>> ALL RISE. HEAR YE, HEAR YE. THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA IS NOW IN CEREMONIAL SESSION. ALL WHO HAVE CAUSE TO PLEAD. DRAW NEAR, GIVE ATTENTION OF THE YOU SHALL BE HEARD. GOD SAVE THESE UNITED STATES, THE GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA AND THIS HONORABLE COURT. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA. PLEASE BE SEATED. >> GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND YET MEN. WILL COME TO THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT. WE GATHER HERE TODAY FOR WHAT IN MY OPINION IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN OUR ANNUAL CALENDAR. AND THAT IS TO HONOR THE WOMEN AND MEN OF OUR PROFESSION WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR LEGAL SKILLS TO HELP THOSE WHO OTHERWISE MIGHT NOT HAVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE. OUR HIGHEST AWARD, TOBIAS PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD. COMES FROM A PIONEERING EXAMPLE OF ALL FLORIDA ATTORNEYS. SIMON HIS LEGACY INCLUDED PROVIDING ADVICE TO COUNTLESS NUMBERS OF PRO BONO CLIENTS REPRESENTING THE UNPOPULAR AND OPPRESSED MEMBERS OUR SEE SIGHT, IN TEACHING THIS SAME ETHIC TO SCORES OF STUDENTS. OUR STATE BAR'S PRO BONO EFFORTS TAKE INSPIRATION FROM BOTH TOBIAS SIMON'S MEMORY AND FROM EXPRESS PROVISION OF OUR CONSTITUTION THAT GUARANTIES ACCESS TO THE COURTS FOR REDRESS OF ANY INJURY. FOR MORE THAN HALF CENTURY THIS COURT REPEATEDLY RECOGNIZED THE PRACTICE OF LAW IS A PRIVILEGE AND IT CARRIES WITH IT CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AND

OBLIGATIONS. BY TAKING THE OATH OF ADMISSION TO THE FLORIDA BAR EVERY LAWYER SWEARS IN PART AND I QUOTE, I WILL NEVER REJECT FROM ANY CONSIDERATION, PERSONAL TO MYSELF, THE CAUSE OF THE DEFENSELESS OR OPPRESSED, END OUOTE. WE CONVENE HERE TODAY IN CEREMONIAL SESSION TO HONOR THOSE IN OUR PROFESSION WHO HAVE SHOWN EXEMPLARY COMMITMENT IN PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES TO PEOPLE WHO WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO OUR COURTS. FIRST YEAR IN WHICH PRO BONO HOURS WERE COMPILED, THAT WAS 1993 AND 1994, SHOW THAT ATTORNEYS STATEWIDE DONATED ABOUT 800,000 HOURS OF FREE SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE. BY THE LATEST AVAILABLE REPORTING PERIOD, ENDING LAST JUNE, THE NUMBER HAD WRIST RISEN TO MORE THAN 1.8 MILLION HOURS, WITH ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO LEGAL AID OF NEARLY \$5 MILLION. WE ALSO GATHER HERE TODAY TO HONOR A JUDGE A LAW FIRM, A VOLUNTARY BAR ORGANIZATION AND SPECIFIC ATTORNEYS FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS. AND STARTING NEXT YEAR, IN 2016 I HAVE DIRECTED THAT WE ADD A NEW AWARD, THE DISTINGUISHED FEDERAL JUDICIAL SERVICE AWARD. IT WILL RECOGNIZE AN ACTIVE OR RETIRED JUDGE ON A FEDERAL 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 TO OTHER KIND OF VOLUNTARY--VOLUNTEERISM. INCLUDING RELIGIOUS, CHARITABLE AND CIVIC WORK. THIS IS WORK DESERVING OF PUBLIC RECOGNITION WHICH IS THE REASON WE ARE HERE TODAY. BEFORE RECOGNIZING SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS, I THINK IT ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE THAT WE ALL JOIN IN A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THE MANY THOUSANDS OF MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA BAR WHO HAVE RECOGNIZED THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS CHARGE WITH SUCH UNSELFISHNESS AT THIS TYPE. [APPLAUSE] THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S PRO BONO ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD A VERY DIFFICULT TACK 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 THE COMMITTEE'S **RECOMMENDATIONS.** I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THEIR CHAIR, THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA BAR, EUGENE K. PETTIES AT THIS TIME. OKAY. WE WON'T RECOGNIZE HIM. THOSE WHO ARE PRESENT, PLEASE STAND, THOSE, ON THE COMMITTEE WHO ARE PRESENT, PLEASE DO STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED. [APPLAUSE] THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO

