



SIMON FERRO

Partner

Simon Ferro is a partner in AVILA's Real Estate department, where he leads the firm's Zoning and Land Use practice.

Simon has over 40 years of experience in the areas of zoning, land use and governmental relations. Prior to joining AVILA, Mr. Ferro had been a partner and consultant for various prestigious legal firms in Florida. He is also a former U.S. ambassador to Panama, having been appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1999 to lead the U.S. diplomatic mission during the Panama Canal handover.

Mr. Ferro has extensive experience representing residential, commercial and industrial developers in all phases of the entitlement and permitting process in South Florida, including un-incorporated Miami-Dade County and most of the 35 cities within the county. He also represents developers and property owners on permitting and regulatory issues before county and city code enforcement boards, major county departments such Miami-Dade Water and Sewer, the Department of Environmental Resources Management ("DERM"), Public Works and others, including the Miami-Dade County Environmental Quality Control Board ("EQCB").

In addition, Simon has represented banks, hospitals, hotels, private schools, churches, assisted living facilities, supermarkets, self-storage facilities, mobile home parks, carnivals and even gypsy camps.

He earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida, and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Miami. He is a former member of the U.S. Southern Command Advisory Panel, and served on the board of directors of the Latin Builders Association. He is fluent in English and Spanish.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Real estate
- Zoning law
- Land use regulation

EDUCATION

- Juris Doctorate – University of Florida
- Bachelor of Arts – University of Miami

BAR ADMISSIONS

- State of Florida

AWARDS

- The Best Lawyers in America®, Government Relations Practice "Lawyer of the Year" in Miami, 2017 & 2019
- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Florida Super Lawyers
- Latin Builders Association, "Attorney of the Year"
- Former U.S. Ambassador to Panama

