

WFSU SUPREME COURT PRO BONO

AWARDS, JANUARY 28, 2016, 2:30
TO 4:00 P.M. CST.

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[THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT PRO
BONO CEREMONY WILL BEGIN.]

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>> ALL RISE.
HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE,
SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA IS NOW
IN CEREMONIAL SESSION.
ALL WHO HAVE CAUSE TO PLEAD,
DRAW NEAR, GIVE ATTENTION, YOU
SHALL BE HEARD.
GOD SAVE THESE UNITED STATES,
GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA, THIS
HONORABLE COURT.

[THE JUSTICES TOOK THE BENCH.]

>> LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE
SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA.
PLEASE BE SEATED.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.
AND WELCOME TO THE FLORIDA
SUPREME COURT.
WE GATHER HERE TODAY NOT FOR A
WEDDING, BUT FOR ONE OF THE MOST
IMPORTANT EVENTS IN OUR ANNUAL
CALENDAR.
AND THAT IS TO HONOR THE MEMBERS
OF OUR PROFESSION WHO
VOLUNTEERED THEIR LEGAL SKILLS
TO HELP THOSE OTHERWISE -- WHO
OTHERWISE MIGHT NOT HAVE ACCESS
TO JUSTICE.
OUR HIGHEST AWARD, THE TOBIAS
SIMON PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD,
TAKES ITS NAME FROM A PIONEERING
LAWYER WHOSE WORK HAS BECOME THE
EXAMPLE FOR ALL FLORIDA
ATTORNEYS.
TOBIAS SIMON'S LEGACY INCLUDES
PROVIDING ADVICE TO COUNTLESS
NUMBERS OF PRO BONO CLIENTS,

REPRESENTING THE UNPOPULAR AND
OPPRESSED MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY

AND TEACHING THE SAME ETHIC TO
SCORES OF STUDENTS.
OUR STATE BAR'S PRO BONO EFFORTS
TAKE INSPIRATION BOTH FROM
TOBIAS SIMON'S MEMORY AND FROM
AN EXPRESS PROVISION OF OUR
CONSTITUTION THAT GUARANTEES
ACCESS TO THE COURTS FOR REDRESS
OF ANY INJURY.
FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY AND A
HALF, THIS COURT HAS REPEATEDLY
RECOGNIZED THAT THE PRACTICE OF
LAW IS A PRIVILEGE THAT CARRIES
WITH IT CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES
AND OBLIGATIONS.
BY TAKING THE OATH OF ADMISSION
TO THE FLORIDA BAR, EVERY LAWYER
SWEARS, IN PART, THAT HE OR SHE
WILL NEVER REJECT FROM ANY
CONSIDERATION PERSONAL TO
MYSELF, THE CAUSE OF THE
DEFENSELESS OR OPPRESSED.
WE CONVENE HERE TODAY IN
CEREMONIAL SESSION TO HONOR
THOSE IN OUR PROFESSION WHO HAVE
SHOWN COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING
LEGAL SERVICE TO PEOPLE WHO
OTHERWISE WOULD NOT HAVE
MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO THE COURTS.
THE FIRST YEAR THAT PRO BONO
HOURS WERE COMPILED, THAT WAS
1993 THROUGH 1994, SHOWED THAT
ATTORNEYS STATEWIDE DONATED
800,000 HOURS OF FREE SERVICE TO
THE PEOPLE.
BY THE LATEST AVAILABLE
REPORTING PERIOD ENDING LAST
JUNE, THE NUMBER HAD RISEN TO
MORE THAN 1.7 MILLION HOURS,
WITH ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO
LEGAL AID OF NEARLY \$5 MILLION.
WE ALSO GATHER HERE TO HONOR
JUDGES, A LAW FIRM, A VOLUNTARY
BAR ORGANIZATION AND SPECIFIC
ATTORNEYS FOR THEIR
EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

STARTING THIS YEAR, 2016, WE
HAVE ADDED A NEW AWARD, THE
DISTINGUISHED FEDERAL SERVICE

AWARD.

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IT RECOGNIZES AN ACTIVE OR
RETIRED JUDGE ON A COURT IN
FLORIDA FOR OUTSTANDING AND
SUSTAINED SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC,
ESPECIALLY AS IT RELATES TO THE
SUPPORT OF PRO BONO LEGAL
SERVICES.

I KNOW OF NO PROFESSION THAT
GIVES MORE FREELY AND
UNSELFISHLY OF ITS SERVICES,
ESPECIALLY IN THE STATE OF
FLORIDA.

FLORIDA LAWYERS ALSO HAVE
DONATED MANY MILLIONS OF HOURS
IN OTHER KINDS OF NEEDY AREAS,
INCLUDING RELIGIOUS, CHARITABLE
AND CIVIC WORK.

THIS IS WORK THAT'S SERVING A
PUBLIC RECOGNITION, WHICH IS THE
REASON WE ARE HERE TODAY.

BEFORE RECOGNIZING SPECIFIC
INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS, I THINK
IT IS ENTIRELY PROPER,
APPROPRIATE THAT ALL OF US JOIN
IN A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THE
MANY THOUSANDS OF MEMBERS OF THE
FLORIDA BAR WHO HAVE RECOGNIZED
THEIR RESPONSIBILITY AND
DISCHARGED IT WITH SUCH
UNSELFISHNESS.

LET'S TAKE A FEW MINUTES.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S PRO BONO
ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD A
DIFFICULT TASK OF MAKING
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM A LONG LIST
OF NOMINEES, ALL OF WHOM ARE
DESERVING OF RECOGNITION.
IN THE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE,
THOSE WHO ARE BEING HONORED
TODAY ARE SIMPLY THE MOST
DESERVING.
THOUGH THE COMMITTEE'S TASK WAS

NOT AN EASY ONE, I FULLY CONCUR
IN ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.
I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE
MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE AND THEIR CHAIR, THE
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF THE
FLORIDA BAR, GREGORY WILLIAM
COLEMAN.

[APPLAUSE]
>> PLEASE STAND.

>> THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.
AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO
RECOGNIZE PRIOR RECIPIENTS OF
THE TOBIAS SIMON PRO BONO AWARD.
THOSE PRIOR RECIPIENTS WHO ARE
PRESENT, PLEASE STAND NOW AND BE
RECOGNIZED.

[APPLAUSE]
>> TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO HONOR
THE RECIPIENT OF THE KAY MEYER
PRO BONO COORDINATOR AWARD,
MARCY GREEN.
IF YOU WOULD STAND, PLEASE.

[APPLAUSE]
>> WE THANK YOU FOR THE WORK YOU
DO WITHIN YOUR AREA.
WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO HONOR THE
MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA PRO BONO
COORDINATOR'S ASSOCIATION.
THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE PRESENT,
WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND AND BE
RECOGNIZED.

[APPLAUSE]
>> WE THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO.
NOW, LET ME TURN TO THE AWARDS.
IN 2005, THE COURT ADDED A NEW
AWARD TO RECOGNIZE STATE COURT
JUDGE -- A STATE COURT JUDGE FOR
WORK TOWARD IMPROVING THE
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AS IT
RELATES TO WORK BY LAWYERS.
SPECIFICALLY, THIS AWARD HONORS
THE JUDGE WHOSE WORK BEST

EXEMPLIFIES THE ASPIRATIONAL
GOAL DESCRIBED IN A COMMENTARY
OF CANON 4B OF THE CODE OF
JUDICIAL CONDUCT.
IT SAYS "SUPPORT OF PRO BONO
LEGAL SERVICES BY MEMBERS OF THE
BENCH IS AN ACTIVITY THAT

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RELATES TO IMPROVEMENT OF THE
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE."
THE COMMENT GOES ON TO SAY THAT
JUDGES MAY ENGAGE IN A NUMBER OF
ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE
ATTORNEYS TO PERFORM PRO BONO
SERVICES.
MOREOVER, THIS AWARD ALSO HONORS
THE JUDGE FOR OUTSTANDING AND
SUSTAINED SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.
IN KEEPING WITH THIS ASPIRATION
THAT WE AS JUDGES COLLECTIVELY
SHARE, IT IS MY PRIVILEGE AND
HONOR TO ANNOUNCE THIS YEAR'S
RECIPIENT OF FLORIDA'S
DISTINGUISHED JUDICIAL SERVICE
AWARD, JUDGE CYNTHIA L. COX OF
THE NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT.

[APPLAUSE]

>> SHE'S FROM THE NINETEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, AND SHE'S
SITTING IN VERO BEACH AT THIS
TIME.
TO BEGIN WITH, PRO BONO WORK IS
IN HER LIFEBLOOD.
JUST PRIOR TO BEING ELECTED A
JUDGE IN 1996, SHE WAS HONORED
WITH THE FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENT'S
PRO BONO AWARD FOR THE
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR
HER WORK WITH CLIENTS IN NEED.
SINCE TAKING THE BENCH, SHE
CONSISTENTLY HAS SOUGHT
INNOVATIVE WAYS TO IMPROVE
ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND TO
ENCOURAGE AND EDUCATE LAWYERS
ABOUT THE PRO BONO MISSION.
IN HER INITIAL ASSIGNMENT TO THE
FAMILY DIVISION, SHE CREATED A
WEBSITE TO PROVIDE ATTORNEYS

WITH FORMS AND CALENDARS AND
CONDUCTED QUARTERLY CLE FAMILY
LAW UPDATES.
SHE ALSO INDICATED A DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE DIVERSION AND SEVERAL
OTHER PROCESSES TO IMPROVE
ACCESS FOR PRO SE LITIGANTS.
SHE IS FREQUENTLY CALLED UPON TO
SPEAK AT ATTORNEY SEMINARS AND

MEETINGS OF VARIOUS CIVIC AND

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CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS.
SINCE 2007, SHE HAS VOLUNTEERED
WITH JUSTICE TEACHING, FLORIDA
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE LEWIS'S
INITIATIVE TO PARALLEL
INITIATIVES WITH FLORIDA
SCHOOLS.

PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, JUDGE
COX HAS BEEN A CHAMPION OF THE
LEGAL RIGHTS OF PEOPLE SUFFERING
FROM MENTAL ILLNESS.

SHE WAS A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST
MENTAL HEALTH COURT IN THE
NINETEENTH CIRCUIT IN ST. LUCIE
COUNTY.

SHE ADMINISTERS THE MENTAL
HEALTH COURTS IN ADDITION TO A
DEMANDING DIVISION ASSIGNMENT.
IN THE TIME ALLOTTED, I CANNOT
POSSIBLY GO THROUGH THE ENTIRE
RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF
JUDGE COX.

BUT I INVITE YOU ALL TO READ THE
RECORD IN THE BOOKLET
DISTRIBUTED HERE TODAY.

IN ALL, JUDGE COX TRULY IS A
SHINING EXAMPLE OF THE PUBLIC
SERVICE AND OF THE GOALS SET BY
CANON 4B.

THE COURT NOW RECOGNIZES JUDGE
CYNTHIA COX TO APPROACH THE
BENCH AND RECEIVE THE AWARD AND
SHAKE THE HANDS OF THE JUSTICES
AND PROCEED TO THE PODIUM FOR
REMARKS.

[APPLAUSE]

>> MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT,
CHIEF JUSTICE, DISTINGUISHED
GUESTS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
I KNOW SO MANY JUDGES THAT ARE
WORTHY OF THIS AWARD, AND I'M
GREATLY HONORED AND HUMBLED WITH
THIS SPECIAL RECOGNITION.
AS YOU MUST KNOW, NOTHING GETS
DONE ALONE, AND I HAVE A LOT OF
PEOPLE TO THANK IN WHAT I'VE
BEEN TOLD IS TWO MINUTES.

I ALSO WISH TO ACCEPT THIS AWARD

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ON BEHALF OF ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE
AS WELL.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, I WANT TO
THANK THE INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
BAR ASSOCIATION FOR NOMINATING
ME, THOSE MANY PEOPLE THAT WROTE
LETTERS OF SUPPORT AND THE
COMMITTEE FOR SELECTING ME.
IT WAS SUCH A REWARD JUST TO BE
NOMINATED, BUT IT'S A RICH HONOR
TO RECEIVE THE AWARD AND BE
RECOGNIZED.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE AND
THANK MY WONDERFUL JUDICIAL
ASSISTANT, HADLEY.
SHE'S HERE WITH HER FAMILY.
IF YOU DON'T KNOW, BEHIND EVERY
GREAT JUDGE IS USUALLY A
FABULOUS JUDICIAL ASSISTANT, AND
I HAVE ONE.

SHE ENSURES THAT I GET TO ALL
THE PLACES I NEED TO GET.
SHE KEEPS ME ORGANIZED.
AND SHE'S TRIED FOR A LONG TIME
NOW TO TEACH ME THAT UGLY TWO
LETTER WORD, N-O.

MY PARENTS TAUGHT ME BY EXAMPLE
THE IMPORTANCE OF HARD WORK,
GIVING BACK TO MY COMMUNITY.
THANK YOU TO THEM.

MY MOTHER CYNTHIA IS HERE TODAY
FROM FORT LAUDERDALE.

MY DAD IS STREAMING LIVE FROM
THE VERY COLD NORTH GEORGIA
MOUNTAINS.

TO MY CHIEF JUDGES THAT ALWAYS

GAVE ME A GREEN LIGHT, THE COURT STAFF THAT IMPLEMENTED SO MANY PROGRAMS, THE CLERKS AND THE BAILIFFS WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MY BIGGEST CHEERLEADERS.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

THERE ARE MANY, MANY ATTORNEYS, PROFESSORS.

I SAW DEAN WIDNER HERE AND DEAN LENBERT, JUDGES, JUSTICES AND THAT INSPIRED ME, TAUGHT ME LEADERSHIP, GIVEN ME SO MUCH SUPPORT OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS.

IT STARTED WITH THE UNIFIED

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FAMILY COURT, JUSTICE TEACHING, AND THEN IT WAS MENTAL HEALTH COURT.

THANK YOU TO THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT NEVER SAID TO NO TO OUR FUNDING REQUESTS.

SHERIFF, THE POLICE CHIEFS, OUR PUBLIC DEFENDER, BRUCE COLETON, OUR STATE ATTORNEY AND THERE ARE SO MANY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE PARTNERED TO IMPLEMENT MANY OF OUR PROGRAMS.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST THANKS GOES TO MY UNDERSTANDING AND PATIENT HUSBAND, MARK, WHO ALWAYS HAD DINNER WAITING AND ALWAYS KEEPS THE LIGHT ON.

I AM BLESSED TO HAVE SO MANY GOOD FRIENDS.

A LOT OF THEM ARE HERE WITH ME TODAY.

THEY KEEP ME BALANCED AND GROUNDED.

THANK YOU.

THERE ARE MANY OTHERS THAT HAVE BEEN THERE.

YOU ALL KNOW WHO YOU ARE, AND I'M TRULY GRATEFUL FOR ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE PEOPLE HERE.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ALL OF THE RECIPIENTS TODAY.

IT IS TRULY SUCH AN HONOR TO BE

A PART OF THIS CEREMONY WITH YOU AGAIN.

AND I COMMEND YOU ALL FOR THE IMPORTANT PRO BONO WORK THAT YOU PROVIDED.

I'M NERVOUS.

CAN YOU TELL?

I'M SO PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA BAR.

I'M EVEN PROUDER TO BE A MEMBER OF FLORIDA'S JUDICIARY, WHICH I THINK IS PROBABLY THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY.

I'M ALSO REAL PROUD TO BE A FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLE AND TO BE

BACK IN TALLAHASSEE.

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I WOULD ENCOURAGE ALL FLORIDA JUDGES AND LAWYERS TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITIES AND TO HELP ENSURE THAT ALL LITIGANTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITHOUT A VOICE, LIKE CHILDREN AND THE MENTALLY ILL, HAVE EQUAL AND TIMELY ACCESS TO JUSTICE. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

>> AS I SAID EARLIER, THIS IS THE FIRST YEAR THAT WE PRESENT THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S DISTINGUISHED FEDERAL JUDICIAL SERVICE AWARD.

IT RECOGNIZES AN ACTIVE OR RETIRED FEDERAL JUDGE FOR OUTSTANDING AND SUSTAINED SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, WHETHER THROUGH LEGAL OR CIVIC SERVICES OR A COMBINATION OF THEM. ESPECIALLY AS IT RELATES TO THE SUPPORT OF PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES.

THE AWARD IS GIVEN A JUDGE WHO EXEMPLIFIES THE IDEALS IN THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR UNITED STATES JUDGES, WHO FURTHERS THE GOALS OF EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW AND WHO ENCOURAGES PRO BONO SERVICE BY FLORIDA LAWYERS.

SPECIFICALLY, THE COMMENTARY TO THE CODE STATES THAT A FEDERAL JUDGE MAY ENCOURAGE LAWYERS TO PROVIDE PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES. IT IS MY PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO ANNOUNCE THAT IN 2016, FIRST EVER AWARD GOES TO UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE IS CATHERINE PEEK MCEWEN OF THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

[APPLAUSE]

>> JUDGE MCEWEN'S COMMITMENT TO PRO BONO SERVICE REACHES FAR BACK INTO HER LEGAL CAREER, WHEN SHE WAS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE BAY AREA VOLUNTEER LAWYERS

PROGRAM.

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INDEED, SHE SAW HER APPOINTMENT AS A BANKRUPTCY JUDGE IN 2007 AS SIMPLY A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE.

AFTER HER APPOINTMENT, SHE BEGAN TO FOCUS ON THE PROBLEMS FACED BY PRO SE CONSUMER DEBTORS. SHE WORKED WITH THE LOCAL BANKRUPTCY BAR AND OTHER JUDGES TO PRODUCE A VIDEO ON BANKRUPTCY BASICS.

THAT VIDEO NOW IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AND IT HAS BEEN USED AS A TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL VERSIONS. JUDGE MCEWEN HAS SERVED ON THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PRO BONO COMMITTEE SINCE 2007 AND SHE IS THE IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR. IN 2015, SHE HELPED ORGANIZE A JUDICIAL PRO BONO SUMMIT, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO EDUCATE AND STATE -- TO EDUCATE STATE AND FEDERAL JUDGES WHAT THEY DO TO ENCOURAGE PRO BONO SERVICE AND HOW THEY THEMSELVES CAN CONTRIBUTE.

JUDGE MCEWEN'S OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE DETAILED IN THE BOOKLET DISTRIBUTED HERE TODAY, WHICH I ENCOURAGE YOU ALL

TO READ.
WITHOUT A DOUBT, SHE IS A MODEL
OF THE GOALS SET OUT IN THE CODE
OF CONDUCT FOR THE UNITED STATES
JUDGES.

THE COURT NOW RECOGNIZES JUDGE
CATHERINE PEEK MCEWEN TO
APPROACH THE BENCH AND RECEIVE
THE AWARD, SHAKE THE HANDS OF
THE JUSTICES AND PROCEED TO THE
PODIUM FOR REMARKS.

[APPLAUSE]

>> MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT,
CHIEF JUSTICE LARBARGA,
JUSTICES, MY STATE AND FEDERAL
COLLEAGUES ON THE BENCH AND
MEMBERS OF THE BAR WHO ARE HERE
AND THOSE WHO ARE WATCHING ON

THE VIDEO AND HI, MOM AND DAD.

TO START, I DO HAVE SOME THANKS
TO EXTEND, JUST LIKE JUDGE COX.
I WANT TO THANK YOU, JUSTICE
LARBARGA, FOR INVITING ME INTO
YOUR HOUSE.

IT'S MY FIRST TIME.
AND THANK YOU, TOO, FOR YOUR
CREATION OF THE FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO CIVIL
JUSTICE.

IT IS A TERRIFIC AND MOST
WELCOME INITIATIVE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

>> AND OF COURSE THANK YOU FOR
ACCEPTING YOUR PRO BONO ADVISORY
COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO
HONOR ME TODAY.