RECOGNIZE PRIOR RECIPIENTS OF THE TOBIAS SIMON PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD. THOSE WHO ARE PRESENT. PLEASE STAND NOW AND BE RECOGNIZED. [APPLAUSE] WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO HONOR THE MEMBERS THE FLORIDA PRO BONO COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION. THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE PRESENT. WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND AND BE **RECOGNIZED**. [APPLAUSE] NOW LET ME TURN TO THE AWARDS. IN 2005 THE COURT ADDED A NEW AWARD TO RECOGNIZE A STATE COURT JUDGE WHO WOULD WORK TOWARDS IMPROVING THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AS IT RELATES TO PRO BONO WORK BY LAWYERS. SPECIFICALLY THE AWARD HONORS A JUDGE WHOSE WORK BEST EXEMPLIFIES THE ASPIRATIONAL BOWL DESCRIBED IN THE COMMENTARY IN CANNON 4-B IN THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT. COMMENTARY SAYS, SUPPORT OF PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES BY MEMBERS ABOUT BENCH IS AN ACTIVITY THAT RELATES TO IMPROVEMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, END OUOTE. 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 HONORS A 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. IT GOES TO JUDGE ASHLEY B. MOODY OF THE 13th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN TAMPA. [APPLAUSE] NOT YET. DO I HEAR AN ECHO? TO BEGIN WITH, JUDGE ASHLEY MOODY HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN MOTIVATING OTHERS TO SHARE HER INTEREST IN PRO BONO SERVICE WHICH IS HER PASSION. SEEING A SHORTAGE OF PRIVATE ATTORNEYS WILLING TO STAND IN WITH JUVENILES WHO HAD NO OTHER, WHO HAD NO PARENT OR GUARDIAN PRESENT, JUDGE MOODY FOUNDED THE 13th CIRCUIT JUVENILE DELINQUENT ATTORNEY'S AD LITEM PROGRAM. SHE FORGE AD MENTORING PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN THE DELINQUENCY SYSTEM WORKING WITH BIG BROTHERS AND BIG SISTERS OF TAMPA. SHE FOUNDED A PRO BONO RACE TO THE COURT HOUSE, KNOWN AS THE PRO BONO RIVER RUN FIVE KILOMETERS OR 5-K TO PROMOTE PRO BONO SERVICE. SHE CREATED THE QUOTE, JUSTICE GAMES, AN EVENT STARTS WITH ALL FOR JUSTICE SOCIAL HOUR WHICH PRO BONO THEY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS SET UP INFORMATIONAL TABLES. SHE SERVED AS A CATALYST IN THE FORMATION OF CROSSROADS FOR FLORIDA KIDS WHICH NOW PROVIDES THOUSANDS OF PRO BONO HOURS EACH YEAR REPRESENTING CHILDREN IN THE DEPENDENCY AND DELINQUENCY DIVISIONS. SHE HELPED IN THE PLANNING AND LAUNCH OF THE TAMPA BAY PRO BONO PARTNERSHIP. SHE FOUNDED IT WITH THREE OTHER JUDGES, WILLIAM REESE SMITH, JR., LITIGATION IN AMERICA COURT, TO POKE FOCUS ON PRO BONO SERVICE, PROFESSIONALISM AND DIVERSITY. IN THE TIME I'VE GIVEN HERE

TODAY I COULD NOT POSSIBLY GO THROUGH THE ENTIRE RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THIS JUDGE BUT I INVITE YOU TO READ THAT RECORD IN THE BOOKLET DISTRIBUTED HERE TODAY. IN ALL JUDGE MOODY TRULY IS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND OF THE GOALS SET BY CANNON 4-B THE COURT NOW RECOGNIZES JUDGE ASHLEY B. MOODY TO APPROACH THE BEN. RECEIVE THE AWARD, SHAKE HANDS WITH THE JUSTICES AND PROCEED TO THE PODIUM FOR SOME REMARKS. [APPLAUSE] 12450 I SEE THAT MY FATHER, FEDERAL JUDGE JAMES MOODY, MADE IT JUST IN TIME, RIGHT? AS THEY CALLED ME UP HE WAS SLIPPING IN THE BACK DOOR. YOU'RE NOT IN TROUBLE. MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT, I DO MISS SAYING THAT AS A LAWYER, I REALLY DO WANT TO PLEASE THIS COURT BECAUSE THERE ARE LIGHTS UP HERE SHOW ME WHEN IT IS TIME TO STOP TALK. WE DON'T HAVE THE FANCY LIGHTS IN TRIAL COURTS ALTHOUGH I KEEP ASKING OUR TECH PEOPLE TO INSTALL A BUTTON WHEN I START A CRESCENDOED OF MUSIC WHEN I WANT LAWYERS TO STOP TALKING. THEY KEEP TELLING ME IT IS NOT IN BUDGET. IT IS VERY HUMBLING TO STAND HERE IN TO OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND HONORABLE COURT AND MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS THAT IS AWARD RECOGNITION OF SO MANY OTHER PEOPLE. BEGINNING WITH MY FAMILY. MANY THAT TRAVELED A GREAT DISTANCE TO WITH ME TODAY. BY EXAMPLE TAUGHT PUBLIC SERVICE AS IMPORTANT IN LIFE AS PURSUING A CAREER. THE LAWYERS OF HOLLAND AND NIGHT INCLUDING MARTHA BARNETT,

