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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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12 to Watch in 2012



TWELVE TO WATCH IN 2012

Ervin Gonzalez

Colson Hicks Eidson



Ervin Gonzalez is a trial lawyer through and through. A board certified specialist in Civil Trial Law and Business Litigation, Gonzalez has earned a reputation as one of the leading trial attorneys in Florida. A partner at Colson Hicks Eidson, Gonzalez has more than 25 years of experience in commercial litigation. He has obtained 28 verdicts in excess of \$1 million, including a \$65.1 million verdict in a wrongful death case and a \$61 million award in a medical malpractice case.

Throughout his career, Gonzalez has thrived in the courtroom, with many of his verdicts rated among the top verdicts nationwide and in Florida. His reputation has earned him scores of recognitions from publications such as *Best Lawyers in America* and *Chambers and Partners*. He focuses his practice primarily on serious personal injury and wrongful death, product liability, medical negligence, class action and mass tort, commercial litigation, faulty construction and toxic torts.

2011 marked a major year for Gonzalez as he serves on two national Plaintiff Steering Committees. Federal Judge Carl Barbier of the Eastern District of Louisiana selected Gonzalez among 300 highly qualified applicants to sit on the PSC in the multi-district litigation surrounding the Deepwater Horizon BP oil spill. Additionally,

he was selected by Federal Judge Eldon Fallon to serve on the 15 member PSC for the Chinese Drywall multi-district litigation, representing hundreds of homeowners who were victims of high-sulfur Chinese Drywall linked to odor and metal corrosion in new home construction. He is also the co-lead counsel and liaison counsel for the Plaintiffs, representing about 400 homeowners, in the 11th Circuit, in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida. Gonzalez was also selected the first in the country to try a Chinese Drywall jury case resulting in a \$2.4 million verdict which was instrumental in achieving a \$55 million Florida class action settlement with Banner Supply Company.

Active in the legal community, Gonzalez has held numerous leadership roles. He is a former Governor of The Florida Bar, a former member of the National Board of Trustees of The National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). He is past president of The Dade County Bar Association and past president of the Dade County Trial Lawyers Association. He is a former member of the Florida Supreme Court Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee and served as a member and subcommittee chairman of the Florida Bar's Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure. Additionally, Gonzalez has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Miami School of Law for the past 20 years teaching litigation and trial skills.

For Gonzalez, the thrill of the courtroom is an extension of his passion for clients and is evidenced in the motto he lives by - "to strive to be the lawyer I would want if I needed a lawyer." He is passionate about his practice and aims to bring about positive change for his clients and community through responsible litigation. This passion has made Gonzalez a sought-after and well-recognized litigator.

With the BP oil spill litigation set to begin and thousands of Chinese Drywall cases continuing to play out, Gonzalez is definitely one to watch in 2012.

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