HOWEVER, I HAVE TO CONFESS THAT
MY BODY OF WORK HAS BEEN DONE IN
CONJUNCTION WITH MANY, MANY,
MANY PEOPLE, AND IT'S BEEN
INSPIRED BY MANY ADVISORS,
INCLUDING MY COLLEAGUES ON THE
BANKRUPTCY BENCH, AS WELL AS
JUDGE ASHLEY MOODY AND ROSEMARY
ARMSTRONG WHO'S HERE WHO ARE

PAST HONOREES AND NANCY LUGO OF BAY AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES AND KATHY AND GWEN AND MANY OTHER ADVISORS.

AND THANK YOU, JUSTICE LARBARGA, AND THE FLORIDA BAR FOR ADDING THIS AWARD CATEGORY TO RECOGNIZE YOUR FELLOW FEDERAL BENCH PUBLIC SERVANTS, WHO ALSO INTERACT WITH A SUBSTANTIAL PRO SE POPULATION SEEKING JUSTICE.

THANK YOU TO MY NOMINATOR WHO HAS BEEN PULLING AT THE SAME YOKE AS ME.

THE REMARKS WILL RELIEVE MY FAMILY OF HAVING TO WRITE AN OWE BIT FOR ME WHEN THE DAY COMES. SO MY FAMILY EXTENDS THANK YOU TO MY NOMINATORS.

TO THE OTHER HONOREES HERE, ALL OF YOU, CONGRATULATIONS AND

THANKS FOR ADVANCING THE CAUSE

OF THE DEFENSELESS AND OPPRESSED, AS JUSTICE LARBARGA JUST SAID, A CAUSE THAT ALL FLORIDA LAWYERS SWEAR NEVER TO REJECT.

AND FINALLY TO EVERY LAWYER WHO CURRENTLY HAS ONE PRO BONO CASE, THANK YOU FOR BEING THE ONE.

NOW, OUR NATION'S PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE SAYS AT THE END "AND JUSTICE FOR ALL," BUT EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM KNOWS THAT WE REALLY ONLY HAVE JUSTICE FOR SOME AND WE ONLY HAVE SOME JUSTICE FOR THE REST OF US. LESS THAN FULL JUSTICE IS IMPERFECT JUSTICE.

YOU AGREE WITH ME.

EVERY LAWYER IN OUR STATE, EVERY JUDGE ON A BENCH ANYWHERE WITHIN OUR STATE, SHOULD BE DEEPLY DISTURBED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND HELP BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

WHEN POOR PEOPLE ARE NOT REPRESENTED BY LAWYERS, THE

JUSTICE SYSTEM CANNOT OPERATE THE WAY IT SHOULD, THE WAY THAT OUR CITIZENS AND LITIGANTS ARE ENTITLED TO HAVE IT OPERATE. SUBSTANTIVELY, PRO BONO LITIGANTS LEAVE A LOT ON THE TABLE BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO OR WHAT TO DO OR ASK FOR, AND SO THEY GET IMPERFECT JUSTICE. SYSTEMICALLY THE PRO SE LITIGANTS AFFECT THE EFFICIENCIES WITH WHICH THE COURT DEALS WITH NOT ONLY THEIR CASES, BUT ALL CASES, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE REPRESENTATION. DELAYED JUSTICE IS ALSO IMPERFECT JUSTICE. SIMPLY PUT, THE PRO SE IMPACT ON OUR COURT RESOURCES AT A TIME WHEN COURT RESOURCES HAVE BEEN CUT BY OUR RESPECTIVE LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES CANNOT BE EMPHASIZED ENOUGH.

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THAT IS WHY WE NEED EVERY LAWYER IN FLORIDA TO ALWAYS HAVE AT LEAST ONE PRO BONO CASE IN HIS OR HER BOOK OF BUSINESS. YOU KNOW, THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT'S "ONE" CAMPAIGN IS SEVEN YEARS OLD. THANK YOU, JUSTICE QUINCE. BUT MY SENSE IS BASED ON THE POLLS THAT I TAKE THAT MOST OF OUR LAWYERS DO NOT HAVE ONE CASE AT ALL TIMES, ONE PRO BONO CASE. IF THEY DID, WE COULD HAVE JUSTICE FOR ALL. SO WE IN THE TRENCHES, ALL OF US, WE NEED TO RESURRECT, REAFFIRM AND REINVIGORATE THE "ONE" CAMPAIGN. AND WE NEED TO GET THE WORD OUT ON HOW THE "ONE" CAMPAIGN'S MISSION CAN EASILY BE ACHIEVED. THOSE WHO HAVE HEARD MY PRO BONO SPEECHES KNOW THAT SOMETIMES I TALK ABOUT SECONDARY GAIN, THE

BENEFITS TO THE LAWYER AND THE SYSTEM THAT ARE BY-PRODUCTS OF THE OVERARCHING GOAL TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE COURTS FOR THE POOR.

AND SOMETIMES, AS NOTED IN THE BROCHURE, I TALK ABOUT BASKIN ROBBINS ICE CREAM AND PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES, BECAUSE THEY COME IN MANY FLAVORS AND SIZES TO SUIT YOUR TASTE.

THE THERE'S VARIOUS INCREMENTS OF TIME, VARIOUS SUBJECT AREAS AND EVEN SOME OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE PARTICULARLY SUITED FOR TRANSACTIONAL LAWYERS.

THE LITTLE PEP TALKS I GIVE HAVE MANY PERSUASIVE REASONS TO TAKE ONE PRO BONO CASE.

CALL ME IF YOU'D LIKE THE DETAILS ON THOSE THEMES.

LATELY MY THEME HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO JUDGES.

WHAT CAN JUDGES TO ADVANCE AND SUPPORT PRO BONO SERVICES?

HOW CAN THEY HELP ENSURE BETTER

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JUSTICE TO THE POOR AND IN DOING SO HELP THEIR OWN DOCKETS?

SO I HAVE A LIST OF SUGGESTIONS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS CONTRIBUTING TO LEGAL SERVICE AGENCIES AND THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION.

MR. BLACKWELL HOPES THAT I CAN RECRUIT ANOTHER 100 JUDGES TO BECOME FOUNDATION FELLOWS.

AND SO I INVITE YOU ALL WHO ARE LISTENING WHO ARE JUDGES TO JOIN ME.

BUT THERE ARE MANY MORE SUGGESTIONS ON MY LIST THAT GO BEYOND GRABBING A CHECKBOOK.

INDEED, MY LIST IS THIS LONG. AND I'M HAPPY TO SHARE THIS, TOO, WITH ANY JUDGE WHO WANTS IT.

SO CALL ME, JUDGES,
813-801-5082.

I CONCLUDE WITH THESE THOUGHTS
HEARD FREQUENTLY FROM A PRIEST
FRIEND OF MINE, A RETIRED JUDGE
WHO NOW HIS DIFFERENT KIND OF
PRO BONO WORK.
HE FREQUENTLY TELLS US IN PRAYER
THAT WE ARE BLESSED.
SO I'M GOING TO SPIN THIS WITH A
LAWYER THEME.
WE LAWYERS ARE BLESSED WITH MANY
GOOD THINGS.
WE HAVE THE GIFTS OF TIME,
TALENT AND TREASURE, AND WE
SHOULD BE MINDFUL THAT WE ARE
GIVEN THESE GOOD THINGS SO THAT
WE CAN SHARE THEM WITH OTHERS.
IF WE BELIEVE THAT PROPOSITION
-- AND I DO -- AND ACTUALLY ACT
ON IT -- AND I HOPE THAT THOSE
OF YOU WHO BELIEVE SIMILARLY
WILL -- THEN WE CAN PROGRESS
TOWARD THE GOAL OF PERFECT
JUSTICE, WHICH IS JUSTICE FOR
ALL.
THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME THIS
PLATFORM, FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND
FOR THIS MAGNIFICENT AWARD.

THANK YOU.

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[APPLAUSE]
>> THAT WAS WONDERFUL.
OKAY.
WE ARE HERE NOW TO RECOGNIZE A
LAW FIRM FOR DISTINGUISHED PRO
BONO CONTRIBUTIONS.
THIS IS A SPECIAL HONOR BECAUSE
THIS AWARD IS NOT GIVEN EVERY
YEAR, BUT ONLY WHEN A TRULY
DESERVING FIRM IS NOMINATED.
THIS YEAR WE HONOR DUANE MORRIS
LLP.
THE FIRM'S MIAMI OFFICE HAS
CARRIED ON THAT TRADITION SINCE
IT WAS OPENED IN 1999, HELPING
LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF THE
COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE
PROJECTS AND DONATIONS OF
PRECIOUS TIME, TALENT AND

TREASURE.

THE FIRM HAS A GOAL OF DEVOTING AT LEAST 3% OF BILLABLE HOURS TO PRO BONO WORK, AND IT GIVES ALL ASSOCIATES AND SPECIAL COUNSEL 100 HOURS OF CREDIT ANNUALLY AND ALL PARTNERS 50 HOURS TOWARD PRO BONO SERVICE.

TWO KEY AREAS TARGETED BY THE FIRM'S OFFICES IN MIAMI AND BOCA RATON ARE IMMIGRATION AND AIDING SURVIVORS OF TRAFFICKING AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENT YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS OR DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS.

ALSO, A TEAM OF TEN LAWYERS FROM THE FLORIDA OFFICES VISITED MIAMI TO ENSURE THAT IT WAS MEETING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S DETENTION STANDARDS FOR IMMIGRATION FACILITIES.

THE COURT NOW RECOGNIZES VALENTINE BROWN AND HARVEY GURLAND TO RECEIVE THEIR AWARD, SHAKE HANDS WITH THE JUSTICES AND PROCEED TO THE PODIUM FOR

REMARKS, IF YOU WOULD, PLEASE.

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[APPLAUSE]

>> MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT, MR. CHIEF JUSTICE, JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA, JUDGES FROM OUR FLORIDA COURTS WHO ARE HERE, LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA BAR, FELLOW RECIPIENTS OF AWARDS TODAY AND OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.

