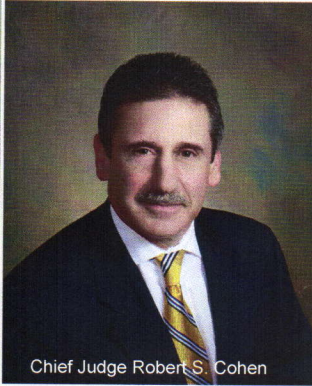


**KEY TO SUCCESS** 

Chief Judge Robert S. Cohen

by Marisol Marin

Education is the key to success. It is important to stay abreast of current developments and trends in the law and to assure that our client continues to receive quality legal advice.

The Miami-Dade School Board Attorney's Office continues to inform District staff on important legal issues that affect the District as a whole. Since the District handles a significant number of due process cases involving personnel, ESE, and bid protests in front of the Department of Administrative Hearing ("DOAH"), on July 28, 2011, the School Board Attorney's Office invited DOAH Chief Judge Robert S. Cohen to Miami to address the Board attorneys and District staff.

**JUDGE COHEN'S BACKGROUND**

Chief Judge Cohen was born in Orlando, Florida. He graduated from

Brandeis University in 1979 with a B.A. *cum laude* in American Studies. In 1981 Chief Judge Cohen received his law degree from Florida State University. While at Florida State, he wrote for the *Law Review*. Before his appointment as judge, Chief Judge Cohen spent more than 20 years in private practice. He was appointed by the Governor and Cabinet in October 2003 as Chief of DOAH. He has served as Past-President of the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary, and serves as Treasurer of the National Association of Workers' Compensation Judiciary, as well as on boards of numerous community and legal organizations.

**PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS**

The presentation given by the Judge provided valuable insight into DOAH's operation. He first gave a brief history of DOAH, its organizational and geographic structure, and "the do's and don'ts" of DOAH's many administrative law judges. He was approachable and encouraged the attorneys to call him with any questions concerning DOAH

Judges, filing requirements, rulings, and other judicial concerns. After the presentation, the Judge answered questions. The presentation was approved by the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) of the Florida Bar. A copy of Judge Cohen's presentation outline can be found on the Board Attorney's website.

**HONORED GUESTS**

Among our guests were the Broward and Palm Beach School Board Attorney's Offices. Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools, also stopped by to meet the Chief Judge.

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

for information on the Miami Dade School Board Attorney's Office log on to:  
[attorneys.dadeschools.net](http://attorneys.dadeschools.net)

*An organization's ability to learn, and translate that learning into action rapidly, is the ultimate competitive advantage.*

*Jack Welch*

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PRESENTATION BY CHIEF JUDGE ROBERT S. COHEN  
OUTLINE  
July 28, 2011

The following are the agenda items that Judge Robert Cohen will be speaking on:

Overview of DOAH:

- History of DOAH
- Organizational structure and geographic structure
- Overview of ALJs and JCCs
- Appointment process for ALJs and JCCs
- Terms of office

New developments at DOAH

- Changes following 2011 legislative session
- Staffing
- Use of new technology
- Procedural changes

Types of cases handled by DOAH

- Personnel terminations
- ESE
- Charter School Terminations,
- Bid Protest
- Other

Use of Video Teleconference (VTC)

- Applications in hearings before ALJs and JCCs
- VTC locations
- Establishing VTC capabilities at remote sites

Practice pointers for trying cases before the ALJs

- Case preparation including pleadings, and supporting legal authority
- Preparation of evidentiary exhibits
- Presentation of witness testimony
- Effective use of expert testimony
- Time constraints
- Special considerations when trying a case by VTC
- Final Orders