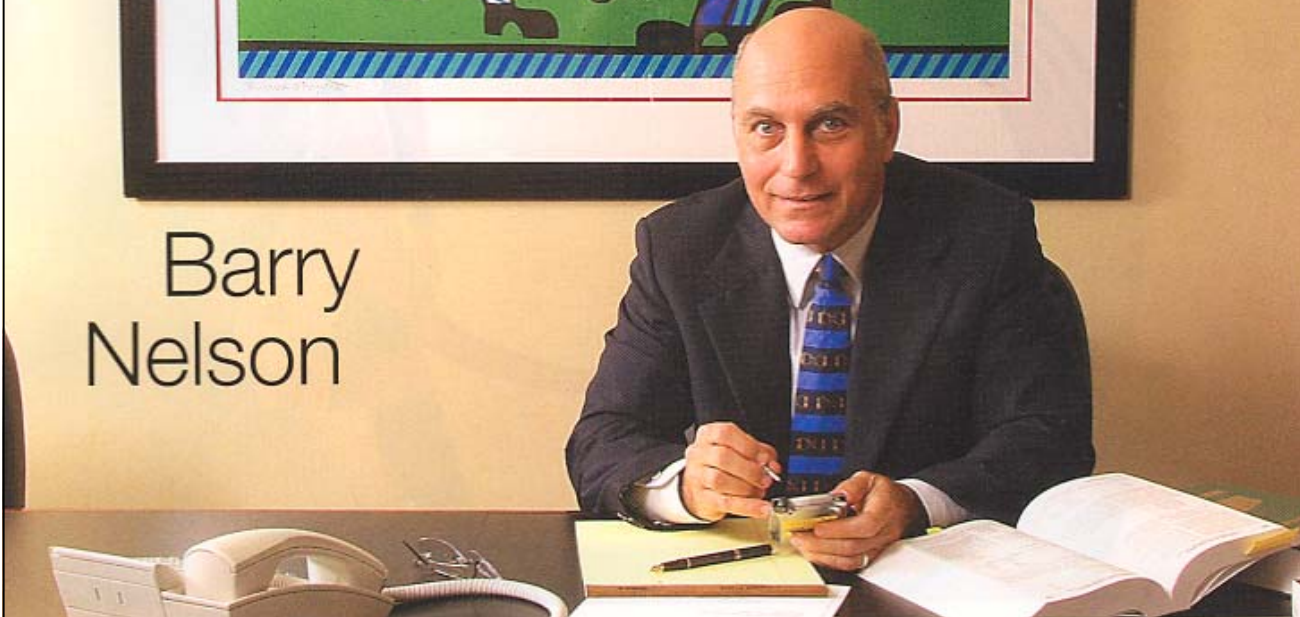


R E A L P E O P L E

Photography by Giancarlo



Barry
Nelson



BARRY NELSON REACHING FOR THE STARS

"Reach for the stars, the future is ours!" That's the motto of The Victory School for Children with Autism, located in Aventura. Chairman of the Board Barry A. Nelson is one of several co-founders—along with his wife, Judith, the Executive Director—and has enrolled his son Jesse.

Barry is also an estate planning attorney at Nelson & Levine, one of Aventura's first estate and taxation firms, and is an adjunct professor at UM's School of Law.

The Victory School teaches students in a one-on-one setting and uses positive reinforcement. "Our goal," says Barry, "is to have more and more students become mainstreamed into the public school system."

The Nelsons are also the parents of Samantha, 19; Jacob, 15; and Cassie, 11. Barry's athletic interests include Tai Chi, tennis, and riding on a double bike with Jesse. He is vice-chair of the South Florida Region of the Weizmann Institute and is on the Board of Trustees for the Foundation of Jewish Philanthropies of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. But The Victory School remains foremost. "The Victory School is truly not a profession, but a passion," says Barry.

If you could have the power to hypnotize anyone for a day, whom would you pick and what would you have them do?

I would get my 9 1/2-year-old autistic son, Jesse, to speak to me and let me know what's going on in his special head.

If you were to spend a week anywhere alone without contact with anyone, where would you go?

Golden Beach. I'd go to the beach, bike ride to Lloyd Park, golf, jog, and relax (preferably any time but summer). Things I never get to do at home for a week.

If you had to name the one most important ingredient of human beauty, what would you say it is?

A kind and caring heart makes all the rest much more beautiful.