

LEESFIELD LEIGHTON RUBIO & BOYERS

TRIAL LAWYERS

Petition '04

28 Years of Service to Florida & Out-Of-State Co-Counsel

Miami Key West Nationwide



Leesfield.com
800-836-6400



What Co-Counsel Are Saying

Miami Office:

2350 South Dixie Highway
Miami, Florida 33133
Telephone: 305/854-4900
Toll Free 800/836-6400
Facsimile: 305/854-8266
E-mail: Info@Leesfield.com

In Key West & Florida Keys:

615-1/2 Whitehead Street
Key West, Florida 33040
Toll Free 800/836-6400
E-mail: Info@Leesfield.com

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"In handling large personal injury cases that require assembling a team of attorneys, I have no hesitation co-counseling with the attorneys at the Leesfield firm. While all of the people that I have worked with at the firm have been extremely professional and immensely qualified, I have been equally impressed with their amazing accessibility. Effective teamwork requires seamless communication, and, in my experience, few work harder at that than the attorneys at the Leesfield firm."

Elwood T. Lippincott, Jr.
Coral Gables, FL



"It was a delight to work with John Leighton and his firm on a construction accident case tried for three

weeks in North Carolina. Without the resources the firm brought to the case, we never could have achieved such a good result. More importantly, I enjoyed working with John Leighton, whose talent, professionalism and trial skills are second to none. I learned a lot from him on the case and look forward to future co-counseling opportunities."

Edward "Woody" Connette
Charlotte, NC



"We have experience in referring a large number of cases to many lawyers throughout the country. Rob Boyers' manner with the clients, legal knowledge and ability, and his timely reporting of the status of the case to my office is among the best. He is certainly at the top of the class."

Jerry S. Parker, Parker & Waichman, LLP
Great Neck, NY



"It has been my privilege to refer numerous friends, family and clients to Ira Leesfield over the past 17 years. In every instance, Ira has treated the client and the case as if

it were the only file on his desk. His professionalism, thoroughness and concern have produced consistently superb results. He is not only one of the best lawyers I know, he is a mensch. Clients adore him. I trust and respect him."

Marc L. Breakstone
Boston, MA



I have enjoyed a relationship with the Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Boyers firm for over 15 years. During

that time I have been very impressed with the quality of representation and the excellent results that the firm has always obtained for my clients. My clients have also appreciated the honesty, forthrightness and high standard of ethics always demonstrated by the lawyers. I look forward to another 15 years of a very successful relationship with Maria Rubio and her firm.

William O. Allen
Miami, FL



"I have been most fortunate to work with the extremely professional firm of Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Boyers. I specialize in representing military families with their Federal Tort Claims against the government for serious personal injuries. The co-counsel relationship Ira Leesfield and John Leighton have developed with my firm has been marked by an ease of cooperation that promises to lead to success in the courtroom."

Peter R. Masciola
Washington, D.C.



"The Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Boyers firm is, by far, a premier litigation firm. The dedication to the clients is exemplary. The team of attorneys and staff is superior to the best of the best. I count myself fortunate to be associated with them."

Carl R. Edenhofer, Jr.
Salem, WI

What is Your Florida Connection?

WHETHER YOUR clients are in Miami, Minneapolis or Milan, Your Florida Connection combines the resources of co-counsel and our Florida offices to maximize litigation results in a timely and professional manner. Just ask **Gregory G. Jones**, a leading Texas trial lawyer and ATLA governor, who reports,

“The firm of Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Boyers has proven



Gregory G. Jones, TX

itself to be a premier trial firm with premier attorneys. Rarely have I seen a firm with the ability, strength, versatility, and, most importantly, with the heart, demonstrated by this firm. Their service to their clients, to the legal profession, to the public and to the civil justice system is unparalleled. I would not hesitate to entrust this firm with a referral and I have absolute trust in their ability, ethics and honesty.”

Closer to home, Jacksonville trial counsel and AFTL leader **William Harrell** adds the following regarding a recent Key West result. “I want to thank the attorneys at Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Boyers

for the outstanding job done on the ‘moped’ case



William Harrell, FL

I referred. Not only are ‘moped’ cases not well received by juries, but one could suggest that a substantial amount of fault rested on our client’s shoulders. I was kept fully informed during the case, and the resulting settlement immediately before trial substantially exceeded my expectations. Moreover, the case did not languish. It was completed within a year of my referral, and that type of timeliness is hard to come by with most firms.”