ALLOWED ME TO TRY CASE AS LAWYER AND DO A WEEK LONG FEDERAL CASE TRIAL PRO BONO. MY HUSBAND EFFORTLESS, GRATEFULLY PICK UP THE SLACK WHEN MY PROJECTS ADD ALREADY TO MY CRAZY LIFE. JUDICIAL ASSISTANT GINGER, BEEN WITH ME EIGHT YEARS, TALKS TO ME NIGHT TO TAKE ON ADDITIONAL TIME COMMITMENTS AND HOW PLOWED SHE IS OF FOR HAVE OTHER VOLUNTEER FOR PRO BONO. WE CONSISTENTLY ENCOURAGE JUDGES IN OUR CIRCUIT TO SUPPORT PRO BONO EFFORTS. TO HIS CREDIT WE HAD TO SOME JUDGES WIN THIS AWARD. PRO BONO CHAMPIONS OF THIS CIRCUIT, SOME OF THEM HERE TODAY, AS ROSEMARY ARMSTRONG AND NANCY LUGO CATHERINE MCCUNE. WITHOUT HESITATION THEY JUMPED INTO MY LOFTY PROJECTS WITH ME, TAGGED ALONG TO INDIVIDUAL FIRMS TO RECRUIT FRESH NEW LAWYERS FOR PRO BONO, THEY ARE LAWYERS AND JUDGE WHO IS UNDERSTAND OUR PROFESSION IS A NOBLE ONE, WITH RESPONSIBILITIES THAT EXTEND FAR BEYOND EARNING A PAYCHECK. AND TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES WHO NOMINATED ME FOR THIS ABARRED AND WHO CONTINUE TO REMIND ME THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR THE POOR, I SEW ADMIRE THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO BE DETERRED IN THAT PURSUIT, DESPITE LOSS OF STAFF, CUTS IN FUNDING AND SEEMING APATHY FROM MANY OF OUR OWN COLLEAGUES IN THE LEGAL COMMUNITY. I ONCE LISTENED AS LAWYERS DISCUSSED PRO BONO EFFORTS AT THEIR FIRMS AT A LAUNCH TABLE. ONE LAWYER WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT, HIS FIRM THEY ALL PREFERRED TO SIT AROUND AND SING KUMBAYAH.

I WAS SHOCK, MORE SO EMBARRASSED THAT A LAWYER WOULD HAVE SUCH A SHALLOW UNDERSTANDING OF PRO BONO, AS A RESULT, A SHALLOW APPRECIATION FOR PRO BONO SERVICE ESPECIALLY WINS WE AS LAWYERS TOOK AN OATH TO SUPPORT OUR CONSTITUTION. THE VERY FIRST SENTENCE OF THE CONSTITUTION SAYS ITS PURPOSE IS TO ESTABLISH JUSTICE AND JUSTICE ONLY EXISTS IF IT IS AFFORDED TO TO WE THE PEOPLE, NOT JUST WE THE WEALTHY. WHEN THE LEGAL SYSTEM BECOMES COST PROHIBITIVE DENYING AVAILABILITY TO MOST VULNERABLE IN SOCIETY OUR SYSTEM BEGINS TO FRAY. THE STRENGTH OF OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM RESTS ON ITS PERCEIVED VALIDITY AND ACCESSIBILITY BY OUR CITIZENS. AT A TIME WHEN THERE ARE MANY CRITICS OF OUR DEMOCRACY, BOTH ABROAD AND HERE AT HOME. WE AS JUDGES AND LAWYERS MUST REMAIN VIGILANT AND OUTSPOKEN IN INSURING EVEN THOSE WITHOUT MEANS MAY SEEK RESOLUTION AND PROTECTION FROM OUR COURTS. I OFFER A CHALLENGE TO THE OTHER CIRCUITS WHO MAY HAVE INACTIVE CIRCUIT PRO BONO COMMITTEES OR MAYBE COMMITTEES IN NAME ONLY. ENCOURAGE YOUR CHIEF JUSTICE TO CREATE, REORGANIZE AND OR REINVIGORATE YOUR CIRCUIT COMMITTEE. CHANGE THE APPROACH. DON'T ASK LAWYERS IN OUR CIRCUIT TO DO PRO BONO BECAUSE IT WILL MAKE THEM FEEL GOOD. FRANKLY NOT OUR BUSINESS HOW THEY FEEL. WHAT IS OUR BUSINESS QUITE LITERALLY AS JUDGES AND LAWYERS TO SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM INSURING ALL

HAVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE. SEND A MESSAGE THAT PRO BONO SERVICE BY LAWYERS IS THE DEFENSE OF OUR CONSTITUTION. IT IS NOT ABOUT POLITICAL PARTIES. IT IS NOT ABOUT HANDOUTS. IT IS NOT ABOUT WELFARE. IT IS ABOUT THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS AND STABILITY OF OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT. A PATRIOT AND I DON'T MEAN THE KIND OF PATRIOT THAT DEFLATES FOOTBALLS OR WRONGFULLY OF ACCUSED OF DEFLATING FOOTBALLS AS MY HUSBAND WOULD MAKE SURE I SAY SINCE HE MAY LEAVE ME ANY MOMENT FOR TOM BRADY, A PATRIOT IS SOMEONE WHO LIVES AND DEFEND THE IDEALS OF HIS COUNTRY. NO ONE REMEMBERS HOW MUCH JOHN ADAMS GOT PAID REPRESENTING BRITISH SOLDIERS AFTER THE **BOSTON MASSACRE.** WE REMEMBER THAT HE STOOD UP FOR THE PRINCIPLE THAT JUSTICE AND DUE PROCESS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL. THERE MUST BE RENEWED VIGOR FOR PRO BONO. WE CAN NOT SIT COMPLACENT OUR COLLEAGUES MAY BE GUIDED BY LACK OF UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL PERSUASIONS OR AGENDAS MARGINALIZE ITS IMPORTANCE. CHANGE THE MOTTO TO A BATTLE CRY. INSTEAD OF HAVE A HEART, TRY BE A PATRIOT. I DARE SAY IT WOULD BE MUCH HARDER IN RETURN FOR SOMEONE TO SAY, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE A PATRIOT. I DON'T HAVE THE SPECIALIZED SKILLS TO BE A PATRIOT. I THANK YOU ALL FOR THIS VERY IMPORTANT AWARD. IT IS TRULY AN HONOR. [APPLAUSE] >> WE ARE ALSO HERE TODAY TO

RECOGNIZE A LAW FIRM FOR DISTINGUISHED PRO BONO CONTRIBUTIONS. THIS IS A SPECIAL HONOR BECAUSE THE AWARD IS NOT GIVEN EVERY YEAR. ONLY WHEN A TRULY DESERVING FIRM IS NOMINATED. THIS YEAR WE HONOR THE ACKERMAN LAW FIRM WHICH IS HEADQUARTERED IN MIAMI. ACKERMAN IS ONE OF THE 100 LARGEST LAW FIRMS IN THE UNITED STATES WITH MORE THAN 600 LAWYERS IN GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS **PROFESSIONALS IN 20 OFFICES** NATIONWIDE. YET ACKERMAN FIND MANY WAYS TO HELP LOCAL COMMUNITIES. I CAN ONLY REPEAT A FEW EXAMPLES IN THE TIME I HAVE. IN 2009 ACKERMAN WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL FLORIDA BUSINESS LAWYERS PRO BONO PROJECT. TO HELP NON-PROFITS WITH A RANGE OF BUSINESS COMMERCE CONCERNS. IN ACKERMAN'S MIAMI OFFICE LAWYERS PROVIDED PRO BONO SERVICE TO UNACCOMPANIED IMMIGRANTS WHO WERE CUBAN AS PART OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION IMMIGRANT CUBAN PRO BONO PROJECT. ATTORNEYS IN MIAMI ALSO PROVIDED PRO BONO REPRESENTATION, I CAN READ THAT BETTER THAN YOU CAN, A YOUTH LED NON-PROFIT THAT SEEKS TO OVERCOME POVERTY IN LATIN AMERICA. IN PALM BEACH COUNTY ACKERMAN ATTORNEYS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF PALM BEACH COUNTY. HELPING IN MATTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP ISSUES WITH ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES TO REPRESENTING NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN 2014 ACKERMAN LAUNCHED GIVE BACK CAMPAIGN TO

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS THAT SHARE THE FIRM'S FOCUS ON YOUTH AND EDUCATION. NATIONWIDE, ACKERMAN'S LAWYERS PLEDGE 14,000 HOURS AND RAISED MORE THAN \$100,000. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE PROGRAM WILL REACH 200 FOSTER CHILDREN IN THE FIRST YEAR. THE COURT NOW RECOGNIZES ANDREW M. SMULIAN TO APPROACH THE BENCH ON BEHALF OF THE FIRM AND RECEIVE THE AWARD. SHAKE HANDS WITH THE JUSTICES AND PROCEED TO THE PODIUM FOR REMARKS. [APPLAUSE] >> MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT. CHIEF JUSTICE LABARGA, JUSTICE, BAR LEADERS, AWARD WINNERS AND GUESTS. I'M MON IN ORDER TO BE HERE TO ACCEPT THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S LAW FIRM COMMENDATION AWARD ON BEHALF OF MY PARTNERS AT AKERMAN AND 600 LAWYERS AND GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONALS ACROSS OUR FIRM. I WANT TO THANK THE FLORIDA STATEWIDE GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM FOR NOMINATING THE FIRM TO RECEIVE THIS AMAZING RECOGNITION. I LIKE TO THANK THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT AND FLORIDA BAR FOR RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY PRO BONO CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOSE BEING HONORED HERE TODAY. I STAND BEFORE YOU SO VERY PROUD OF THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF THE ENTIRE AKERMAN COMMUNITY AND OUR FIRMWIDE COMMITMENT TO SERVING THOSE IN NEED. AS THE FIRST LAW FIRM TO PARTNER NATIONALLY WITH A COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN ORGANIZATION OUR **RECOGNITION TODAY REFLECTS** COUNTLESS HOURS OF PRO BONO SERVICE THAT OUR LAWYERS HAVE

