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# 2010 LAWYERS OF THE YEAR

*Best Lawyers has named individuals as Lawyers of the Year in South Florida, based on their particularly high level of peer recognition. Congratulations to Joel D. Eaton for being selected a 2010 Lawyer of the Year.*



Joel Eaton grew up in the home of a dedicated judge who had enormous respect for the United States Constitution and the American legal system. So it was only natural, Eaton says, that after he fulfilled his military service obligations as a Navy pilot during the Vietnam war era he would gravitate towards the legal profession.

Eaton's choice of practice area—appellate advocacy, in which he has argued before state and federal appeals courts including several times before the United States Supreme Court—has been deeply satisfying, he says. "I found the practice of appellate law to be appealing because it was more contemplative, more scholarly, and provided greater opportunities to affect public policies than other areas of the law," says Eaton, a graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School, whose practice has generated more than 450 published legal opinions.

Eaton, who practices with Miami's Podhurst Orseck, a firm that concentrates in trial and appellate practice, says, "I have concentrated on representing the victims of antisocial conduct throughout my career because they tend to be underrepresented among policymakers." He's had a number of very significant victories, but he also notes that he's lost important cases, too; such is the nature of appellate practice.



**Joel D. Eaton**  
*Podhurst Orseck*

**PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION**

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