

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

COMPLEX BUSINESS
LITIGATION DIVISION

IN RE: CHAMPLAIN TOWERS SOUTH
REPRESENTATION
COLLAPSE LITIGATION.

CASE NO. 2021-015089-CA-01

_____/

SILVA & SILVA, P.A.'S NOTICE OF FILING

COMES NOW, Silva & Silva, P.A., and pursuant to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure,
hereby file for the Court's record the following:

1. Declaration of Jorge E. Silva Filed on Behalf of Silva & Silva, P.A. in Support of Its Motion for Approval of Payment of Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Expenses dated June 12, 2022.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was filed and served
through Florida's e-Filing Portal to all counsel of record registered to receive service for this matter
on this 13th day of June, 2022.

/s/ Jorge E. Silva
Jorge E. Silva (FBN 964476)
SILVA & SILVA, P.A.
236 Valencia Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134
Tel: (305) 445-0011
jsilva@silvasilva.com

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 11TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI DADE-COUNTY, FLORIDA**

CASE NO.: 2021-015089-CA-01

SECTION: CA43

JUDGE: Michael Hanzman

**IN RE: CHAMPLAIN TOWERS SOUTH
COLLAPSE LITIGATION**

**DECLARATION OF JORGE E. SILVA FILED ON BEHALF OF SILVA & SILVA, P.A.
IN SUPPORT OF ITS MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF
ATTORNEYS' FEES AND LITIGATION EXPENSES**

I, Jorge E. Silva, do hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I am the Managing Partner of Silva & Silva, P.A. ("Silva & Silva"). I submit this declaration in support of my firm's application for an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of expenses in connection with the services we rendered in the above-entitled action.

2. As one of the Court appointed law firms to serve on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee, Silva & Silva, P.A. contributed significantly to this litigation. Jorge Silva, Carlos Silva, Paul Layne, and Benjamin Fernandez were counsel of record in this action since its inception. On July 16, 2021, Jorge Silva was appointed to serve as a member of Plaintiffs' Steering Committee to act on behalf of the Plaintiffs and the proposed class members in the Action.

3. As part of its role in this litigation, Silva & Silva performed many integral tasks which benefitted the Plaintiffs and the Class. At the outset of this tragedy, Silva & Silva's clients entrusted it with identifying those responsible for the collapse and prosecuting them to the full extent of the law. From the inception, until the very end, Silva & Silva was called upon not only by its clients, but also leadership counsel and, more importantly, this Court to assist with every aspect of the litigation. What follows is a brief description of the efforts put forth by the lawyers and support staff at Silva & Silva. However, we would be remiss if we did not recognize that the remarkable result obtained for the victims of this tragedy was, without question, a beautifully orchestrated collective effort.

Before a leadership structure was announced, Silva & Silva had already met with experts, served public records requests, sent preservation of evidence letters, and placed various government entities on notice of its intent to file suit, among other things. As a result of these efforts, Silva & Silva was the very first law firm to identify third party prospective defendants and actually file suit against the following defendants: Concrete Protection and Restoration Inc.; Wilcott Engineering, Inc.; Eighty-Seven Park, LLC; 8701 Collins Avenue Condominium Association; Collins Development, LLC; John Moriarty & Associates of Florida, Inc.; NV5, Inc.; Terra World Investments, LLC; Terra Group, LLC; and Bizzi & Partners Development, LLC. Undisputedly, these were the main defendants in the Champlain Towers South litigation. Being the first to identify the potential liability in the aforementioned defendants, Silva & Silva worked with counsel for the Eighty Seven Park Defendants throughout the litigation, but particularly at the outset to obtain insurance documentation and other necessary documentation regarding the construction of Eighty Seven Park.

Once appointed to the leadership committee, Silva & Silva was responsible for investigating the Champlain Tower South Condominium Association and various governmental agencies, including the Town of Surfside and the City of Miami Beach. This assignment entailed reviewing the most cumbersome document production of all the potential defendants. Silva & Silva reviewed more than 500,000 pages produced by the Champlain Towers South Condominium Association and other third parties. These documents revealed the identity of numerous other Defendants and physical evidence that was relied upon during depositions and to prove our theories of liability. Silva & Silva was actively involved in discovery, assisting with depositions; obtaining public records; and subpoenaing individuals and entities, among other things. Moreover, the Court may remember that our first class mediator, Bruce Greer, announced an impasse after much negotiation between wrongful death class members and property owners. Despite resistance from counsel, the undersigned addressed the Court and insisted that we schedule an in-person mediation and that same should proceed without delay. As a result, the Court appointed Judd Rosen, Esq. and created the non-owner wrongful death subclass. Shortly thereafter, Silva & Silva

played a very active leadership role representing the wrongful death non-owners at the allocation mediation. Working tirelessly at a point when recovery was believed to be extremely limited, we negotiated a settlement that allowed the litigation against the aforementioned defendants to become the focal point of the litigation, and, more importantly, unified the plaintiffs allowing for a global settlement.

In addition to identifying defendants and litigating the case, Silva & Silva met personally and extensively, on multiple occasions, with various high level governmental officials, including the Governor of Florida, the Lieutenant Governor of Florida, the Attorney General of Florida, and various members of the Florida House of Representatives in an effort to obtain a claims bill and/or establish a fund to assist the victims who were then facing a very limited fund recovery.

