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## dbr PEOPLE OF THE YEAR



### **Robert Kelley:** Newest Whistleblower Client Is Ebola Nurse

Fort Lauderdale attorney Robert W. Kelley jumped into the national spotlight as counsel to Briana Aguirre, a nurse at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital who was the first employee to speak publicly about how ill-prepared the hospital administration was for handling Dallas' first Ebola patient.

When Aguirre appeared in mid-October on NBC's "Today Show" and on CNN with Anderson Cooper, Kelley was by her side helping her describe the lack of planning and protecting her rights when she opted not to return to those working conditions. Aguirre was not infected.

Kelley, a cofounder of Kelley/Uustal, has built a reputation for protecting the rights of whistleblowers. He has also been on the national stage before.

In 2009, Kelley represented Lucinda Naugle, the sister of former Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jim Naugle, in a cigarette product liability trial that resulted in a \$300 million verdict. Although later reduced, at the time the verdict was the largest to an individual suing a tobacco company, in this case, Philip Morris USA.

Naugle needed a lung transplant, but the Philip Morris appeals delayed her medical care so long that her health was too poor for her to get one before she died in 2013.

Another Kelley case was featured on CBS's "60 Minutes" and exposed General Motors' practice of "value analysis," where engineers opted not to spend an extra \$2.20 per vehicle to install a fuel tank shield to prevent people from burning alive in vehicle fires.