Miami lawyer **Roberto Villasante** commented: “Over the past twenty years, I have had the privilege and opportunity to be involved in numerous cases with Maria Rubio and Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Boyers, a firm that exemplifies professionalism, commitment and a thorough knowledge of the law. This is a firm which distinguishes itself for its aggressive and successful representation of injured clients.

I look forward to continuing our association for many years to come.”

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Your Florida Connection Surpasses \$100,000,000

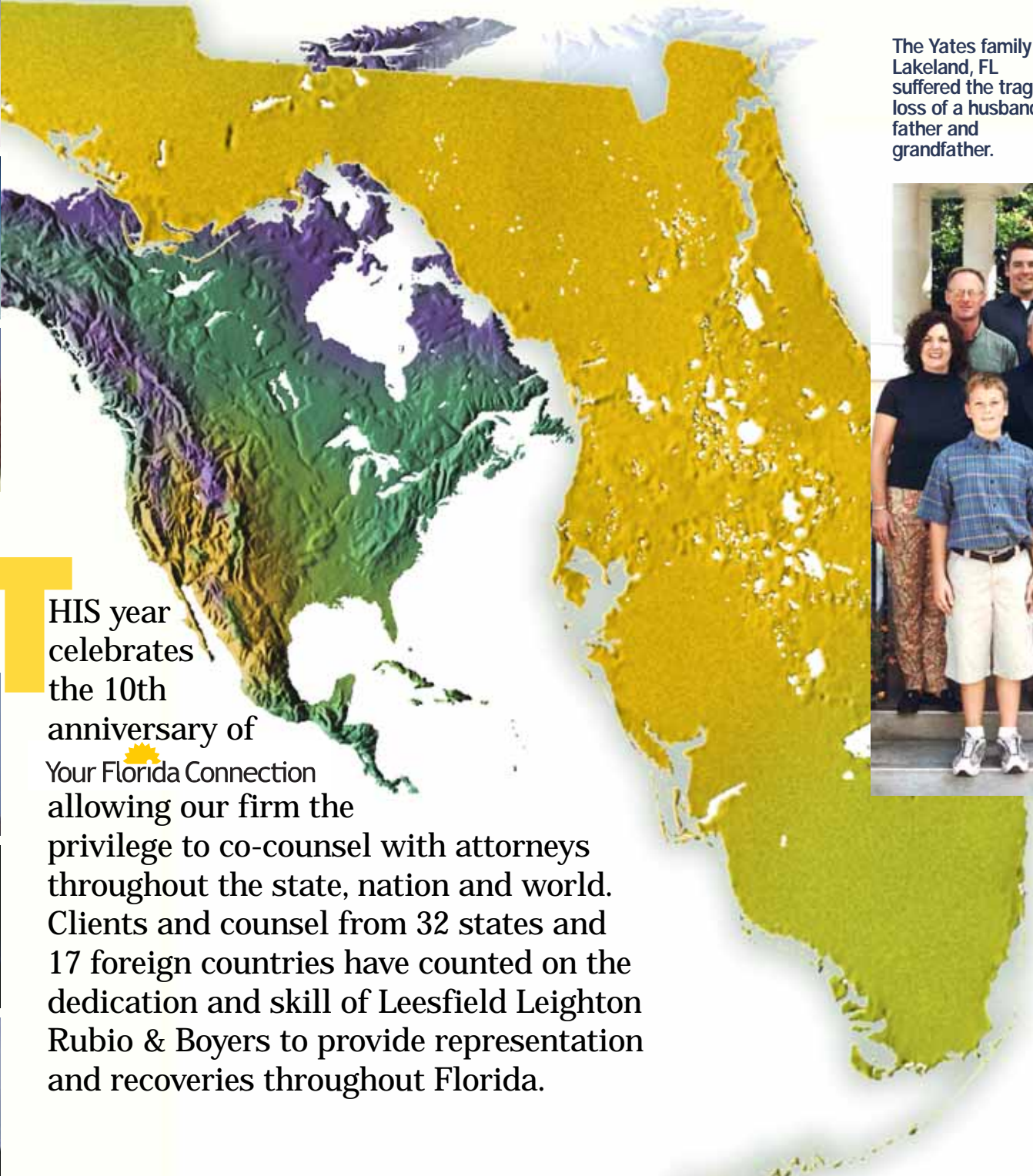
When the Florida offices of Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Boyers launched Your Florida Connection, the idea was to work with co-counsel from Florida and across the country towards the successful resolution of cases throughout our state.

