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**OWEN S. FREED, ESQ. ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF
MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MIAMI—January 12, 2009—Owen S. Freed, senior counsel at Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson P.A. in Miami, has been elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.

Mr. Freed has served as Chairman of the Lighthouse’s External Relations Committee for two years; during this time Miami Lighthouse received two of its largest single-donor donations. During that period the Miami Lighthouse also received, for two consecutive years, a four-star ranking from Charity Navigator, a national distinction achieved by only 18 percent of non-profit organizations. Mr. Freed has served on the Miami Lighthouse Board of directors since 2006 and follows outgoing Board Chairman William R. Roy, Ph.D. Mr. Freed’s two-year term as Board Chairman began officially when he was elected unanimously at the general board meeting December 10 at Northern Trust Bank.

“Miami Lighthouse strives always for excellence in all things that contribute to the best client service and the future of vision rehabilitation and eye wellness in our community and I will continue to uphold those values as my predecessor Bill Roy did,” Mr. Freed said. “The Lighthouse transforms lives, and now serves more than 1,000 per month, and I’m proud to be a part of that.”

“With the Miami Lighthouse Board Governance Initiative recently completed, I look forward to leading this organization, which has a marvelous Board/CEO working relationship under the executive leadership of CEO Virginia A. Jacko and our High Impact Board,” Mr. Freed added. The Miami Lighthouse Board Governance Initiative,

spearheaded by outgoing Chairman William Roy Ph.D., was featured in the May/June 2008 issue of the magazine *Non-Profit World*.

Mr. Freed's practice has concentrated on international law, foreign investments and international transactions. He spent one undergraduate year as an exchange student in the University of Honduras and subsequently was a Rotary Foundation Fellow in the School of Law of the National University in Montevideo, Uruguay. He received his undergraduate degree and his law degree from the University of Miami and is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese.

Mr. Freed has served as president of the Rotary Club of Coral Gables and the Rotary Club of Miami. As a Rotarian he became interested and active in the Miami Lighthouse which was founded in 1931 as a joint venture of the Miami Rotary Club and the Miami Lions Club.

Mr. Freed's wife, Sheila Freed, is President of Temple Judea in Coral Gables. They have three children and five grandchildren.

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Miami Lighthouse for the Blind is Florida's largest and oldest agency serving the blind and visually impaired. In addition to providing free vision care to thousands of financially disadvantaged children each year, Miami Lighthouse each month helps more than one thousand blind and visually impaired people and their families learn to live safe and independent lives while coping with vision loss. For more information visit www.miamilighthouse.org. To schedule a tour call 305-856-2288, ext. 226.