

## Maria Miserendino

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**From:** rafael suarez rivas <rafaeleduardosuarezrivas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026 9:20 PM  
**To:** Maria Miserendino  
**Subject:** Letter of Interest (LOL) for Village of Wellington Special Magistrate for Code Compliance Hearings  
**Attachments:** We sent you safe versions of your files; RSR resume 2026 final.pdf

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March 17, 2026

**Maria Miserendino**

Procurement Agent | Village of Wellington  
12300 Forest Hill Boulevard | Wellington FL 33414  
561.791.4154 | [mmiserendino@wellingtonfl.gov](mailto:mmiserendino@wellingtonfl.gov)

Dear Ms. Miserendino:

Good morning. Please accept this email as my Letter of Interest (“LOL”) to serve the Village of Wellington as a Special Magistrate for Code Compliance Hearings. I have attached a copy of my resume for your information and records. I have served the Village before as one of your Magistrates and I found that undertaking to be very productive and hope that I served the Village faithfully, fairly, and efficiently. I have very occasionally served as a Special Magistrate for well over a dozen years. Among the matters I have presided over are Code Compliance , Bid Protest, and Red-Light Traffic Camera hearings. Additional references pertaining to my Magistrate Work would be Town of Golden Beach Assistant Town Manager Linda Epperson and City of North Miami Deputy City Attorney Jennifer Warren. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to write me and I will respond via email. I look forward to the prospect of again being of service to the Village of Wellington. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Rafael Suarez-Rivas

# **RAFAEL E. SUAREZ-RIVAS, ESQ., BCS**

(786) 368-6797

SUAREZRIVASR@BELLSOUTH.NET

## **EDUCATION**

Nova Southeastern University Law Center, Juris Doctor, 1979

University of Miami, Bachelor of Arts, 1976

## **AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE**

### **Florida Bar Board Certified – City, County, and Local Government Law since 1996**

Land Use/Real Estate Law and Litigation: Responsible for providing counsel services to various Planning, Zoning and Appeals and Historic Preservation Boards. Managed over one hundred quasi-judicial hearings, land use appeals, issued hundreds of memos on land use law. Have written, reviewed and/or revised Comprehensive Plan(s), Zoning Code, and Historic preservation Code Amendments, among various related duties.

Procurement Law and Litigation: Oversaw over ten (10) bid protests as a hearing officer and defended over fifteen (15) bid protests on behalf of various Procurement Departments. Have written, reviewed and/or revised more than 25 Procurement Code amendments, regulations, and have provided various opinions on different cases presented. Provided counsel to various Procurement /Purchasing Departments as their primary counsel. Met one-on-one with the Procurement Contracting Officers to discuss and review various Solicitations prior to issuance, as well as reviewing contracts before final execution. Reviewed contracts submitted by the opposing parties for legality. Issued opinions on said contracts.

General Municipal Law – Responsible for reviewing Public Works and Capital Improvement Contracts, provided opinions on cases, among various related duties. Prepared, revised and/or reviewed memos and legislation on Sunshine and Public Records Laws, Community Redevelopment Act, Code Enforcement, Ethics and Conflicts of Interest, Home Rule Powers, duties and powers of officials and officers, and various other topics.

## **LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

### **City of Hialeah, Florida**

City Attorney, City of Hialeah, 2023-2026

### **Miami Dade County, Florida**

Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator, Procurement Division, Miami-Dade County, 2022-2023.

### **City of Miami, Florida**

Chief Policy and Legislative Advisor, Office of Miami City Commissioner Manolo Reyes, 2020-22.

Chief Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office 2018-19.

Senior Assistant City Attorney, Division Chief, Land Use/Transactional Division, City of Miami, City Attorney's Office, 2013-2018.

Assistant City Attorney, City of Miami City Attorney's Office, 1985-89, 2002-12.

### **City of Hollywood, Florida**

Senior Assistant City Attorney, 1999-2002.

### **City of Boca Raton, Florida**

Special Counsel, 1999.

### **Broward County, Florida**

Assistant County Attorney, 1992-98.

### **Katz, Kutter, Haigler & Alderman, Ft. Laud., Florida**

Associate Attorney, 1991-92.

### **City of Miramar, Florida**

City Attorney, 1989-91.

**City of Miami Beach, Florida**  
Assistant City Attorney, 1982-85.

**Britton, Cohen, Kauffman, Benson, & Schantz, Florida**  
Associate Attorney, 1980-82.

## CONCURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Special Magistrate/ Hearing Officer Assignments:  
Town of Medley, Hearing Officer, 2020- 22.  
Village of Wellington, Hearing Officer, 2013-21.  
Village of Bal Harbour, Florida: Hearing Officer, 2012-16.  
Town of Golden Beach, Florida: Hearing Officer, 2009 – Present.  
City of Sunny Isles Beach, Florida: Hearing Officer, 2009 – 2022.  
Town of Pembroke Park, Hearing Officer, 2021-22.  
City of North Miami, Hearing Officer, 2013-14,2021-Present.(Alternate for evening hearings).  
City of South Miami, Hearing Officer, 2020-22.  
Broward County, Florida: Hearing Officer, 2003-07, 2017-2022.

## ACTIVITIES & RECOGNITIONS

AV Rated, Competence and Ethics, *Martindale-Hubbell*  
*Florida Trend Legal Elite*: Top Government Attorney, 2010  
Cuban American Bar Association: Mentoring and Judicial Committees, 2005-08  
Lorman Educational Systems: Lecturer in areas of Procurement, Public Records and Sunshine Law, 2001-07, 2013-14  
*Florida Bar Journal* Editorial Board: Deborah M. Smoot Memorial Editor's Award, 1998  
*The Public Lawyer*: Board of Editors, 1994-95  
Panelist on Procurement Law, Florida Municipal Attorney's Association 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on Local Government Law, 2023  
  
Florida International University, Florida: Adjunct Professor, 1994-97.  
The Florida Bar: City, County, and Local Government Law Section Executive Council, 1992-94; City, County, and Local Government Law Certification Committee ,1999-2003. 2013-14.  
Dade County Bar Association: Editor in Chief, *Court Handbook for Dade County Lawyers*, 1990  
*Florida Bar Journal*: Editorial Board Member, 1989-2002, 2005-08  
*Dade County Bar Bulletin*: Co-Editor, 1987-88  
*Stetson Law Review Local Government Law Symposium*, Editorial Board Member ,1987-1993  
Co-Author, *The Bert J. Harris, Jr., Private Property Rights Protection Act: An Overview*, *Florida Bar Journal*, 2015  
Co-Author, *Bid Protests Under the Administrative Procedure Act*, *Florida Bar Journal*, 2018  
Co-Author, *The Foreclosure of Local Special Assessment Liens*, *Florida Bar Journal*, 2021

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Florida Bar Association

## REFERENCES

Alejandro Vilarello, Esq., Miami Lakes, Florida, former City of Hialeah and City of Miami City Attorney  
Iris V. Escarra, Esq., Greenberg Traurig, Miami, Florida  
Glenn Marcos, Chief Procurement Officer, City of Ft. Lauderdale, FL.  
Victoria Méndez, Esq., Shutts and Bowen, Miami, FL., former City of Miami City Attorney  
Esteban Bovo, former Mayor of Hialeah, FL, c/o Steve@corcoranpartners.com

## WRITING SAMPLES

Available upon request.

# MEMBER PROFILE

## Rafael Suarez-Rivas

Member in Good Standing

Eligible to Practice Law in Florida

**Bar Number:** 293881

**Mail Address:** Rafael Suarez-Rivas  
4766 Alton Rd  
Miami Beach, FL 33140-2809  
Office: **786-368-6797**  
Cell: **786-368-6797** - No Text  
Messages



**Email:** [rsuarezrivas@hialeahfl.gov](mailto:rsuarezrivas@hialeahfl.gov)

**Personal Bar URL:** <https://www.floridabar.org/mybarprofile/293881>

**vCard:** 

**County:** Miami-Dade

**Circuit:** 11

**Admitted:** 04/04/1980

**10-Year Discipline History:** None

**Law School:** Nova Southeastern University - Shepard Broad College of Law

<b>Board Certifications:</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Year</b>
	City, County and Local Government Law	1996

**Sections:** City, County & Local Govt Law

**Firm:** Rafael Suarez-Rivas

**Firm Size:** 1

**Firm Position:** Government attorney

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