Just recently, joined by New York co-counsel, paraplegic Delton Jordan resolved his claim against Suzuki Motor Corporation for massive injuries, bringing the results from Florida and out-of-state referrals over the \$100,000,000 mark.

This year, cases from Italy (\$3,225,000 award to an injured student), Tennessee (\$2,900,000 wrongful death award), and Tampa (\$1,350,000 wrongful death award), all contributed to client and co-counsel satisfaction and the continued success of Your Florida Connection.



28 Years of Protecting Florida Families



The Yates family of Lakeland, FL suffered the tragic loss of a husband, father and grandfather.



THIS year celebrates the 10th anniversary of Your Florida Connection allowing our firm the privilege to co-counsel with attorneys throughout the state, nation and world. Clients and counsel from 32 states and 17 foreign countries have counted on the dedication and skill of Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Boyers to provide representation and recoveries throughout Florida.

From the top: Ira Leesfield, John Elliott Leighton, Maria Rubio, Robert Boyers, Patricia Kennedy, Mark Sylvester, Thomas Scolaro

REMEMBERED FOREVER...

Tony Yates, husband of 38 years, father of four, grandfather of five, was wrongfully taken on May 6, 2003 by a reckless driver of a Ford Motor Credit Corporation leased vehicle. The family's **\$1,350,000** settlement will provide financial security and education for Tony's close-knit loved ones. He will always be



remembered, and the family gratefully acknowledges the efforts of Ira Leesfield who resolved this matter in less than a year.

BRAIN DAMAGED TEEN RECOVERS FROM GENERAL MOTORS

Just last month, Maria Rubio and Ira Leesfield brought financial securi-

ty to a young woman who was brain damaged when the seat-belt in her 1992 Saturn Coupe failed. The exhaustive efforts of our firm provided lifetime care for her and her infant child, who is also a plaintiff pursuant to Florida Statutes §768.0415. As always, special thanks to Patricia Kennedy for her tremendous support, and Seattle co-counsel James Rogers.

MOTOR VEHICLE VICTORIES

When Michael Couch parked his car on the side of the road, he had no idea his vehicle would be run over by a wayward car. Michael's injuries were well explained by Robert Boyers resulting in a **\$1,500,000** settlement. Soon thereafter, Derke Snodgrass was struck by a tractor trailer causing massive facial injuries. This time, Rob achieved a **\$1,180,000** settlement on the third day of trial in Key West.

Meanwhile, the Estate of Ariel Hernandez recovered **\$1,000,000** through the tenacious efforts of Maria Rubio. Mr. Hernandez was run over by a front-end loader with the defendants claiming a worker's comp immunity. After an appeal to the District Court of Appeal, *Hernandez v. United*

Contractors Corp., 766 So.2d 1249 (Fla. 3rd DCA 2000) and the Florida Supreme Court, *United Contractors Corp. vs. Hernandez*, 811 So.2d 670 (Fla. 2002), the plaintiffs finally had their day in court. Across the

state in Naples, Florida, John Leighton resolved the matter of the Estate of M.H. against ABC Trucking, obtaining a **\$500,000** award for the family of a 44-year-old wife and mother killed when a dump truck collided with the vehicle in which she was a passenger.

See web sites (page 6) for valuable motor vehicle litigation tips.

DISNEY DENIES... JURY DECIDES: \$660,000 VERDICT

John Leighton had to overcome a "universe of prejudice" against spilled coffee cases. However, the jury understood negligence when a server



spilled hot coffee on plaintiff's genitals causing severe burns. Disney's \$64,000 offer was met by a **\$660,000** verdict in Orange County, Florida. Congratulations to John!

NURSING HOME NEWS

Thomas Scolaro recently obtained a **\$375,000** settlement against a South Florida nursing home for the wrongful death of a 91-year-old woman. While under defendant's care, she developed a massive gangrenous infection which required amputation of her right leg. Tom's diligent work also brought about a **\$550,000** nursing home award on behalf of Emma Shockley in the Florida Keys.

