

Jorge Luis Lopez, Esq., B.A. International Business '83, M.B.A. International Business '84, Principal at Jorge Luis Lopez Law Firm



Jorge Luis Lopez, Esq., established his own law practice in 1987 and is a principal at Jorge Luis Lopez Law Firm. He represents the interests of private and public sector clients before federal, state, and local governments as a Government Relations Specialist, advising them on the development and response to government regulations, procurement cycles, land use, zoning and redistricting. He has also represented numerous Florida 100 and Fortune 500 companies. Mr. Lopez is considered an expert in political campaigns and elections, serving as a commentator for several news outlets including CNN, Univision Channel 23, *The Miami Herald*, *Miami Today*, WQBA Radio, and Radio Caracol.

Mr. Lopez has been recognized as one of the top lawyers in the *South Florida Legal Guide* since 2006; and has been honored by his peers as a *Super Lawyer* since 2006, as well as a *Legal Elite* and *Best Lawyers in America*. Mr. Lopez is also a Ronald McDonald House Charities' Twelve Good Men honoree and an Association of Fundraising Professionals' James W. McLamore outstanding volunteer award recipient. Mr. Lopez has solidified a reputation for philanthropic work in the community, serving on various boards of charitable and faith-based not-for-profit organizations for more than 20 years.

Jorge Luis Lopez graduated from St. Thomas University with a Bachelors of Arts in International Business in 1983 and a Masters of Business Administration in International Business in 1984. He holds his Juris Doctor from the University of Miami School of Law.

1. You serve on the boards of the Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs Counsel and the American Red Cross of Greater Miami & Keys, and have been involved with numerous charities and not-for-profit organizations in the community for more than 20 years. Why is "giving back" so important to you?

Our Catholic faith guides my family and me; it is our foundation and in turn calls us to give back. I learned from those principals taught to me at an early age and I continue to live by these teachings daily.

2. What are a few resources you would recommend to someone looking to volunteer in their community?

Be true to your beliefs. Support a cause that is intrinsic to your principals, and maintain a strong sense of principles and values that should drive any and all philanthropic decisions.

3. Can you name a person who has had a tremendous impact on you as a professional and philanthropist? Why and how did this person impact your life?

I have had the honor of working with many great men & women throughout my professional career. Senator Claude Pepper, Senator Bob Dole and Joe Klock were all great mentors and friends. As a philanthropist, my dear friend Ruth Shack has been a pillar in the Miami-Dade community for decades. Her tireless work is inspiring.

4. What did you learn at STU that is helping you in your career and life as a leader in your community?

My Catholic faith plays a leading role in all the daily decisions I make. The leadership skills I developed at STU have served as guiding principles leading me to share my blessings amongst our community. St. Thomas University maintains a pivotal presence in my on-going professional and philanthropic endeavors. The leadership education I obtained as a young man has been the groundwork for my successful business and community partnerships.

5. If you could go back in time, what advice would you give yourself after graduating from college?

I would tell my young self, never to derail from your faith; the world will test you and place many obstacles in your path but it will be your faith that will give you the strength to succeed, and defeat any interference throughout your life's journey.

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