

RESOLUTION NO. 13 – 2167

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE (TOWN), REAPPOINTING SPECIAL MASTERS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Surfside enforces its code, in part, through a Special Master system; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 15-7 of the Town Code of Ordinances appointments are made through the Town Manager for a one year term; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution No. 12–2083 the Commissions reappointed Rafael E. Suarez-Rivas, Esq., Aleksander Boksner, Esq., and Bruce Alan Blitman, Esq. as Special Masters (See Resumes as Attachment “A”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Manager wishes to reappoint Rafael E. Suarez-Rivas, Esq., Aleksander Boksner, Esq., and Bruce Alan Blitman, Esq. as Special Masters.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Recitals.** The above and foregoing recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

**Section 2. Special Masters Reappointments.** The following Special Masters are hereby appointed by the Town Manager and are hereby ratified by the Town Commission:

- 1) Rafael E. Suarez-Rivas, Esq.
- 2) Aleksander Boksner, Esq.
- 3) Bruce Alan Blitman, Esq.

**Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 11 day of June 2013.

Motion by Commissioner Olchyk, second by Commissioner Graubart.

**FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION**

Commissioner Joseph Graubart  
Commissioner Michelle Kligman  
Commissioner Marta Olchyk  
Vice Mayor Michael Karukin  
Mayor Daniel Dietch

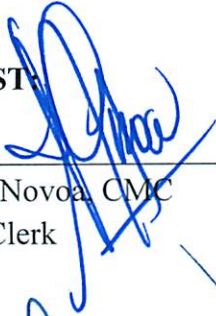
yes  
yes  
yes  
yes  
yes



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Daniel Dietch, Mayor

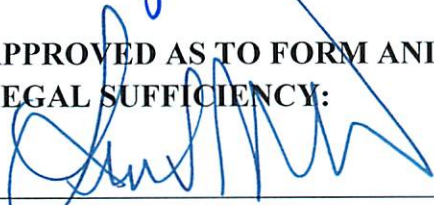
**ATTEST:**



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Sandra Novoa, CMC  
Town Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**



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Linda Miller, Interim Town Attorney

**RAFAEL E. SUAREZ-RIVAS, ESQ.**  
**4766 ALTON ROAD**  
**MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 33140**  
**CELLULAR (786) 368-6797**  
**EMAIL: SUAREZRIVASR@BELLSOUTH.NET**

**AREAS OF PRACTICE**

Florida Bar Board Certified – City, County and Local Government Law  
General Municipal Law practice, concentrating mainly in the areas of  
Contracts, Procurement, Land Use, Zoning, Historic Preservation, Building,  
Platting, and Real Estate and the litigation thereof.

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

City of Miami, Florida: Assistant City Attorney, 2002-Present  
City of North Miami, Florida: Hearing Officer, 2012-Present  
Village of Bal Harbour, Florida: Hearing Officer, 2012-Present  
Town of Surfside, Florida: Hearing Officer, 2011-Present  
Town of Golden Beach, Florida: Hearing Officer, 2009 – Present  
City of Sunny Isles Beach, Florida: Hearing Officer, 2009 – Present  
City of North Miami Beach, Florida: Hearing Officer, 2009-10  
Broward County, Florida: Hearing Officer, 2003-07  
City of Hollywood, Florida: Senior Assistant City Attorney, 1999-2002  
City of Boca Raton, Florida: Special Counsel, 1999  
Florida International University, Florida: Adjunct Professor, Continuing Legal  
Education Program, 1994-97  
Broward County, Florida: Assistant County Attorney, 1992-98  
Katz, Kutter, Haigler & Alderman, Miami, Florida: Associate, 1991-92  
City of Miramar, Florida: City Attorney, 1989-91  
City of Miami, Florida: Assistant City Attorney, 1985-89  
City of Miami Beach, Florida: Assistant City Attorney, 1982-85  
Britton, Cohen, Kauffman, Benson, & Schantz, Florida: Associate, 1981-82  
Michael N. Weiss & Associates: Associate, 1980-81

