



For immediate release

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## Local law firm touts top attorney awards: 'Elite,' 'super,' 'best,' 'leaders in their field' among honors

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (January 14, 2014) – [Gunster](http://www.gunster.com), one of Florida's oldest and largest full-service business law firms, is pleased to offer the following highlights of its attorney recognitions achieved in 2013.

1. **[Legal Elite](#)**: 2013 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> year Florida Trend's Legal Elite peer recognition program has honored Florida's top attorneys. Its results represent the **top 2 percent** of the more than 67,000 active Florida Bar members practicing in the state, as evaluated by their peers. [Sixteen of Gunster's 170 attorneys](#) throughout the state made the Legal Elite cut in 2013, with two named "Up & Comers" and five honored in the **Legal Elite Hall of Fame**:



[David G. Bates](#)  
Business Law  
(West Palm Beach)



[Amy Brigham Boulris](#)  
Eminent Domain  
(Miami)



[Bruce D. Lamb](#)  
Health Law  
(Tampa)



[John Little III](#)  
Environment &  
Land Use  
(West Palm Beach)

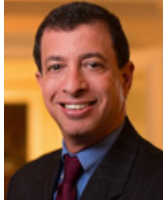


[David M. Wells](#)  
Commercial  
Litigation  
(Jacksonville)

The Hall of Fame selections are made by the publication's editorial staff, after consulting a panel of attorneys. Those selected to the Hall of Fame in 2013 have been named to the Legal Elite list every year for the past 10 years.

2. **[Florida Super Lawyers](#)**: This publication rates attorneys from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high-degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process is multiphased and includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations. Super Lawyers names no more than **5 percent** of the attorneys in a given state to the list. Lawyers who receive the highest point totals are additionally recognized in "Top Lists." [Gunster boasts 39 Florida Super Lawyer honorees, 16 "Rising Stars" and four in "Top 100"](#):

**Top 100 Florida Super Lawyers:**  
(statewide)



[David G. Bates](#)  
Mergers & Acquisitions  
(West Palm Beach)



[David M. Wells](#)  
Business Litigation  
(Jacksonville)

**Top 100 Miami Florida Super Lawyers:**

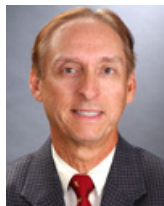


[William K. Hill](#)  
Business Litigation  
(Miami)



[Thomas M. Karr](#)  
Estate & Trust Litigation  
(Miami)

3. **[Best Lawyers](#):** Selection to Best Lawyers' peer-review guide reflects the high level of respect a lawyer has earned among other leading lawyers in the same communities and the same practice areas for their abilities, professionalism and integrity. Only a single lawyer in each practice area and designated metropolitan area is honored as Lawyer of the Year. This year, [60 Gunster attorneys made the list](#), with three being honored as **Lawyers of the Year**:



[James R. Brindell](#)  
Litigation – Land Use & Zoning  
(West Palm Beach)



[Rick J. Burgess](#)  
Environmental Law  
(Miami)



[Edward M. Whelan](#)  
Litigation – Construction  
(Jacksonville)

U.S. News & World Report, a leading rankings publication, and Woodward/White (dba "Best Lawyers") have partnered together to rank law firms throughout the nation. Gunster was nationally recognized by the U.S. News/Best Lawyers for its work in the below areas.

- |                                   |                                    |                     |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| ✓ Banking & finance<br>litigation | ✓ Employee Benefits<br>(ERISA) law | ✓ Land use & zoning | ✓ Technology law       |
| ✓ Commercial litigation           | ✓ Environmental law                | ✓ Tax law           | ✓ Trusts & estates law |

4. **[Chambers USA](#):** This U.K.-based industry publication ranks leading law firms and lawyers in an extensive range of practice areas. The research is in-depth and client focused, and the guide is read by industry-leading companies and organizations in the U.S. and worldwide. [Gunster had 22 attorneys named "Leaders in their Field"](#) by Chambers USA in 2013, including a national ranking for the leader of its immigration law practice, [Sarah Tobocman](#) (Miami). The following Gunster practice areas received recognition by Chambers in 2013:

- |                                      |                                    |               |                     |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Banking & finance                  | ✓ Environment                      | ✓ Immigration | ✓ Tax               |
| ✓ Corporate, M&A &<br>private equity | ✓ General commercial<br>litigation | ✓ Real estate | ✓ Zoning & land use |

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## About Gunster

Gunster, Florida's law firm for business, provides full-service legal counsel to leading organizations and individuals from its 11 offices statewide. Established in 1925, the firm has expanded, diversified and evolved, but always with a singular focus: Florida and its client's stake in it. A magnet for business-savvy attorneys who embrace collaboration for the greatest advantage of clients, Gunster's growth has not been at the expense of personalized service, but because of it. The firm serves clients from its offices in Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, Palm Beach, Stuart, Tallahassee, Tampa, The Florida Keys, Vero Beach and its headquarters in West Palm Beach. With more than 160 attorneys and 200 committed support staff, Gunster is ranked among the National Law Journal's list of the 350 largest law firms. More information about its practice areas, offices and insider's view newsletters is available at [www.gunster.com](http://www.gunster.com).