CONTRIBUTED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN GUARDIAN AD LITEM PERHAPS THROUGHOUT FLORIDA AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. EFFORTS INSPIRED BY RESILIENCE OF 600,000 CHILDREN IN OVERBURDENS FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, OVER 20,000 IN FLORIDA ALONE WITH ALMOST A THIRD LACKING IN ADVOCATES TO STAND FOR THEM AND TO INSURE THE SERVICES AND SUPPORT THEY NEED TO SUCCEED. AKERMAN HAS A LONG HISTORY OF PRO BONO SERVICE AND OUR LAWYERS INVITED HIGHEST IDEALS OF LEGAL PROFESSION WITH A GENUINE PASSION FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT. AS MANY HERE WILL REMEMBER, LAST YEAR, AKERMAN PARTNER KAREN BUSING WAS PRESENTED WITH TOE BUY WAS SIMON PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD FOR HER UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO ASSIST HOMELESS YOUTH. AKERMAN PARTNERS RICHARD MILSTEIN AND MARGARET MATTHEWS HAVE ALSO BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PRO BONO SERVICE IN YEARS PAST. BUILDING ON THIS RICH TRADITION ACHE HER CAN -- AKERMAN INTENSIFIED COMMITMENT TO FORM NEW ALLY LANCES AND CLOSE THE JUSTICE GRAB GAP AND ACHIEVE COMMUNITY IMPACT. OUR FIRM RECENTLY WELCOME FORMER FLORIDA FIRST DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL JUDGE WILLIAM VAN NORWICK AS PARTNER CHARGE OF OUR PRO BONO PROGRAM. BILL, AND HE INSISTS WE CALL HIM BILL, HAS BEEN AT THE CENTER OF SOME OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE AND INFLUENTIAL PRO BONO PROGRAMS IN THE LEGAL INDUSTRY. I'M PLEASED HE JOINED AKERMAN TO HELP EXPAND OUR PRO BONO INITIATIVES. THIS HONOR FROM THE SUPREME COURT AND FLORIDA BAR ENERGIZED AKERMAN COMMUNITY. WE ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH TOGETHER AND WE STILL HAVE MORE TO DO. IT IS INSPIRING TO BE HERE WITH SOME OTHERS HERE TODAY COMMITTED SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME TO LAWYERS AS PRO BONO WORK. MY SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE HONOR REESE HERE TODAY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. >> THANK YOU. EACH YEAR THE COURT ALSO RECOGNIZES A VOLUNTARY BAR ASSOCIATION FOR ITS OUTSTANDING PRO BONO CONTRIBUTIONS. THIS YEAR OUR WINNER IS THE HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS. WHICH USUALLY GOES BY THE NAME HAWL. THIS ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN PROVIDING PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES TO PEOPLE IN NEED IN THE TAMPA BAY AREA FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS. IN THE PAST YEAR ALONE, ITS MEMBERS VOLUNTEERED MORE THAN 1800 HOURS OF PRO BONO SERVICE. SOME OF THE ORGANIZATION'S WORK INCLUDE HELPING BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE, LOW INCOME RESIDENTS IN THE TAMPA BAY AREA. STAFFING CLINICS WITH THE FAMILY FORMS CLINIC WHICH USES VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS TO HELP PEOPLE COMPLETE COURT APPROVED FAMILY LAW FORMS AND PACKETS. PROVIDING NEW TRAINING MATERIALS IN A TRAINING VIDEO FOR THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. WORKING WITH CROSSROAD FOR FLORIDA KIDS WHICH TRAINS AND MENTORS ATTORNEYS TO REPRESENT CHILDREN IN DEPENDENCY CASES AND ARE YOU SAFE PROGRAM WHICH HELPS VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. IN 2014, HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS ASSISTED WITH A NEW PROGRAM. PROJECT HELP. IT PROVIDE SERVICES TO PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS. THE COURT WILL NOW RECOGNIZE AMY BANDOW AND MAMIE WISE, APPROACH THE BENCH. SHAKE THE HAND OF JUSTICES, RECEIVE THE AWARD AND PROCEED TO THE PODIUM FOR REMARKS. [APPLAUSE] >> YOUR HONORS, PRESIDENT COLEMAN, MEMBERS OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE, FELLOW HONOR REESE AND GUESTS. WHAT AN HONOR TO BE HERE ON BEHALF OF THE HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS. HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS OR HAWL AS YOU HERD WE LIKE TO CALL IT, STARTED FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS. IN THE LATE 1970S AS INFORMAL LUNCH GROUP OF WOMEN LAWYERS IN TAMPA WHO RESERVED A LARGE TABLE AND INVITED MEMBERS BY FAX WHICH I WAS ENTERTAINED TO LEARN AND SHARED THEIR SUCCESSES AND STRUGGLES AS WOMEN COMING OF AGE IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION. SINCE THEN WE'VE GROWN A LOT. EARLY 1980S SOME MEMBERS OF THE INFORMAL GROUP WERE APPROACHED BY THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS AND CONVINCED TO BECOME A CHAPTER WHICH WE DID IN THE EARLY '80s AND SINCE THEN, WE HAVE GROWN TO 309 MEMBERS AT LAST COUNT WHICH IS INCREDIBLE PROGRESS. WE PROVIDE CLE PROGRAMS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND HAVE A CONSISTENT COMMITMENT TO PRO BONO SERVICE. I WANTED TO TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT HAWL HAS DONE IN