**ACTIVITIES**

*Lorman Educational Systems*: Lecturer in areas of Procurement, Public  
Records and Sunshine Law, 2001-07  
The Florida Bar: Certification Committee, 2000-03  
*Florida Bar Journal*, Editorial Board: Deborah M. Smoot Memorial Editor's  
Award, 1998  
The Florida Bar: City, County and Local Government Law Section Executive  
Council, 1992-94  
Dade County Bar Association: Editor in Chief, *Court Handbook for Dade  
County Lawyers*, 1990  
*Florida Bar Journal*: Editorial Board Member, 1989-2002, 2005-08  
*Dade County Bar Bulletin*: Editor, 1987-88  
*Stetson Law Review Local Government Law Symposium*, 1987-1993

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Florida Bar Association, Member since 1980  
Dade County Bar Association, Member  
Cuban American Bar Association, Member

**RECOGNITION**

*Martindale-Hubbell* Peer Review Rating, AV Rated  
*Florida Trend Legal Elite*: Top Government Attorney, 2010

**EDUCATION**

Nova Southeastern University Law Center, Juris Doctor, 1979  
University of Miami, Bachelor of Arts, 1976

**REFERENCES**

Daniel L. Abbott, Esq., Weiss, Serota, et al., Ft. Lauderdale, Florida  
(former City of Hollywood, City Attorney)  
Lucia A. Dougherty, Esq., Greenberg Traurig, Miami, Florida  
(former City of Miami, City Attorney)  
Maria J. Chiaro, City of Miami, Florida: Deputy City Attorney  
*Writing samples and additional references available upon request.*

## ALEKSANDR BOKSNER

Phone: 305-216-6258; E-mail: [aleksandrboksner@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:aleksandrboksner@miamibeachfl.gov)

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Office of the City Attorney, Miami Beach, Florida

Senior Assistant City Attorney (2009 – Present)

Provide legal counsel to the Miami Beach City Commissioners, City Administrator, and Department Directors in reference to issues pertaining to governmental liability, State of Florida public records, contract interpretation, ordinance drafting and disputes, land use, franchise agreements and fees. Provide contract review for compliance with the City of Miami Beach procurement code, in conjunction with the negotiation of various public/private contracts within the City of Miami Beach. Supervise and prosecute violations of the City of Miami Beach Code under the special master code enforcement procedure. Serve as the Police Legal Advisor to the Miami Beach Police Department. Defend the City of Miami Beach in civil litigation surrounding land use decisions, developmental regulations, orders and interpretations. Handle forfeiture proceedings under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act for the City of Coral Gables and the City of Miami Beach.

Office of the County Attorney, Marion, Florida

Chief Assistant County Attorney (2008 – 2009)

Legal counsel to the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, and Department Bureau Chiefs, Directors and county staff in reference to issues pertaining to sunshine and Public records law, sovereign immunity, governmental liability, contract interpretation, ordinance Drafting and disputes, Marion County ordinances, land use, and civil litigation. Legal counsel to the Development Review Committee, Board of Zoning Appeals and Board of Adjustments. Defended the Marion County government and its various departments in civil lawsuits arising from contract disputes, foreclosures, land use, and torts. Supervised the prosecution of Marion County ordinance violations in accordance with Florida statutory law pursuant to Section 162 of the Florida Statutes. Attend, prepared and conducted depositions of party and non-party witnesses. Supervised the legal Support staff, and formulated budget expenditures for the Office of the County Attorney.

Office of the County Attorney, Charlotte County, Florida

Assistant County Attorney (2005 – 2008)

Provide legal counsel to the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, and Department Directors in reference to issues pertaining to sovereign immunity, governmental liability, civil rights violations under § 1983, contract negotiation and drafting, ordinance drafting and disputes, Charlotte County ordinances, land use, and civil litigation. Defend the Charlotte County government and its various departments in civil lawsuits arising from contract disputes, bankruptcy, foreclosures, copyright infringement, land use, and torts. Prosecute Charlotte County ordinance violations in accordance with Florida statutory law. Attend, prepare and conduct depositions of party and non-party witnesses. Investigate individual claims filed pursuant to the State of Florida's waiver of sovereign immunity. Conduct complex legal research on various governmental issues and draft corresponding motions.

NRT Incorporated, Weston, Florida

Associate Litigation Counsel (2004 – 2005)

Drafted and filed complaints for civil litigation involving matters and cases surrounding real estate transactions. Attended, prepared and conducted depositions of party and non-party witnesses. Reviewed potential cases for possible legal action, submitted correspondence demanding compliance with various contract provisions, and formulated legal opinions on contract provisions. Conducted legal research and drafted appropriate motions. Legal counsel to Managing Brokers and Sales Associates.

