

Craig H. Collier

1680 Michigan Avenue, Suite 700
Miami Beach, FL 33139
Telephone: 305-978-3969
craig.collier@collier-law.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Craig H. Collier, P.A.

2015-present

- Represent a number of municipalities as outside counsel on matters related to land use, zoning, historic preservation, annexation, special taxing districts, impact fees, and other matters.
- Serve as Special Magistrate on Florida Land Use and Dispute Resolution Act (FLUEDRA) proceedings.
- Special Magistrate, City of Miami Beach, Historic Preservation Appeals (appointed 2020)

Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office (retired)

1979–2015

Chief, Zoning, Environmental, and Land Use Section

- Oversaw all legal aspects of the County's litigation, appeals, ordinance drafting, and advice for comprehensive planning, zoning, platting, historic preservation, environmental, eminent domain, annexation and incorporation, and other related matters
- Directed a team of nine lawyers and support staff members
- Advised Board of County Commissioners, Mayor, County Manager, and administration concerning all aspects of land development and environmental regulation and related litigation
- Regularly attended and participated in meetings for the Board of County Commissioners, Board committees, and Board land use meetings; counseled during all legislative and quasi-judicial land use proceedings
- Prepared and reviewed agendas for Board meetings
- Assigned and supervised attorneys for nine elected zoning boards and all other land development-related boards, ensuring they accurately address issues including school concurrency, historic preservation, planning, rapid transit planning, airport and seaport planning, and impact fees
- Oversaw attorneys in drafting all land development-related ordinances and resolutions regarding zoning, comprehensive planning, platting, impact fees, creation of special districts, historic preservation and other matters
- Assigned and supervised attorneys for all federal, state, and administrative litigation (trials and appeals) in land development-related matters
- Collaborated and advised staff for all development departments, including Planning and Zoning, Public Works, Environmental Resources Management, Miami-Dade Transit, General Services Administration, Fire, Police, and Parks

Assistant County Attorney

- Advised and provided assistance in connection with ethics and conflict of interest laws and regulations (state and local) regarding voting conflicts, lobbying restrictions, transaction of business with the County, and financial disclosure obligations; public records and Government in the Sunshine Law legal issues; charter review and reform; and annexation and incorporation
- Negotiated, drafted and reviewed interlocal agreements and other contracts (including grant agreements) regarding annexation and incorporation, rapid transit, transfer of zoning authority, etc.
- Provided representation for numerous entities including: Miami-Dade County in tort cases before juries, trial courts and appellate courts; Property Appraiser in ad valorem disputes before administrative bodies, trial courts, appellate courts, and Florida Supreme Court; Public Health Trust (Jackson Memorial Hospital); and Miami-Dade County in Tallahassee during committee meetings and sessions of the Florida Legislature.
- Coordinated hiring for County Attorney's Office

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- **Guardian Ad Litem Pro Bono Attorney Award Recipient**, 2000
- **Paul S. Buchman Award Recipient**. *City, County and Local Government Law Section award for outstanding legal public service in Florida*, 1999
- **“Top Government Attorney,”** *South Florida Legal Guide*

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- The Florida Bar City, County, and Local Government Law Section, *State Chair*, 2004-2005, and *Executive Council*, 1997-present
- Florida International University School of Law, *Co-lecturer, Land Use Law and Zoning Course*, 2013-2015
- Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil Mediator, 2015
- President, La Gorce/ Pinetree Homeowners Association, 2015-2016

PUBLICATIONS

- *FLUEDRA: Flawed, but Fixable?* Craig H. Collier & Dennis A. Kerbel, 86 Fla B.J. 6 (June 2012)
- *Should the Narrowing Scope of Second-Tier Certiorari Mandate Findings of Fact in Local Government Quasi-Judicial Decisions?* 76 AUG Fla. B.J. 67 (July/August 2002)

SELECT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- ***City of Doral, Village of Palmetto Bay, and Town of Miami Lakes v. Miami-Dade County***. Successfully defended the County’s right to 29 million in mitigation payments from three recently incorporated cities by having declared unconstitutional a Florida Statute that would have prevented such payments
- ***Bystrom v. Valencia Center***. Successfully argued before the Florida Supreme Court that a Florida Statute relating to valuation of property for ad valorem tax assessment purposes was unconstitutional
- ***Metropolitan Dade County v. Fontainebleau Gas and Wash***. Obtained opinion from the Third District Court of Appeal, holding that even though the County had erroneously issued a building permit for construction of a gas station that was 80 % complete, the County was not estopped from imposing a stop work order on the construction, as property owners are on notice of zoning restrictions
- ***Metropolitan Dade County v. Blumenthal***. Co-authored the brief for *en banc* proceedings before the Third District Court of Appeals, which held that lay testimony from neighborhood residents constituted substantial competent evidence to support local zoning decisions
- ***Metropolitan Dade County v. Fuller***. Obtained decision from the Third District Court of Appeal, affirming the County Commission’s grant of an “unusual use” zoning request, holding that the initial zoning decision is entrusted to the local authority and should not be disturbed unless there is an absence of any substantial competent evidence

BAR ADMISSIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

State of Florida; State of Maryland (inactive); U.S. Courts of Appeals, Fifth and Eleventh Circuits; U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida; Dade County Bar Association; American Bar Association

EDUCATION

University of Miami School of Law, J.D., cum laude, 1979
Washington and Lee University, B.S., 1976