PLAYGROUND/WORK SAFETY

When Krystia, age 5, suffered serious injuries to her left lower extremi-



Krystia...injured in playground accident

ty, the family attorney called Mark Sylvester whose year-long representation resulted in a **\$210,000** court approved award. At the same time, Mark assisted Maria Rubio in the representation of Mattie Lee Evans, whose arm was crushed by a printing press resulting in a **\$250,000** settlement.



Key West and the Florida Keys

Southernmost Office Hosts Cuban American Bar Association.



IN 1892, JOSE MARTI spoke from the balcony of the San Carlos Institute, just one block from the historic Key West offices of Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Boyers, built in 1883. Both landmark venues were used to host the Cuban American Bar Association annual retreat with educational and social events marking a highly successful weekend. Partner **Maria Rubio** reflected on the event, as follows: "This was a weekend of inspiration and historic significance, but also showed the tradition of enjoyment

and commitment furthering the goals of CABA."

100 Lawyers Join Conch Fritter Celebration

On February 6th, our firm joining the Monroe County Bar Association, hosted its annual seminar and conch fritter celebration with over 100 local lawyers and out-of-state visitors in attendance. Ira Leesfield spoke on the topic of "Making Your Personal Injury Practice Work: 10 Sure Fire Ways to Improve Your Firm's Productivity."



Rafael Peñalver, President of the San Carlos Institute, and Maria Rubio at our Key West Offices

Co-Counseling in Monroe County and Key West

This year, we were again privileged to serve as co-counsel in Key West and throughout Monroe County in resolving a number of important matters, including motor vehicle & nursing home injuries.

Weinstock v. Hertz RAC \$425,000
 Snodgrass v. ABC Corp. \$1,180,000
 Shockley v. Marathon Manor \$550,000

Sunset Cruise and "Old Havana" Evening for AFTL

On May 13, 2004, the firm hosted the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers to an evening of fun and relaxation, including a sunset cruise around the island, and an "Old Havana" celebration at the Key West offices.

According to Paul Jess, AFTL General Counsel, "this was a perfect evening for AFTL

camaraderie."

Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen Welcomed

Longtime friends and Key



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen welcomed in Key West

West residents, Jack and Terri Spottswood joined our firm in hosting a Key West welcome to

Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.



web sites that work

Automotive and Trucking Litigation Tips

Our firm, in protecting thousands of Florida families, has consistently used the following web sites to obtain valuable information in litigation and trial preparation. We are pleased to share this information with our readers. *See related articles pages 4-5.*

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Northwestern University Transportation Library
<http://www.library.northwestern.edu/transportation/>

Air Bag and Seat Belt Safety Campaign
<http://www.nsc.org/airbag.htm>

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
<http://www.hwysafety.org/>

Association of Transportation Safety Information Professionals
<http://www.atsip.org/>

Institute of Transportation Engineers
<http://www.ite.org/>

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety
<http://www.aaafoundation.org/home/>

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/links.htm>

American National Standards Institute
www.ansi.org

Report to the Community a tradition of sharing



LEESFIELD Leighton Rubio & Boyers and The Leesfield Family Foundation continue their tradition of community support. Our commitment includes the following contributions:

- Baptist Health Foundation/South Miami Hospital
- The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
- University of Miami Sylvester Cancer Center
- National Parkinson's Foundation
- La Liga Contra El Cancer
- AIDS Walk Miami
- March of Dimes
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Leesfield/ATLA Law Student Annual Scholarship
- Daniel S. Pearson Scholarship at the University of Miami School of Law
- Florida Association of Women Lawyers
- Nard S. Helman Scholarship Fund
- The Henderson Scholarship at the University of Alabama
- HPD - Harold Foster Memorial Scholarship at Nova Southeastern University
- Legal Services of Greater Miami
- Dade Human Rights Foundation
- Food for Life Network
- The Children's Home Society
- Greater Miami Jewish Federation
- Jewish Family Services
- Anti-Defamation League
- Congregation B'Nai Zion, Key West, FL
- Guardianship Program of Miami-Dade County for the Robert M. McClaskey, Jr. Memorial Fund
- South Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America
- The Zoological Society of Florida
- Humane Society of Dade County
- Pet Rescue, Inc.

