



# PANTER, PANTER & SAMPEDRO, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

[www.panterlaw.com](http://www.panterlaw.com)

# MISSION STATEMENT

Our firm remains true to its founding principles. We devote our professional practice to representing people injured due to the negligence of others.

Our firm has been located in the Panter Building since 1990. We offer our clients all of the advantages of an established firm which has achieved an exceptional reputation in the legal community. We are proud of our record and our tradition of honest, and effective advocacy.

Courtroom preparation is a tradition and a mark of our successful trial firm. In an effort to provide our clients with the most innovative tools of advocacy, we use state of the art exhibits which help juries understand even the most complex legal issues. Computer simulations recreating and analyzing accidents and medical cases are often presented to the jury so as to involve them in our clients' cases. Scale models prepared with detail and precision are often used to illustrate and involve the jury in understanding the key points in a case. Life size illustrations and anatomical models are also used in serious injury cases.

Our lawyers and staff are dedicated to ensuring that each case is clearly presented to opposing counsel and then to the jury. Panter, Panter & Sampedro's careful and thorough preparation has enabled us to achieve an outstanding record of success.

We are proud of the verdicts and settlements that we have achieved for our deserving clients. For example, we obtained a jury verdict of 7.7 million dollars in the case of *Alamo Rent-A-Car, Inc. v. Clay*, 586 So.2d 394 (Fla. 3rd DCA 1991). After the jury verdict, this case was appealed to the Florida Supreme Court which ultimately affirmed the jury verdict resulting in the defendant paying the families a total of \$9.6 million.

Panter, Panter & Sampedro litigated another case against Alamo through the trial level and obtained a verdict in the amount of \$3.2 million which was paid immediately.

To date, we have obtained many other verdicts, judgments and settlements in excess of one million dollars for our clients. This achievement places us among the state and national leaders in personal injury litigation.



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## WHO WE ARE

**B**rett Panter, the firm's founder, began his career as a trial lawyer in 1984. Mr. Panter obtained his first multimillion dollar verdict after practicing law for only five years. Mr. Panter is Board Certified as a Civil Trial Lawyer by the Florida Bar. His listing as an AV rated lawyer by Martindale-Hubbe reflects his prestigious reputation for his legal abilities and professional ethics among his peers in the legal profession.

After Mitchell Panter became a lawyer, he initially practiced as a civil defense lawyer. Shortly thereafter, he joined his brother, Brett, and formed the firm known as Panter &

Panter, P.A. Mitchell Panter along with Brett obtained a multimillion dollar verdict in a product liability case which was consequently argued in front of the Florida Supreme Court.

In 1996, David Sampedro joined the firm and was a dedicated associate for five years. In 2001, Mr. Sampedro became a partner and the firm's name changed to Panter, Panter & Sampedro. Mr. Sampedro was a member of the Law Review at Stetson University and authored a nationally published article related to personal injury. Mr. Sampedro has been recognized by his peers as a leader by being elected President of the Young Lawyers Section of the Dade County Bar Association.

Dr. Rudolph Moise is a well respected physician in the South Florida community. Dr. Moise recently became a lawyer

and has joined Panter, Panter & Sampedro in an of counsel capacity and serves as an advisor to the firm on complex medical issues relating to catastrophic injury claims.

Nurse Terry Moffa began working with Panter, Panter & Sampedro in 1997. Nurse Moffa provides research analysis and understanding of the most complex medical issues enabling the lawyers at Panter, Panter & Sampedro to clearly communicate the complexities of their cases to a jury at time of trial.



*Seated, right*– Brett Panter; *left*– Mitchell Panter. *Standing, left to right*– Teresa Moffa, R.N., CCRN-R; Dr. Rudolph Moise; David Sampedro

We have obtained jury verdicts, judgments, and settlements in excess of \$20 million in complex automobile litigation. These results prove that we are committed trial lawyers.



## COMPLEX AUTOMOBILE LITIGATION

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There are many complex issues that dedicated trial lawyers must confront in automobile litigation. Experts are called upon in the areas of accident reconstruction, crash worthiness, and seatbelts. Often other experts are called in to determine liability of other parties in addition to the drivers of the cars. Panter, Panter & Sampedro contacts the nation's leading experts who assist the jury in understanding the particulars of the car crash. These experts also determine who is responsible for the crash and what could have been done to prevent or minimize the likelihood of the serious injuries. Our firm has prepared court room models, demonstrations, medical illustrations, computer simulations, and other materials that often help a jury understand how and why an accident happened. Many times this meticulous preparation helps convince insurance carriers and corporate representatives that it is in their best interest to settle the claims prior to going to trial. However, Panter, Panter & Sampedro, a trial firm, always stands by their clients and seeks the highest level of preparation in these complex automobile cases. We have obtained jury verdicts, judgments, and settlements in excess of \$20 million in complex automobile litigation. These results prove that we are committed trial lawyers. We represented the families of three British sailors and obtained a verdict of \$7.7 million, which was appealed by Alamo Rent-A-Car to the Florida Supreme Court where the verdict was affirmed. Ultimately, the judgment was paid in the amount of \$9.6 million. We also represented a Haitian student, who was permanently injured, and obtained a \$3.2 million jury verdict against Alamo Rent-A-Car, helping him to pay his medical expenses and support his children in the future.