Toward the conclusion of the litigation, Silva & Silva was actively involved in settlement discussions, through the mediator, with all of the Eighty Seven Park Defendants, including Eighty-Seven Park, LLC; John Moriarty & Associates of Florida, Inc.; NV5, Inc.; Terra World Investments, LLC; Terra Group, LLC; and Bizzi & Partners Development, LLC. As this Court is aware, the damages presented in this case are monumental. Silva & Silva was tasked with preparing comprehensive damage power points including extensive jury verdict and settlement research for the mediation presentation with the Eighty Seven Park Defendants, and others.

Lastly, when it appeared that settlements were on the horizon Silva & Silva petitioned this Court to appoint a Claims Administrator and began the process of identifying and vetting potential claims administrators. Silva & Silva interviewed and vetted more than ten potential administrators, created the template for the claim forms and then remained actively involved in the selection process with the leadership committee.

Silva & Silva was and remains committed to providing its clients with the best possible representation. As this Court is intimately aware, the representation does not end when the allocations are published. Absent from the hours submitted to date are the hundreds of hours that will be spent working with our fifteen clients, on an individual basis, to present their damages to this Court. Silva & Silva has dedicated all of its lawyers and staff to ensure that each client is given

the time he, she, or they deserve to prepare for their “day in court.” Each presentation will include extensive oral argument and demonstrative aids in an effort to provide this Court with insight into how each loss has impacted those left behind. In addition to presenting each of our client’s claims, Silva & Silva has devoted its resources to open estates, guardianships, and special needs trusts, among others, to assist the survivors when the settlement funds are allocated. We will assist in finalizing all related matters, including the accounting, affidavits, etc. to provide our clients with peace of mind and closure. Simply put, the hours required to truly “finalize” this case for Silva & Silva and its clients is substantially greater than reflected in the hours submitted to date.

In sum, as promised from the outset of the case, Silva & Silva placed its practice on hold starting in June of 2021 to dedicate the necessary time and resources to litigate this matter for the victims. Silva & Silva undertook this representation knowing full well that the victims were facing the real possibility of a very limited recovery. Toward that end, rates were reduced and billable hours were substantially discounted to ensure the maximum recovery for the victims. Fortunately, through the hard work of Silva & Silva, and the rest of leadership counsel, the fund available for the victims today is one of the largest in the history of litigation in Florida.

4. In addition to the work above, my firm will continue to participate in this litigation until its conclusion on behalf of the Class.

5. The information in this declaration regarding my firm’s time and expenses is documented and reflected in time and expense printouts and supporting documentation prepared and maintained by my firm in the ordinary course of business. I am the partner who oversaw the day-to-day activities in the litigation and I have reviewed these printouts (and backup documentation where necessary or appropriate) in connection with the preparation of this declaration. The purpose of this review was to confirm both the accuracy of the entries on the printouts as well as the necessity for, and reasonableness of, the time and expenses committed to the litigation, including the elimination of time that was unnecessary, duplicative, or devoted to matters not directed by the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee or on individual death cases. As a result of this review and any adjustments made, I believe that the time reflected in Silva & Silva’s

lodestar calculation and the expenses for which payment is sought as set forth in this declaration are reasonable in amount and were necessary for the effective and efficient prosecution and resolution of the litigation. In addition, I believe that the expenses are all of a type that would normally be charged to a fee-paying client in the private legal marketplace.

6. The total number of hours spent on this litigation by my firm is 5,683.6 hours. A breakdown of the lodestar is provided in **Exhibit A**. **Exhibit A** also breaks down the portion of this time that was expended between the service of our firms fifteen (15) individual clients, who were also class member/clients and leadership counsel time. The lodestar amount for attorney and paralegal time is based on the firm's current rates per hour: the Senior Partners, Jorge and Carlos Silva, billed at \$1,000; the Junior Partners, Benjamin Fernandez, Paul Layne and Carolina Suarez, billed at \$750, and our Associate Maria Corghi billed at \$525; lastly, our Paralegals billed at \$250. The hourly rates shown in **Exhibit A** are the usual and customary rates set by the firm for each individual attorney and paralegal. There were numerous other staff members who assisted Silva & Silva and our fifteen (15) clients, this time was not billed as a courtesy. The chart set forth as **Exhibit A** was prepared from contemporaneous daily time records of the firm.

7. Silva & Silva's expenses and charges in connection with the prosecution of this litigation total **\$39,169.53**. Those expenses and charges are summarized by expense category in the attached **Exhibit B and Exhibit B(1)**.

8. The following additional information further explains certain of these expenses

(a) Photocopying: **\$7,804.39**. In connection with this litigation, the firm made approximately 39,021 in-house copies, charging \$0.20 per copy. Each time an in-house copy machine is used, our billing system requires that a case or administrative billing code be entered and that is how the approximately \$7,804.39 copies were identified as related to this case. Those expenses and charges are summarized by expense category in the attached **Exhibit B**.

