



PAULA *Lozano* & *Heather* DeGRAVE

The climate for women in the law is changing, and two local litigators have led the way by establishing successful track records in areas of the law that historically were the purview of male attorneys. Recognized for their capabilities at the law firm of Walters Levine & Lozano, Paula Lozano and Heather DeGrave have breached the glass ceiling as two of the relative few women in top leadership positions in U.S. law firms.

Lozano has 17 years of experience in medical malpractice and nursing home defense. Early in her practice, she often was the lone woman on the playing field. Over the years, she built a book of business throughout central Florida and has expanded her practice south since joining Walters Levine & Lozano in 2016. Knowing that bad outcomes don't always mean bad medicine, Lozano is a litigator and trial attorney who encourages clients to ensure policies, procedures and

safe practices are in place to minimize mistakes. She often provides in-service education and speaks about medical-legal malpractice at seminars in Florida. Super Lawyers magazine recognized Lozano as a Rising Star for five years.

DeGrave is a civil litigator and Co-Managing Shareholder with 14 years at the firm. She focuses on business and construction litigation, including lien and bond litigation and contract enforcement. Fierce in the courtroom, DeGrave also knows that testifying may be intimidating even for strong and confident business people. She understands that, at heart, people want their stories to be heard and sees her role as helping to translate those stories into legally effective arguments for the court. DeGrave is active professionally with the National Association of Women in Construction and served as President of the Tampa chapter.