

Gables Living

An Exclusive Magazine Serving the Residents of Coral Gables



Deirdre D Nero:
**Overcoming
Adversity through
Advocacy**



Best Version Media

Photo by Scarlett Colston of
Scarlette Colston Photography, LLC



Photos by Scarlett Colston of Scarlett Colston Photography, LLC

RESIDENT FEATURE

Deirdre D Nero: Overcoming Adversity through Advocacy

By Ana Maria Figueredo

Deirdre D. Nero's family are all Italian Citizens (as well as US). Her great grandparents on both sides immigrated to the US through Ellis Island at the turn of the century. Deirdre still has the old steamer trunk that her great grandmother brought all her worldly belongings to America in. Deirdre's brother, Frankie, lives in Florence, Italy where he is the Director of Florida State University's Florence study center. He lives out their family's history every day. The immigrant story of the Nero family is what inspired Deirdre to become an immigration attorney. She takes a lot of pride in helping immigrants achieve their goals and dreams in the United States. Her partner, Eric's father was an immigrant from France, so he also has an immigrant story even more recent than her own family.

Deirdre graduated Florida State University, B.A., magna cum laude, 1999; University of Miami, School of Law, J.D., cum laude, 2003. She lived in Spain for almost two years both during and after college and for a little while during law

school. She is an Immigration Lawyer in Coral Gables since 2003 and Owner of her own firm called NERO Immigration Law (in Coral Gables) since 2009.

She lives in Village Park (Galiano Street between Mendoza and Zamora). It is perfectly situated 1 min from her partner Eric's office in one direction and 1 min to her own office in the other direction. Eventually they will move into a house but for now this townhouse is really a great place to live and makes life easy and convenient. Having a one-minute commute to the office is the best thing in the world!

Everyone is very nice and there are a lot of dog owners in their neighborhood. Deirdre has become friends with them all because they all see each other out in the neighborhood while walking their dogs. The dogs are all friends too! "I think dogs allow us to have a reason to start talking to each other and then before you know it we are chatting about so many different topics." Deirdre's dog Marty is her sweet little old man and little furry angel. He is a 15-year-old West

highland White Terrier (Westie) that she rescued almost 10 years ago and has been with her through a lot of hard times in her life. She rescued him when she was going through a very painful divorce and when her patchy alopecia was progressing to full baldness. It was at a very low point in her life and having this little guy to care for really helped bring her back to life. "I always say I may have rescued him, but he really rescued me!"

Eric and Deirdre met five years ago at a networking group meeting (BNI) that she was a member of and he was visiting. They are both attorneys and decided to get coffee and talk about how they might help each other's law practices. They hit it off both professionally and personally. "He told me he was coming back to BNI to visit again the following week. In the meeting I had mentioned to the credit card processor that I went to a Mexican restaurant that was using Square to process their credit cards, and that he should go and try to get their business, and I mentioned off hand that they had great margaritas. At the end of the meeting Eric



INFINITI of Coral Gables



WWW.IOFCG.COM • 2701 Le Jeune Rd, 33134 • (305) 677-0976

EXPLORE OUR CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED INVENTORY

SERVICE COUPON

MULTI-POINT INSPECTION

FREE

A COUPON THAT EVERYONE CAN USE!
WE SERVICE ALL MAKES AND MODELS.

INFINITI of Coral Gables

Coupon valid for inspection only. Must be presented at the time of write up and may not be combined with any other offers or discounts. Prices do not include shop supplies, taxes and/or hazardous waste fees where applicable. Not valid for prior repair or service. No cash value. See dealer for complete details. Valid only at INFINITI of Coral Gables. Use code MULTI. Expires 12/31/2018.



INFINITI
EMPOWER THE DRIVE™



came up to me and said “I’m from Texas, I love margaritas. We should go get margaritas.” That weekend we went for margaritas and tacos and we have been together ever since.”

Nero is a certified Spinning Instructor and teach classes at the University of Miami Wellness Center. She finds it to be a lot of fun and exhilarating, and it makes her feel strong. And she admits she loves being in control of the class and leading.