Office of the State Attorney, Miami, Florida

Assistant State Attorney (2001 – 2004)

*Felony Cases (2003 – 2004):* Prosecuted felony cases from investigation to jury trial. Conducted first appearances, pre-trial conferences, plea negotiations and probation violation hearings. Additionally, handled Rule 3 evidentiary hearings and complex motion practice on various constitutional, statutory, and procedural laws. Responsible for over 300 felony cases.

*DUI/Traffic Cases (2002 – 2003):* Prosecuted DUI and criminal traffic cases from investigation to jury trial. Trained and supervised over 50 Assistant State Attorneys. Prepared the 2003 DUI/Traffic Training Manual for Assistant State Attorneys. Facilitated the criminal investigation of blood draw DUI cases involving issuance of criminal subpoenas for medical records and filing of formal charges. Initiated policies and procedures for issuance of Arrest Warrants in 1<sup>st</sup> degree misdemeanor offenses.

*Misdemeanor Cases (2001 – 2002):* Prepared, oversaw and handled the prosecution of criminal misdemeanor cases. Conducted 25 jury trials. Ensured the efficient operation of the County Court Division. Trained and supervised 5 Assistant State Attorneys.

BAR ADMITTANCE

State of Florida

State of Tennessee

United States District Court, Middle District of Florida

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The University of Toledo College of Law, Toledo, Ohio

J.D., 2001

Participated in Charles W. Fornoff Moot Court Competition, 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Albert R. Mugel National Tax Moot Court Competition, University of Toledo National Moot Court Member, University of Toledo Moot Court Tax Team Advisor

The University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

B.A., 1998

Specialized Training Seminars

Florida Association of County Attorney's, Summer 2007

Florida Association of County Attorney's, Summer 2006

Florida Association of Code Enforcement, Summer 2005

Institute of Police Technology and Management (IPTM) Seminar on Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) for Prosecutors and Law Enforcement, Summer 2003

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Death Notification Workshop, Summer 2003

Florida Prosecuting Attorneys' Association Advanced DUI Seminar, Winter 2003  
Drug Recognition Expert School, Spring 2002  
Florida Prosecuting Attorneys' Association DUI Trial Advocacy School, Winter 2002

### **INTERESTS AND SKILLS**

Prepare and give presentations on legal issues and procedures involving Governmental Liability as it pertains to the operations of Charlotte County Public Works Department, Charlotte County Fire Rescue Department and Charlotte County Parks & Recreation Department, Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) School, Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police (DCACP) Traffic Enforcement Committee, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Breath Testing Certification Course, Institute of Police Technology and Management (IPTM) DUI Case Preparation and Courtroom Presentation.

Involved in community service and professional outreach groups.

Proficient in Windows 98, WordPerfect, Excel, Power Point and Internet

**BRUCE A. BLITMAN, ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
**CERTIFIED CIRCUIT, COUNTY, FAMILY AND FEDERAL MEDIATOR**  
9050 Pines Boulevard, Suite 450  
Pembroke Pines, Florida 33024  
Phone: (954) 437-3446 Fax: Same (Please Call First)

**EDUCATION:** BRUCE A. BLITMAN was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1982. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Florida in 1978, and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Miami School of Law in 1981.

Mr. Blitman maintains a private law practice in Pembroke Pines. He is a sole practitioner with a general civil practice concentrating in commercial litigation, probate administration, and circuit and family mediation.

**MEDIATION TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:** Bruce is certified by the Supreme Court of Florida as a County, Circuit, and Family Mediator. From December, 1989 until January, 1998, Bruce mediated with the Florida Mediation Group, Inc., a privately owned mediation organization with offices in Miami and Fort Lauderdale. In early 1998, Bruce established his own mediation practice. Bruce has mediated more than two thousand (2,000) court-appointed and stipulated cases throughout Florida, involving such complex and diverse matters as negligence and personal injury claims, labor and employment law, professional malpractice, construction defects, admiralty, eminent domain, commercial and contractual disputes, franchise disputes, workers' compensation disputes and family disputes concerning custody, child support, alimony, and visitation rights.