PRO BONO OVER THE YEARS IN ADDITION TO RECENT WORK YOU HEARD ABOUT. TWO OF THE AREAS WE'VE BEEN FOCUSED ON HAVE BEEN PRO BONO SERVICE FOR YOUTH AND FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. HAWL WAS LONG TIME SUPPORTER OF KINSHIP CARE ASSISTANCE PROJECT WHICH ASSISTED RELATIVE CAREGIVERS FOR CHILDREN. OVER THE YEARS HAWL HOST AD LEGAL ASSISTANCE SUMMIT FOR 250 OF THOSE CAREGIVERS, A STAFFED A WARM LINE AS OPPOSED TO HOTLINE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED OF PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE AND PROVIDED FINANCIAL AND IN KIND SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS. HAWL HAS BEEN A LONG-TIME PARTNER OF THE SPRING, A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER IN TAMPA, OFFERED TRAINING TO HAWL MEMBERS HOW TO AS SIS MEMBERS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE. ALWAYS IMPORTANT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSISTANCE PROJECT, BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES AND CURRENTLY WE'RE CONTINUING THAT WORK ON BEHALF OF YOUTH AND VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. WE'RE THRILLED TWO OF OUR CURRENT PRO BONO PARTNERS IN THE TAMPA COMMUNITY WERE STARTED BY HAWL MEMBERS. WE WORK A LOT WITH ARE YOU SAFE? A NON-PROFIT PROVIDE FREE COUNSELING FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN HELP **OBTAINING INJUNCTIONS.** WE HAVE CROSSROADS FOR FLORIDA KID WHICH YOU HEARD ABOUT ALREADY TO TRAIN VOLUNTEER LAWYERS TO REPRESENT YOUTH IN FLORIDA FOSTER CARE SYSTEM AND YOUTH THAT HAVE DELINQUENCY MATTERS PENDING. WE'VE BEEN EXCITED TO BE

INVOLVED IN PROJECT HELP. WE FINISHED OUR FIRST MONTH STAFFING THAT CLINIC ON CAMPUS OF METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES IN TAMPA. AND IN BUILDING A VARIETY OF LEGAL QUESTIONS FROM HOMELESS AND STRUGGLING INDIVIDUAL IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE'RE NOT DONE. NOT DONE YET. NEXT ON HORIZON FOR US IS COMMUNITY LAW FAIR WHERE WE'LL BE VISITING A LOCAL LIBRARY ON SATURDAY MORNING AND PROVIDING FREE LEGAL CONSULTATIONS THERE AND SOME EDUCATION PROGRAMS. PRO BONO HAS BEEN A HUGE PART OF HAWL'S HISTORY AND OF OUR CURRENT PROGRAMING AND WE'RE INCREDIBLY THRILLED TO RECEIVE THIS ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE] >> THANK YOU. I WILL NOW ASK GREGORY COLEMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA BAR, TO PRESENT THE FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENT'S PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD. THEN TO INTRODUCE THE PRESIDENT OF THE BAR'S YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION FOR FURTHER REMARKS. MR. COLEMAN. >> JUSTICE LABARGA, JUSTICE POLSTON, JUSTICE QUINCE, JUSTICE PARIENTE, JUSTICE LEWIS, JUSTICE CANADY, MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT. MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA BAR, GUESTS, HONOREES OF COURSE AND FAMILIES OF OUR DISTINGUISHED HONOREES. TWO THINGS. FIRST OF ALL I APOLOGIZE FOR MY VOICE TODAY. SECONDARILY, I LIKE THIS PODIUM A LOT BETTER WHEN IT FACES THIS WAY AS OPPOSED TO THIS WAY. DON'T ASK ME WHY. IT'S AN HONOR AND PRIVILEGE FOR

ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CEREMONY. ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT ELECT ABERDEEN AND PRESIDENT ELECT DESIGNATE, ALL THE MEMBERS OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS, NEARLY 100,000 MEMBERS OF OUR BAR, I LIKE TO CONGRATULATE, THANK AND RECOGNIZE EACH OF THE RECIPIENTS HERE TODAY. THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL DAY. NOT ONLY EVERYBODY IN THIS COURTROOM, BUT FOR THE MANY THOUSANDS OF NOR FLORIDIANS WHO RECEIVED LEAGUE ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE VOLUNTEER EFFORTS AND DIRECT PRO BONO SERVICE OF NOT JUST THESE LAWYERS BUT ALL LAWYERS. I'M VERY PROUD TO SAY AS JUSTICE LABARGA POINTED OUT, CHIEF JUSTICE LABARGA POINTED OUT, LAST YEAR 1.9 MILLION HOURS OF REPORTED PRO BONO SERVICE. I SUGGEST THE NUMBER IS MUCH HIGHER. ADDITIONAL \$4.9 MILLION IN CASH CONTRIBUTIONS. IF YOU TAKE MEDIAN AVERAGE HOURLY RATE IN STATE OF FLORIDA OF THE \$250 AN HOUR, THAT IS HALF A BILLION, WITH A "B," DOLLARS WORTH OF TIME THAT LAWYERS IN FLORIDA, CONTRIBUTED TO THE NEEDY. WE'RE THE ONLY PROFESSION IN THE WORLD THAT DOES THIS. AND WE SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF THAT. I HAVE ATTENDED THIS--[APPLAUSE] THANK YOU. AND YOU KNOW, I'VE ATTENDED THIS CEREMONY AT LEAST 12 TIMES. EVERY TIME I FEEL A VERY STRANGE MIX OF EMOTIONS, I FEEL EXCITEMENT AND PRIDE AND I FEEL AWE. THE CEREMONY EXCITES ME. IT MAKES ME SO PROUD TO BE A

