

PodhurstOrseck

TRIAL & APPELLATE LAWYERS

Peter Prieto Joins Top Flight Litigation and Appellate Boutique Podhurst Orseck
Former Holland & Knight executive partner is Podhurst Orseck's first lateral partner hire in 28 years

March 11, 2010 – MIAMI – Podhurst Orseck, P.A., a Miami-based boutique trial and appellate law firm, announces that Peter Prieto has joined the firm as partner. Prieto's practice will focus on a range of complex commercial and civil litigation matters, as well as class actions, multi-district litigation, and white collar criminal defense.

Prieto comes to Podhurst Orseck from Holland & Knight LLP, where he most recently served as executive partner of the firm's Miami office and chairman of its national litigation practice, the largest practice group at the firm. Previously, Prieto served as a federal prosecutor, first with the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida, and later with the Office of Independent Counsel in Washington, D.C. where he worked on the criminal investigation of the late Secretary of Commerce, Ronald H. Brown.

"Peter is a phenomenal addition to our litigation team," said Podhurst. "The last lateral hire to join the firm was Bob Josefsberg in 1982. As one of the most respected attorneys in the State, I think that is telling of how selective we are. Peter will prove to be an equally valuable investment and one that will be instrumental in moving our firm forward over the coming decades."

As a firm that has built a reputation on its attorney tenure as much as it has for its highly specialized practice, this move marks the first lateral partner hire that Podhurst Orseck has made in 28 years. According to founding partner Aaron Podhurst, the addition of Prieto, along with the firm's second generation of top-flight attorneys, is laying the foundation for a strong succession of leadership and a promising future for the firm.

Steven C. Marks, a partner with the firm for 25 years, is a close friend and law school colleague of Peter and was instrumental in bringing Peter to the firm. "Peter and I have remained close friends since law school and I saw the move attractive both professionally and personally," said Marks. Podhurst, who was not contemplating a lateral hire readily agreed with Steve. "Steven has been working with me for the last several years in running the firm and we have both enjoyed this natural progression. Peter will be a great asset to Steven and the firm for many years to come," said Podhurst.

For Prieto, the opportunity to join Podhurst Orseck will allow him to focus his time on complex litigation matters, spending more time inside the courtroom, as opposed to management issues.

"The perception of Podhurst Orseck among the legal and business communities is that it is the 'Bentley of law firms,'" said Peter Prieto. "To me, nothing is more ideal than to practice law at a firm

with a reputation for high-end work, exceptional attorneys who I know and trust, and a highly successful business model.”

Prieto currently serves as a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Third District Court of Appeal. He serves on the Advisory Board of the University of Miami School Of Law's Center for Ethics & Public Service and on the Alumni Advisory Board of the University of Miami *Law Review*. Prieto is also a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Thomas University.

Prieto is admitted to the Florida Bar, as well the Supreme Court of the United States, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida Trial Bar, the Dade County Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the Cuban-American Bar Association.

Miami-based Podhurst Orseck, P.A., established over four decades ago, is a top flight boutique trial and appellate firm focusing its practice on tort litigation matters including aviation, products liability, serious personal injury, and wrongful death claims, as well as complex commercial litigation and white collar defense. Additionally, the firm has a strong appellate practice, handling appeals for its own attorneys and attorneys throughout the nation, in various state and federal appellate courts, including the United States Supreme Court. The firm has consistently received an AV-Rating from Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, the highest possible rating, based on legal ability and general ethical standards. For more information, please visit www.podhurst.com.

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