

## Eliot Ivan Bernstein

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**Full Name:** Steven A. Lessne  
**Last Name:** Lessne  
**First Name:** Steven A.  
**Job Title:** Shareholder  
**Company:** GrayRobinson, P.A.

**Business Address:** 401 East Las Olas Blvd., Suite 1000  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

**Business:** 954-761-8111  
**Business Fax:** 954-761-8112

**E-mail:** steven.lessne@gray-robinson.com  
**E-mail Display As:** Steven A. Lessne ~ Shareholder @ GrayRobinson, P.A. (steven.lessne@gray-robinson.com)

**Web Page:** [http://gray-robinson.com/attorneys/detail/1090/Steven-A\\_-Lessne](http://gray-robinson.com/attorneys/detail/1090/Steven-A_-Lessne)

**Categories:** Oppenheimer Case, Simon & Shirley Estates

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### Practice Areas

- [Banking & Finance](#)
- [Litigation](#)
- [Probate](#)
- [Probate, Trust & Fiduciary Litigation](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Trusts](#)

Steve Lessne's practice focuses on complex litigation in commercial, probate and trust matters. For over fifteen years, he has represented and counseled banks, fiduciaries, public and private companies, and individuals in state and federal court and arbitration proceedings throughout Florida. Mr. Lessne's proficiency in both commercial and probate/trust litigation enables him to competently represent banks in both commercial and fiduciary capacities, and uniquely qualifies him to provide representation in complex estates and trusts, particularly those with business holdings or considerations. Mr. Lessne's substantial experience is bolstered by his practical business sense, his resolution-style approach, and his ability to manage crisis situations.

Mr. Lessne's civil practice at GrayRobinson includes matters relating to contracts, fraud, business practices, shareholder/partner relations and real estate. In his probate and trust litigation practice, he represents both individuals and institutions.

Some of Mr. Lessne's past and present representations include:

- Represented a court-appointed successor personal representative of the estate of a prominent real estate developer; tasked with investigating undocumented transactions between a myriad of related entities and

individuals, and pursuing millions of dollars of debts owed to the estate and claims against the original fiduciaries.

- Represented a state insurance commissioner, in her capacity as liquidator of a failed insurance company, in an action to set aside preferential payments made to another insurance company.
- Represented a court-appointed receiver in connection with a failing hotel; tasked with remediating fire code violations, overseeing hotel management, negotiating with taxing authorities and pursuing claims on behalf of the hotel.
- Represented an acquiring bank in a dispute arising out of a bank merger.
- Represented a physician separating from his medical practice; successfully obtained the release of patient records and a covenant not to compete.
- Represented the buyer of a commercial office building in a fraud action against the seller.
- Represented judgment-creditors and judgment-debtors in actions to set aside and recover fraudulent conveyances.
- Represented trustees, personal representatives, and beneficiaries in actions to set aside wills and trusts and in actions involving breaches of fiduciary duty.

#### Additional Information About Steven A. Lessne

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#### Background

Steve Lessne was born in Miami, Florida, and attended Hollywood Hills High School in Hollywood, Florida. After receiving his bachelor's from Indiana University in 1991, he attended the University Of Florida College of Law where he received his juris doctor in 1996. While in law school, Mr. Lessne was a contracts teaching fellow and worked for a publishing company, ultimately becoming its general counsel. Following law school, Mr. Lessne received the "Bar/Bri Award" for achieving the highest reported score on Florida's multistate Bar examination. Mr. Lessne has held an AV rating from *Martindale-Hubbell*, the highest rating available to attorneys, since 2005. Mr. Lessne has been repeatedly named a Florida *Super Lawyer* and one of Florida's "Legal Elite" by his peers. Mr. Lessne served as a county lead attorney, and then a regional lead attorney (for eight counties), for the Florida Democratic Lawyers Council, responsible for voter protection for the Democratic Party. Mr. Lessne serves on the Advisory Board of Keiser University, the Board of Directors of the Leadership Broward Foundation and the Professional Advisory Committee of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County. Mr. Lessne also serves as his synagogue's general counsel.

#### Education

- **Indiana University, B.A. (1991)**
- **University of Florida Levin College of Law, J.D. (1996)**

#### Admissions

- Florida
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

#### Professional Associations & Memberships

- The Florida Bar
  - Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section
  - Business Law Section
    - Business Litigation, Legislative Subcommittee

## Awards & Recognitions

- Recipient of the Bar/Bri Award
- AV Rated by *Martindale-Hubbell*
- *Florida Trend*, Legal Elite, 2008, 2009, 2012
- Florida Super Lawyers, 2013
- Florida Super Lawyers, Rising Star, 2009-2011

## Civic

- Keiser University, Advisory Board
- Florida Democratic Lawyers Council, Regional Lead Counsel
- Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County, Professional Advisory Committee
- Leadership Broward Foundation, Board of Directors
- Leadership Broward Class XXX, Class Representative and Project Chair
- Congregation Shaarei Kodesh of Boca Raton, Synagogue Counsel

- See more at: <http://www.gray-robinson.com/attorneys/detail/1090/StevenA-Lessne#sthash.BPMY3joU.dpu>