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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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MAGAZINE®



2019 SUPERSTARS



2019 RISING STARS



ROY BLACK
LEGAL LEGEND

Goldberg
& Rosen, P.A.
LAW FIRM OF THE MONTH



LEGAL LEGEND

Roy Black

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BLINDLIGHT STUDIO

Educate From Within

“I HAVE SPENT A LIFETIME IN READING AND SELF-STUDY. WHEN I STARTED AS A PUBLIC DEFENDER THERE WAS LITTLE OR ANY TRAINING IN TRIAL ADVOCACY.”

AALM: When did you first know you wanted to become an attorney? What drew you to this career?

BLACK: I gained a burning desire to become a lawyer from being discriminated against.

I moved to Jamaica when I was still in high school. My new school was grandly named Jamaica College (JC). A British “public school” that was not public at all. One teacher in particular seemed to hate me – my math teacher. He detested me, either because I was an American or I was white. He would force me to stand at the blackboard and do math with the intricate arithmetic of British money – pounds, shillings, guineas and even pence, while my

fellow students smirked and giggled at my ignorance.

Yet I owe that hateful teacher. By subjecting me to injustice, he taught me to love justice. By inflicting pain and humiliation, he awakened my heart to compassion and mercy. He allowed me to find my mission in life. Fight against prejudice, battle the oppressors, support the underdog, question authority, shake up the system and embrace those who are placed last, to whom the present is bleak and the future without hope.

AALM: What personal trait most aided you in your career?

BLACK: Napoleon Hill wrote: “Education comes from within; you get it by struggle and effort and thought.” I have spent a lifetime in reading and self-study. When I started as a public defender there was little or any training in trial advocacy. This is long before YouTube and DVDs full of practice tips. I had to learn it the old-fashioned way – out of books.

I devoured F. Lee Bailey’s practice manuals: “Investigation and Preparation of Criminal Cases” and “Successful Techniques for Criminal Trials.” I learned how to analyze the crime scene evidence from Paul Kirk’s books: “The Crime Laboratory” and “Crime Investigation.”

I learned forensic pathology by studying the trials of Carl Coppelino, a doctor accused of murdering his wife and his paramour’s husband by injecting them with succinylcholine chloride. One of the best true crime books, “No Deadly Drug” by John D. MacDonald, describes in detail the legal and medical issues and facts in Coppelino’s trials. Reading about the Coppelino case caused me to hunt for and find other texts like “Legal Medicine: Pathology and Toxicology” by Milton Helpert, the medical examiner, and Charles Umberger, the toxicologist, from the Coppelino trial. It is an exhaustive text on autopsies, full of photographs and diagrams. My copy is worn and beat up, but the 1350 pages sit in an honored place in my library. I spent many hours dissecting these books and many other which I filled with effusive marginalia.

AALM: What do you most hope to accomplish in the future?

BLACK: I have taught courses in evidence and trial advocacy at the University of Miami for the past 45 years. I enjoy working with students then pushing the best of the best on a path to becoming the next generation of great trial lawyers. This legal community has always been blessed with great trial lawyers. I want to see that tradition not only continue but surpass its excellence.

At a Glance



PHOTO BY ROBERT KLEMM

Black, Srebnick, Kornspan & Stumpf P.A.

201 South Biscayne Boulevard,
Suite 1300
Miami, FL 33131
(305) 371-6421
www.royblack.com

PRACTICE AREAS

Criminal Defense
Civil Litigation
Appellate Practice

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, University of Miami
School of Law, 1970
Bachelor of Arts, University of
Miami, 1967

BAR ADMISSIONS

Florida

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Association of Criminal
Defense Lawyers, Life Member
Florida Association of Criminal
Defense Lawyers
International Academy of Trial
Lawyers
American College of Trial Lawyers,
Fellow
The National Trial Lawyers,

Executive Committee
American Bar Association
Miami-Dade County Bar
Association
Eugene Spellman Inns of Court

HONORS

U.S. News Best Lawyers, 1987-
2018
Florida Super Lawyers, 2006-2018:
“The Top 10,” Florida Super
Lawyers, 2006, 2009-2010, 2013
(Ranked #2), 2014 (Ranked #2),
2015 (Ranked #3), 2016 (Ranked
#3), 2017; “Top 100 Miami Super
Lawyers,” 2010-2018; “The Top
100,” Florida Super Lawyers,
2006-2018
Florida Legal Elite Hall of Fame,
Florida Trend, 2009-2018
Florida Legal Elite, Florida Trend,
2004-2018
Chambers and Partners:
Star Individual - Litigation:
White-Collar Crime &
Government Investigations,
2004-2018; Star Individual
- Florida Litigation: General
Commercial, 2012; Short-
listed finalist (Top 10 in the
US) Chambers USA Awards for
Excellence, 2008, 2010