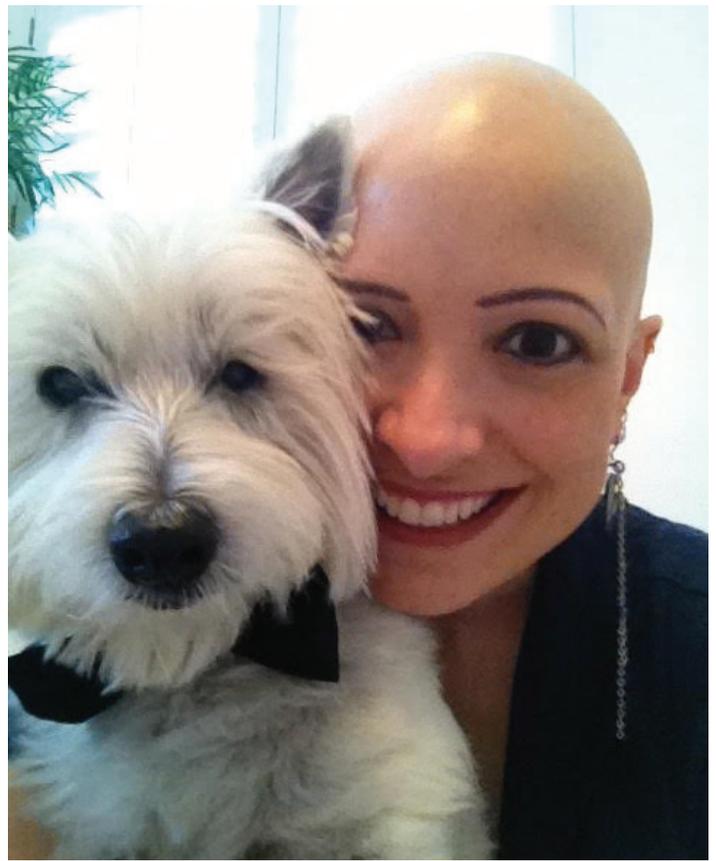
Eric and Deirdre love to sail on the weekends out of the Coconut Grove Sailing Club, it is so relaxing to be out on the water and they have a great friend with a beautiful sailboat that they are lucky enough to be considered “crew” on.

The couple loves to travel all over the country and world as much as they can. They’ve been to over 15 countries and 10 different states together. They try to mix business with travel as much as they can, so that they can travel a lot and grow their businesses at the same time. They always have a lot of fun exploring new places.



Individually, Deirdre’s most significant volunteer work is with the National Alopecia Areata Foundation (NAAF). She is very proud to be the Secretary of the Board of Directors, and one of their first and most active Legislative Liaisons, and the Miami Support Group Leader. She does a lot of advocacy work for the foundation both in DC and locally, as well as fundraising and speaking engagements to raise awareness. Alopecia Areata is an autoim-

immune disease where your body attacks your hair and it falls out in patches, the whole head, or the whole body (including eyebrows, eyelashes, nose hair, body hair). Deirdre's had all forms of the disease starting 20 years ago until today. For the past few years she had the most severe form where she has no hair at all anywhere on my body. "This disease has been the most challenging thing I have had to deal with in my life and I continue to battle it daily. Not recognizing your own reflection in the mirror is a special kind of hurt I don't wish on anyone. This disease robs you of your identity, femininity, confidence, self-image." However, through her work with the foundation, Deirdre has been able to heal, gain confidence, and support others with the disease. "I have been able to turn something negative in my life into something positive and empowering, instead of hiding and coping alone and in silence. I have learned that being vulnerable is an extreme show of strength and that people really respond to that because underneath the surface we are all dealing with something. My "something" is just a lot more visible!" The visibility of being a bald woman in the world is what will help end the stigma and the staring. As more people gain awareness of Alopecia Areata, the less unusual it will be. Once of the labors of love for the foundation is a large annual fundraiser. This year Deirdre is hosting her annual fundraiser for NAAF at the Coral Gables Museum on November 17, 2018.



Davis Smith & Jean, LLC.

Your Gables boutique Marital & Family Law firm providing experienced and practical tailored services to its clients at the trial and appellate levels!

786-206-4410

300 Sevilla Avenue, Suite 309
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

EMPOWERED LEARNING

THE BILTMORE SCHOOL
Established 1926

ib
COLEGIO DEL MUNDO • WORLD SCHOOL • ÉCOLE DU MONDE

Toddlers through Middle School

305.266.4666 | biltmoreschool.com

1600 South Red Road | Miami, FL 33155