(b) Filing, Witness and Other Fees: **\$18,780.00**. These expenses have been paid to the court for filing fees and to attorney service firms or individuals who either: (i) served process of the complaint or subpoenas, or (ii) obtained copies of court documents for plaintiffs. These costs

were necessary to the prosecution of the case in order, among other things, to file the complaints, to serve the complaints and subpoenas, and to investigate the facts. The vendors who were paid for these services are set forth in **Exhibit B**. Included in these expenses are costs that were incurred with filing complaints, among other things, for our individual clients. **Exhibit B(1) provides a breakdown of the expenses as they relate to the individual clients.**

(c) Online Legal and Financial Research: **\$5,373.92**. These included vendors such as Westlaw and Pacer. These services were used to obtain access to factual databases, legal research and for cite-checking of briefs. This expense represents the expense incurred by Jorge Silva, Carlos Silva, Paul Layne, Carolina Suarez, Benjamin Fernandez and Maria Corghi for use of these services in connection with this litigation. The charges for these vendors vary depending upon the type of services requested. For example, Silva & Silva has contracts with some of these providers for use of their services. When Silva & Silva utilizes online services provided by vendors, some with a flat rate contract, access to the service is by a billing code entered for the specific case being litigated. At the end of each billing period in which such service is used, Silva & Silva's costs for such services are allocated to specific cases based on the respective percentage of the total bill or actual charges in connection with that specific case in the billing period. As a result of the contracts negotiated by Silva & Silva with certain providers, the Class enjoys substantial savings in comparison with the "market-rate" for *a la carte* use of such services which some law firms pass on to their clients. For example, the "market rate" charged to others by Westlaw for the types of services used by Silva & Silva is more expensive than the rates negotiated by Silva & Silva.

9. The foregoing expenses pertaining to this litigation are reflected in the books and records of Silva & Silva. These books and records are prepared from receipts, expense vouchers, check records and other documents and are an accurate record of the expenses.

10. The identification and background of my firm and its participating attorneys is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 12th of June, 2022 at Miami, Florida.

/s/

[Name]

EXHIBIT A

IN RE: CHAMPLAIN TOWERS SOUTH COLLAPSE LITIGATION

TIME REPORT

FIRM NAME: Silva & Silva, P.A.

REPORTING PERIOD: Inception through May 31, 2022

LEADERSHIP COUNSEL TIME			
Name (Status: P, A, Counsel, Para, Clerk)	Total Hours	Hourly Rate	Total Lodestar
Partner, Jorge Silva	367.5	\$1,000.00	\$ 367,500.00
Partner, Carlos Silva	280.5	\$1,000.00	\$ 280,500.00
Jr. Partner, Paul Layne	88.1	\$750.00	\$ 66,075.00
Jr. Partner, Ben Fernandez	579.8	\$750.00	\$ 434,850.00
Paralegal, Mayra Romera	5.9	\$275.00	\$ 1,622.50
Paralegal, Hope Soto	8.6	\$275.00	\$ 2,365.00
Paralegal, Tania Gomez	13.9	\$275.00	\$ 1,622.50
Paralegal, Veronica Ramos	2.1	\$275.00	\$ 577.50
Leadership Total	1,346.4		\$ 1,155,112.50
INDIVIDUAL CLIENT TIME			
Name (Status: P, A, Counsel, Para, Clerk)	Total Hours	Hourly Rate	Total Lodestar
Jorge Silva	1228.5	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,228,500
Carlos Silva	1007.3	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,007,300
Ben Fernandez	666.1	\$ 750.00	\$ 499,575
Paul Layne	619.7	\$ 750.00	\$ 464,775
Carolina Suarez	183.3	\$ 750.00	\$ 137,475
Maria Corgi	106.6	\$ 500.00	\$ 55,965
Mayra Romera	342.2	\$ 275.00	\$ 94,105
Hope Sotos	40.4	\$ 275.00	\$ 11,110
Tania Gomez	82.5	\$ 275.00	\$ 22,688
Veronica Ramos	60.6	\$ 275.00	\$ 16,665
Individual Total	4,337.20		\$3,538,158
TOTALS	5,683.60		\$ 4,693,270.50