FLORIDA LAWYER. I ABSOLUTELY STAND IN AWE AT YOU, THE AWARD RECIPIENTS AND WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED WHILE MAINTAINING YOUR FAMILY LIVES IN A BUSY PRACTICE. THESE FLORIDA LAWYERS ARE TRULY COMMITTED TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. AND HERE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY MANY SOLVE TODAY'S AWARD RECIPIENTS. ONE RECIPIENT HELPED SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITH MANY LEGAL ISSUES THAT CAN STAND IN THE WAY OF THEIR STARTING A NEW LIFE. ANOTHER HELPED A CUBAN IMMIGRANT AND U.S. ARMY VETERAN OBTAIN THE CITIZENSHIP THEY SO RIGHTLY DESERVED. ONE OF TODAY'S RECIPIENTS HAS CONCENTRATED HIS PRO BONO WORK IN COUNSELING PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS, AS THEY BATTLE THEIR AT DICTIONS AND THE LEGAL PROBLEMS THAT ACCOMPANY THEM. ANOTHER HAS WORKED WITH A FAMILY OF SEVEN CHILDREN FOR 20 YEARS, ACTING AS A GUARDIAN AD LITEM, REASON COORDINATING FAMILY OUTINGS. OTHER PRO BONO SERVICE BY THESE INDIVIDUAL IN ADDITION TO THEIR PRO BONO HOURS INCLUDE ATTORNEYS AD LITEM, ATTORNEYS AD LITEM HANDLING WILLS AND BANKRUPTCY FILINGS AND ASSISTING CLIENTS IN GENERAL AT LEGAL EDECRIN EX AND SPECIAL EVENTS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED FROM POLICE OFFICERS TO OUR FIRST-RESPONDERS, TO MOST IMPORTANTLY, LATELY OUR VETERANS WHICH IS A GROWING NEED AS ALL OF US KNOW. SO AGAIN, THANK YOU, TO THE HONOREES, THEIR FAMILIES, FRIEND AND COLLEAGUES. I WILL NOW ASK EACH RECIPIENT OF THE FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENT'S PRO BONO AWARD TO COME FORWARD, RECEIVE YOUR CERTIFICATE AS I CALL YOUR NAME, PLEASE. FROM THE FIRST CIRCUIT, KENNETH BROOKS, JR. [APPLAUSE] FROM THE SECOND CIRCUIT, ELIZABETH RICHIE. [APPLAUSE] FROM THE THIRD CIRCUIT, BONNIE GREEN. [APPLAUSE] FROM THE FOURTH CIRCUIT, BLANE McCARTHY. [APPLAUSE] FROM THE FIFTH CIRCUIT, RICHARD A. PERRY. [APPLAUSE] FROM THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, BRENT A. WOODY. [APPLAUSE] FROM THE 7th CIRCUIT, JIMMY ALLEN DAVIS. [APPLAUSE] FROM THE 8th CIRCUIT, MICHAEL L. FARKAS. I'M SORRY, MICHELLE. MICHELLE. [APPLAUSE] FROM THE NINTH CIRCUIT, FRANK C. WESIGHAN. [APPLAUSE] FROM THE 10th CIRCUIT, SAMUEL G. CROSBY. [APPLAUSE] FROM THE 11th CIRCUIT, ELIZABETH S. BAKER. [APPLAUSE] FROM THE 12th CIRCUIT, ANDREW R. BOYAR. [APPLAUSE] FROM THE 13th CIRCUIT, ELIZABETH L. HAPNER. [APPLAUSE] FROM THE 14th CIRCUIT, DOUGLAS L. SMITH. RECIPIENT OF THE 1 SIXTH CIRCUIT, ROBERT, BOB, GOLDMAN, COULD NOT BE HERE TODAY.

