

CITY, COUNTY and LOCAL GOVERNMENT Law Section

A Section of The Florida Bar

Member Spotlight

Meet **Rob Teitler**, a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Court Mediator at Salmon & Dulberg Dispute Resolution. Rob is an active member and Past Chair of the Section, and previously represented county government primarily in the areas of labor and employment, ethics, procurement, aviation, taxation, and personal injury law. Rob received the Paul. S. Buchman Award for Outstanding Contribution in the Area of Legal Public Service, was selected as part of *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite in 2006 for Appellate Practice again in 2008 for Government Attorneys, and named a Florida Super Lawyer in 2007 in the area of local government law. His full bio can be found here: <https://sd-adr.com/attorney/robert-teitler/>. Thank you for your service, Rob, and thank you for the interview!



What was your first job?

My very first job as an attorney was as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Florida under Jim Smith. I worked in the West Palm Beach branch office and handled criminal appeals. Aside from honing my appellate court skills, my lasting memory from that job was that, after being there only about 6 months, the office was in the midst of a death sentence appeal and I was asked (as the most junior attorney in the office) to fly pleadings to Washington DC, file them with the clerk of the Supreme Court and wait at the Court until early evening when the Justices decided the matter. One of my greatest experiences as a lawyer, and I was merely a courier!

What do you like most about being a local government lawyer?

Public service and the sense that you are helping your community.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

A return trip to Australia and New Zealand. My wife and I spent 5-days in Australia before a 19-day trans-Pacific cruise; the Australians are very special people and the country is beautiful.

What is one thing someone meeting you for the first time would never suspect, or be surprised to find out?

That I am a native Floridian, born and raised in Miami. There just doesn't seem to be that many of us around here anymore!

If you could go back in time and speak to yourself at 10 years old, what would you tell yourself?

Keep setting those goals and aspirations based on your passions, but know that life is rarely about going in a straight line from point "A" to point "B"; it's an adventure with zigs and a zags, and lots of detours, but you will eventually get there; just keep moving forward.

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