

Nelson Mullins History

Who were Broad and Cassel?

Shepard Broad, born in Pinsk, Russia in 1906, made his way across the world at the age of 13. Inspired as a child to become a lawyer, Shepard would spend time observing a traveling circuit court in his home town. A Jewish Russian immigrant, with no college education, not even a high school diploma, he faced insurmountable goals to become a naturalized citizen and a lawyer. But with determination and the assistance of a friendly benefactor, Shepard received his law degree at the early age of 16 from New York Law School. He landed his first job as a New York lawyer in 1929 for \$25 a week. His fate eventually brought him to Miami, where he became known for his real estate savvy. Purchasing swampy lots along the coast and redeveloping them, Bay Harbor Islands was founded. With an expanding practice, Shepard needed someone to run the office, to be his counsel, so in 1946, Shepard joined with Alvin Cassel to form Broad and Cassel.



Shepard Broad

Alvin Cassel, the son of a Miami Department store proprietor, aspired to be a doctor, but family crises changed the course of his life. In 1926, a devastating hurricane stripped buildings and fortunes away, ruining the family's store and its land holdings. The 1929 stock market crash added the fatal blow, driving Alvin's parents to the brink of financial panic. These were the events that turned Alvin's thoughts to law as a way to protect and help those around him. Alvin Cassel entered law school at the University of Florida. After graduation in 1936, Alvin began his career with a small firm in Miami, until his call to duty led him to enlist in the Army and serve during World War II. At the end of the war, he decided not to return to the small firm in Miami. In 1946, his path crossed with that of Shepard Broad, and the successful venture of Broad and Cassel was founded on the principles of honesty, integrity, and the premise that an attorney's word is their bond.

In addition to building the heritage of Broad and Cassel, Shepard and Alvin have been instrumental in aiding in the development of Florida. Consider the following:

- ▶ Shepard in addition to founding Broad and Cassel, was founder of American Savings and Loan Association of Florida, at its zenith, one of the largest and premier banking organizations in Florida.
- ▶ Shepard built and developed the City of Bay Harbor Islands, where he served as mayor for more than 20 years. The causeway that connects the mainland to the city is named for him.
- ▶ In 1979, in recognition of his personal achievements, President Reagan presented Shepard with the Horatio Alger Award for Distinguished Americans.

Who were Broad and Cassel?

Continued



- ▶ Shepard was the major contributor that enabled the establishment of the Nova University Shepard Broad School of Law, where he funded both the University and ongoing student scholarship programs.
- ▶ Shepard along with David Ben Gurion and others formed what is known as The Sonneborn Institute, which was instrumental in creating the State of Israel.
- ▶ Shepard gave his personal counsel and was a benefactor of Sisters of St. Francis Hospital as well as the Sisters of Barry College.

Shepard passed away in 2001.

Alvin Cassel distinguished himself as a premier lawyer and mentor to many young lawyers. He was a patron of the arts, an accomplished musician, a scholar, a devoted family man, and a leader in community activities.

- ▶ Alvin served his community through Miami's Culmer Center for the Underprivileged.
- ▶ In 1964, as part of the Economic Opportunity Program, President John F. Kennedy appointed Alvin as Director of the Miami chapter on the War on Poverty.
- ▶ A leader in the Jewish Community, Alvin chaired the Family Service Organization and in 1986 was honored for his humanitarian efforts and appeal for human relations.
- ▶ In addition to service to the community, at the age of 80, Alvin was appointed by the Supreme Court to the Florida Board of Bar Examiners.

Alvin passed away in 2000.