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DAILY BUSINESS REVIEW

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..... *14th Annual*

**MOST EFFECTIVE
LAWYERS 2018**

The 14th annual Most Effective Lawyers special report recognizes the extraordinary work performed by South Florida attorneys in the past year.

Honorees were selected from more than 110 nominations. Attorneys were asked to show proof of positive results obtained for their clients, illustrating obstacles overcome and their impact on public policy and business interests.

This year the Daily Business Review recognizes about 50 attorneys in 20 categories. Two awards were given in two highly competitive areas — government relations/regulatory and products liability.

Legal professionals distinguished themselves with their work in the fast-changing field of cybersecurity, a copyright fight over telenovelas, a change in Florida statutory at the U.S. Capitol and litigation with wide-ranging social impact.

The annual recognition is based on one overriding benchmark — tangible results and impact. Congratulations to everyone who participated.

— Catherine Wilson
Managing Editor

Cohen Milstein Attorney Wins Fights for Ex-Felons, Juvenile Inmates

Diana L. Martin

Firm: Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll

Diana L. Martin has achieved success in two high-profile class actions highlighting her interest in cases with significant social impact.

Martin and a team of Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll attorneys pursued a voting-rights case for ex-felons in partnership with the Fair Elections Center.

U.S. District Judge Mark E. Walker issued a permanent injunction in February, rejecting Florida's clemency system as arbitrary and requiring a new voting-rights restoration procedure.

The state appealed Walker's order to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. The court heard arguments in July and asked whether the case is moot based on voters' passage of a constitutional amendment in November to restore voting rights to as many as 1.4 million ex-felons.

The attorneys maintain issues are still alive because the amendment omitted people convicted of murder or sex crimes and didn't address bans on jury service and occupational licenses.

In a separate case, Martin, who is of counsel, and other Cohen Milstein attorneys in conjunction with the Human Rights Defense Center and the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County filed a putative class action challenging juvenile solitary confinement.

The federal lawsuit alleged the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office placed some pretrial juveniles charged as adults in solitary confinement — potentially for months — and denied access to adequate educational services.

The U.S. Justice Department filed a statement of interest in support of the inmates, saying the sheriff has a responsibility for ensuring young detainees receive special education and



Diana L. Martin

related services when needed.

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw initially defended the practice but announced last month that he would end it.

Martin serves as audit committee chair of Families First of Palm Beach County, is a former president of Florida Legal Services and served on the Florida Bar Foundation board.

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