VALENTINE BROWN IS THE PARTNER AT DUANE MORRIS WHO HEADS OUR FIRM'S PRO BONO PROGRAM AND SHE'S JOINED ME HERE TODAY FROM PHILADELPHIA FOR THIS CEREMONY. SHE AND I ARE DEEPLY HONORED TO ACCEPT THIS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD ON

BEHALF OF DUANE MORRIS.
WE CERTAINLY APPRECIATE THE
CONSIDERATION BY THE CHIEF
JUSTICE AND OTHERS WHO HAVE
SELECTED DUANE MORRIS TO RECEIVE
THE LAW FIRM COMMENDATION AWARD.
WE WANT TO THANK DADE LEGAL AID
AND KAREN LATTICE WHO IS HERE
NOT JUST FOR RECOMMENDING DUANE
MORRIS TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD,
BUT FOR BEING OUR PARTNER IN OUR
PRO BONO PROGRAM HERE IN
FLORIDA.

AT DUANE MORRIS, WE HAVE A
LONGSTANDING TRADITION OF
SERVING THOSE WHO ARE LESS
FORTUNATE.

THIS COMMITMENT DATES BACK OVER
100 YEARS AGO WHEN THE FIRM
BEGAN.

I CERTAINLY WILL NOT PROVIDE A
SUMMARY OF THE 100 YEARS OF
SERVICE BY THE FIRM.

I WILL, THOUGH, JUST TOUCH UPON
A FEW OF THE CURRENT PROJECTS
THAT WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN HERE IN
THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

WE HAVE BEEN HELPING VETERANS
AND THEIR FAMILIES TO OBTAIN
DISABILITY BENEFITS.

WE'VE ASSISTED UNACCOMPANIED

CHILDREN WHO HAVE FLED FROM

FOREIGN COUNTRIES, WHERE THEIR
LIVES ARE IN DANGER BECAUSE OF
GANG VIOLENCE AND THEY'RE
LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE
ABLE TO STAY IN SAFETY HERE IN
THE UNITED STATES.

WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH
SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING,
WHO ARE SEEKING TO VACATE
CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS THAT HAVE
BEEN IMPOSED AGAINST THEM
ALTHOUGH THEY ARE THE VICTIMS.
WE'VE BEEN HELPING INDIVIDUALS
AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMPANIES IN
THE ARTS COMMUNITY ON TRADEMARK
AND COPYRIGHT MATTERS.

AND AS THE CHIEF JUSTICE MENTIONED, WE'VE ASSISTED THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION IN INVESTIGATING CONDITIONS AT IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTERS, INCLUDING THE CHROME AVENUE DETENTION CENTER IN MIAMI. THIS PAST WEEK WE HOSTED A MEETING LED BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, WHICH WORKS AROUND THE WORLD TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE. THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED IN OUR OFFICE BY LEADERS IN OUR FLORIDA COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS IMMIGRATION ISSUES. AT DUANE MORRIS, ATTORNEYS FROM OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WORK TOGETHER ON SPECIFIC PRO BONO PROJECTS. OUR PARALEGALS, ASSISTANTS AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS WORK TOGETHER WITH ATTORNEYS ON PRO BONO MATTERS. AND OUR PRO BONO PROGRAM IS ONE WHERE THE LEADERS OF THE FIRM HANDLE PRO BONO MATTERS ALONGSIDE OTHER MORE JUNIOR PARTNERS, ASSOCIATES AND STAFF. WORKING TOGETHER IS A CRITICAL PART OF THE CULTURE AT DUANE MORRIS. VALENTINE, WHO IS HERE, HEADS A GROUP OF OTHER ATTORNEYS WHO OVERSEE HUNDREDS OF PRO BONO MATTERS THAT THE FIRM IS HANDLING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. SHE AND I APPRECIATE THIS HONOR, AND DUANE MORRIS WILL CONTINUE ITS COMMITMENT TO ASSIST OTHERS WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE AND WHO ARE IN NEED OF HELP, AND WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO JOIN US IN PROVIDING THAT SERVICE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]
>> EACH YEAR THE COURT

RECOGNIZES A VOLUNTARY BAR ASSOCIATION FOR ITS OUTSTANDING PRO BONO CONTRIBUTIONS. THIS YEAR OUR WINNER IS THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BAR ASSOCIATION. FOR A SMALL BAR, IT DOES AMAZING THINGS. IT ACTIVELY SUPPORTS THREE RIVERS LEGAL SERVICES. AND WITH MORE THAN 100,000 POTENTIAL ELIGIBLE CLIENTS IN THE CIRCUIT, THE EFFORTS OF INDIVIDUAL ATTORNEYS AND SMALL PRACTICES ARE CRUCIAL TO THE DELIVERY OF LEGAL SERVICES. IT ALSO OFFERS SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN LEGAL COUNSEL, WHICH IS COMMITTED TO THE IDEA OF EQUAL JUSTICE AND BASIC HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS. THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BAR ASSOCIATION HAS TAKEN ON SEVERAL PROJECTS, INCLUDING ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF HOMELESSNESS. FOR EXAMPLE, PITCH IN FOR THE KITCHEN HELPED RAISE MORE THAN \$20,000 TO REBUILD THE KITCHEN AT GRAYS MARKETPLACE, WHICH OFFERS SERVICES AND SHELTER TO PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS IN THE GAINESVILLE AREA. IT ALSO GRANTED THE ASK A LAWYER PROGRAM IN JANUARY OF 2015, SOON AFTER THE OPENING OF THE KITCHEN AT GRAYS MARKETPLACE.

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ATTORNEYS VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME, USUALLY ONE SATURDAY PER MONTH, TO HELP PEOPLE WITH ISSUES SUCH AS HOUSING, FAMILY PROBLEMS, LANDLORD/TENANT CONFLICTS, CRIMINAL HISTORIES, PROBATE AND PERSONAL INJURY. THE COURT WILL NOW RECOGNIZE ROBERT BIRRENKOTT TO APPROACH THE BENCH AND RECEIVE THE AWARD, SHAKE THE HANDS OF THE JUSTICES AND RECEIVE TO THE PODIUM FOR

REMARKS.

[APPLAUSE]

>> MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT,
MR. CHIEF JUSTICE, JUSTICES,
MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH
FOR THIS TREMENDOUS HONOR.
I AM SO PROUD TO BE HERE ON
BEHALF OF THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT
JUDICIAL BAR ASSOCIATION, I NEED
TO BE HONEST WITH YOU AND I
CAN'T TAKE ANY OF THE CREDIT FOR
IT.

BUT THANKFULLY THE PEOPLE THAT
DO DESERVE THE CREDIT ARE HERE
AND I'M GOING TO USE MY TIME TO
BRAG ABOUT YOU, BECAUSE YOU
WON'T SAY THESE THINGS ABOUT
YOURSELF, BUT NOW I GET AN
OPPORTUNITY TO DO THAT.

I'M THINKING OF FOLKS LIKE OUR
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, RAY
BRADY, WHO SPEARHEADED THE ASK A
LAWYER PROGRAM AND CHALLENGED
THE DOCTORS IN OUR COMMUNITY TO
A FUND-RAISING CHALLENGE TO
CREATE THAT BRAND NEW KITCHEN
FOR THE BENEFITS OF THE
RESIDENTS IN OUR HOMELESS
FACILITY.

AFTER THAT KITCHEN WAS IN PLACE,
PEOPLE LIKE STEPHANIE MARCHMAN,
MARY KAY, AMANDA BIRRENKOTT
SERVED THE PEOPLE.

MATT MCCARTY ORGANIZES A GOLF
TOURNAMENT EACH YEAR TO BENEFIT

THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM

FOUNDATION.

I HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT PEOPLE
LIKE MICHON ROSS, WHO ORGANIZES
A CONFERENCE EVERY YEAR FOR
AT-RISK YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY
AND ENCOURAGES THEM TO PURSUE
CAREERS AS LAWYERS RATHER THAN
BEING IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SYSTEM.

I'VE GOT TO BRAG ABOUT CARL

SCHWATE, ANOTHER PAST PRESIDENT.
CARL EVERY YEAR NOT ONLY
COLLECTS TOYS FOR YOUTH IN OUR
COMMUNITY.

CARL SOMEHOW FINDS A WAY TO MAKE
SANTA CLAUS APPEAR EVERY YEAR,
CALL OUT EACH CHILD BY NAME,
LOOK THEM IN THE EYES AND HAND
THEM THEIR GIFT.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU HAVE THAT
KIND OF ACCESS TO SANTA, CARL,
BUT I THINK IT'S ONE OF THE
BENEFITS OF BEING ON THE BOARD
OF GOVERNORS, I GUESS.

[LAUGHTER]

>> BUT SPEAKING OF THE SEASONS,
JANUARY IS THE TIME OF YEAR
WHERE WE TEND TO MAKE
RESOLUTIONS AND WE FOCUS INWARD
ON SELF-IMPROVEMENT.

I'M PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF AN
ASSOCIATION WHOSE MEMBERS
PERPETUALLY LOOK OUTWARD AND ASK
HOW CAN WE LEVERAGE OUR
INFLUENCE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS.

AND I JUST WANT TO LEAVE YOU
WITH ONE FINAL POINT THAT'S
GUIDED OUR ASSOCIATION.

WE'RE A051C6 PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATION, WHICH MEANS WE
EXIST FOR THE PURPOSE OF
BENEFITING OUR OWN MEMBERS.
BUT WHAT WE'VE LEARNED IS BY
MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR
PROFESSIONALS TO GIVE BACK TO
THEIR COMMUNITY, THAT THAT IS A
MEMBER BENEFIT, AND WE ARE DOING
SOMETHING FOR OUR MEMBERS RATHER

THAN ASKING FOR SOMETHING FROM

THEM.

AND IT'S BY POURING OUT THAT
WE'RE THE ONES WHO ARE
ULTIMATELY FILLED UP.

