**INAUGURAL DOWNTOWN/BRICKELL EDUCATION FORUM**

**Panel Discussion: The Future of Education in Greater Miami: Challenges & Opportunities**

**Moderated by Michael Gongora, Shareholder, Becker & Poliakoff, P.A.**

Panel Discussion Issues to Address

* Urban Core Public School Feeder Pattern Strengthening
* More educational assets to meet the anticipated need from new development growth
* Sustained excellence in all Urban Core educational institutions

**Guiding Questions**

*Scenario Question:*

Imagine yourself as one of the more than 8,000 families with children living in the Greater Miami. You are the proud parent of an 11 year old daughter who lives in the Downtown/Brickell area. Your child is an average to below average student with special needs issues who is preparing to leave Southside Elementary School for middle school. After reviewing all the educational options available to you and your family as residents of the Urban Core, where would you send your child to school?

In an effort to help strengthen the Urban Core feeder pattern, recently the Southside Elementary PTA submitted an application to MDCPS for consideration of expanding Southside Elementary School into a K-8 center. Are you for or against such a proposal, and why?

How do we strengthen (now, midterm, and long term) the Urban Core feeder pattern to assure comparable excellence throughout?

The population of Greater Miami doubled between 2000 and 2014, from 41,466 to 80,750. As a result there were 12,114 people ages 0-19 in 2014, an increase of 28% since 2010. With a large number of new housing units under development in the Urban Core what additional education assets, if any, will be necessary to meet the increased demand?

How will projects like the recent land swap between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Miami-Dade County, and other proposed or currently under development charter/private school projects help meet the educational needs of the expanding Urban Core community without negatively impacting current educational assets?

Educating students in the Urban Core comes with its own special challenges including facilities limitations and an inability to offer certain curriculum and/or activities. How do we provide a full educational experience for our students in the Urban Core?

Would you and/or your organization commit today to working with other community stakeholders towards achieving an Urban Core feeder pattern with schools rating no lower than a “B” by 2020? Furthermore will you commit to signing on to an inter-local agreement in which you and/or your organization will pledge to work with stakeholders to sustain the new standard of excellence through 2030?