Panter, Panter & Sampedro finds the best experts. These experts have a great understanding of the defective product and have helped us obtain verdicts and settlements that have made a difference in the lives of our clients.



## PRODUCT LIABILITY

Product liability claims are often complex and require expertise and experience. This litigation is expensive and time-consuming and requires a detailed understanding of the particular product which is the subject of the litigation. Panter, Panter & Sampedro finds the best experts. These experts have a great understanding of the defective product and have helped us obtain verdicts and settlements that have made a difference in the lives of our clients. The experts with whom we have consulted come from a wide variety of fields and range from engineers who actually build and design products to experts in the field of product warning labels. The litigation in which we have been involved has resulted in products being made safer for consumers and workers. Our firm has diligently prepared scaled models for courtroom demonstrations. We have prepared medical illustrations and computer simulations so as to involve juries in understanding the defects in various products and particular dangers that have caused serious injuries to our clients. We have gone to such lengths as to recreate a scissor lift to the exact scale of an actual scissor lift used as a courtroom exhibit, demonstrating how and why we believed our client fell and destroyed his kneecaps. This case resulted in a \$1.7 million jury verdict which provided compensation to help this young working man pay his medical expenses and support himself in the future.

Premise liability and security litigation requires an expertise in engineering and an understanding of foreseeable risks and what is necessary to prevent these risks in places where the public is present.



## PREMISE LIABILITY / SECURITY LITIGATION

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From our firm's inception we have handled cases involving premise liability and security litigation. We believe that all individuals should be as safe and secure as reasonably possible and that shopping center owners and building owners have an obligation to make their premises reasonably safe and secure for all those who enter. Premise liability and security litigation often requires evaluation by experts on issues ranging from coefficient of friction for flooring to the level of police and security protection required in public places. Premise liability and security litigation requires an expertise in engineering and an understanding of foreseeable risks and whatever is necessary to prevent these risks in public places. Panter, Panter & Sampedro has handled cases ranging from major explosions to assaults and catastrophic injury claims at public and private swimming pools. Our firm has conducted detailed and thorough investigations to determine the cause of explosions and to determine the safety of swimming pools. Panter, Panter & Sampedro has dealt with catastrophic multimillion dollar claims involving explosions and diving accidents. Over the years, Panter, Panter & Sampedro has developed honest working relationships with experts and consultants in many areas related to human safety. We give our clients an extra effort in preparing, investigating, and understanding the details of premise and security claims. It is our preparation that has helped us achieve the track record of seeking justice for our clients in these and other cases.

We have recovered millions of dollars for our clients. Our work in the area of medical malpractice and nursing home litigation has resulted in many patients and nursing home residents receiving better care.



# MEDICAL MALPRACTICE / NURSING HOME LITIGATION

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**M**edical malpractice and nursing home litigation requires a particular and detailed understanding of many complex medical issues. Panter, Panter & Sampedro has handled medical malpractice matters involving obstetrics, urology, cardiology, ophthalmology, cardiac pathology, internal medicine, neurosurgery, oncology, geriatrics, as well as many other medical issues, and all matters involving nursing home litigation. Our success in the medical malpractice arena hinges around an extremely detailed medical analysis. Panter, Panter & Sampedro has a critical care nurse and a physician on staff to assist them in this most complex area of litigation. We believe in an extremely thorough review and analysis of every possible claim before we decide to proceed. We at Panter, Panter & Sampedro always remind our prospective clients that an unfortunate medical result does not always equate to a medical malpractice claim. Medical malpractice and nursing home litigation requires that we prove that the appropriate standards of care were violated and that those violations led to significant damages. We are very careful and selective about the cases we accept because we believe that it is important that every case handled by our firm is meritorious. Panter, Panter & Sampedro seeks out the most respected medical experts to explain to the jury in a clear and understandable manner what went wrong and if appropriate treatment had been provided, how the tragic medical mistake could have been avoided. As in all other areas of litigation, we use models, computer simulations, and real life anatomical illustrations to explain complex medical issues. We are proud of our representation of children, the elderly, and all other persons who did not receive the appropriate standard of medical care. We have recovered millions of dollars for our clients who have not received the appropriate standard of medical and nursing home care. Our work in the area of medical malpractice and nursing home litigation has resulted in many patients and nursing home residents receiving better care.