SO ON BEHALF OF OUR SMALL BAR
ASSOCIATION, WHOSE MEMBERS HAVE
GREAT BIG HEARTS, THANK YOU
AGAIN FOR THIS TREMENDOUS HONOR.

[APPLAUSE]

>> I WILL NOW ASK RAMON ABADIN,
PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA BAR, TO
PRESENT THE PRO BONO SERVICE
AWARDS AND THEN TO INTRODUCE THE
PRESIDENT OF THE BAR'S YOUNG
LAWYERS DIVISION FOR FURTHER
REMARKS.

MR. ABADIN?

>> MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT,
JUSTICE POLSTON, QUINCE,
PARIENTE, JUSTICE LEWIS, CANADY
AND JUSTICE PERRY.

ON THIS DAY EACH YEAR THE
LEADERSHIP OF THE FLORIDA BAR
AND THE SUPREME COURT PUBLICLY
ACKNOWLEDGE YOU, THE TRUE ANGELS
OF OUR PROFESSION, THE PEOPLE
THAT GIVE OF YOUR TIME AND YOUR
TREASURE AND YOUR INTELLECT TO
THOSE THAT NEED IT MOST.

ALL OF YOU BEING RECOGNIZED
TODAY ARE UPHOLDING THE HIGHEST
IDEALS OF OUR PROFESSION.

YOU ARE THE EXAMPLE TO THE
100,200 -- 102,000 LAWYERS, THAT
MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE IN THE
LIVES OF OTHERS IS PART OF OUR
PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATION AND OUR
DUTY TO MAKE SOCIETY A BETTER
PLACE FOR THEM AND FOR ALL OF
US.

EACH OF YOU IS A LIVING EXAMPLE
OF THE LINE IN THE CIRCLE OF
LIFE IN THE LION KING THAT SAYS
YOU SHOULD NEVER TAKE MORE THAN
YOU GIVE.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE,
LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, NOT

JUST FOR THOSE THAT CAN AFFORD

IT.

THIS HAS BEEN A PRIORITY OF
MINE, OF MY PREDECESSOR
PRESIDENT, OF MY SUCCESSOR
PRESIDENT, OF JUSTICE LARBARGA
AND THIS COURT AND REALLY OF ALL

OF US LAWYERS BECAUSE IT IS
IMPORTANT FOR THOSE OF US THAT
LIVE IN A DEMOCRACY THAT WE, THE
LAWYERS, PARTICULARLY ENSURE
LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.
I AM VERY PROUD TO SAY THAT
DURING THE 2014-'15 YEARS THOSE
NUMBERS OF PRO BONO HOURS EQUAL
ABOUT HALF A BILLION DOLLARS OF
ATTORNEY TIME IN DOLLARS.
HALF A BILLION DOLLARS GIVEN
FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY BY PEOPLE
LIKE YOU.
YOU ARE THAT EXAMPLE.
ONE OF YOU BRAVELY REPRESENTED
AN ABUSED TEENAGER IN A CASE
INVOLVING A MURDER CHARGE, AS
WELL AS TERMINATION OF PARENTAL
RIGHTS.
ANOTHER ONE OF YOU CONTRIBUTED
1500 HOURS, ACCEPTING A GUARDIAN
AD LITEM APPOINTMENTS.
AND YOU DECORATE YOUR OFFICE
WITH THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE
CHILDREN YOU HAVE HELPED AND
PROBABLY SAVED.
THREE OF YOU ARE RETIREES, WHO
HAVEN'T RETIRED AT ALL, AND YOU
CONTINUE TO GIVE OF YOUR
TREASURE AND YOUR SERVICE AND
YOUR INTELLECT.
ALL OF YOU BY YOUR WORK AS PRO
BONO LAWYERS ARE CHANGING THE
LIVES OF MANY OF OUR CITIZENS IN
FLORIDA, AND YOU'RE WRITING A
HISTORY THAT WE AS LAWYERS, WE
AS A JUDICIARY, JUDICIAL SYSTEM,
CAN BE VERY PROUD OF.
I KNOW WANT TO CALL YOU OUT
INDIVIDUALLY AND HONOR YOUR
DEDICATED SERVICE.
I'M GOING TO ASK EACH OF YOU TO
COME FORWARD.

MR. WADDELL FROM THE FIRST
CIRCUIT.

[APPLAUSE]
>> FROM THE SECOND CIRCUIT,

JAMES COOK.

[APPLAUSE]

>> FROM THE THIRD CIRCUIT,
FREDERICK KOBERLEIN.

[APPLAUSE]

>> FROM THE FOURTH CIRCUIT,
PATRICIA VAIL.

[APPLAUSE]

>> I'M JUST GLAD MY KNEES STILL
WORK.

[LAUGHTER]

>> FROM THE SIXTH CIRCUIT,
MR. LAWRENCE MARKELL.

[APPLAUSE]

>> DID I MISS THE FIFTH?
ALL RIGHT.
SO FROM THE FIFTH, RAYMOND
MCNEAL.

[APPLAUSE]

>> FROM THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT,
JENNIFER ANDERSON.

[APPLAUSE]

>> FROM THE EIGHTH, MARY KAY
WIMSETT.

[APPLAUSE]

>> FROM THE NINTH CIRCUIT,
PAMELA FOELS.

[APPLAUSE]

>> FROM THE TENTH CIRCUIT,
THOMAS SAUNDERS.

[APPLAUSE]

>> WE WENT TO THE SAME HIGH
SCHOOL.

[LAUGHTER]

>> HE'S MUCH OLDER THAN ME, I
THINK.

[LAUGHTER]
>> FROM THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT,
LYNDIE LAMBERT.

[APPLAUSE]
>> FROM THE TWELFTH CIRCUIT,
WILLIAM DRUMM.

[APPLAUSE]
>> FROM THE THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT,
CISSY BOZA, ISABEL CISSY.

[APPLAUSE]
>> FROM THE FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT,
ROBERT THIRSTON.

[APPLAUSE]
>> FROM THE FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT,
JASON LAZARUS.

[APPLAUSE]
>> FROM THE SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT,
PATRICIA EABLES.

[APPLAUSE]
>> FROM THE SEVENTEENTH CIRCUIT,
RUSSELL MILLER-THOMPSON.

[APPLAUSE]
>> FROM THE EIGHTEENTH CIRCUIT,
TARAS RUDNITSKY.

[APPLAUSE]
>> FROM THE NINETEENTH CIRCUIT,
KATIE HILL.

[APPLAUSE]
>> FROM THE TWENTIETH CIRCUIT,
KELLEY PRICE.

[APPLAUSE]
>> THE OUT-OF-STATE HONOREE IS
ANDREW KAMENSKY.

[APPLAUSE]
>> SO LET'S GIVE THEM ALL A HAND
OF APPLAUSE.

[APPLAUSE]

>> YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR SEATS.

>> NOW I'M GOING TO ASK GORDON GLOVER, PRESIDENT OF THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION, TO COME FORWARD AND PRESENT THE YOUNG LAWYER PRO BONO SERVICES AWARD. THANK YOU, GORDON.

>> MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT, CHIEF JUSTICE, JUSTICES, PRESIDENT AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS. IT IS MY DISTINCT HONOR TODAY TO INTRODUCE TO YOU A YOUNG LAWYER WHO HAS DONE MORE IN HER SHORT CAREER THAN I COULD EVER DREAM OF TO DO IN MINE. THE WINNER OF THE FLORIDA BAR YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION' 2016 PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD, ELISA D'AMICO. WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM HER MIAMI LAW FIRM, SHE ESTABLISHED THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEGAL PROJECT IN 2014 TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES TO VICTIMS WHOSE SEXUALLY EXPLICIT IMAGES ARE DISTRIBUTED ONLINE WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT, ALSO KNOWN AS REVENGE PORN. THE PROJECT'S WORK CONSISTS OF REMOVING IMAGES FROM WEBSITES, COPYRIGHTING IMAGES, WORKING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND BRINGING CIVIL LAWSUITS AGAINST PERPETRATORS. THE PROJECT HAS OVER 70 ATTORNEYS ON THREE CONTINENTS. AND IN JUST ONE YEAR, THE PROJECT HAS DEDICATED THE EQUIVALENT OF \$2 MILLION IN VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY TIME AND CONSULTED WITH MORE THAN 300 VICTIMS. ELISA HAS VOLUNTEERED HOURS SINCE 2014.

A MIAMI PROFESSOR HAD EXPLICIT

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS SHARED WITH A CLASS, FORCING HER TO CHANGE HER NAME AND CAREER.

THE PROJECT HAS ALSO HELPED VICTIMS IN PLACES AS FAR AWAY AS CANADA, SWITZERLAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

AS ONE VICTIM SAID, WHEN THIS ALL HAPPENED TO ME, IT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE.

THERE WERE NO WARNING SIGNS. WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS ALONE, GOD SENT ME ANGELS IN THE FORM OF THE CYBER CIVIL RIGHTS LEGAL PROJECT.

ANOTHER VICTIM SAID ELISA AND THE PROJECT SAVED ME.

SHE WAS MY FIRST ADVOCATE AND SUPPORTER DURING MY DARKEST TIMES AND HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR MONTHS TO COMBAT THE HARM THAT HAS BEEN DONE TO ME AND MY REPUTATION.

THANKS TO THE CYBER CIVIL RIGHTS LEGAL PROJECT, I HAVE MY LIFE BACK.

