



**Farmer, Jaffe, Weissing,
Edwards, Fistos & Lehrman, P.L.**



Gary M. Farmer Jr.

Gary Farmer has spent his career fighting for the rights of consumers, fair and just compensation for victims, the creation of new law that protects society, and the protection of the civil justice system and full access to the court system. He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, and included in their Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers.

Mr. Farmer developed an interest in law at an early age attending law school classes with his dad, waiting for a ride home. He even graduated from his father's alma mater—The University of Toledo College of Law. He got his start in insurance defense, where he gain invaluable knowledge and experience in trial law before moving into plaintiff's work.

Over the past decade, Mr. Farmer has been at the forefront of high-profile consumer litigation in Florida: whether creating new law and causes of actions for subscribers wrongfully denied coverage by their HMO's, litigating the "Butterfly Ballot" and absentee voting cases to the Florida Supreme Court during the infamous 2000 election litigation, representing consumers who were deceived by tobacco companies' deceptive marketing practices involving light cigarettes, or representing patients, consumers and employees wronged by deceptive trade practices. He has consistently sought to protect the rights of consumers and helped them achieve redress for financial wrongs. Mr. Farmer has also been involved in landmark pharmaceutical litigation involving injury claims of patients who ingested drugs with dangerous side-effects that were hidden by the drug companies, as well as qui tam litigation on behalf of the United States government.

In addition to his work in the courtroom, Mr. Farmer is an active lobbyist who works only on consumer protections and access to court issues. For the several years, he has spent six to seven weeks volunteering as a lobbyist in Tallahassee for the Florida Justice Association.

Mr. Farmer is a member of the Florida Bar, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida. He is a board member of the Broward County Justice Association, and Treasurer of the Florida Justice Association. He is also a member of the American Association for Justice, and board member of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society—South Florida Chapter.



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Steven R. Jaffe

Steven Jaffe has been an impassioned advocate for individuals, families and consumers, successfully representing them in their quest for justice for over 27 years.

Steven Jaffe began his career in the State Attorney's office. There he gained a great deal of trial experience, which has continued to serve him well when he continued his career as a trial attorney representing victims of negligent acts. He has tried cases throughout the State of Florida.

Steven Jaffe concentrates exclusively on complex civil jury trial matters. As a partner at the firm of Aronovitz Jaffe he handled Class Action cases that have been certified in federal court and state courts involving fraud, false and deceptive trade practices and violations of the driver privacy protection act. He continues to serve class action clients in cases involving long term care insurance, unsafe and hazardous products, unlawful consumer charges, hidden fees and consumer fraud class action cases.

Mr. Jaffe prides himself in providing the highest quality legal representation to consumer clients who would not be able to obtain effective redress for their injuries but for the availability of the class action device.

Mr. Jaffe has been rated AV by his professional peers through the Martindale-Hubbell © Peer Review Rating system. The "AV" rating of "Very High to Preeminent" legal ability is a testament from peer legal professionals of the highest level of professional excellence and of unquestionable ethics. Mr. Jaffe has assumed positions of leadership in the Broward County legal community, recently having been named the president of the Broward County Justice Association. He has also been recognized by the National Trial Lawyers American Association as one of Florida's Top 100 Trial Lawyers.

Mr. Jaffe is a member of the Broward County Justice Association and in 2010 served as the organizations President. He is a member of the Broward County Bar Association Professionalism Committee (1999-present) and is on the Board of Directors of the Stephen Boohar Inns of Court (2000-present).

Mr. Jaffe is a member of the Florida Bar, the Colorado Bar, and the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida. He is also a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and Northern District Court of Illinois.

In addition to his legal endeavors, Steven Jaffe is passionately committed to the fight against Alzheimer's disease and has been an active fundraiser for the past decade. He was also appointed to the Florida Chapter, Board of Trustees of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. Steven Jaffe was named Crohn's and Colitis volunteer of the year 2010.

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Matt D. Weissing

Matt D. Weissing is a native of Fort Lauderdale and comes from a long local legal heritage. His great uncles, Joseph Thomas (JT) Chancey and Christopher Chancey were two of Fort Lauderdale's earliest lawyers. His father, Louis Weissing, started his legal career in the State Attorney's Office. His father served first in the Court of Record and then as a Circuit Court Judge, and finally as the Chief Judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit culminating his 31 year Judicial career.

