

MICHAEL T. MOORE AND LESLIE LOTT

WHILE MICHAEL T. MOORE and Leslie Lott have different legal practices and separate firms, they share a marriage that's lasted more than 30 years. "You might say the probationary period has ended," says Moore, partner at Moore & Company, P.A. a six-attorney marine and aviation firm based in South Florida.

Being married to another attorney has its advantages, according to Lott, founding partner of Lott & Friedland, P.A., an 11-attorney firm with offices in Coral Gables and Fort Lauderdale that marked its 25th anniversary in 2008. "We have never gotten upset with each other about having to work late or taking a last-minute trip out of town," she says. "We both understand the demands of clients and the legal profession."

Moore and Lott met as undergraduates at the University of Florida and began dating in law school. After graduating in 1974, she joined the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, working in Washington, DC, while he went to work for a New York law firm. For three years, they rode the Metroliner north or south before marrying in December 1977.

Meanwhile, Moore had opened an office for his firm in Saudi Arabia and Lott joined him there after their marriage, as they worked together on foreign investment-related matters. In 1980, they started looking for a new location in the U.S. where Moore could practice maritime law, and Lott could continue working on intellectual property (IP) cases.

"Although I grew up in central Florida, I hadn't really paid much attention to Miami," says Moore. "But when we started thinking about where an IP lawyer and a maritime lawyer could do well, Miami was right at the top of our list. That was nearly 30 years ago, and we're still here."

Because of the different nature of their practices and varied client bases, Lott and Moore have kept their firms separate. But they share legal advice and refer appropriate cases to each other. "Michael is an excellent trial attorney," says Lott. "If I'm going into court, I'll ask his advice on the presentation of arguments or overall strategy."

On the personal side, Lott and Moore have raised two sons, Michael, a recent Rhodes College graduate and Emmett, a student at Rhode Island School of Design. They enjoy traveling together, going to the opera, sailing, cooking and bicycling. Moore is also a rollerblader, while Lott grows orchids and has taken up needlepoint.

Through the years, both have learned how to balance the demands of work and family. As Lott said, "We know what it's like being on call 24/7 for clients, preparing emergency filings or getting ready for trial." It's really a partnership of equals. ¹

