

## Five Attorneys Join Shutts & Bowen

2.7.17

Shutts & Bowen LLP is pleased to announce the addition of five new attorneys to the firm. These new hires bring a diverse range of legal experience to support our more than 30 practice areas. With approximately 260 attorneys throughout the state of Florida, Shutts & Bowen is proud of hiring attorneys that exemplify the firm's century of leadership and service.

Rafael A. Aguilar is a partner in the [Miami](#) office of Shutts & Bowen, where he is a member of the [Real Estate Practice Group](#). Rafael brings more than 20 years of experience representing real estate developers, home builders, financial institutions, private equity funds, and other investors in sophisticated commercial transactions throughout the United States and Latin America, with an emphasis on acquisitions and dispositions, joint ventures and financings.

[J. Thomas Cookson](#) is a partner in the [Miami](#) office of Shutts & Bowen LLP, where he is a member of the [Corporate Practice Group](#). A Martindale-Hubbell AV®-rated attorney, has more than 30 years of experience structuring and negotiating complex business transactions, mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, recapitalizations, debt and equity financings, and securities offerings.

Renatha Francis is an attorney in the [Miami](#) office of Shutts & Bowen LLP, where she is a member of the [Class Action and Mass Litigation Practice Group](#). Renatha primarily represents insurance providers in personal injury protection litigation matters, specializing in the interpretation and application of automobile insurance policies.

Kristin Drecktrah Paz is an attorney in the [Miami](#) office of Shutts & Bowen, where she is a member of the [International Arbitration and Litigation Practice Group](#). Kristin has experience representing individuals, companies and sovereign states in their disputes in U.S. courts and before international and domestic arbitral tribunals in a wide range of industries.

Colleen L. Smeryage is an attorney in the [West Palm Beach](#) of Shutts & Bowen, where she is a member of the [Business Litigation Practice Group](#). Colleen focuses her practice on commercial litigation, including insurance coverage and healthcare litigation matters.

### About Shutts & Bowen LLP

Shutts & Bowen, established in 1910, is a full-service business law firm with more than 260 lawyers in offices in Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, Orlando, Sarasota, Tallahassee, Tampa, and West Palm Beach. Learn more about Shutts & Bowen at [www.shutts.com](http://www.shutts.com).

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### Professionals

J. Thomas Cookson

### Practice Areas

Class Action

Corporate

International Litigation and Arbitration

Litigation

Real Estate