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RealEstateFlorida

A Real Estate Media Publication

February/March 2008

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Shari Olefson

Partner

*Arnstein & Lehr LLP,
Ft. Lauderdale*

Background: Law degrees from the University of Miami and Yeshiva University

Practice areas: Real estate and business development and

transactional law

Notable transaction: Currently serving as lead counsel transactional and development on a 600-hectar, \$250-million acquisition and community development in Costa Rica

Major clients: U.S. and foreign lenders, developers and businesses in a variety of industries including health care, education and tobacco

On market conditions: The family residence remains a backbone of our American economy and remains the most valuable asset for those who have achieved a financial foothold. Ironically, ours is the only society in the world defining a shared dream in terms of homeownership while systematically allowing that dream to be taken away. Foreclosure is becoming accepted as the American way of life.