EXHIBIT B
IN RE: CHAMPLAIN TOWERS SOUTH COLLAPSE
EXPENSES REPORT

FIRM NAME: Silva and Silva, PA

REPORTING PERIOD: Inception through June 10, 2022

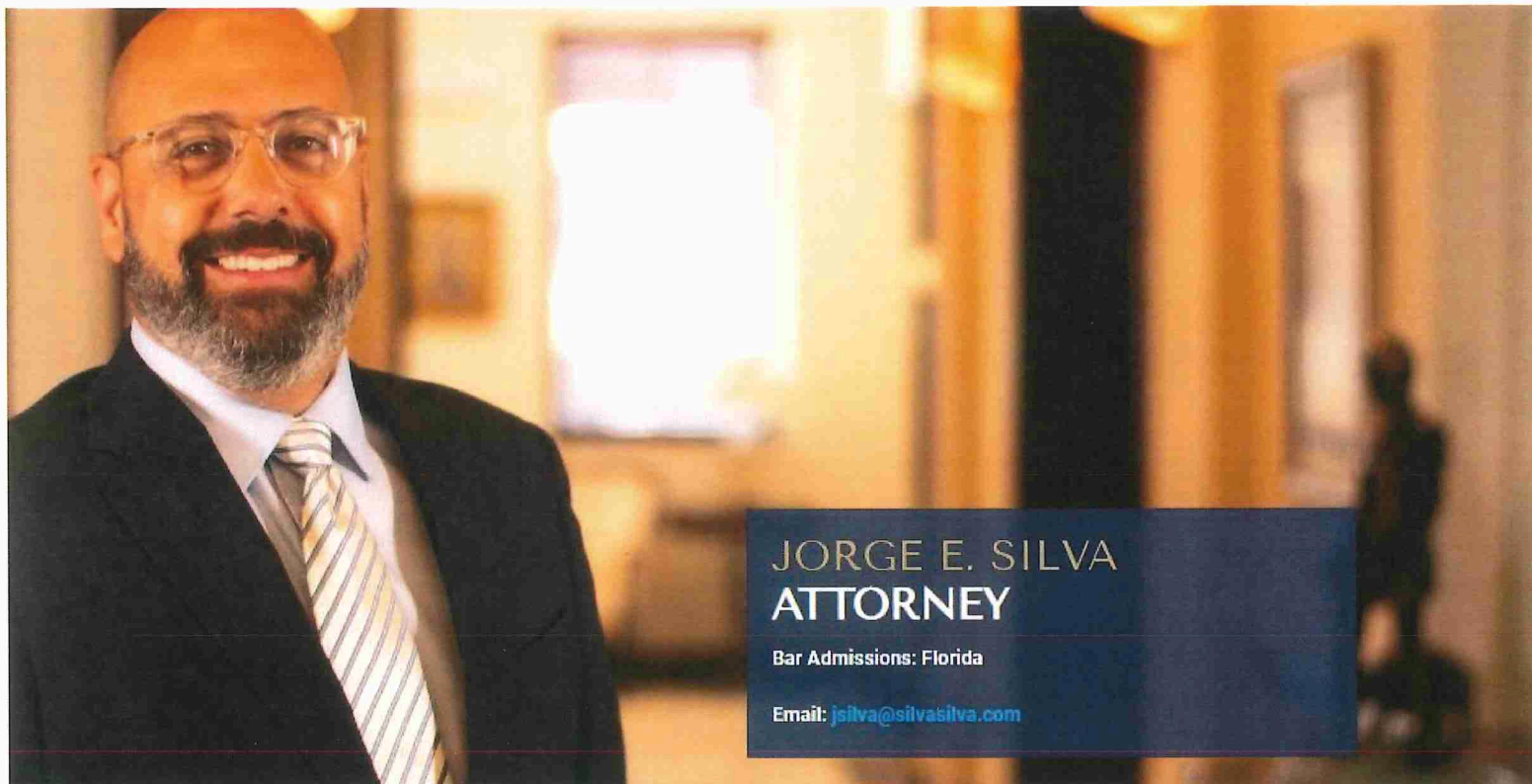
DESCRIPTION	EXPENSES	CUMULATIVE EXPENSES
Online research		\$5,373.92
Process Server - Z Process Service, Inc.		\$8,675.00
Filing Fees		\$10,260.00
Postage, FedEx, Courier		\$1,471.21
Local travel		\$0.00
Out-of-town travel		\$0.00
Meals - WAIVED		\$0.00
Deposition transcripts		\$0.00
Experts		\$0.00
Litigation Fund		\$0.00
Parking - WAIVED		\$0.00
Transportation		\$0.00
Copying		\$7,804.39
Telephone		\$112.51
Mediation Services		\$1,702.50
Other - Ra-Haus Fotografie/Drone Footage		\$750.00
Other - Sessler & Lopez Investigations, Inc.		\$2,500.00
Other - DBR Listing of Notice to Creditors		\$520.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$39,169.53

EXHIBIT B(1)**IN RE: CHAMPLAIN TOWERS SOUTH COLLAPSE****EXPENSES REPORT**

FIRM NAME: Silva and Silva, PA

REPORTING PERIOD: Inception through June 10, 2022

DESCRIPTION	EXPENSES	CUMULATIVE EXPENSES	Champlain Common (Costs as of 6/10/2022)	Stella Cattarossi (Costs as of 6/10/2022)	Francis Fernandez (Costs as of 6/10/2022)	Andreas Giannitsopoulos (Costs as of 6/10/2022)	Valeria Barth (Costs as of 6/10/2022)	Catalina Gomez Ramirez (Costs as of 6/10/2022)	Manuel V. Lafont (Costs as of 6/10/2022)	Antonio & Gladys Lozano (Costs as of 6/10/2022)	Leon Oliwkowicz Piatnika (Costs as of 6/10/2022)	Juan Mora, Jr. (Costs as of 6/10/2022)	Juan Mora, Sr. (Costs as of 6/10/2022)	Cristina Betarte (Costs as of 6/10/2022)	Ana Ortiz Kleiman (Costs as of 6/10/2022)	Claudio Bonnefoy (Costs as of 6/10/2022)	Maria Obias-Bonnefoy (Costs as of 6/10/2022)
Online research		\$5,373.92	\$5,022.03	\$136.50	\$214.99	\$990.00	\$680.00	\$725.00	\$680.00	\$0.40	\$635.00	\$680.00	\$680.00	\$635.00	\$725.00		
Process Server - Z Process Service, Inc.		\$8,675.00		\$615.00	\$815.00	\$796.00	\$942.00	\$942.00	\$536.00	\$1,403.00	\$586.00	\$942.00	\$942.00	\$701.00	\$536.00		
Filing Fees		\$10,260.00		\$942.00	\$992.00	\$796.00	\$942.00	\$942.00	\$536.00	\$1,403.00	\$586.00	\$942.00	\$942.00	\$701.00	\$536.00		
Postage, FedEx, Courier		\$1,471.21	\$235.58	\$123.45	\$229.29	\$72.27	\$90.05	\$44.38	\$110.47	\$186.45	\$79.49	\$65.84	\$59.50	\$52.91	\$121.53		
Local travel		\$0.00															
Out-of-town travel		\$0.00															
Meals - WAIVED		\$0.00															
Deposition transcripts		\$0.00															
Experts		\$0.00	\$0.00														
Litigation Fund		\$0.00															
Parking - WAIVED		\$0.00															
Transportation		\$0.00															
Copying		\$7,804.39	\$4,492.02	\$376.70	\$222.30	\$103.30	\$207.40	\$229.30	\$163.30	\$1,101.81	\$108.01	\$276.18	\$309.97	\$83.60	\$130.50		
Telephone		\$112.51	\$68.77		\$1,702.50	\$15.00	\$4.06	\$0.11	\$11.25					\$10.59	\$2.73		
Mediation Services		\$1,702.50															
Other - Ra-Haus Fotografie/Drone Footage		\$750.00							\$750.00								
Other - Sessler & Lopez Investigations, Inc.		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00														
Other - DBL Listing of Notice to Creditor		\$520.00		\$65.00	\$65.00		\$65.00	\$65.00		\$130.00		\$65.00	\$65.00				
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$39,169.53	\$12,318.40	\$2,258.65	\$4,241.08	\$1,976.57	\$1,988.51	\$2,006.79	\$2,251.02	\$3,636.66	\$1,408.50	\$2,029.02	\$2,056.47	\$1,483.10	\$1,515.76	\$0.00	\$0.00