**ARBITRATION PANELS:** Bruce is a member of the New York Stock Exchange Panel of Arbitrators, the National Futures Association (NFA) Arbitration Panel, the National Association of Securities Dealers' (NASD) Board of Arbitrators, the National Arbitration Forum's National Panel of Arbitrators and Mediators, and the American Arbitration Association's Roster of Mediators. He served as an arbitrator to decide issues arising under the Broward County Sheriff's Office applicable collective bargaining agreements. In 1989, Bruce completed the training required to serve as a qualified arbitrator. Bruce is a qualified arbitrator for the 11th (Dade County) and 17th (Broward County) Judicial Circuits.

**MEDIATION PANELS:** Mr. Blitman has been appointed to Mediation Panels for the Florida Departments of Insurance and Business Regulation, as well as the Mediation Roster for Florida's Growth Management Conflict Resolution Consortium. Nationally, Bruce is a mediator in the U.S. Department of Justice's

Key Bridge Foundation project to promote compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). He is on the nationwide Internal Revenue Service (IRS) List of Mediators. Bruce is also a panelist on the NASD's newly created roster of mediators. He is an arbitrator and mediator/conciliator for the Commercial Dispute Resolution Center of the Americas, and serves on the Roster of Mediators for Franchise Arbitration and Mediation, Inc. In 1999, Bruce was selected by the Miami District Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to serve as a mediation contractor for the EEOC's new Alternative Dispute Resolution Program. In late 1999, Bruce was selected to serve as a contract mediator in the United States Postal Service's mediation program. In 2000, Bruce was appointed to the Panel of Mediators for National Employment Mediation Services (NEMS). In 2001, Bruce was selected to serve as a mediator for the Florida Agricultural Mediation Service, administered by the University of Florida's College of Law. In 2001, Bruce was invited to join the Franchise Panel of the CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution's Panel of Distinguished Neutrals. CPR is a nonprofit alliance of 500 general counsel of major corporations, leading law firms, and legal academics, established in 1979 to develop alternatives to the high costs of litigation. CPR Neutrals are used to resolve disputes involving major corporations or the government, or issues of public sensitivity. Bruce was enrolled as a Dispute Resolver in the American Health Lawyers Association Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Service from March, 2002 through 2003. In September, 2004, Bruce was certified by the State of Florida's Division of Florida Land Sales, Condominiums and Mobile Homes as a mediator in the area of community association operations for the new mandatory mediation program provided by section 720.311(2), Florida Statutes. In October, 2004, Bruce was selected and trained to serve as a mediator in the Florida Department of Financial Services' (DFS) Mediation Program, which was established to help storm victims resolve claim disputes with their insurance companies as a result of property damage sustained during the 2004 hurricane season. In 2005, Bruce was reappointed to serve as a mediator in the DFS' Mediation Program to resolve claims arising from the 2005 hurricane season.

**SPECIAL MASTER:** Bruce served for four years as a Special Master at the City of Miami Beach's Code Violation hearings.

**UMPIRE:** Bruce is a member of The Windstorm Insurance Network, Inc. (WIND), and has completed the Umpire Certification Course sponsored by WIND. He has served as an umpire in insurance appraisal proceedings to decide claims disputes involving the scope and amount of loss.



**MEDIATION TRAINER:** Bruce has met Florida's qualifications to serve as a primary trainer for circuit civil and family mediation training programs. Bruce worked for four years as an approved training assistant for Circuit Court Mediation with the Mediation Institute of America, Inc. Prior to that, he was on the faculty of Nova Southeastern University's Mediation Institute, where he lectured about mediation and ADR as part of the university's "Mediation In The Community" series. Bruce currently serves as a primary trainer with Dispute Management, Inc. (DMI) for DMI's circuit civil mediation training programs in Orlando. In August, 2002, the Community Associations Institute (CAI) approved Bruce as a facilitator for CAI's *Conflict Resolution* course. CAI is the designated condominium and cooperative educational provider of the State of Florida's Department of Professional and Business Regulation, Division of Florida Land Sales, Condominiums and Mobile Homes. In 2005, Bruce was approved as a volunteer instructor for Florida Atlantic University's Small Business Development Center. He has presented a seminar "The Mediation Advantage: Getting Ahead By Getting Along In Business" at FAU's training site in Fort Lauderdale.

