

# The Daniel S. Pearson – Harry W. Prebish Founders Award

*Given in recognition of a lifetime commitment to preserve the constitutional rights of all citizens and for manifesting the very best principles for which FACDL-Miami stands- an openhearted devotion to justice, civility, discretion, courage, respect for human dignity and mercy.*

## Roy Black

Roy Black is the senior partner of Black Srebnick Kornspan & Stumpf. He is regarded as one of the nation's premier trial lawyers with over 45 years of experience. Roy earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Miami in 1967 and a Juris Doctor at the University of Miami School of Law in 1970. Following his graduation, he received the highest possible score on the Florida Bar Exam and began his career as a lawyer in the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office under Phil Hubbart. As an Assistant Public Defender, Roy and his colleagues shook up the system when they started asking for jury trials in their cases – a practice that (shockingly) was unprecedented at the time. Officials brought in judges from other jurisdictions to keep up with the demands for trials and to try to break the spirits of the public defenders, who had to try case after case; sometimes several cases a week, many of which would run until after midnight. But Roy and his colleagues worked tirelessly and ultimately won out. The Miami-Dade County Public Defender's office has long since been regarded as one of the nation's best public defender offices, full of young lawyers who value the importance of going to trial and are among the nation's most talented trial lawyers. Roy spent 5 years on the front lines as an assistant public defender and the office remains very close to his heart. Indeed, he credits his experience at the public defender's office with giving him the opportunity to develop the courtroom skills that he would go on to hone and use in some of the nation's most high-profile cases.



Perhaps best known for his successful defense of William Kennedy Smith on rape charges in Palm Beach, Florida, Roy has represented clients such as Clear Channel Outdoor (formerly Eller Media), Rolls Royce, artist Peter Max, Rush Limbaugh, Kelsey Grammar, Justin Bieber, and Indy racecar and Dancing With the Stars champion Helio

Castroneves. Other noteworthy clients have included Rush Limbaugh, Kelsey Grammer, South Florida police officers Luis Alvarez and William Lozano and banker Fred De la Mata. Roy has defended numerous other clients on charges ranging from murder to securities fraud, bank fraud, healthcare fraud, money laundering, internet sex crimes, mail and wire fraud and tax evasion.

Annually since 1987, Mr. Black has been selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America®, a widely used guide to the nation's top legal talent. He has also been recognized by Chambers and Partners, an internationally prestigious legal guide, as a top criminal defense attorney and as having "the best national reputation in the State [of Florida]." Chambers went on to say that Mr. Black is "one of the few who



are famous for being good and actually practice at that standard," and that he is "[s]o good, he is scary good." Chambers further said that "no one is as well prepared or has the presence in court of Roy Black," and "he is uniquely gifted in front of juries; and is so good he is famous for it."

Roy has served as an NBC News legal analyst, appearing on "The Today Show" and "Nightly News," and has appeared as a guest commentator on legal issues on many other national news programs, both on NBC, ABC and other major networks.

The author of Black's Law, a book that recounts the strategies he employed to safeguard the freedom of four clients, Roy has also taught advanced criminal evidence at the University of Miami School of Law for over 40 years.

Although he is a workaholic, who truly loves his job, Roy's other passion is his family, which is made up of his wonderful wife, Lea, and their son, RJ.