NOT ONLY DOES ELISA WORK AS A PARTNER WHILE MANAGING A GLOBAL PRO BONO PROJECT, BUT SHE IS ALSO AN OFFICER OF MIAMI-DADE FALL, SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE DADE LEGAL AID ADVISORY BOARD, SHE SITS ON THE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY OF THE WOMEN'S FUND OF MIAMI-DADE AND HAS CO-CHAIRLED THE ORGANIZATIONS RAISE THE BAR EVENT, WHICH HAS RAISED CLOSE TO \$300,000 TO HELP PROVIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE, SHELTER, COUNSELING AND EDUCATION TO WOMEN VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

AS SOMEONE WHO USES HER LEGAL EXPERTISE AT NO CHARGE TO HELP SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD, ELISA EXEMPLIFIES THE PURPOSE OF THIS AWARD, TO ENCOURAGE MORE LAWYERS TO FREELY CONTRIBUTE

THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE IN
PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES TO

PEOPLE IN THEIR COMMUNITY WHO
CANNOT OTHERWISE AFFORD THEM.
SO WITHOUT FURTHER ADIEU, AND ON
BEHALF OF FLORIDA'S 26,000 YOUNG
LAWYERS, IT IS MY GREAT HONOR TO
INTRODUCE TO YOU THE RECIPIENT
OF THE 2016 FLORIDA BAR YOUNG
LAWYERS DIVISION PRO BONO
SERVICE AWARD, ELISA D'AMICO.
>> MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT,
JUSTICES, CHIEF JUSTICE AND
OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
MR. ABADIN, MR. GLOVER, THANK
YOU FOR THAT WARM WELCOME.
MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA BOARD OF
GOVERNORS AND THE FLORIDA BAR.
I REMEMBER QUITE VIVIDLY WHEN I
RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM OLIVIA.
I HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE
CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL TO
JOIN HER CYBER EXPLOITATION TASK
FORCE AND I HAD JUST LEFT THE
FIRST MEETING.
I WAS SITTING IN A CAFE IN
SAN FRANCISCO DIGESTING THE
AMAZING THINGS I HAD JUST GONE
OVER IN THE PAST FEW HOURS.
I REMEMBER READING WHAT OLIVIA
HAD WRITTEN TO ME.
IT WAS INCREDIBLY SAD.
I THINK WHAT DREW ME TO HER MOST
WAS THAT I SAW PART OF MYSELF IN
HER.
SHE WAS AN HONORS STUDENT IN
COLLEGE, INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY
SERVICE, HAD STRONG FAMILY
VALUES, AND YET SOMEHOW SHE
FOUND HERSELF THE VICTIM OF
SEXUAL CYBER HARASSMENT.
I GOT IN TOUCH TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED, ABOUT WHAT
SHE WANT AND NEEDED, AND EACH
TIME SHE CALLED ME OR SENT AN
EMAIL, MY HEART BROKE OVER AND
OVER AGAIN.
OLIVIA IS JUST ONE OF HUNDREDS.

THE PROJECT IS NO LONGER AN IDEA
OR DREAM.
IT'S A GLOBAL FORCE TO BE

RECKONED WITH.

I HAVE BEEN CONSULTED BY
SENATORS, TV SHOW HOSTS,
INTERVIEWED BY JOURNALISTS, I'VE
HUGGED TOO MANY VICTIMS TO COUNT
AS WELL AS THE PARENTS OF TYLER,
WHO TOOK HIS OWN LIFE BECAUSE
THE HUMILIATION AND SHAME WAS
TOO MUCH TO BEAR.

I STAND HERE IN MEMORY OF TYLER
AND THE MANY OTHER VICTIMS OF
CYBERBULLYING WHO LOST THEIR
BATTLE.

WHILE THEY MAY HAVE LOST THEIR
FIGHT, WE ARE WINNING THE WAR.
I'M FOREVER INDEBTED TO MY FIRM,
OUR CHAIRMAN AND MY PARTNER
DAVID BATEMAN AND ALL OF OUR
PROJECT VOLUNTEERS.

SIMPLY PUT, THERE IS NO I IN
TEAM.

THANK YOU TO MIAMI-DADE STATE
ATTORNEY, TO DEBRA BAKER, I KNOW
YOU'RE WATCHING, REBECCA, KATIE,
LAURA AND THE ENTIRE CHAPTER OF
MIAMI-DADE FOR THEIR NOMINATION
AND SUPPORT.

I'M SO PROUD TO BE PART OF AN
INCREDIBLE ORGANIZATION WORKING
TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF
WOMEN IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION.
THANKS TO CARRIE GOLDBERG, THE
OTHER HALF OF MY ELITE SQUAD AND
PROOF THAT THE BEST LAWYERS
OFTEN WEAR HEELS AND GLASSES.
TO MY PARENTS, THANK YOU FOR
TEACHING ME COMPASSION AND
HUMILITY, FOR GIVING ME THE
OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED AND FOR
GIVING ME.

I'M SORRY THAT I ARGUED WITH YOU
GUYS SO MUCH, BUT, HEY, IT PAID
OFF.

[LAUGHTER]

>> TO MY HUSBAND, AFTER I SAT
FOR THE NEW YORK BAR AND MY
PARENTS CAN VOUCH FOR THIS, I
SAID NEVER AGAIN,
AND THEN I MET YOU.

YOU MAKE EVERYTHING WORTHWHILE.

YOU MAKE IT ALL EASIER.
YOU FIGURED OUT A WAY FOR US
BOTH TO MAINTAIN OUR LEGAL
CAREERS AND OUR SANITY.
YOU ARE BRILLIANT AND SELFLESS
AND I'M SO INCREDIBLY PROUD
ABOVE ALL OF THIS TO BE YOUR
WIFE.
AND THANK YOU, THANK YOU FOR
SHARING THE LINK TO THIS ON
SOCIAL MEDIA.
AND FINALLY, THANK YOU TO
OLIVIA, NOT JUST FOR SPEAKING UP
AND FOR REACHING OUT TO ME, BUT
FOR BEING HERE TODAY.
LOOK HOW FAR YOU'VE COME.
THIS AWARD IS EVERY BIT FOR YOU
AS IT IS FOR ME.
I CONSIDER IT A SYMBOL OF YOUR
COURAGE AND A REMINDER THAT THIS
TYPE OF HARASSMENT IS A FORM OF
SEXUAL ABUSE THAT WE SIMPLY
CANNOT STAND FOR.
FLORIDA SEXUAL CYBER HARASSMENT
LAW IS A GREAT STEP FORWARD, BUT
THERE IS SO MUCH MORE WORK TO BE
DONE.
I ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO IT WITH
ME, FOR OLIVIA AND THE COUNTLESS
OTHER VICTIMS IN FLORIDA AND
EVERYWHERE.
THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> LET'S GIVE A BIG ROUND OF
APPLAUSE TO ALL THE RECIPIENTS
SO FAR.

[APPLAUSE]

>> I NOW TURN TO THE HIGH POINT
OF THIS YEAR'S CEREMONY.
IT IS MY PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE

THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF THE
FLORIDA LEGAL PROFESSION'S
HIGHEST PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR,
THE TOBIAS SIMON PRO BONO
SERVICE AWARD.
THIS YEAR'S AWARD GOES TO BRUCE
BLACKWELL OF WINTER PARK.

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[APPLAUSE]
>> WITH MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF
PRO BONO SERVICE, BRUCE
BLACKWELL HAS NOT ONLY PROVIDED
DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF
CLIENTS, BUT ALSO HAS RECRUITED
OTHERS TO PROVIDE PRO BONO
REPRESENTATION.
LIKEWISE, HE HAS LOBBIED AND
STRENGTHENED AND PRESERVED THE
NETWORK OF LEGAL AID
ORGANIZATIONS SERVING THE POOR.
IN 2014, MR. BLACKWELL SHOWED
HIS COMMITMENT TO SERVICE BY
BECOMING ONLY THE SECOND CEO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN THE
HISTORY OF THE FLORIDA BAR
FOUNDATION.
HE WAS INTERIM DIRECTOR FOR
THREE MONTHS AND THEN WHEN ASKED
TOOK THE FULL-TIME POSITION.
HE BECAME CEO AT A DIFFICULT
TIME FOR THE FLORIDA BAR
FOUNDATION.
LOW INTEREST RATES HAD DEPLETED
THE FOUNDATION'S RESERVES,
MEANING IT HAD TO DIMINISH ITS
GRANTS TO LEGAL AID AT THE VERY
TIME THAT ACCESS TO JUSTICE WAS
BECOMING SUCH A CRUCIAL ISSUE IN
THE STATE OF FLORIDA.
BEYOND HIS WORK WITH THE
FOUNDATION, MR. BLACKWELL HAS
DONATED THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF
DIRECT PRO BONO SERVICES.
HE HAS CONSISTENTLY AND
SUCCESSFULLY HANDLED CASES THAT
ARE COMPLEX, CONTENTIOUS AND
EVEN CONTROVERSIAL.
THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF THE

ORANGE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
HAS KNACK FOR HANDING HIM
DIFFICULT CASES.
HE HAS EVEN BEEN KNOWN TO
CONVINCE LANDLORDS INTO DELAYING
EVICTIONS AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER
THE HOLIDAYS.
MR. BLACKWELL HAS RECEIVED THE
FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENT'S PRO BONO
SERVICE AWARD TWICE, IN 1997, IN

2013.
AMONG OTHER HONORS, HE HAS
RECEIVED THE FLORIDA BAR
FOUNDATION'S MEDAL OF HONOR AND
THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE.
I CANNOT NAME ALL HIS
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HONORS IN
THE TIME I HAVE HERE TODAY.
BUT I URGE YOU ALL TO READ ABOUT
THEM IN THE BOOKLET AVAILABLE TO
YOU.
IT IS MY PLEASURE TO ASK
MR. BLACKWELL TO APPROACH THE
BENCH AND RECEIVE THE AWARD,
SHAKE THE HANDS OF THE JUSTICES
AND PROCEED TO THE PODIUM FOR
REMARKS.
MR. BLACKWELL?