**FEDERAL MEDIATION:** Bruce is a member of the Trial Bar for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. He is certified as a federal mediator in both the United States District Courts for the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS:** Bruce is a Past President and a Diplomate member of the Florida Academy of Professional Mediators. In September, 1997, he received the "President's Award" for his outstanding contribution to the Florida Academy of Professional Mediators. He served as a member of the Mediation Committee for the Broward County Bar Association. He is a current member of the Association for Conflict Resolution (formerly known as the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR) and the Association of South Florida (Broward County) Mediators (where he once served on the Board of Directors). He has been a member of the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, the Academy of Family Mediators, as well as the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the Broward County Trial Lawyers Association, and the American Association of Franchisees and Dealers.

**ADR TELEVISION SERIES:** In 1998, Bruce created, produced and hosted a twelve-part television series entitled "The ABC's Of ADR: An Introduction To Mediation, Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution," which aired on a Miami community access television network and reached an audience of approximately 500,000 households.

**PROFESSIONAL ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS:** Bruce frequently lectures and writes about the benefits of mediation and alternative dispute resolution. His article, "Mediation In Florida: The Newly Emerging Case Law," was published in the October, 1996 issue of *The Florida Bar Journal* and was selected as a finalist for the Barbara Sanders Memorial Award for Legal Writing by a panel of the Florida Bar Journal Editorial Board. His article, "Florida's Ethics Advisory Committee Breaks New Ground," was published in the Spring, 2001 issue of *Dispute Resolution Magazine*, the quarterly publication of the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution. His article, "Dealing With Discrimination? Consider Mediating ADA Disputes" was published in the Spring, 2002 issue of *MSFOCUS* magazine, the national publication for the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. His article, "Building Your Practice One Satisfied Client At A Time" was published in the May 1, 2002 issue of *The Florida Bar News* and July 8, 2002 issue of *Lawyers Weekly USA*. His article, "10 Ingredients For An Effective Mediation" appeared in the June-August, 2002 issue of *ADR CURRENTS: The Newsletter of Dispute Resolution Law And Practice*, a national publication of the American Arbitration Association. A similar article, entitled "Ingredients For A Successful Mediation" was published in the August, 2002 issue of *For The Defense*, the national magazine for defense, insurance and corporate counsel. Another article, "Ten Steps To A Successful Mediation" appears in the September, 2002 issue of *TRIAL*, the national publication for the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. His article, "Conflict Resolution Techniques: Dealing With Debtors, Creditors, Clients And Other Adversaries or When The Check Isn't Really In The Mail" was published in the July/August, 2002 issue of *The Commercial Law Bulletin*, the national magazine for The Commercial Law League of America. Another of his mediation articles was published in the November/December, 2003 issue of *The Commercial Law Bulletin*. His article, "Visioning and Coaching Techniques in Mediation", co-authored with Professor Jeanne D. Maes of the University of South Alabama, was published in the May/July 2004 issue of the American Arbitration Association's publication *The Dispute Resolution Journal*. Bruce also collaborated with Professor Maes and Professors Arthur Jeffery and Robert A. Shearer of the University of South Alabama to co-author an article entitled "Using Collaborative Modeling To Mediate Workplace Conflicts." This article was published in the most recent issue of *EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES INTERNATIONAL* (Volume 22, Number 5, 2003). Bruce's article, "Ten Tips To Increase Your Edge In A Competitive Marketplace" was published in the Spring 2006 issue of *ACResolution*, the quarterly magazine of the Association For Conflict Resolvers (ACR), the world's largest association for dispute resolvers.

His article, "The Power of Active Listening", co-authored with Brian Schriener, Ph.D., was published in the November 1, 2006 issue of *The Florida Bar News*.

**ONLINE CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION/CONTINUING MEDIATOR EDUCATION COURSE:** In January, 2003, Bruce collaborated with Online CLE Provider, Taecan.com, to create an online mediation course which helps attorneys and certified Florida mediators fulfill a portion of their continuing education requirements. This online offering, *Mediation Matters: Benefits of Mediation, Conflict Resolution Styles, and The Continuum of Alternative Dispute Resolution Processes*, was divided into two parts, *Mediation In Florida* and *Tempering The Tempers: Conflict Resolution Skills For Busy Professionals*. The course (Florida Bar Course Number 1071 3) was approved by The Florida Bar for 2.50 hours of General CLE credit. The program was also eligible for up to 2.50 hours of Continuing Mediator Education credit in Florida. This online mediation course was also approved for Continuing Legal Education credit in California, New York, Arizona and Missouri. The course was available online at [www.Taecan.com/blitman](http://www.Taecan.com/blitman).

**VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO MEDIATION AND LEGAL PROFESSIONS AND TO THE COMMUNITY:** For many years, Bruce has lectured about Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution at the Florida Bar's "Practicing With Professionalism" seminars for Young Lawyers. He has spoken to law and graduate students at the University of Miami, Saint Thomas University, Florida International University, Florida Atlantic University and Nova Southeastern University.

In 1994, Bruce was appointed by former Chief Justice Grimes to the Mediator Qualifications Advisory Panel, which issues advisory ethical opinions to certified mediators. He continued to serve as Vice Chair of the Panel (which was renamed the Mediator Ethics Advisory Committee in April, 2000) until August, 2001.

Since 1998, Bruce has volunteered as a program mediator for then newly created Florida Bar Grievance Mediation Program. He is also a member of The Florida Bar Speakers Bureau. In 2001, Bruce was appointed to serve on the Ombudsman Committee For Managed Health Care, District X (for Broward County) by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. In January, 2004, Bruce was elected Vice Chair of this Committee and served in this capacity until the Committee's termination in 2005. The Ombudsman Committee helped patients resolve health insurance disputes with their managed care providers.

In 2004, Bruce was elected to the Constituency Board of the University of Miami Center For Autism And Related Disabilities (UM CARD). The purpose of UM CARD is to provide services to individuals who have autism, pervasive developmental disorder, autistic-like disability, dual sensory impairment or sensory impairment with other disabling conditions. It is the purpose of the Constituency Board to provide advice to the Center staff on policies, priorities and activities. In July, 2004, Bruce was appointed to the Advisory Board of The Sterling Aventura, an assisted living community in Aventura, Florida. The Advisory Board helped Sterling Aventura develop additional programs and services to meet the needs of the facility's seniors and their families.

In 2006, Bruce was appointed to the Litigation Alternatives Advisory Committee of the Florida Patient Safety Corporation. The main focus of this corporation, which was created by the Florida Legislature in 2003, is to be an information gathering body to evaluate medical errors in the state of Florida and recommend ways to decrease their occurrences.

In 2007, Bruce was appointed to the Education Advisory Board by the Cooper City (Broward County) Commission. The Education Advisory Board was created for the purpose of advising the City Commission on issues relating to educational matters which impact the quality of education for residents of the City of Cooper City or which will impact education facilities within the City of Cooper City.

Bruce has been a guest speaker at numerous advanced mediation training seminars sponsored by organizations such as Florida's Dispute Resolution Center, The Florida Academy of Professional Mediators, the Association of Broward County (South Florida) Mediators, SPIDR, The Florida Bar and the American Bar Association's Section of Dispute Resolution. Several years ago, he established and chaired the Florida Academy of Professional Mediators' first "Adopt-A-School" Partnership with the Broward County School Board. He continues to chair this Committee. Bruce has also donated many hours to speaking to parents, teachers, and students in elementary, middle and high schools about the importance of resolving disputes peacefully. From 2001 until 2005, Bruce volunteered as a facilitator and Mediation Trainer (he previously served as Co-Chair) for the "Young Diplomats" Project, a partnership program between the School Board of Broward County and the Broward County Bar Association. The program involves high school students throughout the county who are interested in developing their social, communication, mediation and interpersonal relations skills. Bruce served for two terms (six years) as a member of The Florida Bar's Law Related Education Committee. Since 2003, Bruce has

been the Chair of The Florida Academy of Professional Mediators' newly created Community Involvement Committee.

**HONORS:** Bruce is an Honored Member of Strathmore's "Who's Who Millennium Edition 2000-2001; 2002-2003; 2003-2004; 2004-2005; and 2005-2006" editions. In August, 2001, Bruce was recognized for his contributions to Florida's mediation profession at the Florida Dispute Resolution Center's 10th Annual Conference for Mediators and Arbitrators in Orlando. The DRC presented him with a special Award of Appreciation for his seven years of service as Vice-Chair and a Founding Member of the Mediator Ethics Advisory Committee. In June, 2002, Bruce received the Broward County Bar Association Board of Directors' "Outstanding Service Award" for his work as Co-Chair of the organization's Young Diplomats Program. In August, 2002, The Florida Academy of Professional Mediators presented Bruce with its prestigious Award of Merit. This Award, the highest distinction bestowed upon a mediator by The Academy, is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to the mediation profession in the state of Florida.