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FROM THE EDITOR

A professional golf icon lost in court. One state judge's private demons became very public, while another continued to battle decade-old ethics allegations. The Florida Supreme Court and the Florida Bar both celebrated historic firsts. A developer's wager on Miami's Design District started to pay off, as did a legal team's efforts to overturn Florida's gay marriage ban. And the fight between the city of Fort Lauderdale and a 90-year-old advocate for the homeless went viral.

Welcome to South Florida, 2014.

As in most years, celebrities left their marks. Justin Bieber had Miami attorney Roy Black to thank for avoiding jail after the pop icon displayed creative driving techniques in Miami Beach.



Roy Black: Saved Justin Bieber With DUI Plea Deal

How does a lawyer top successfully defending JFK nephew William Kennedy Smith, three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves and conservative talk-show host Rush Limbaugh?

By getting teen heartthrob Justin Bieber off the hook, of course.

Seven months after the Biebs was pulled over by Miami Beach police for racing a rented yellow Lamborghini down a South Beach residential street, prominent Miami attorney Roy Black made the worst of it go away.

The 20-year-old pop star, who has a long history of misbehaving, didn't even have to appear in court Aug. 13 to plead guilty to careless driving and resisting arrest without violence. The plea deal called for no jail time or drug testing, although he had to attend a 12-hour anger-management class, view online videos of drunken-driving cases, pay court fines and cut a \$50,000 charity check.

After days of partying and recording music, Bieber was arrested on a DUI charge after allegedly drag-racing with R&B pal Khalil Sharieff down Pine Tree Drive on Jan. 23. When stopped, Bieber let loose F-bombs, police said. A urine analysis tested positive for marijuana and Xanax, but Bieber's blood-alcohol level was well below the legal limit.

Bieber's defense team, which included Howard Srebnick and Mark Shapiro from Black, Srebnick, Kornspan & Stumpf, also argued five police videos taken of the Canadian singer should not be released to the public. Two showed him urinating in a holding cell. Lawyers for news media objected. The end result: The images were released, but Bieber's private parts were blacked out.