Because of his legal roots, Mr. Weissing is dedicated to serving his client's needs and pursuing justice for those who entrust their legal matters to his care. His legal practice focuses on seeking justice for clients of personal injuries in wrongful deaths—motor vehicle accidents, construction site; and premises liability accidents including dog bites/Injuries by animals, and boating/cruise accidents. He also handles cases involving toxic chemical exposure, misfiled prescriptions, and failure to provide security and excessive force/false arrest.

Prior to going into legal practice, Mr. Weissing served in the United States Marine Corps where he was awarded four Meritorious Promotions and a Meritorious Mast. He completed his education at the University of Florida and then he attended Nova University Law School.

Mr. Weissing is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, and included in their Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers. He is a member of the U.S. District Court for the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida, including the Trial Bar of both Courts. He has appeared and argued before the Fourth District Court of Appeals, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the Florida Supreme Court.

Mr. Weissing is a member of the American Bar Association; The Florida Bar, Trial Lawyer's Section; Broward County Bar Association; American Association for Justice; Broward County Justice Association, serving in several officer positions including President; Florida Justice Association; and the American Chamber of Christians in Business, serving as President. He also currently volunteers for 4Kids of South Florida and serves as Chairman of the Trustees at his church.



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Bradley J. Edwards

Mr. Edwards practices in the fields of complex commercial litigation, personal injury, catastrophic injury, wrongful death, and all complex litigation and trial matters. He began his trial career at the Broward County State Attorney's Office where he gained invaluable trial experience. He has tried more than 75 jury trials, and is devoted to helping his clients seek justice.

In addition to his trial schedule, Mr. Edwards continues to litigate appellate and legal issues in State and Federal Courts to protect the rights of his clients.

Mr. Edwards is a member of The Florida Bar and is admitted to practice in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Mr. Edwards is a member of the American Association for Justice, Florida Justice Association, The Endowment for Academy Giving to Law and Education (EAGLE), and the American Bar Association.

Additionally, Mr. Edwards has lectured at seminars on legal issues related to insurance policies, insurance coverage and contractual disputes that arise in both state and federal court commercial actions.



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Mark S. Fistos

Fueled by a passion for consumer law that began in law school and grew through the years, Mark S. Fistos has dedicated his career to protecting consumers against fraud and unfair trade practices.

Mr. Fistos concentrates his practice on complex civil litigation, including claims relating breach of contract, unjust enrichment, breach of warranty, fraud, trade practice violations and Qui Tam (whistleblower) litigation. He has also litigated class action and consumer cases (national computer manufacturers, utilities, banks, data mining companies) in various state and

federal jurisdictions for more than 19 years.

After receiving his law degree from Florida State University, he began his legal career as an Assistant Attorney General in the Florida Attorney General's Economic Crimes Litigation Unit in Tallahassee. He has prosecuted numerous cases involving consumer fraud, unfair methods of competition, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act, deceptive trade practices, and whistleblowers, against defendants ranging from large telecommunications companies, and marketing enterprises to corporate-owned funeral providers.

Mr. Fistos is a member of The Florida Bar and a member of their Trial Lawyers Section. He is also admitted to practice in the U.S. District Courts for the Southern, Middle and Northern Districts of Florida and the Northern District of Illinois. He is also a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Mr. Fistos is a member of the Florida Justice Association, and the Tallahassee Bar Association. He has published articles and training materials for The Florida Bar. He is also a Board Member and General Counsel of the Leon County Chapter of Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD).



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Seth M. Lehrman

Seth M. Lehrman litigates complex civil litigation matters, including class actions, in state and federal courts in Florida, California, and across the United States. He represents individuals and businesses cases involving breach of contract, fraud, unfair and deceptive trade practice and other claims.

Mr. Lehrman also serves as class-counsel in class action cases involving banking practices, insurance companies, credit reporting agencies, and other businesses, which typically involve dangerous or defective products, consumer fraud, and false and deceptive advertising.

Mr. Lehrman is a member of The Florida Bar, the State Bar of California, and various other federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court. He is also a member of the American Association for Justice, Florida Justice Association, and Broward County Justice Association. The Legal Aid Society of Broward County has recognized Mr. Lehrman several times for his outstanding contribution of pro bono legal service.

