



## ATTORNEYS TO WATCH IN 2013

# Mariano Garcia

*Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A.*



**"T**he 'American Dream' is very much alive today," said Mariano Garcia, bilingual lawyer at Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A. "Working with the finest lawyers in the country, I have found my calling – dedication of my practice to helping Latinos on the path to a better life in America."

An Argentine immigrant, Garcia and his family moved to New York in pursuit of a better life when he was eight years old. Unable to speak any English, Garcia was sent to a public school in New York where he found it incredibly difficult to communicate with his teachers and classmates due to the language barrier. Like many of his clients today, he quickly adapted to his environment and spent hours watching Saturday morning television cartoons, including endless reruns of "Schoolhouse Rock". He learned key words and assimilated into his new life and country. Just as his own parents did, his clients come to this country for a better opportunity for themselves and their children.

Garcia represents clients in personal injury and commercial litigation matters in state and federal courts and has spent the past ten years dedicated to his long-standing commitment to representation of Latinos. "I joined Searcy Denney in 2011 because the firm recognized growth of the Latino population in Florida," noted Garcia. "In my practice, I capitalize on my command of the Spanish language,

understanding of the culture and skills to help the Latino community," said Garcia.

In 2012, Garcia successfully tried several personal injury cases. In one case, Garcia represented the family of a Puerto Rican mother of three who died tragically when she was run over by a truck while crossing a street. A Kissimmee jury returned a verdict awarding \$1.85 million in damages to the surviving children. In another case in West Palm Beach, Garcia represented a Mexican man who suffered a traumatic brain injury when he fell off a roof at a construction site. The jury's verdict was \$3.25 million.

Garcia was also instrumental in launching the law firm's entirely Spanish language website [www.AbogadosParaServirle.com](http://www.AbogadosParaServirle.com) ("Lawyers at your service") complete with blogs, videos and associated Facebook and Twitter accounts. "My mission at the firm is to increase our presence in the Latino community. By providing information about their legal rights in their own language, we have seen increased interest in our firm," noted Garcia.

Intent on his desire to give back, Garcia also serves in a leadership capacity for many organizations. He served for three years as President of the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County and now serves on its Board of Trustees. He is also a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and is on the Executive Committee of the Palm Beach Chapter. Garcia also sits on the Board of the Forum Club and is the current Chairman of the Palm Beach County Judicial Nomination Commission. However, he is most proud of his work as treasurer for "Jack the Bike Man". It is a charity that collects used bikes, fixes them, and gives them away during the holidays, along with helmets, to needy kids, most of whom are children of immigrants. As of this writing, the charity's goal is to give away a record 1,000 bikes!

Outside of work, Garcia and his wife live vicariously through their son and daughter, a budding rock n' roll guitarist and classical pianist respectively. Garcia also has a long-standing infatuation with cars, rooted in his childhood experience working with his father, a mechanic, at his automobile repair shop. Together with his father, they belong to the Sports Car Club of America. Many weekends, Garcia can be found at the race track in West Palm Beach, Homestead, Daytona or Sebring.

Only in America!

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