JORGE E. SILVA
ATTORNEY

Bar Admissions: Florida

Email: jsilva@silvasilva.com

After graduating with Honors from the University of Miami School of Law, Jorge E. Silva obtained the highest score on the Florida Bar examination and was subsequently invited to teach the preparatory course for it.

Jorge E. Silva is passionate about his law practice. He has concentrated his efforts on representing victims of catastrophic medical malpractice events. He firmly believes that patients must have a solution for medical negligence and wrongful death.

Because of the Firm's involvement in major aircraft, maritime, and products liability catastrophes, Jorge E. Silva has also become immersed in these matters. Specifically, he has been able to contribute substantially in areas such as establishing a breach of prevailing standards, causation, and damages.

Mr. Silva is a member of the Florida Bar, the American Bar Association, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers. He is also a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and is rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell, a recognition by his peers that places him amongst the top trial attorneys in the nation. The South Florida Legal Guide has also awarded Mr. Silva as "Top Attorney" 10 years consecutively. Recently, Mr. Silva was nominated as a "Best Attorneys of America" by Rue Ratings. Also, Mr. Silva has been awarded the distinction of Super Lawyer 2021 in the area of Plaintiff's Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice.

Additionally, in his quest to ensure that all victims of negligence, not just Silva and Silva's clients, are appropriately represented, Mr. Silva devotes part of his own personal time as a law school professor. Mr. Silva designed an in-depth course "Florida Medical Malpractice Practice and Procedure" and wrote the course syllabus and material used by aspiring attorneys. And, as yet another way to show his appreciation, Mr. Silva donates his entire professor's salary to the law school for the funding of a scholarship.

He has participated in "Put Something Back", a pro-bono effort by Miami attorneys and judges to represent, free of charge, those who cannot afford the services of an attorney in civil matters. He is a Charter Founder of the Coalition for Family Safety and sits on the Board of Advisors for Misioneros del Camino, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping orphaned children.

In 2004 and 2005 Mr. Silva completed the New York City Marathon with the objective of raising funds to facilitate the construction of a Hospital as well as to provide education to orphan children in Sumpango, Guatemala. Thereafter, Mr. Silva ran the Marine Corp and Chicago Marathons to further fund the hospital.

Jorge E. Silva is a proud and dedicated father of four. As such, he is tenacious in his quest to be an advocate for victims and their families

A professional headshot of Carlos E. Silva, a middle-aged man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a striped tie. He is standing in a well-lit hallway with warm lighting and architectural details in the background.

CARLOS E. SILVA ATTORNEY

Bar Admissions: Florida, Supreme Court of the United States,
New York & Washington D.C.

Email: csilva@silvasilva.com

Carlos E. Silva graduated from the University of Miami School of Law determined to give a voice to families who suffered traumatic injuries and oftentimes tragic deaths as a result of tortious conduct. This conduct entails the negligent acts of a product designer or manufacturer, an airline pilot, a surgeon, a multinational corporation in its marketing of an unsafe drug, or preventable incidents of neglect.

Exclusive of the aforementioned litigation embarked upon by Mr. Silva, his diversified trajectory further encompasses the victorious undertaking of cases dealing with trucking and automobile catastrophes, bad faith litigation as well as cases pertaining to negligent security, including those implicating the involvement of terrorist acts.

Carlos E. Silva received a Bachelor of Science degree as well as a Doctorate in Law, giving him the great capacity to appreciate cases from a legal, scientific and medical perspective. He has earned a reputation for obtaining significant settlements and verdicts for those who lost their loved ones in negligence cases. He has taken on major airlines, like American Airlines, Valujet, Aviateca, AeroPeru, and aircraft manufacturers, like Boeing, Airbus, and others. Furthermore, Carlos E. Silva has successfully opposed major multinational corporations that have armed themselves with well-experienced lawyers who have unlimited resources at their disposal. He has advocated for plaintiffs in national class actions, which were ultimately resolved in favor of the Firm's clients.

He is also a member of the Florida Bar Grievance Committee. In particular, Mr. Silva and the committee contend with and investigate complaints regarding the unlicensed practice of law (UPL), which oftentimes results in the recommendation of reprimands and even disbarment, for those found accountable. He is also a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and has been rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell, a recognition by other attorneys that places him among the top trial attorneys in the nation.

