





Tim Richards was born in Schenectady, New York in 1952. He spent his early youth in San Jose, Costa Rica (1957-69). He earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Brown University in 1974 and a Juris Doctor degree Suffolk University Law School in 1978. In1981 he was admitted to the Florida Bar and in 1993 he was certified as a Tax Specialist by the Florida Bar.

Mr. Richards commenced his legal career at a Wall Street tax associate at the firm of Robert Feinschreiber & Associates assisting Fortune 500 companies in obtaining tax benefits derived from exportation of US goods and services. While in New York, he was appointed Assistant Editor of the "International Tax Journal" (Panel Publishers) and published various articles on international tax subjects. He was awarded a contract by publisher Van Nostrand Reinhold to write a book which was later published under the title of "The Guide To Foreign Investment in United States Real Estate". Mr. Richards continues publishing tax articles in magazines, journals and newspapers. In 1983 he was invited to testify before the Senate Finance Committee in support of international legislation proposed by the late Senator Barry Goldwater. Based on the foregoing credentials he has acted as an expert witness for the US Department of Justice in money laundering cases.

In 1999 Mr. Richards was invited by the Venezuelan government to serve on the Board of Eastern National Bank N.A., a seat he occupied through 2006. While on the bank's Board Mr. Richards gained substantial expertise in working with US bank regulators, compliance with money laundering rules and bank acquisitions.

Mr. Richards has also served on the Board of Directors of the World Trade Center of Miami, the Beacon Council and the Florida International Bankers Association.