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RUSSELL MARTIN ROBBINS EARNS REAL ESTATE LAW BOARD CERTIFICATION

<u>TALLAHASSEE</u> – Coral Springs resident, Russell Martin Robbins is one of 134 Florida lawyers whom The Florida Bar recently certified as specialists in 19 areas of legal practice. Board certification recognizes attorneys' special knowledge, skills and proficiency in various areas of law and professionalism and ethics in practice.

"Board certification is a valuable credential that is becoming a significant trend in the legal profession," said Florida Bar President Frank Angones Jr. "Specialization recognizes lawyers' expertise and professionalism, and is a natural progression for lawyers who can demonstrate high skill levels in particular areas of law."

Board certified lawyers are legal experts dedicated to professional excellence. Attorneys who are board certified in Real Estate Law are specialists in matters relating to real property transactions including, but not limited to real estate conveyances, title searches, property transfers, leases, condominiums and cooperatives, interval ownership, mortgage, zoning and land use planning, real estate development and financing, real estate litigation, and determination of property rights.

Certified attorneys are the only Florida lawyers allowed to identify or advertise themselves as "Florida Bar Board Certified," as specialists or as experts. Certification is the highest level of recognition by The Florida Bar of the competency and experience of attorneys in the areas of law approved for certification by the Supreme Court of Florida. Attorneys who become board certified are also evaluated as to their character, ethics and reputation for professionalism in the practice of law. Florida currently offers 22 specialty areas of practice for which board certification is available.

Mr. Robbins, a longtime Coral Springs resident, practices in the areas of residential and commercial real estate (purchase, sale, lease and refinance), homeowner/condominium association law, real estate litigation, construction law and landlord/tenant matters. Mr.

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Robbins earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida Atlantic University in 1998 and earned his Juris Doctor degree from Nova Southeastern University in 2000. He is a member of the Florida Bar Association (2001), the D.C. Bar Association (2005), the New York Bar (2006), the Massachusetts Bar Association (2006), the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida (2005), the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida (2005), the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida (2003), the U.S. Court of Appeals Eleventh Circuit (2006), the Broward County Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Real Estate Law section of the Broward County Bar Association, the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law section of the Florida Bar Association (including service on the Condominium and Planned Development Committee), the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law section of the American Bar Association, the Real Estate, Housing and Land Use section of the District of Columbia Bar Association, the Real Property Law section of the New York State Bar Association, the Property Law section of the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Florida Land Title Association, the American Land Title Association, a member agent for Attorneys' Title Insurance Fund, Inc., and a member of the Southeast Florida chapter of Community Association Institute.

Lawyers who are members in good standing of The Florida Bar and who meet the standards prescribed by the state's Supreme Court may become board certified in one or more of 22 certification fields. Minimum requirements for certification are listed below; each area of certification may contain higher or additional standards.

- A minimum of five years in law practice
- A satisfactory showing of substantial involvement in the field of law for which certification is sought
- A passing grade on the examination required of all applicants
- Satisfactory peer review assessment of competence in the specialty field as well as character, ethics and professionalism in the practice of law
- Satisfaction of the certification area's continuing legal education requirements

Board certification is valid for five years, during which time the attorney must continue to practice law and attend Florida Bar-approved continuing legal education courses. To be recertified, lawyers must meet requirements similar to those for initial certification. Not all qualified lawyers are certified, but those who are board certified have taken the extra steps to have their competence and experience recognized.

For more information, please visit The Florida Bar Web site at www.floridabar.org/certification or contact The Florida Bar's Legal Specialization & Education Department at 850/561-5842.

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