

MELVIN M. BELLI SOCIETY NAMES IRA LEESFIELD PRESIDENT

Miami litigator will lead international organization of trial attorneys.

MIAMI, FL – July 11, 2008 – The Melvin M. Belli Society, a charitable organization comprised of attorneys from around the world, announced today that Miami trial lawyer Ira H. Leesfield has been named its next president. Mr. Leesfield is the founder and managing partner of Leesfield & Partners, a Miami law firm specializing in cases involving personal injury and wrongful death.

“I have always regarded the Belli Society as one of the preeminent organizations in the legal profession. To think that I will now have the opportunity to leave my imprint on its storied history is both flattering and humbling. Without a doubt, this is one of the highpoints of my career,” said Mr. Leesfield.

Established in 1981 in honor of the so-called “King of Torts,” the Melvin M. Belli Society promotes the study of law through funding research, conducting lectures, seminars and moot courts and publishing legal articles. Since its founding, the organization’s members have convened around the world in an effort to establish relations with international bar associations in Israel, Poland, Cuba, and Jordan, among other nations.

“Throughout his career, Ira Leesfield has proven himself a tireless advocate for members of our society who would otherwise have no voice. His professionalism, passion for the law, and commitment to making a positive difference in his community all reflect the core principles of our organization. We are proud to name him our next president,” said Howard L. Nations, the Belli Society’s outgoing president.

In addition to the Belli Society, Mr. Leesfield has been involved in a number of professional and community organizations, including the American Bar Foundation, Anti-Defamation League, Miami Project for the Homeless, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and the Leesfield Family Foundation, which he founded to support groups that work to enrich and enhance the lives of the underprivileged throughout South Florida and the world. He is past president of the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers and has been serving as Senior Florida Governor of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America for

more than 20 years. He also served in the administrations of President Bill Clinton and Florida Governor Lawton Chiles.

Mr. Leesfield earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida and a Master of Laws degree from George Washington University.

About the Melvin M. Belli Society

The San Francisco, California-based Melvin M. Belli Society is dedicated to promoting the study of law through funding research, conducting lectures, seminars and moot courts and publishing legal articles. The organization was founded in 1981 and named after Melvin M. Belli, a prominent American trial lawyer. Today, the Belli Society includes several distinguished members of the bar and bench, including former California Chief Justice Rose Bird, James Ackerman, Harry Philo, Robert Cartwright, Ted Koskoff, Leonard Ring, Marvin E. Lewis, Sr., Phillip Corboy, Thomas Malone, Thomas Murray Jr., Dick Gerry, Dal Haralson and Lee Kreindler.

About Leesfield & Partners, P.A.

Founded in 1975 and currently celebrating three decades of legal service, Leesfield & Partners is widely regarded as one of Florida's premiere trial law firms. The practice specializes in cases involving serious personal injury, wrongful death, aviation, maritime, motor vehicle accidents, product and premises liability, negligent security, medical malpractice and nursing home litigation. The firm's headquarters are located at 2350 South Dixie Highway in Miami, with two satellite offices in Key West and Miami Beach. For information, call (305) 854-4900 or 1-800-836-6400, or visit www.leesfield.com.