



# SKIP PITA AND SHANNON DEL PRADO

**HOWARD “SKIP” PITA** and Shannon Del Prado share many things in life: a 13-year-marriage, a strong commitment to helping others, and a plaintiff’s personal injury practice at Pita & Del Prado, P.A. “It’s easy for us to work together, because our goals are the same, both in our practice and at home,” says Del Prado.

She was working for the Department of Justice in Washington, DC and studying for her master’s degree in international business, when she met Pita, who was earning a master of law degree at George Washington University. They shared an interest Latin America, and first date was to the *Baller Folklórico de México*. As Pita says, “The rest is history.”

Now, Pita, 42, and Del Prado, 40, have three children, Lucian, 8, Jade, 5 and Cassandra, 2. “Working together gives us balance –at home and at work.” says Del Prado. “And from a woman’s perspective, it’s wonderful to practice with your

husband. One of us is always available for our kids.”

In the courtroom, Pita and Del Prado have tried a number of cases together. They share duties as lead attorney. “Every case is different – some require both our attention and others do not,” says Pita, who founded the firm in 1999. Del Prado joined him within a year.

Pita notes that a successful tort lawyer must move cases forward. “When you are dealing with liability carriers, you have to make the carrier treat your case as a priority,” he says. “That means pushing the case to trial and forcing the carrier to make decisions.”

Outside the office, both enjoy working out at the gym and spending time with their kids. Recently, Pita and Del Prado have turned their talents to another cause to help people: “Project Peru,” a volunteer effort where U.S. surgical teams provide free care to the poor in Peru. Last summer,

they organized a Miami-based plastic surgery team that performed almost 50 operations in Peru.

“It was a life-transforming experience,” says Pita, “and a great way to create positive relationships with the medical community, where tort lawyers are often at odds. We also believe that it is constructive way to do our part to help restore the U.S. image abroad.”

Del Prado agrees, “Project Peru fulfills an important medical need, and it helps us stay connected with my family in Peru.” Del Prado’s father is from Peru, served in the U.S. Foreign Service, and now works with his wife Sandy in managing the medical clinic served by Project Peru.

For Pita and Del Prado, it appears that working with the family is second nature. As Del Prado says, “We have complementary attitudes and good synergy. That leads to good results at home – and in the courtroom.”