Our significant recoveries in the mass tort area have helped many families. Our work in this area has held many large corporations accountable to innocent individuals.



## MASS TORT LITIGATION / CLASS ACTIONS

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On occasion catastrophic injuries and accidents do not just happen to individuals, but affect an entire class of citizens or affect a mass group of individuals across the globe. Our attorneys, staff, and resources devoted to this division enable us to competently and zealously represent any group of individuals regardless of how large or catastrophic in nature. Panter, Panter & Sampedro has been involved in numerous mass tort litigation and class actions across the country in both state and federal court. These cases involve dangerous and defective products, pharmaceutical negligence, product liability, consumer fraud, and deceptive business practices. Mass tort and class action cases pose some of the most demanding challenges in modern litigation. Often, science and technology establish the foundation of how these cases are established. Our clients receive the benefit of our firm's experience with finding consultants in various areas which ultimately explain the complex cases in a concise and understandable manner. Panter, Panter & Sampedro is continuously investigating pharmaceutical drugs, medical devices, and other consumer products which may be responsible for serious injuries or death on a global scale.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

In addition to our hard work and dedication to our clients, we are proud of our contributions to the legal profession and our community. Our partners have served as presidents of the B'nai B'rith Bench and Bar, Board of Directors for the Dade County Bar Association, Dade County Trial Lawyers Association, South Miami Kendall Bar Association and numerous bar committees. Our attorneys are asked to speak extensively at trial seminars for paralegals, new graduates, and the most experienced trial attorneys. Our partners have also contributed to the Million Dollar Argument Series and our closing arguments can be found on nationally distributed educational audiotapes and educational Internet websites. Our partners also were founders of and are actively involved in the Pinecrest Business Association.

We are also proud of our charitable support. Panter, Panter & Sampedro hosts an annual holiday party each year contributing to causes such as Toys for Tots, Meals for the Homeless, Operation Esperanza, and other worthy programs.

Panter, Panter & Sampedro is proud of our outstanding reputation, which has been built around ethically, earnestly, and successfully helping clients in every imaginable type of personal injury case over the course of nearly two decades. Our cases and their results have had a positive impact on our society. Our cases have changed the way products are manufactured and the way roads and buildings are designed, built, and maintained. Our cases serve to improve the standard of health care that all patients, both young and old, receive and deserve.



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## **BRETT ALAN PANTER, ESQ.**

*BOARD CERTIFIED CIVIL TRIAL LAWYER*

BRETT A. PANTER is a Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer and primarily practices in the areas of personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, nursing home neglect, product liability, aviation litigation and premises liability. Along with David Sampedro, Mr. Panter founded the firm's mass tort and class action division. At age 30, Brett Panter was lead counsel in the case of Stark, West and Clay v. Alamo Rent-A-Car, wherein a jury rendered a \$7.7 million dollar verdict, which was upheld on appeal in Clay v. Alamo, 586 So.2d 394 (Fla. 3rd DCA 1991).

BRETT A. PANTER was born in Newark, New Jersey on April 29, 1959. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1984; U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida including Trial Bar; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Education: University of Michigan (B.A. 1981); University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark; University of Miami (J.D. 1984).

Member, Editorial Staff, Dade County Bar Bulletin, 1987-1989. Professor, Miami Dade Community College, Paralegal Studies, 1991-1992. Host, "Trial Talk" Television Show sponsored by Dade County Trial Lawyers; "Law Talk" Television Show sponsored by Dade County Bar Association. Member, Judicial Endorsements and Campaign Practices Committee, 1988-1989; Member, Dade County Bar Association (Chairman, Media Committee, 1988-1989; Member, Board of Directors); Member, Association of Trial Lawyers of America; President of B'nai B'rith Bench and Bar, 1995-1996; Member, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Advisory Committee, City College, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 1994-1996. Founder of Pinecrest Business Association 2000; Advisory Board, Metro Bank, 2000-2001; Member, Eugene Spellman Inns of Court; Board of Directors, Youth Crimewatch of America.

