number of cases, including the securities class action against BankAtlantic Bancorp Inc. and a Delaware Chancery Court of action over the acquisition of BankAtlantic by BB&T Corp.

Before that, he was an associate with Proskauer Rose in New York and a law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Patricia Seitz in Miami.

He chairs a Florida Bar grievance committee.