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INSIDE

LAW



JUDICIAL PROFILE: MARCIA BEACH
Broward Circuit Judge Marcia Beach is retiring from the bench, her fourth career. **A20**

SPECIAL REPORT Year in Review

RECOVERY & REDEMPTION

The newsmakers who helped preserve justice, jumpstart development and sustain South Florida's gradual recovery.

FEDERAL COURT

Three years later, Rothstein saga dominates scene

by John Pacenti
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Pacenti

For the third consecutive year, imprisoned former lawyer Scott Rothstein's fraud case occupied a prominent place on the federal court docket, making its mark on both the criminal and civil sides.

Foremost were the charges filed against Rothstein's wife, Kim, for hiding about \$1 million in jewels, gold bars, coins and cash. She was charged along with four others who allegedly assisted her with money laundering and other crimes.

And while a few other small players pleaded guilty to assisting Rothstein in his \$1.2 billion Ponzi scheme, the first partner to be charged from the defunct Fort Lauderdale law firm Rothstein Rosenfeldt Adler fell on his sword.

Steven Lippman was sentenced to three years in prison after admitting he helped Rothstein funnel illegal campaign contributions to



J. ALBERT DIAZ

Nina and David Mandel of Mandel & Mandel in Miami represented Coquina Investment LLC, securing a \$67 million jury verdict against TD Bank.

Republican candidates, kited checks and underreported his income on tax returns.

On the civil side, a jury returned a \$67 million verdict against TD Bank for aiding and abetting the fraud. The trial also gave a black eye to Greenberg Traurig when the trial judge found it failed to hand over important discovery to the plaintiffs.

Rothstein, whose empire collapsed in October 2009, is serving a 50-year prison sentence.

■ **David Mandel and Nina Mandel** of Mandel & Mandel

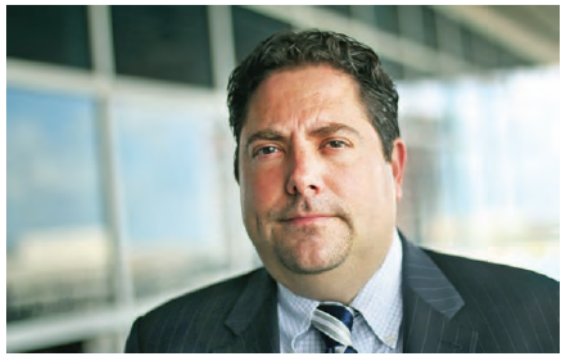
in Miami represented Coquina Investment LLC, securing the \$67 million jury verdict in January against TD Bank in the aiding and abetting case. The Mandels then hammered out a confidential settlement with TD Bank on a lawsuit brought by another investor group cheated by Rothstein. The outcomes opened the way for other Rothstein-related settlement action.

■ **Judge Adalberto Jordan** became the first Cuban-American to be elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit after serving as a district judge in Miami.

■ Miami attorneys **Paul Calli, Stephen Bronis and Matthew Menchel** won acquittals in a Foreign Corrupt Practices Act case developed from a government sting operation. The case, tried in Washington, D.C., collapsed after the defense attacked the underpinnings of the probe.

■ After a 12-year battle, Markus & Markus partner **David O. Markus** got Yuby Ramirez released from a life prison sentence after appellate courts agreed her attorneys flubbed a 10-year plea offer extended before her drug trial.

■ Miami lawyer **Marc Seitles** pulled a rabbit out of his hat by getting federal prosecutors to



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Miami lawyer Marc Seitles got federal prosecutors to admit they misidentified a long-time Colombian aviation official charged in a drug-trafficking case.

admit they misidentified a long-time Colombian aviation official charged in a drug-trafficking case. He enlisted the aid of a former U.S. Customs Service agent whose analysis of federal wiretaps led to the conclusion that the government had charged the wrong man.

■ If it was a big case, odds are **U.S. District Judge Marcia Cooke** in Miami presided over it this year. The cases included the Rothstein investor lawsuit against TD Bank.

■ Hunton & Williams partner **Tom Julin** in Miami secured \$2.24 million in attorney fees in a U.S. Supreme Court free

speech case allowing marketing firms to data mine pharmacies about the prescription habits of doctors.

■ Former jailbird **Bradley Birkenfeld**, who ratted out UBS bank on its offshore tax cheating scheme, received \$104 million for his role as a whistleblower.

■ Prosecutorial misconduct allegations in a prescription pill mill case against a Miami Beach doctor were dropped against **Assistant U.S. Attorneys Sean Cronin and Andrea Hoffman** after a 3½-year saga.

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