Lecturer, Association of Trial Lawyers of America; Lecturer, National Business Institute and Institute for Paralegal Education; Lecturer, Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers; Million Dollar Advocates Forum; Participant, Nationally Published Million Dollar Argument Series produced by Professional Techniques Library. Mr. Panter's Million Dollar Arguments can be seen online at educational web sites. Lectures given include: Paralegals and the Litigation Team in Florida; Winning Your Case Through Documentary Evidence; Winning Depositions and Discovery Techniques in Slip and Fall Cases; The Personal Injury Paralegal in Florida; A Practical and Legal Approach to Demonstrative Evidence; Winning Techniques in Handling Supermarket and Store Owner Liability Cases, Including Discovery and Proving Notice; Handling Medical Negligence Cases in Florida, Auto Negligence Cases, and many other topics.

Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers-Eagle Sponsor, contributing member of FLAGG. Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer, Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education.

Mr. Panter is an experienced pilot holding a Private Pilot Airplane Certificate since 1978; Commercial Airplane Single & Multi Engine Land Instrument Airplane Rating (1999). Pilot, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, 2000-2001; Member, Board of Directors for the Panair Flying Club.





## **MITCHELL J. PANTER, ESQ.**

*BOARD CERTIFIED CIVIL TRIAL LAWYER*

MITCHELL J. PANTER is a partner at the Law Firm of Panter, Panter & Sampedro, P.A. where he practices in the areas of personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice and nursing home neglect.

MITCHELL J. PANTER was born in Newark, New Jersey on February 6, 1962. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1986; obtained his B.A. Degree from the University of Michigan and his J.D. degree from the University of Miami. Mitchell

Panter also attended Wagner College in Bregenz, Austria with the Junior Year Abroad program.

Mitchell Panter is a Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer with the Florida Bar and National Board of Trial Advocacy. Mitchell Panter was a professor of paralegal studies at Miami Dade Community College and has lectured throughout the State of Florida on various topics in the area of Personal Injury and Wrongful Death. Mitchell Panter was actively involved in the Dade County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section where he was the High School Mock Trial Chairman for several years and for which he received the Attorney of the Year Award from the Florida Law Related Education Association in 1994.

Mitchell Panter is an active member of various legal and community groups including the South Miami Kendall Bar Association where he serves on the Board of Directors, B'nai B'rith Bench & Bar Association where he served as the President and the Pinecrest Business Association, where he currently serves as the Vice President of Government Affairs.

Mitchell Panter has presented arguments in several State and Federal Appellate Courts throughout the State of Florida including the Florida Supreme Court in the case of Perez v. American Aerial Lift which was a product liability case in which Panter & Panter successfully obtained a verdict in favor of Jose Perez for \$1.7 million.



## DAVID SAMPEDRO, ESQ.

DAVID SAMPEDRO is a partner at the Law Firm of Panter, Panter & Sampedro, P.A. where he practices primarily in the areas of personal injury, nursing home neglect, medical malpractice, pharmaceutical litigation, premises liability, and product liability. He founded the firm's mass tort and class action division along with Brett Panter. Prior to being admitted to the bar, David Sampedro authored a nationally published law review article interpreting the bystander rule as it applies in cases of negligent infliction of emotional distress.

The article, entitled *When Living as Husband and Wife Isn't Enough: Reevaluating Dillon's Close Relationship Test in Light of Dunphy v. Gregor*, can be found at XXV STET. L. REV. 1085 (1996). Mr. Sampedro is actively involved in many community related activities as well as the local bar. In recognition of his efforts, his peers elected Mr. Sampedro to serve as President of the Young Lawyers Section of the Dade County Bar Association, the fourth largest voluntary bar association in the United States.

DAVID SAMPEDRO was born in Bergenfield, New Jersey on June 25, 1970. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1995; 1995 U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida. Education: Florida State University (B.S. 1992); Stetson University College of Law (J.D. 1995, *cum laude*); Stetson Law Review.

Member, Dade County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section; Board of Directors, Young Lawyers Section, 1996-2004; Executive Board of the DCBA/YLS, 1999-2004; Secretary, 2001-2002; President Elect, 2001-2002; President, 2002-2003; Florida Academy of Trial Lawyers; Cuban American Bar Association; Florida Bar Speakers Bureau; South Miami/Kendall Bar Association; and Strathmore's Who's Who, 2000-2001 Edition; Lecturer, National Business Institute. Lectures given include: How to Successfully Make and Manage Objections at Trial in Florida; Conducting Interviews and Investigations for Paralegals; Medical Records for Florida Attorney; Document Gathering, Production, and Management for Litigation Paralegals in Florida and A Practical Refresher on Litigating the Florida Auto Injury Case.

Mr. Sampedro is also fluent in Spanish and has appeared as a guest on various television shows discussing an array of legal issues from nursing home abuse to legislative reform in the area of medical malpractice.



