

# STEARNS WEAVER MILLER WEISSLER ALHADEFF & SITTERSON, P.A.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BEST LAWYERS 2012 NAMES THREE STEARNS WEAVER MILLER SHAREHOLDERS AS LAWYERS OF THE YEAR**

**MIAMI —October 2011—** Stearns Weaver Miller is proud to announce that the *Best Lawyers in America 2012*, a legal, peer-reviewed publication, has named three of its Shareholders as “Lawyer of the year” in their respective practice areas. Sharon Quinn Dixon was named *Best Lawyers’ 2012 Miami Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law Lawyer of the Year*, Robert S. Turk was named *Best Lawyers’ 2012 Miami Litigation – Labor & Employment Lawyer of the Year*, and Ronald L. Weaver was named *Best Lawyers’ 2012 Tampa Litigation – Land Use & Zoning Lawyer of the Year*.

After more than a quarter of a century in publication, Best Lawyers is designating “Lawyers of the Year” in high-profile legal specialties in large legal communities. Only a single lawyer in each specialty in each community is being honored as the “Lawyer of the Year.” Best Lawyers compiles its lists of outstanding attorneys by conducting exhaustive peer-review surveys in which thousands of leading lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The current, 18th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America (2012)* is based on more than 3.9 million detailed evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers. The lawyers being honored as “Lawyers of the Year” have received particularly high ratings in our surveys by earning a high level of respect among their peers for their abilities, professionalism, and integrity.

**Sharon Quinn Dixon** is a Shareholder in both the Tax Department and Labor and Employment Department, she also serves on the Firm’s Board of Directors. Ms. Dixon’s practice focuses on employee benefits and estate planning. Ms. Dixon counsels business clients about their employee benefit plans and executive compensation, including 401(k) plans, medical and other welfare benefit plans, COBRA issues, Section 125-Cafeteria Plans, Code Section 409A issues and tax and ERISA compliance and litigation matters. Additionally, Ms. Dixon is experienced with merger and acquisition due diligence reviews, planning for employee benefits in implementing Family Leave Act policies and incentive and nonqualified stock option plans. Ms. Dixon counsels individual clients in the development and implementation of their estate plans, including federal estate and gift tax issues. Ms. Dixon represents corporate and individual fiduciaries in connection with the administration of estates and personal trusts. Ms. Dixon has particular expertise in estate planning for retirement benefits. She earned her B.A. from Bradley University and her J.D. from the University of Miami Law School.

**Robert S. Turk** is a Shareholder in the Firm and the Co-Chair of the Labor and Employment Department. He also serves as a member of the Firm’s Board of Directors. He practices in the areas of employment

litigation, wage and hour representation, supervisory training, employment audits, equal employment opportunity claims, affirmative action, union avoidance, wrongful discharge, employment and union contracts, trade secrets contracts, non-competition agreements, employment policies, drug-free workplace policies and representation of unionized employers in collective bargaining. He earned both his B.A. and his J.D. from the University of North Carolina.

**Ronald L. Weaver** is a Shareholder and the Chairman of the Land Use, Environment and Government Affairs Department. He also serves as a member of the Firm's Board of Directors. Mr. Weaver has extensive experience in advising landowners, development companies and local governments in environmental, land use and property rights law and real estate acquisition and financing. He has conducted land use, environmental, zoning, Developments of Regional Impact (DRI), comprehensive plan, and concurrency due diligence for the acquisition and development of over \$3 billion worth of Florida property in 30 different counties and 50 cities, including a \$600 million due diligence of 12 properties for one acquisition/financing. He earned his B.A. from the University of North Carolina and his J.D. from Harvard University.

Stearns Weaver Miller is a full-service law firm with more than 120 attorneys serving clients throughout Florida and nationwide. With offices in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Tallahassee, it serves business clients and government agencies with a focus on litigation, real estate, labor and employment, business restructuring, corporate and securities and local government representation. Online at [www.stearnsweaver.com](http://www.stearnsweaver.com)

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