

# **MIGUEL DE GRANDY**

**Principal Shareholder  
Miguel De Grandy, P.A.**

## ***Professional Curriculum***

Miguel De Grandy is an A.V. rated lawyer (Martindale-Hubbell) and is President of Miguel De Grandy, P.A., a law firm specializing in governmental and administrative law in Florida. Mr. De Grandy represents clients before governmental, administrative and regulatory agencies at all levels on a variety of matters as well as related litigation before administrative bodies and the courts. Mr. De Grandy also represents governmental entities such as the Florida House of Representatives, The Palm Beach School Board, and the City of Miami on Redistricting issues and has represented municipalities and private interests on complex annexation and incorporation issues.

### **AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

- Elections and apportionment laws
- Government relations, procurement and contracts
- Regulatory agencies
- Constitutional Law and Voting Rights issues
- State Legislative Issues
- Environmental and land use
- Annexation and Municipal Incorporation

### **UNIQUE EXPERIENCE**

Mr. De Grandy obtained his Bachelors degree in Business Administration from the University of Florida at 20 years of age. He is one of the youngest graduates from the University of Florida, College of Law, having obtained a Juris Doctor degree at the age of 22. He began his legal career in 1981 as an Assistant State Attorney, in Miami-Dade County where he obtained a wealth of trial experience. After forming a litigation firm, Concepción, De Grandy and Sexton, he was elected in 1989 as a Member of the Florida House of Representatives.

Mr. De Grandy's years of experience as the ranking minority member on the House Judiciary Committee, the Reapportionment Committee and his service on the Select Committee on Agency Rules has given him a unique perspective on the regulatory and administrative processes in Florida.

Upon retirement from the Florida Legislature in 1994, Mr. De Grandy became Chairman of the Governmental and Administrative law group in the Miami office of the Greenberg Traurig law firm. In 2001, Mr. De Grandy resigned as a Principal Shareholder at Greenberg Traurig to form his own firm.

## **REDISTRICTING AND REAPPORTIONMENT**

As a member of the Florida House of Representatives, Mr. De Grandy took a leading role in the 1992 Legislative and Congressional Redistricting in Florida.

When the legislature reached impasse on the enactment of a Reapportionment and Redistricting Plan, Mr. De Grandy, became the lead plaintiff and co-counsel in the case of De Grandy vs Whetherell, a federal action based on the Voting Rights Act which sought to ensure that minority communities throughout the state would have the ability to elect representatives of their choice.

The De Grandy plaintiffs prevailed in their litigation and the court imposed the De Grandy Plan for Florida's Congressional Districts. Prior to 1992 there had not been a black congressperson elected in Florida for a 100 years. As a result of De Grandy's plan, Florida now enjoys diversity in its congressional representation.

Mr. De Grandy has been often quoted by the media as an "expert" on Redistricting and Voting Rights Act issues. He has also served in several capacities on issues dealing with redistricting and the Federal Voting Rights Act issues including:

- Appointed by Speaker John Thrasher as lead trial counsel to The Florida House of Representatives in Fouts v. Mortham, a

federal case filed in the Southern District of Florida in 1998 challenging several state and congressional minority seats wherein the three-judge panel granted the Legislature's joint motion to dismiss.

- Appointed by Florida House Speaker Tom Feeney as lead counsel to advise the House on redistricting, reapportionment, and Voting Rights Act issues during the 2002 reapportionment cycle.
- Served as lead trial counsel in 2002 to the House in Martínez v. Bush, a Federal Voting rights Act lawsuit in which a three-judge panel entered judgment in favor of the House and Senate.
- Counsel to the Palm Beach County School Board in the case of Doe v. Palm Beach County School Board and during its process of changing from at-large to single member districts. (1999 – 2000)
- Counsel to the Palm Beach County School Board to advise the Board on Redistricting, Reapportionment and Voting Rights Act issues during the 2001 Reapportionment Process.
- Counsel to the City of Miami for their 2003 Redistricting cycle.
- Distinguished lecturer, University of Miami Law Review Election Law Symposium - February 2005.
- Counsel to Congresspersons Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Mario and Lincoln Diaz-Balart in successful challenge to Redistricting initiative (2006)

## **ANNEXATION & MUNICIPAL INCORPORATION**

Mr. De Grandy has represented a multitude of different interests in annexations and municipal incorporation issues in Miami-Dade County. These include:

- The City of Coral Gables in its annexations of areas such as Deering Bay.
- The developer of Fisher Island, successfully defeating a petition for incorporation of Fisher Island.
- The Citizens Against Redland Incorporation (CARI); successfully blocking an ill fated annexation movement that would have impacted voting rights of African-American citizens.
- The City of Sweetwater, in its current annexation plans.
- The City of North Miami Beach, in its current annexation plans.
- The Miami-Dade Limestone Products Association, in negotiations with the incorporators of Doral regarding boundary issues.
- White Rock Quarries in negotiations with the City of Hialeah and the City of Hialeah Gardens regarding the appropriate land uses and boundaries for proposed annexation areas.

### **PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- Member, State University System Board of Governors (appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush)
- Member, State of Florida Energy 2020 Commission (appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush)
- Member, Florida Speakers Advisory Committee on Historical Preservation
- Member, Miami-Dade County Charter Review Committee (2001)

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

- AV rated lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell

- Florida Trend Magazine inducted in Florida's Legal Elite (top 1% of Florida lawyers) (2005)
- Listed in CEO Publishing Group's South Florida Legal Guide of "Top Lawyers in South Florida" (2006)
- Rated as the most effective Republican Member of the Florida House of Representatives four consecutive years by an independent commission empanelled by The Miami Herald (1990 – 1994)
- Elected Chairman of the Cuban-American Caucus of The Florida House of Representatives (1992-93).
- Elected unanimously as an honorary member of the Florida State Conference of Black Legislators (1994) for his sponsorship of the landmark Rosewood Claims Bill.

## **EDUCATION**

- J.D., University of Florida College of Law, 1981
- B.S., Business Administration, University of Florida, 1979

## **ADMITTED TO PRACTICE**

- Florida
- General and Trial Bar U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
- United States Supreme Court

## **LANGUAGES**

- Spanish