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Categories: Oppenheimer Case, Simon & Shirley Estates

Joy A Foglietta Asst

20140730 eib/cmb spoke with O'Connell

20140711 NEW PR IN SIMON ESTATE as of July 24, 2014

Attorney

BRIAN M. O'CONNELL Partner

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Brian O'Connell leads the Estate Planning, Probate and Guardianship Department of the firm, which specializes in handling litigation involving estate, trust and guardianship matters for both fiduciaries and beneficiaries. During his over thirty year career, Mr. O'Connell has handled hundreds of contested probate, trust and guardianship matters, and over

one hundred appeals. He has administered over two thousand estates, trusts and guardianships. He has also been involved in numerous audits and appeals with the IRS in connection with estate and gift tax issues.

A native of West Palm Beach, he has been Board Certified by The Florida Bar as a specialist in Wills, Trusts and Estates since 1990. Mr. O'Connell has received an AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell. He received his Bachelor of Science degree, summa cum laude, from Florida State University, his Juris Doctor degree with honors from the University of Florida, and his Master of Laws in Taxation from the University of Florida.

He is a member of the Florida, Colorado, and American Bar Associations. As a member of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, Mr. O'Connell served for many years as chairman of the Estate and Probate CLE Committee. He is a member of the Probate Court Advisory Committee, as well as the Guardianship Education Committee. At the Florida Bar level, he is a former member of the Wills, Trusts and Estates Certification Committee, as well as the Probate and Trust Litigation Committee. He now serves on the Guardianship Law and Powers of Attorney Committee.

Mr. O'Connell frequently acts as a mediator with regard to probate litigation cases. He also acts on a regular basis as an expert witness in the estate, trust and guardianship area. Mr. O'Connell speaks at CLE seminars, and at seminars for the general public regarding estates, trusts and guardianships.

In 2001, he was recognized by the Palm Beach County Legal Aid Society with their annual Community Service Award. In 2010, Mr. O'Connell was recognized by the Palm Beach County Legal Aid Society with their annual Guardianship Law Pro Bono Award. Mr. O'Connell has been an officer or director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach, Inc. since 1984. Since 2007, Mr. O'Connell has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Florida Law Center Association, Inc. He has served on numerous charitable boards of directors, and in coaching capacities in youth sports activities. Mr. O'Connell is a veteran long distance swimmer.