## **TERESA J. MOFFA, R.N., CCRN-R**

TERESA J. MOFFA is a Registered and Critical Care Certified Nurse who uses her varied experience to serve as a patient advocate while expanding her nursing career beyond the hospital setting. She joined Panter, Panter & Sampedro, P.A. as a Nurse reviewer in 1997.

Staff nurse cardiovascular-surgical, intensive care unit/coronary care unit, Broward General Medical Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL (1994 to 1997); Special Staffing Team member, responsible for providing staff replacement in all critical care units (ICU, SICU, CCU, CVICU, NICU, PICU, burn unit) as well as the Emergency Room, Pediatric Emergency Room, and Recovery Room, Tampa General Hospital, Tampa, FL (1992-1994); Staff nurse CVICU, Staff nurse CCU, Florida Medical Center, Lauderdale Lakes, FL (1989-1992); Staff nurse ICU/CCU, Charge nurse ICU/CCU, Humana Bennett Hospital, Plantation, FL (1989); Staff nurse ICU/CCU, Staff nurse Telemetry unit, Allentown Osteopathic Hospital, Allentown, PA (1986-1989).

Education: Delaware Community College, Stanton, DE (1983-1986); Cedar Crest College, Allentown, PA (1986-1989); Critical Care Classes, Allentown Osteopathic Hospital (1987); AACN Critical Care Certification, CCRN (1987); ACLS Certification (1989); AACN Critical Care Certification, CCRN-R (1999).



## **RUDOLPH MOISE, D.O., M.B.A., J.D.**

RUDOLPH MOISE is a Board Certified physician and an accomplished trial lawyer specializing in medical malpractice, nursing home neglect, personal injury, and wrongful death.

RUDOLPH MOISE was born September 22, 1954. Mr. Moise is fluent in French/Creole, English and Spanish, and a Leadership Miami Graduate, Class of 1988.

Education: U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, San Antonio, TX (Flight Surgeon, 1997); University of Miami School of Law, Miami, FL; (J.D., May 1997); University of Miami (M.B.A., 1994); Executive Health Care Program, University of Miami, (1985-1986); Internal Medicine, General Medicine Clinics, Jackson Memorial Hospital; Special Immunology, Short Term Medical, Miami, FL; Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, Chicago, IL, Rotating Internship (1981-1982); Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O., 1981); University of Illinois, Chicago Circle Campus, (BA, 1977).

Post Doctoral Courses: Board Certification in General Practice (1992); Clinical EMG and Nerve Conduction Studies (1987); Impairment Rating for Disability Evaluation; Diplomate, National Board of Osteopathic Examiners (1992).

Presentations given include: Special Presentation to 14 members of Haitian National Assembly Tallahassee, FL (1996); attended and participated in an international conference on the non-surgical treatment of back in Beijing, China (1980); Co-Host weekly TV program Haitian Mosaic (1985-1987); Haitian American Chamber of Commerce, helped remove Haitians from the AIDS risks list when medical research statistics showed erroneous placement of Haitians at risk (1984-1990).

Dade County Medical Association; American Medical Association; American Osteopathic Association; American College of General Practitioners in Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery; National Medical Association; Florida Osteopathic Medical Association; Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

1998 Winner Entrepreneurial Excellence Award, Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship; 1997 Black Business of the Year award, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; 1994 Up and Comers Award by Price Waterhouse; 1994 Bill Colson Community Award; May 1994 Man of the Year by the New Miami Group Inc.; October 1991 honored as one of Dade County's 10 top Black Businesses by the Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce.

Medical Licensure: August 5, 1982 Florida, 0S0004440; July, 1982 Illinois, 036-064724.



## JORGE LUIS MONTERO, ESQ.

*ASSOCIATE*

JORGE L. MONTERO is an associate at Panter, Panter & Sampedro P.A. concentrating on personal injury protection.

Jorge L. Montero was born in Havana, Cuba on August 22, 1975; fully bilingual; admitted to the Florida Bar in 2002. Education: Miami Dade Community College (A.A., 1995), Florida International University (B.A., English/Literature, 1997), University of Miami (J.D., 2000).

Founder of two undergraduate clubs at Florida International University: T.R.I.A.L.S. / The Respective Initiative for Applicants of Law Schools, an organization dedicated to the aid of undergraduates in their pursuit of a law degree, and H.A.U.S. / Habitat Assistance from Undergraduate Students, an organization dedicated to aiding Habitat for Humanity with undergraduate volunteer work.

Mr. Montero is a member of the Florida Bar, the Cuban American Bar Association, and a Committee Member for the Latin event of the White Party fundraiser for Care Resource, an agency dedicated to the aid of individuals with HIV and AIDS in South Florida.



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