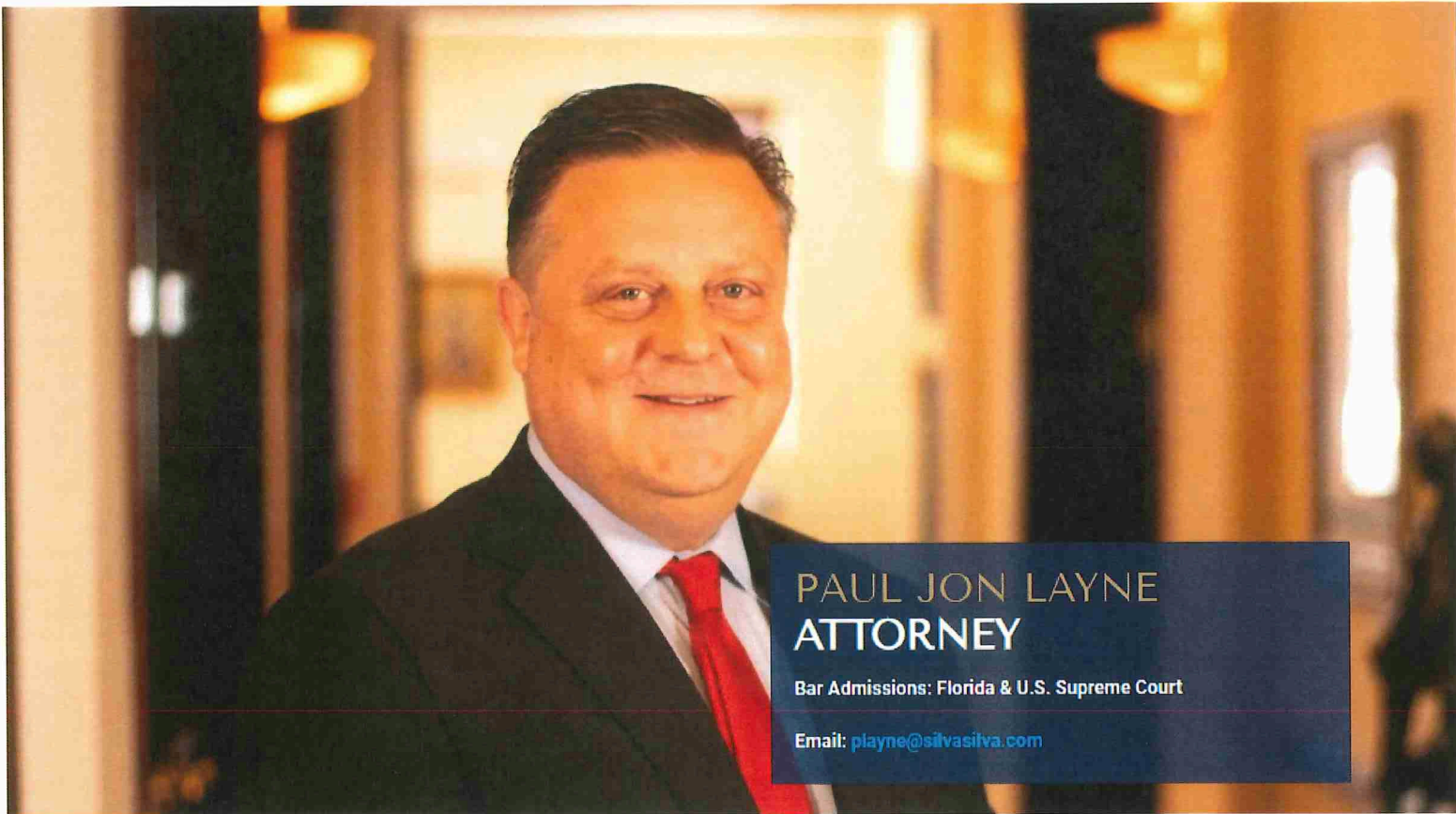
Mr. Silva has furthermore attained international legal recognition in South American countries, where Mr. Silva has exclusively conferred with legal advisors to Presidents in an attempt to implement and enforce appropriate pool safety standards and regulations. As a consequence of his vigorous efforts, appropriate swimming pool safety standards have been established in several South American countries.

As yet another example of Mr. Silva's tenacity, when the American Airlines Flight #587 air disaster occurred on November 12, 2001, he deliberated with the President of the Dominican Republic in an effort to educate that country's government about the available legal rights of victims' families under United States law.

As if that were not enough, Mr. Silva has been sought out to lecture on varied topics of negligence at several law schools in many parts of the world. He has been chosen by the Chilean College of Lawyers to introduce and assist in the implementation of a tort system in Chile that emulates the American one. Similarly, Mr. Silva has also been selected to lecture at the Peruvian College of Lawyers on the tort system of the United States, creating the possibility of adopting that system in the country of Peru.

Mr. Silva has also contributed his time to Put Something Back, a pro-bono effort by Miami attorneys and judges to represent those who cannot afford the services of an attorney in civil matters. Moreover, he is a Charter Founder of the Coalition for Family Safety and sits on the Board of Advisors for Misioneros del Camino, a non-profit organization devoted to providing help to orphaned children.

In 2005, Carlos E. Silva participated in and completed the New York City Marathon in a joint effort with his brothers, Jorge E. Silva and Dr. Orlando E. Silva, to raise funds to build a hospital in Sumpango, Guatemala. In a continued effort to achieve their goal, Mr. Silva along with his brothers completed the 2006 Marine Corps Marathon in Washington. Carlos E. Silva considers his practice of law much more than a profession; he considers it a calling.