Leesfield Family Foundation Funds Scholarship in Memory of Daniel S. Pearson



Ira Leesfield presenting the Foundation award to Professor Laurence Rose, Director of the Litigation Skills Program at The University of Miami School of Law

THIS YEAR, Ira Leesfield presented a Foundation award to



Dan Pearson

Professor **Laurence Rose**, Director of the Litigation Skills Program at The University of Miami School of Law to help establish a scholarship in memory of **Daniel S. Pearson**, noted trial attorney, former Third District Court of Appeal Judge and long-time Adjunct Professor at the University of Miami School of Law. The scholarship fund will be awarded to students in the Litigation Skills Program who demonstrate dedication to public service and a high standard of professionalism.

Service to the Profession

Over the past year, our firm continued its commitment to the advancement and preservation of the civil justice system in Florida and nationwide.

Ira Leesfield was appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Board of Trial Advocacy to serve for a term of three years. Earlier in the year, he was invited by the **Florida Supreme Court** as keynote speaker at the Justices Teaching Institute annually held in Tallahassee. Top educators from around the state convened at this conference for intensive study of the judicial system. The topic of his presentation was "Justice in the Law."

John Leighton was re-elected as co-Chairman of the Inadequate Security Litigation Group of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, as well as re-appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees of the National College of Advocacy/ATLA Education.

Maria Rubio was elected to the Board of Directors of the Cuban American Bar Association.

Robert Boyers was elected Secretary and Director of the Dade County Trial Lawyers Association, while serving as Director of The

Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers.

Mark Sylvester was elected to the Board of Directors of the Dade County Bar Association.

Hot Off The Press & Podium



Senator Hillary Clinton, returning from a fact-finding tour in Afghanistan and Iraq, visits the Leesfield home for a major South Florida event. Also appearing in photo, Ira Leesfield and Lt. Roberson Brown, Jr., City of Miami Police Department.

John Leighton published two articles of interest in *TRIAL* magazine entitled "Prepare for Trial, But Win at Settlement," Vol. 39, No. 6, June 2003 pp 26-28; and "A World of Words Comes to Court (Linguistic Minorities)," Vol. 38, No. 8 August 2002. John also authored "Apportionment of Fault in Inadequate Security Cases," *VICTIM ADVOCATE*, Vol. 4 No. 2, Fall 2003, pp. 3-6.

Ira Leesfield was the Chair at the *Jury Selection Seminar - Everything You Wanted to Know About Jury Selection* presented by the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers in Fort Lauderdale and Tampa, continues to back cover



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where **John Leighton** spoke on “Jury Selection - Negligent Security Fact Pattern – Plaintiff has a Criminal Record and Ethical Consideration,” and **Maria Rubio** presented “Jury Selection: Nursing Home – Clients Over Age 90 with Prior Incidents.”

Amazing Grace...

After 15 years, **Grace Seibold** continues to be the “welcoming voice” you first hear when calling our firm. Her cheerfulness, efficiency and warmth has prompted many clients and co-counsel to send complimentary notes and thanks for her graciousness. In every



Grace Seibold

way, Grace is a symbol of professionalism, courtesy and team spirit. Please join us in honoring Grace Seibold as “Employee of the Year.”

Of special note...

Our firm and friends wish to congratulate Robert and Amy Boyers as they celebrate the birth of their twins, Benjamin and Sasha, born on February 12th.

The screenshot shows the website's layout with several callout boxes pointing to specific content:

- Verdicts & Settlements**: Points to a section titled "Leesfield Leighton Rubio & Boyers again selected as one of Florida's Top 100 Law Firms."
- Firm Profile**: Points to the "Firm Profile" section, which describes the firm's international and statewide reputation.
- New LLRB Firm Video**: Points to a "Firm Video" section.
- Legal Research**: Points to a "Legal Research" section, described as a resource of key internet links and information.
- News and Information**: Points to a "News & Information" section, including a "Law Firm Ranking" for 2010.
- Attorney Biographies**: Points to the "Partners of the Firm" section, featuring photos and names of Ira H. Leesfield, John Elliott Leighton, Maria L. Rubio, and Robert B. Boyers.
- Practice Areas**: Points to the "Practice Areas" section, listing categories like Product Liability, Nursing Home Liability, and Aviation.
- Articles and Writings**: Points to the "Writings & Articles" section.
- Informative Speeches**: Points to the "Speeches" section.
- Firm Publications**: Points to the "Publications" section.
- Back Issues of Petition in PDF Format**: Points to a specific article or document.
- Medical Malpractice Research**: Points to a section on medical malpractice.

At the bottom of the screenshot, a text box reads: "Plus: Events, Restaurant & Entertainment Information for South Florida and the Florida Keys"