[APPLAUSE]
[STANDING OVATION]

>> PRESIDENT ABADIN, I WAS GOING
TO START THIS IN SPANISH, BUT I
HEARD IT WAS MEXICAN SPANISH,
NOT CUBAN SPANISH, AND I COULD
ONLY DO MEXICAN SPANISH, SO MAY
IT PLEASE THE COURT --
>> I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

[LAUGHTER]
>> TODAY AND FOR THREE DECADES
THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR FLORIDA
BAR, TOGETHER WITH OUR VERY
DEEPLY ACCOMPLISHED SUPREME
COURT, HAVE HONORED LAWYERS LIKE
EACH OF YOU JUST RECOGNIZED FOR

YOUR LEGACY OF FREE SERVICE TO
THE NEEDIEST OF ALL FLORIDIANS
WHO LIVE IN POVERTY.
YOU UPHOLD THE VERY FIRST TENET
OF THE UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION IN THE PREAMBLE
WHERE IT SAYS "IN ORDER TO FORM
A MORE PERFECT UNION, YOU SHALL
ESTABLISH JUSTICE."
JUSTICE POWELL SAID "EQUAL
JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW IS PERHAPS

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THE MOST ASPIRING IDEAL OF OUR

SOCIETY."

IT IS FUNDAMENTAL THAT JUSTICE
SHOULD BE THE SAME IN SUBSTANCE
AND AVAILABILITY, WITHOUT REGARD
FOR ECONOMIC STATUS.

2015 HAS REALLY BEEN A WATERSHED
YEAR IN FLORIDA FOR BRINGING THE
SHORTCOMINGS OF ACCESS TO THE
FORE.

AND IT'S OCCURRED UNDER THE
ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP OF OUR
CHIEF JUSTICE LARBARGA AND THE
PRIOR STELLAR LEADERSHIP OF OUR
BAR'S PAST PRESIDENTS, LIKE GWEN
YOUNG, JEAN PETTIS, JEAN COLEMAN
AND NOW OUR NEW PRESIDENT.

THE ISSUE OF ACCESS TO THE
COURTS IS BROADER THAN A LAWYER
ISSUE, BUT WE AS LAWYERS MUST BE
THE CATALYST FOR IT.

WE NEED TO AFFECT A SEA CHANGE
IN PROVIDING CIVIL LEGAL ACCESS
NOT ONLY TO THE THREE MILLION
FLORIDIANS WHO LIVE IN POVERTY,
ONE MILLION OF WHICH ARE
CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18,
BUT THE ALMOST 80% OF THE PEOPLE
IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA WHO
CAN'T AFFORD LAWYER SERVICES AT
ALL.

WE MUST LEARN TO FORCEFULLY
ADVOCATE TO OUR LEGISLATIVE
BRANCH, TO OUR EXECUTIVE BRANCH,
TO THE GENERAL BUSINESS
COMMUNITY AND TO THE CLUBS AND
SERVICE ORGANIZATION THAT'S WE

SO OFTEN SERVE AS DIRECTORS.
WE NEED TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND,
ABSOLUTELY UNDERSTAND IF YOU
TAKE NOTHING ELSE AWAY FROM
TODAY, UNDERSTAND THIS, THAT
FUNDING LEGAL AID WORK IS TRULY
GOOD FOR BUSINESS.
TRULY GOOD FOR BUSINESS.
MANY OF YOU TODAY ARE BEING
HONORED FOR TAKING REALLY HARD
FAMILY LAW CASES, DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING,
IMMIGRATION CASES, VETERANS'

BENEFITS, CYBERSTALKING,

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SOMETHING WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT
20 YEARS AGO, AND ACCESS TO
PROGRAM THAT FEED, CLOTHE AND
HOUSE AND KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER
IN FLORIDA, WHILE OTHER OF YOU
HAVE HELPED PUT TAXPAYERS BACK
ON THE ROLL BY YOUR WORK IN
FORECLOSURE CASES.

THE SAD FACT IS THAT AT THE
POINT IN TIME WHEN THE FLORIDA
BAR FOUNDATION WAS FUNDING \$35
MILLION A YEAR INTO LEGAL AID
PROGRAMS AROUND FLORIDA, WE MET
20% OF THE NEED.

20%.

WITH INTEREST RATES IN THE LAST
EIGHT YEARS, THAT NUMBER HAS
DEVELOPED TO 12%, STILL ABOVE
WHAT PEOPLE NOW THINK OF
CONGRESS, BUT NOT A WHOLE LOT
BETTER, OKAY?

THE SILVER LINING, THOUGH, IS
THAT CHANGE IS UPON US.

AS WE ALL LOOK TO IMPROVE THE
DELIVERY OF THESE SERVICES TO
ALL SEGMENTS OF OUR SOCIETY.
AND I PERSONALLY LOOK FORWARD TO
THE DAY WHEN LEGAL ACCESS FOR
RURAL FLORIDIANS IS THE SAME AS
IT IS FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN OUR
URBAN AREAS, BECAUSE THAT'S NOT
THE WAY THAT IT IS TODAY.

TECHNOLOGY, OUR YOUNG LAWYERS,
ALL 26,000 OF THEM, RULE CHANGES

TO MAKE LIMITED REPRESENTATION MORE AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE IS A THING WE SHOULD LOOK AT, AS ARE NEEDED CHANGES TO A SYSTEM THAT WE ALL DESIGNED FOR OURSELVES, FOR LAWYERS.
WE NEED TO SIMPLIFY THAT SYSTEM, WHAT JUDGE MCEWEN WAS TALKING ABOUT.
WE WILL WORK WITH OUR COURTS, CLERKS, LAW SCHOOLS, WE WILL WORK WITH THEIR CLINICS AND WE NEED TO FIND NEW FUNDING MECHANISMS TO DO THIS BECAUSE WHAT WE HAVE HAS BEEN PROVEN NOT TO WORK.

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BUT WE HAVE A LEADER IN THE SUPREME COURT WHO HAS HIS ROOTS IN ACCESS, OUR CHIEF JUSTICE. HIS PARENTS WERE CUBAN REFUGEES WHO IMMIGRATED AND RAISED A SON WHO KNOWS HOW FRAGILE DEMOCRACY CAN BE WHEN COURTS ARE NOT ABLE TO ACT AS THE THIRD LEG OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL STOOL.
AS A YOUNG LAWYER, HE REPRESENTED THE POOR.
HE STARTED HIS CAREER HELPING TO PROVIDE ACCESS.
AND ALL OF US REMEMBER HIS DAYS AS A YOUNG CIRCUIT JUDGE IN PALM BEACH COMPLAINT DURING BUSH V. GORE.
OUR CHIEF JUSTICE HAS FASHIONED A LIVING LEGACY FOR JUSTICE.
NEXT WE HAVE JUSTICE PARIENTE. SHE SERVED THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY AS A VOLUNTEER, BOARD MEMBER AND MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION.
YOU CAN READ ABOUT HER PASSION IN VIRTUALLY EVERY OPINION, BUT SHE LIVES, EATS, BREATHES AND SLEEPS ACCESS.
AND IF YOU ASK ANY LEGAL AID PROVIDER IN FLORIDA THE NAME OF ONE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, THEY WILL SAY BARBARA PARIENTE.

THANK YOU.
JUSTICE FRED LEWIS GREW UP AS
THE SON OF A COAL MINER IN WEST
VIRGINIA, VERY LIMITED ECONOMIC
CIRCUMSTANCES.
BUT WHEN HE PRACTICED LAW IN
FLORIDA, HE DID LOTS OF THINGS
TO HELP THE POOR.
BUT PARTICULARLY CANCER PATIENTS
AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.
AND IN ONE CASE, A WOMAN WHO HAD
ONCE SURVIVED CANCER BUT NEEDED
A BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT, WORKED
FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND
THEY SAID WE'RE NOT GOING TO PAY
FOR YOUR TREATMENT.
SHE GOT TO FRED LEWIS.

HE FILED A LAWSUIT IN FEDERAL

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COURT.
FIFTEEN DAYS LATER, WHAT
HAPPENED?
>> ANDREW TOOK OUR ROOF OFF.

[LAUGHTER]
>> HOW DO YOU THINK LAWYER LEWIS
HANDLED THAT MATTER?
HE WENT TO THE FEDERAL JUDGE'S
OFFICE, HE USED A TYPEWRITER IN
HIS OFFICE, FINISHED HIS
PLEADINGS AND 30 DAYS LATER THE
JUDGE GRANTED SUMMARY JUDGMENT.
AND HOW DOES THAT MAKE A
DIFFERENCE?
WELL, HE LIVES OUT A LEGACY OF
JUSTICE WHILE HIS OWN CLIENT,
WHO OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE DIED,
LIVED ON.
AND THEN THERE'S JUSTICE PEGGY
QUINCE.
YOU ALL HEARD ABOUT THE ONE
PROGRAM, BUT JUSTICE QUINCE WENT
TO CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY TO LAW
SCHOOL.
SHE GOT A HUGE AWARD WHEN SHE
WAS IN LAW SCHOOL FOR WORKING IN
THE CLINIC.
AND WHAT'S HER FIRST JOB?
SHE GOES TO WORK AS A HEARING

OFFICER FOR THE RENT CONTROL
ORDINANCE IN D.C.
NOW, A BUNCH OF YOU PEOPLE ARE
FROM THE THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT.
YOU'RE FROM TAMPA.
IF DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW GREAT
THIS WOMAN IS, YOU ASK ANY
LAWYER FROM TAMPA ABOUT JUSTICE
PEGGY QUINCE.
JUSTICE CHARLES CANADY STARTED
IN LAKELAND.
BUT HE WASN'T SATISFIED WITH
THAT.
SO HE BECOMES A STATE
LEGISLATOR.
HE BECOMES A CONGRESSMAN.
HE BECOMES THE GENERAL COUNSEL
TO A VERY POPULAR GOVERNOR.
AND THEN HE SITS ON THE SECOND
DCA.

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AND ON THE VERY SECOND DAY THAT
HE SITS AS THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF
THIS COURT, HE APPOINTED THE
FLORIDA INNOCENCE COMMISSION.
HIS LEGACY FOR JUSTICE LITERALLY
RESONATES FROM HIS CORE.
THANK YOU, JUSTICE.
JUSTICE RICKY POLSTON DOWN HERE
ON THE END, THIS IS THE MOST
BRILLIANT JUSTICE ON THE SUPREME
COURT, ALL RIGHT?

