

The

FLORIDA

Newspaper

Becker Consulting Services

July 10, 2002

Attorney Andrew Hellinger joined Meland & Russin, P.A. as partner

New firm named Meland Russin & Hellinger, P.A.

The law firm of Meland & Russin, P.A. has announced that Attorney Andrew Hellinger, formerly of Mishan Sloto Greenberg & Hellinger, has joined the firm as Partner effective immediately. The new law firm is called Meland Russin & Hellinger, P.A. Also joining the firm are associates Coralee Penabad and Sandra Ferrera, also from Mishan Sloto. Meland Russin & Hellinger, P.A. will practice in real estate and bankruptcy as well as commercial litigation, probate and agricultural law.

"Mr. Hellinger is an outstanding litigator with broad experience in bankruptcy, commercial litigation and agriculture law," said Peter D. Russin, Managing Partner. "His practice uniquely complements the existing practice areas in the firm. Andy offers us the opportunity to expand our client services and be even more active in bankruptcy cases." Together,

Meland Russin & Hellinger, P.A. will have seven (7) attorneys and a total staff of 19.

Established in 1993, Meland & Russin, P.A. is a civil practice law firm that focuses on real estate and corporate transactional matters, and creditor and debtor representation in bankruptcy and commercial litigation matters. Firm clients include the owner of the Jockey Club property, Fortune International Realty, Mellon United National Bank, Gibraltar Bank and numerous financial lenders, developers, and high net worth individual investors. Over the last nine years, founding shareholders Mark S. Meland and Peter D. Russin have successfully established a reputation as results-driven attorneys that provide outstanding service.

Andrew Hellinger, a

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resident of Pinecrest, is an experienced litigator whose practice areas include Chapter 11 reorganizations, assignments for the benefit of creditors, out-of-court workouts, commercial litigation, securities litigation, and agriculture law. His clients include International Air Leases, Inc., AmTrade National Bank, Hapco Farms, Inc. and acting as lead counsel to the receiver for Unique Gems, Inc. Added Mr. Hellinger, "Mark Meland and Peter Russin are not only great lawyers but also are good friends. Their established firm is the perfect place to bring my practice," Mr. Hellinger joined Mishan Sloto in 1990 becoming partner in 1996. He is a member of the Dade County Bar Association, University of Miami Citizens Board and former Vice President of the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida. Mark S. Meland has developed a well-known reputation handling real estate finance and development, condominium development and conversions and general corporate representation. Mr. Meland has published numerous articles on corporate and real estate law and is active in many legal, civic and charitable organizations.

Peter D. Russin, formerly with Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton, P.A., is a leading bankruptcy attorney and commercial litigator representing debtors, creditors, creditors' committees, receivers and trustees in an array of insolvency proceedings and workouts. An active community leader, he was a past president of the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida and named as an Up and Coming Lawyer by South

Florida Magazine in 2001. Mr. Russin has published numerous articles on creditors' rights issues and lectures regularly on such topics.