PAUL JON LAYNE ATTORNEY

Bar Admissions: Florida & U.S. Supreme Court

Email: playne@silvasilva.com

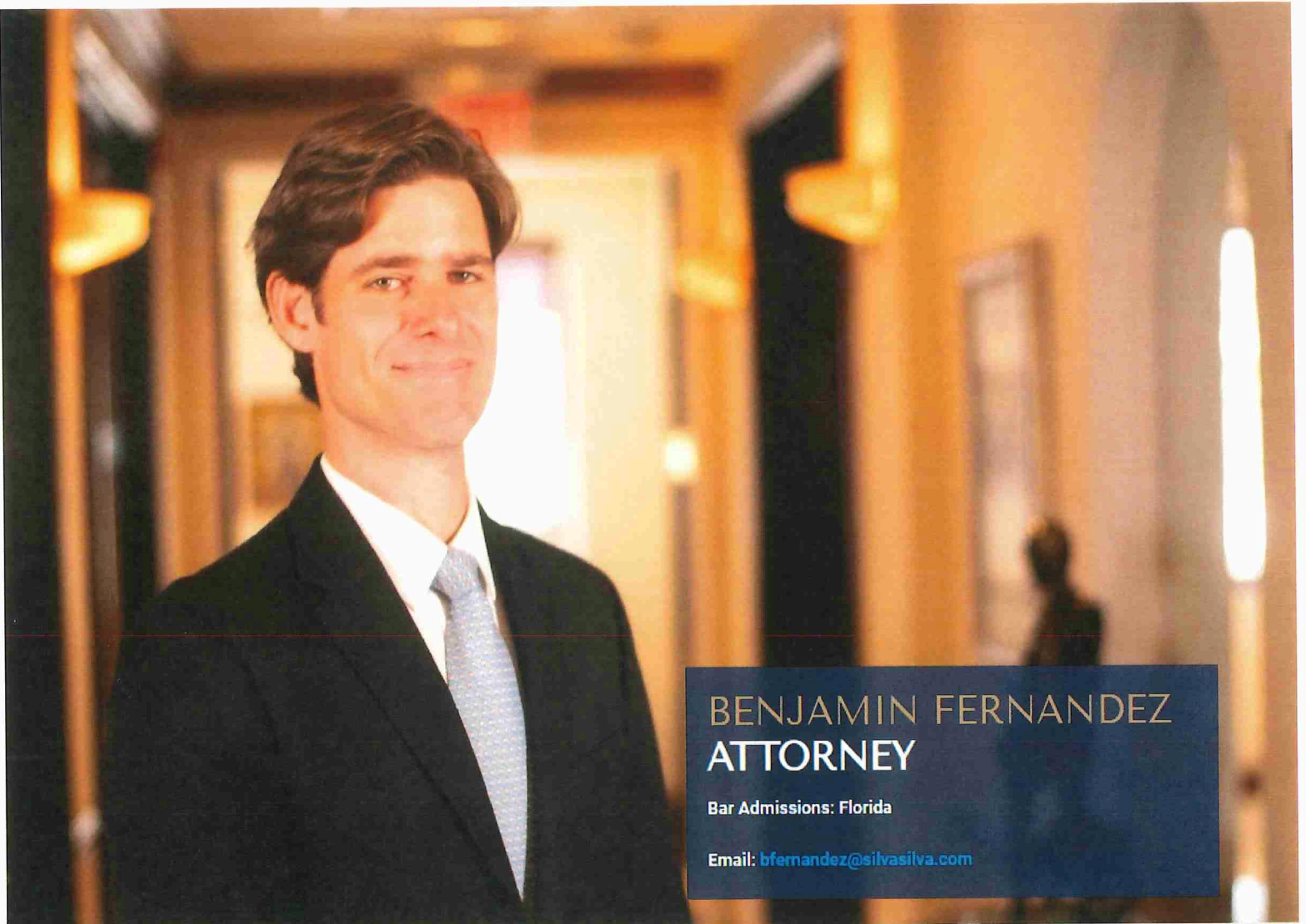
Paul Jon Layne was born in Miami, Florida. He graduated from the University of Miami in 1991, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration, magna cum laude, with Departmental Honors in Economics and General Honors. Subsequently, Mr. Layne graduated from the Florida State University College of Law in 1994, with honors. At Florida State, he served for two years as a member of the Law Review and Moot Court team. Mr. Layne is fully bilingual in the English and Spanish languages.

Following law school, Mr. Layne worked for one of the oldest, largest, and most prestigious law firms in Florida. His areas of concentration were products liability litigation and commercial litigation. He was involved in litigation concerning Du Pont's Benlate product, which end users claimed destroyed their crops and caused them adverse health effects.

Subsequently, Mr. Layne has handled numerous civil litigation matters from start to finish representing both defendants and plaintiffs in litigation. On the defense side, his previous clients have included General Motors Corporation, other product manufacturers, and insurance carriers. On the plaintiff's side, Mr. Layne has represented individuals in personal injury and wrongful death cases. His successful jury trials include a federal jury trial representing survivors of victims of the American Airlines flight 965 disaster where he was instrumental in winning a multi-million dollar verdict for the plaintiff. Mr. Layne was also involved in obtaining a favorable resolution for clients in the defective tire litigation against Bridgestone/Firestone.

At Silva & Silva, Mr. Layne's concentration is representing plaintiffs in personal injury and wrongful death matters in both state and federal courts, including appeals. He is a member of the Florida Bar, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Over the past three years alone, Mr. Layne has successfully handled major products liability cases, including among other defective products, dangerous automobile door latches that spring open in common and foreseeable crash events, as well as recalled window coverings on which young children in America strangle at a rate of one per month. He has also handled major aviation crash cases, auto crashes, and insurance bad faith cases – in the process, recovering sums well into the tens of millions of dollars, for the firm's clients.



