

# Butterworth returns to private practice in Ft. Lauderdale

Where did Bob Butterworth land after four terms as state attorney general, a stint as law dean of St. Thomas University, and 19 months as secretary of the Department of Children and Families?

Back home to Ft. Lauderdale, where he was welcomed to the familiar fold at the 17-lawyer firm of Atkinson, Diner, Stone, Mankuta & Ploucha.

“It feels absolutely great to go home to a law firm I was with before, with my best friend Jesse Diner,” said Butterworth, who will have a governmental practice at the firm.

“It feels like a comfortable old shoe. I was surprised I had a number of offers, but this is where I feel at home. It’s almost like nothing has changed in 20 years.”

Except the firm’s location: from Hollywood to Ft. Lauderdale.

“Over the years, I don’t know how many times we had the conversation that we wanted

Bob to come back whenever he wanted to,” said Diner, president-elect of The Florida Bar, who also practices with his wife, Adele Stone, president-elect of The Florida Bar Foundation.

“It’s just so great to have Bob back and to be able to practice together again. We’re looking forward to growing the governmental aspects in the law firm. It’s an exciting opportunity for us. It’s nice when you can practice with people you know well, trust, and like.”

Diner and Butterworth, who both attended South Broward High School, have already appeared in court together.

“Bob hit the ground running,” Diner said. “Bob kept his skills up over the years.”

And Butterworth added: “In my last job, I appeared in court a number of times for the department as a defendant. I love what I’m doing right now, and it feels good not to be a defendant in court.”



DINER and BUTTERWORTH