

Leighton Yates is the Chairman of Camaraderie Foundation; he joined the board of directors of the Foundation in 2012 and previously served as Vice Chairman.

Leighton is a partner in the Orlando office of Holland & Knight LLP, a national law firm with about 1,100 lawyers. He serves as co-practice group leader of his firm's 70-lawyer Corporate/Mergers and Acquisitions National Practice Group.

After graduating from Hampden-Sydney College in 1968, Leighton entered the U.S. Army. He was commissioned in 1969 after completing infantry officer candidate school at Ft. Benning, GA. In 1970 Leighton was assigned to the Republic of Vietnam, where he served first as assistant advisor on a mobile advisory team in a rural area of northern Bien Hoa Province, and then as the People's Self Defense Force Advisor for Bien Hoa Province. He was discharged from the Army in 1971; his decorations include the Bronze Star, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After completing military service Leighton enrolled in law school at the University of Florida, graduating with high honors in December of 1973. Leighton has practiced business, corporate, banking, and mergers and acquisitions law in Orlando since 1974. His professional recognition includes listings in: *The Best Lawyers in America* (1995-2015); *Florida Trend Legal Elite* (2007-2014); and *Florida Super Lawyers* (2006-2014). Leighton was selected as *Best Lawyers' Orlando Corporate Lawyer of the Year* for 2010. He is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation (1996-2014), and for many years Leighton has been listed in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in American Law*.

Since 1992 Leighton has served the organized bar by working with the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, the admitting authority for Florida lawyers. His service to the Bar Examiners includes more than eight years as a member of the Board and 12 years as an active emeritus member of the Board. Leighton served as Chair (1997) and as Vice Chair (1996) of the Board.

Leighton was a director of the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission from 2006 to 2012. For more than 34 years (1975-2010) he was on the board of directors of Florida's Blood Centers, Inc., including 15 years as Chairman (1995-2010) and 15 years as Vice Chairman (1980-1995). He also served on the board of directors of Orlando Opera Company for ten years, including terms as Chairman (1995) and as President (1994). Leighton was recognized by the Florida Association of Blood Banks as its 2004 Board Member of the Year, and in 2008 he was one of two Hampden-Sydney alumni honored with his college's Patrick Henry Award for Distinguished Public Service.