Mr. Lehrman is an avid runner and has completed more than fourteen marathons. He also coaches American Youth Soccer Organization's (AYSO) youth soccer; and he is an active member of the congregation and brotherhood of Temple Dor Dorim.



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Gary M. Farmer Sr.



Retired Appellate Judge Gary M. Farmer, Sr., served from April 1991 until December 2010 as a Judge for the Fourth District Court of Appeal, before his appointment by Governor Chiles to the Fourth District Court of Appeal and was retained by a vote of the electorate in 1992, 1998 and 2004. Judge Farmer served as President of the Florida Conference of District Court of Appeal Judges from 2003-2004 and was elected by his colleagues as Chief Judge of the Fourth District Court of Appeal from 2003-2005. Judge Farmer was widely regarded as one of the preeminent writers in the history of Florida jurisprudence, known for his succinct brevity and for working show tune lyrics and movie lines seamlessly into his authoritative opinions.

Gary Farmer, Sr. has spent his career educating the judiciary and citizens alike and has helped ensure that the courts remained open to all for fair redress of disputes.

He has also presented many times on continuing judicial and legal education subjects, including constitutional history, trial and appellate practice, scientific evidence, review of discretion, products liability and legal writing. Mr. Farmer has also published various opinions in Southern Reporter.

Mr. Farmer began his legal career in 1973 as a law clerk to U.S. District Judge, Nicholas J. Walinski, Jr. In 1975, he became a partner in the law firm Abrams, Anton, Robbins, Resnick & Schneider P.A. He moved to the firm Goldberg, Young & Borkson, P.A. in 1982, and in 1984 he opened Gary M. Farmer, P.A., where he practiced until his appointment to the bench.

Following his retirement from the bench, Mr. Farmer took a position Of Counsel to the Farmer Jaffe Weissing law firm in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Mr. Farmer is available for consultation and to provide litigation support and appellate representation in both civil and criminal cases.

In 2011 the Florida Justice Association recognized Gary M. Farmer, Sr. as with the Al J. Cone lifetime Achievement Award. The award goes to an attorney who has pledged their life to upholding consumer rights and fighting for justice. The winner of this award must be a leader, dedicated and poised not only for personal achievement as an attorney, but also success as an individual.

Mr. Farmer is currently a member of or has served the following organizations: Florida Courts Technology Commission (2005 – Present), Chair of the Appellate Court Technology Committee (2005 – Present); Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instructions – Civil (1998-present); and the following Florida Bar Committees: Appellate Rules Committee (1988-1991), the Civil Rules Committee, (1991-1996) and the Grievance Committee Seventeenth Judicial Circuit (1986-1989). He is an Eagle Member of the Florida Justice Association, and a member of the Broward County Justice Association.

Mr. Farmer is a member of The Florida Bar, the Ohio Bar Association (now inactive), the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, and the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida.



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About Farmer, Jaffe, Weissing, Edwards, Fistos & Lehrman, P.L.

The strength of Farmer, Jaffe, Weissing, Edwards, Fistos & Lehrman, P.L. lies in the successes, reputations, skill, and complementary backgrounds of its attorneys. The firm takes a team approach to each case, which allows them to bring over 100 years of combined and diverse legal and real-world experience to any matter they handle.

We are aggressive litigators and trial attorneys who have a national reputation for thoroughness and success for our clients. Our attorneys are largely made-up of former prosecutors, who honed their litigation and investigative skills before entering private practice. Extensive factual and legal research are integral to our law practice. Every case we pursue receives skillful, experienced representation in the courtroom, which is in turn firmly grounded in the legal and factual analysis needed to seek justice for our clients.

We are also very involved in giving back to our communities. Members of the firm support various charities, sit on non-profit boards, and do volunteer work with local schools and religious organizations. Our attorneys volunteer their time lobbying our state legislature to ensure that the constitutional rights of access to courts are not limited or reduced. We are community-conscious and believe that we have an obligation to give back to a society that has afforded so much to us and our families.

We seek essentially the same thing for all of our clients—justice. Our attorneys share an intense passion for the law and for their roles as legal advocates for their clients.