[LAUGHTER]

>> YOU OWE ME LUNCH, OKAY?
BUT LET ME TELL YOU WHY.
BECAUSE HE'S GOT TWO DEGREES
FROM THE FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY, DEAN WAGNER.
YES, SIR.
THAT'S OKAY.
THAT'S OKAY.
WE GOT A LOT OF GATORS HERE.
I KNOW THAT.
ALL RIGHT.
BUT WHAT'S INTERESTING IS RICKY
POLSTON GREW UP IN NORTHWEST
FLORIDA, LITTLE TOWN CALLED
GRACEFUL, THE SON OF A

MILLWORKER AND A FARMER.
AND WHEN HE PRACTICED LAW IN
TALLAHASSEE, HE TOOK FAMILY LAW
CASES AND HE TOOK GUARDIAN AD
LITEM CASES AND TOGETHER HE AND
HIS WIFE DEBRA WERE FOSTER
PARENTS FOR SEVEN YEARS.
AND THEN, TO ADD TO HIS OWN FOUR
CHILDREN, HE ADOPTED SIX
CHILDREN.
HIS LEGACY LIVES ON EVERY SINGLE
DAY, JUSTICE POLSTON.
EVERY DAY.
AND THEN THE LAST JUSTICE IS A
GOOD, GOOD FRIEND OF MINE, THE
ONLY PERSON I'VE EVER LITIGATED
AGAINST THAT'S CURRENTLY ON THE
COURT.
I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU WHO
WON.
BUT ANYWAY HE IS FROM NORTH
CAROLINA.

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HE GREW UP IN THE GLORIOUS
'60s.
IN JUNIOR HIGH HE PARTICIPATED
IN SIT-INS.
IN COLLEGE HE DID CIVIL RIGHTS
WORK.
THEN HE WENT AWAY TO THAT MODEST
SCHOOL CALLED COLUMBIA IN
NEW YORK CITY AND HE GRADUATED
FROM COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL.
AND HE WANTED TO GO BACK TO THE
STATE OF GEORGIA AND PRACTICE
LAW.
AND, YOU KNOW, EVERY SINGLE
PERSON WHOSE SKIN TONE WAS THE
SAME AS HIS, THEY FLOCKED IN THE
BAR.
AND IN ORDER FOR THIS JUSTICE TO
BECOME A LAWYER IN THE STATE OF
FLORIDA, HE AND A NUMBER OF
OTHERS HAD TO SUE IN A GEORGIA
COURT TO PRACTICE LAW.
NOW JUSTICE PERRY PRACTICED IN
OUR AREA, RIGHT, DAVID?
JUSTICE PERRY TOOK ONE CASE
AFTER ANOTHER AFTER ANOTHER ON A

PRO BONO BASIS.
AND I KNOW THAT SOMEWHERE AROUND
HERE WE HAVE THE WILLIAM REESE
SMITH JR. CLASS THREE ACADEMY.
YOU FOLKS SHOULD MOLD YOUR LIVES
AFTER JUSTICE PERRY OR ONE OF
THE OTHER JUSTICES OF OUR COURT.
SO I WANT EACH OF THE LAWYERS IN
THE ROOM TODAY TO PLEDGE TO MAKE
YOUR OWN LEGACY FOR JUSTICE FOR
ACCESS BY SCULPTING YOUR
PRACTICES TO MAKE PRO BONO CASES
A ROUTINE PART OF WHAT YOU DO
BECAUSE TOGETHER WE BECOME AN
ARMY OF ADVOCATES.
AND WHEN YOU'RE AN ARMY OF
SOMETHING, YOU CAN MAKE A
SERIOUS DIFFERENCE.
AND TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN OTHERS' LIVES.
ISN'T THAT WHY WE WENT TO LAW
SCHOOL, IS TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE?
I'M GOING TO GET TO THE PERSONAL

PART NOW.

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BEFORE I JOINED THE FLORIDA BAR
FOUNDATION ON A FULL-TIME BASIS
19 MONTHS AGO, I WORKED FOR A
FABULOUS LAW FIRM.
I'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME UP IN
TALLAHASSEE LATELY.
BUT WE FELT THAT HANDLING PRO
BONO CASES WAS EQUALLY AS
IMPORTANT AS THE WORK THAT WE
DID TO GET PAID.
AND SO I WANT TO SAY JUST A TINY
THING ABOUT EVERY ONE OF MY
LAWYERS IN THAT FIRM THAT ARE
HERE, AND THEY'RE ALL HERE.
DAVID KING IS THE MOST
ACCOMPLISHED ADVOCATE THAT I
HAVE EVER KNOWN IN THE STATE OF
FLORIDA.
TOM ZINDER EARNED THE AWARD YOU
JUST RECEIVED BACK IN 2006.
FRITZ IS AN INTELLECTUAL'S
INTELLECTUAL WITH A BRILLIANT
MIND.
VINCE VOLCONI IS A WRITER OF

ACCOMPLISHMENT AND PRECISION.
I REALLY WANT TO TALK MOST ABOUT
OUR YOUNGEST LAWYER, TAYA, A
REFUGEE WITH HER FAMILY FROM
BOSNIA.

SHE CLERKED FOR TWO FEDERAL
JUDGES, AND AS A LAWYER, LIKE
JUSTICE LARBARGA, SHE KNOWS HOW
EASILY JUSTICE CAN BE SNUFFED
OUT WHEN ACCESS IS DENIED.
OUR STAFF ALWAYS KEPT OUR
SPIRITS UP DURING THE DIFFICULT
TIMES THAT WE HAD BECAUSE WE
TOOK A LOT OF LEGAL AID CASES
IN.

AND I WANT TO ESPECIALLY THANK
MY LEGAL ASSISTANT, KAY KING,
WHO WAS WITH ME FOR MORE THAN 25
YEARS AND WHO WAS MY LIFELINE TO
LEGAL AID.

SHE AND EVERY LAWYER THERE AND
EVERY STAFF MEMBER THERE MADE ME
A MUCH MORE COMPASSIONATE
LAWYER.

LASTLY, A LIFETIME OF THANKS TO

MY LATE MOTHER, MADDIE.

MY WIFE, JULIA, OF 46 YEARS.
I'M STILL A PROJECT.

[LAUGHTER]

>> OUR DAUGHTERS, BLAIR AND
BROOK, AND OUR VERY SPECIAL
SABRINA THAT SOME OF YOU KNOW
ABOUT AND HAVE READ ABOUT.
WITHOUT EACH OF YOU AND YOUR
SERVANTS' HEARTS, I WOULD NOT BE
HERE TODAY.

EACH OF YOU HAVE BEEN GENUINE
ROLE MODELS TO OTHERS THROUGHOUT
YOUR LIFE.

FOR THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN MY
NOMINATION AND TO THE SELECTION
COMMITTEE, I'M FOREVER IN YOUR
DEBT, BECAUSE NOBODY DESERVES
THIS AWARD.

I AM FOREVER IN YOUR DEBT.
TO KATHY MCLEROY, THIS WOMAN IS
AN ANGEL FOR LEGAL AID IN THE

STATE OF FLORIDA.
AN ANGEL FOR LEGAL AID IN
FLORIDA.

[APPLAUSE]

>> TO MY FLORIDA SUPREME COURT
AND TO OUR CHIEF JUSTICE, I
THANK YOU FOR THIS TREMENDOUS
HONOR.

I AM DEEPLY AND HUMBL Y AFFECTED
BY IT.

SO I ACCEPT THIS AWARD ON BEHALF
OF ALL MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
WHO TOLL DAILY AS VOLUNTEERS, AS
STAFF MEMBERS, COURT PERSONNEL,
BAILIFFS, CLERKS WHO HELP PRO SE
LITIGANTS.

ON BEHALF OF THE THOUSANDS OF
FLORIDIANS WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN
CHANGED BECAUSE A FLORIDA LAWYER
CARED AND CARES AND WILL KEEP ON
CARING.

THANK YOU EACH FOR BEING HONORED
HERE TODAY, FOR WHAT YOU DO, FOR
MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE AND FOR
PUTTING YOUR OWN STAMP AND BRAND
ON A LEGACY FOR JUSTICE.

LET ME LEAVE YOU WITH ONE QUOTE.

IT'S FROM HORACE MANN.
"BE ASHAMED TO DIE UNTIL YOU
HAVE WON SOME VICTORY FOR
HUMANITY."
THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

[STANDING OVATION]

>> OKAY.

LET ME TAKE A BREATH HERE.
THOSE OF YOU HERE TODAY, THOSE
OF YOU HONORED HERE TODAY, THOSE
EVERYWHERE IN FLORIDA WHO HONOR
THE SPIRIT OF PUBLIC SERVICE,
LET ME URGE YOU, THERE IS NO
GREATER CAUSE THAN SERVING
JUSTICE, EVEN WHEN IT MEANS THAT
YOU MUST PLACE YOURSELVES
BETWEEN THE JUST CAUSES OF THE

POOR AND THE OPPRESSED AND THE
UNJUST OPINIONS OF THE POWERFUL.
IN SO DOING, NOT ONLY DO YOU
HELP THOSE IN NEED, BUT AS
TOBIAS SIMON RECOGNIZED, YOU
HELP PRESERVE MANY OF THE RIGHTS
BASIC TO OUR REPUBLIC.
THIS IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF THE
RULE OF LAW WHICH HAS MADE THIS
NATION GREAT.
IN THIS VEIN, LET'S GIVE A LAST
ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR ALL OF THE
AWARD WINNERS TODAY.

[APPLAUSE]

>> ON A FINAL NOTE, WE INVITE
EVERYONE HERE WHO IS NOT AN
AWARD WINNER TO PROCEED TO THE
ROTUNDA FOR A RECEPTION
CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS.
YOU'RE GOING TO PARTY.
AND WE ASK THE RECIPIENTS TO
REMAIN HERE IN THE COURTROOM FOR
PHOTOGRAPHS, AND YOU WILL LATER
JOIN THE OTHERS IN THE PARTY.
THIS CEREMONIAL SESSION NOW
STANDS ADJOURNED.
THANK YOU.

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[APPLAUSE]

[THE JUSTICES LEFT THE BENCH.]

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