

**dbr**  
**DAILY BUSINESS REVIEW**

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2018  
**PROFESSIONAL  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS**



**DISTINGUISHED LEADERS**

# PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE DISTINGUISHED LEADERS

The Daily Business Review's annual Distinguished Leaders awards recognize the great performances and valuable leadership of noteworthy South Florida attorneys.

## LESLIE M. KROEGER

**Title:** Partner

**Firm:** Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll

**What is the one word people use to describe you?** That's a great question, and I'm not sure that I know of just one word. I think people would describe me as compassionate, focused, a leader or driven, but probably most of all professional. One of the nicest compliments paid by a colleague is recently being described as "accessible." She further explained that I always make myself available, that I'm easy to talk to and that I have the ability to make challenging information or issues easy to understand.

**What is your favorite thing about being in the legal profession?** My ability to help people who otherwise would have no voice. My work allows me to fight for those who often have no one else to turn to.

**What could you do without in the legal profession?** The unprofessionalism between attorneys and their offices that seem to have overtaken some people. Our work is difficult enough just by its nature, without the added acrimony some feel the need to bring to every situation.

**What is your No. 1 survival tip in a work crisis?** Teamwork. Build a good team around you of those you know

you can depend upon and who know they can always depend upon you.

**What do you think you are better at than others?** I'm a pretty good listener and observer of people. I think many lawyers forget that being successful in your career and for your clients doesn't always involve what you have to say but often about reading the other people in the room.

**What advice do you have for aspiring legal professionals?** Find an area of law that inspires you. Time commitments of our profession can be overwhelming, especially if you are working to build expertise in a particular area of law. In order to not be overwhelmed or burn out, you need to love what you do and look forward to it every day.

**What has been the most significant change in the legal profession in the past 10 years?** I believe that advances in technology over the last 10 years and our ability to be in contact with one another 24/7 has been the most significant change in the legal profession. Dependent upon what is needed or how you practice, the ability to speak with anyone or get information at the touch of a button can be great in helping accomplish your work. On the other hand, I think it's definitely contributed to an inability to separate work life from home life. It's perhaps why we now see an article in The Florida Bar News on



LESLIE M. KROEGER

mindfulness every month.

**Knowing what you know now, what would you tell your young self when you were graduating?** Find something to enjoy in every job you have. Find something to learn from every boss you encounter. Find something to give to everyone who works for you.

**What are you most proud of achieving in your career?** I'm most proud that my children know that I've committed my life to seeking justice for those who have suffered a loss or their sense of hope.

**What's your idea of an idyllic retirement, and are you going to pursue it?** I think I'll keep that a secret for a bit longer. But yes, I do plan to pursue it.

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