BENJAMIN FERNANDEZ ATTORNEY

Bar Admissions: Florida

Email: bfernandez@silvasilva.com

Benjamin Fernandez began his legal career as a public defender in Miami, Florida helping those less fortunate. Although he handled hundreds upon hundreds of cases, Mr. Fernandez devoted the majority of his time to helping adolescents in the juvenile system.

Upon leaving the Public Defender's Office, Mr. Fernandez became a partner at one of the largest insurance defense firms in Florida. His practice was dedicated to civil litigation, with an emphasis on Premises Liability and Catastrophic and Personal Injury. He provided legal representation to companies and individuals ranging from Fortune 500 companies to small business owners. During his tenure, Mr. Fernandez handled thousands of depositions and tried numerous civil cases to verdict gaining valuable experience in personal injury matters.

Since joining Silva & Silva, Mr. Fernandez has represented both families and individuals who were victims of negligence. His practice areas include premises liability, negligent security, auto negligence, and other catastrophic personal injury matters. Mr. Fernandez is devoted to ensuring that his clients benefit from his many years of experience in handling litigation matters throughout the State of Florida.

Mr. Fernandez was selected by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star and awarded an "AV" rating by the Martindale-Hubbe Peer Review Ratings, which is reserved for attorneys with the highest professional excellence and highest levels of skill and integrity. He is a member of the Florida Bar and admitted to practice in federal court with admissions in the Northern, Middle, and Southern districts. Additionally, Mr. Fernandez is admitted in the U.S. District Court in Puerto Rico.

A professional headshot of Carolina Suarez, a woman with long brown hair, smiling and wearing a dark blazer over a white collared shirt. The background is a blurred interior space with warm lighting.

CAROLINA SUAREZ ATTORNEY

Bar Admissions: Florida

Email: csuarez@silvasilva.com

Carolina Beatriz Suarez was born in Miami, Florida. She graduated from the University of Florida in 2002, earning a Bachelor of Arts, cum laude. Subsequently, Mrs. Suarez graduated from Florida International University College of Law in 2007.

While at Florida International University, Mrs. Suarez was on the Dean's List and was the recipient of an Excellence for the Future Award and Book Award for her performance in Remedies and Administrative Law. During law school, Mrs. Suarez worked for the Florida House of Representatives where she managed all of the constituent casework, financial reporting, and official state correspondence.

After three years with the Florida House, Mrs. Suarez began working for a prominent Miami lobbyist, lobbying on behalf of diverse principals in the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and the State of Florida.

Following Law School, Mrs. Suarez began practicing law at one of South Florida's foremost Worker's Compensation firms, representing plaintiffs in catastrophic work-related injuries. Then, in 2009, Mrs. Suarez joined the partnership between a local law firm and a large construction defect firm based in Santa Monica, California, as the Lead Associate representing 300 homeowners in Re: Chinese Manufactured Drywall Products Liability Litigation, MDL 2047, under the Honorable Eldon E. Fallon of the Eastern District of Louisiana. MDL 2047 involved the claims for damages resulting from the manufacturing, distribution, sale, and installation of defective Chinese drywall in homes throughout the United States.

Over the course of four years, Mrs. Suarez was actively involved in nearly all aspects of MDL 2047, including the drafting of Omnibus briefs and reply briefs as Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel for Miami-Dade County, Broward County and Palm Beach County. She prepared various complex motions, ranging from jurisdictional, class action, and bad faith pleadings, to service of foreign defendants through the Hague Convention. Carolina executed all pre-suit investigation, and was an active participant in all settlement negotiations, litigation strategies, fact investigation, depositions, mediations, and trial preparation, which ultimately led to the resolution of substantial claims.

Since joining Silva & Silva in 2013, Carolina has concentrated her practice on cases involving medical malpractice and wrongful death claims. Mrs. Suarez is a member of the Florida Bar, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, and the Supreme Court of the United States. In her spare time, Carolina enjoys spending time with her husband and children.

A professional headshot of Maria D. Corgi, a woman with long dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blazer over a white top. The background is a blurred office interior with warm lighting.

MARIA D. CORGHI ATTORNEY

Bar Admissions: Florida

Maria D. Corgi graduated cum laude from the University of Miami School of Law, where she was a member of the International and Comparative Law Review and Litigation Skills Program. While in law school, Ms. Corgi also clerked for several law firms where she gained substantial experience in the areas of commercial litigation, international arbitration, and personal injury litigation.

Prior to joining Silva & Silva, P.A., Ms. Corgi's practice was dedicated to civil litigation defense with an emphasis on premises liability, catastrophic personal injury, and wrongful death. Throughout the years defending hundreds of companies in negligence actions, Ms. Corgi gained valuable experience in personal injury and wrongful death litigation.

With this experience, Ms. Corgi joined Silva & Silva, P.A., with the goal of helping families and individuals who are victims of negligence. Her practice areas include premises liability, negligent security, auto negligence, wrongful death, and other catastrophic personal injury matters. Having learned the innerworkings of personal injury and wrongful death litigation from all angles, Ms. Corgi is dedicated to ensuring that her clients benefit from her years of experience defending the very actions she now pursues on their behalf.

Ms. Corgi is a member of the Florida Bar and is also admitted to practice in the U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida.