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**GABLES GREAT**

**Robert L. Parks noted attorney, civic leader**

BY GLORIA BURNS

Renowned Coral Gables attorney, civic leader and environmentalist, Robert L. Parks encompasses all.

Born in Nassau in 1938, he graduated from Miami High in 1956. After completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Florida, he went on to graduate from Georgetown University School of Law in 1963.



ROBERT L. PARKS

A nationally recognized trial attorney with more than 45 years of experience, Parks opened his law office in Coral Gables in 2007. Before that open-

**PARKS, from page 1**

ing, he was with Podhurst, Orseck & Parks and then Haggard & Parks.

Parks has been named one of the "Best Lawyers of America" and has been listed consecutively since its inception in 1983. Selected for the 2008 and 2009 Florida Super Lawyers listing, Parks has been named "Top Lawyer" in the *South Florida Legal Guide* since 2003.

Having distinguished himself by working on such cases as liability suits against General Motors, McDonnell Aircraft and large pharmaceutical companies as well as serving as Florida Counsel in antitrust class action against Microsoft, his community and environmental work are equally impressive.

A past president of the Dade County Bar, he is a former member of the Florida Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission, past president of the Florida Bar Young Lawyers and a member of the Board of Governors of the Florida Bar for six years.

During the past two decades, Parks has served for three governors in leading efforts to restore the Miami River, which led to serving as first chair of the Miami River Commission in 1998. Under Governor Bob Graham, Parks chaired the state's Environmental Regulation

Commission for eight years, after which, he was named the National Audubon Society's "Environmentalist of the Year."

An original member of 1,000 Friends of Florida, Parks served as its litigation chair for 13 years and currently serves on the board of directors of the Everglades Foundation. He is an appointee to the Governor's Commission on Property Rights; serves as vice chair on the Board of Visitors for the National Judicial College; is on the Dean's Advisory Board for Florida International University's College of Law; is on the board of the Historical Association of South Florida, and now co-chairs the Fundraising Committee for Legal Services of Greater Miami Inc.

Parks is past president of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. An original appointee by the Florida Bar to the Florida Supreme Court Commission of Professionalism, he chaired the American Bar Association's Forum on Air and Space Law. Parks is a member of the Lawyer Pilots Bar Association, International Society of Air Safety Investigators, and co-authored two chapters in Kreindler's *Aviation Accident Law* for Matthew Bender & Company Inc., on "Military Accidents" and "Air Traffic Control Negligence."

Married to Lyn Parks, Robert Parks has five grown children and seven grandchildren.

See **PARKS**, page 6