WE'LL GET THAT TO HIM. FROM THE 17th CIRCUIT, JAY KIM. [APPLAUSE] I WILL COME BACK TO THE 15th. FROM THE 15th CIRCUIT, ANNE HINDS. COME ON, ANNE. FROM THE 18th CIRCUIT, MICHAEL G. HOWARD. [APPLAUSE] I'M NOW GETTING WHISPERED IN MY EAR WHICH CIRCUIT I'M DOING. 19th CIRCUIT, STEVEN A. MESSER. [APPLAUSE] AND FROM THE 20th CIRCUIT, GREGORY T. HOLTZ. [APPLAUSE] AND OUR OUT-OF-STATE RECIPIENT, GARRETT FENTON, WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND. WE'LL GET THAT TO HIM AS WELL. NOW THAT WE HAVE ALL THE HONOR EAST IN FRONT OF THE COURT I WOULD ASK WE GIVE THEM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE RECOGNIZING THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. [APPLAUSE] SO NOW I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE AND ASK TO COME TO THE PODIUM THE PRESIDENT OF THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION, MICHAEL FOX FOX ORR TO PRESENT THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD. MICHAEL? >> MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT. MR .CHIEF JUSTICE, JUSTICES. IN TODAY'S LEGAL CLIMATE IT IS PARTICULARLY SPECIAL TO RECOGNIZE A YOUNG LAWYER WHO IS ENGAGING IN PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE. YOUNG LAWYERS, SADDLED WITH TREMENDOUS STUDENT LOAN DEBT AND EXPERIENCING LOW INCOMES IN A VERY COMPETITIVE MARKETPLACE DON'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES

THAT MAYBE SOME MORE ESTABLISHED LAWYERS HAVE TO MAKE THAT CHOICE AND PERFORM PRO BONO SERVICE. AND YET, WE BELIEVE THAT YOUNG LAWYERS ARE THE KEY TO SOLVING THE ACCESS TO COURT ISSUE THROUGH PRO BONO WORK. AND I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE ON BEHALF OF THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION TODAY, TO RECOGNIZE A VERY SPECIAL YOUNG LAWYER AS THE RECIPIENT OF THIS YEAR'S 2015 FLORIDA BAR YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION PRO BONO AWARD. SARA ALPERT IS AN ASSOCIATE WITH ZUCKERMAN, SPADER IN TAMPA, WHERE SHE PRACTICES IN COMPLEX CRIMINAL AND CIVIL MITIGATION CONCLUDING DEFENSE OF HEALTH CARE FRAUD CLAIMS AND CASES INVOLVING THE FALSE CLAIMS ACT. OVER THE LAST YEAR SARA CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN 250 PRO BONO HOURS. I RAN THE MATH VERY QUICKLY. THAT'S THE EQUIVALENT OF DOING AN HOUR OF PRO BONO SERVICE ON EVERY SINGLE DAY OF THE WORK WEEK THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. SARA'S DONE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF WORK AND SHE DOES ALL OF THAT MOSTLY AT NIGHT AND ON THE WEEKEND. SHE'S NOT ONLY REPRESENTED A NUMBER OF PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE YEARS IN PRO BONO CASES BUT MORE RECENTLY, SHE REPRESENTED TWO PARTICULAR YOUNG CLIENTS AND HAS DEALT WITH EVERYTHING FROM ABUSE TO BEDBUG INFESTATIONS. SHE ALSO TAKES TIME TO COUNSEL YOUNG TEENS ON LIFE CHOICES. SARA HAS BEEN A TRAINING SPEAKER FOR CROSSROADS FOR FLORIDA KID. PRO BONO ATTORNEYS THAT HAVE WORKED WITH CROSSROADS AND SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE PEARL SOCIETY, A GIVING CIRCLE DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES.

HER WORK WITH CROSSROAD SHE IS ALSO DONE EVERYTHING FROM GIVING ADVICE TO THE YOUTH TO PURCHASING S.A.T. PREP BOOKS. BEFORE SHE WAS AT ZUCKERMAN SHE WAS AT A SMALLER FIRM AND SHE HAD SUCH A PASSION FOR PRO BONO SERVICE SHE USED TO SNEAK OUT FROM HER FIRM AND PERFORM PRO BONO WORK. THAT'S THE LEGAL CLIMATE WE'RE IN TODAY, THAT IT'S NOT EVERY FIRM LOOKING AT EACH OTHER SAYING, WE HAVE TO DO THIS. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF US IN THE STATE THAT RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF IT, BUT THEN THERE ARE STILL EVEN MORE WHO HAVE A SITUATION PRESENTING TO THEIR YOUNG LAWYERS LIKE SARA HAD WHERE SHE HAD TO SNEAK OUT TO PERFORM THAT SERVICE. SARA, WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO OFFER THIS AWARD TO YOU. ON BEHALF OF 25,444 YOUNG LAWYERS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP AND YOUR GUIDANCE IN THE AREA OF PRO BONO SERVICE. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AWARD. [APPLAUSE] >> THIS IS ALWAYS THE CHALLENGE FOR ME IS MOVING THE MICROPHONE DOWN LOW ENOUGH WHEN I'M ABOUT TO SPEAK. THANK YOU, MICHAEL. THANK YOU, MR .CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUSTICES OF THE COURT. THANK YOU TO PRESIDENT COLEMAN. LAST YEAR I HAD THE PLEASURE OF ATTENDING THIS CEREMONY AS A MEMBER THE WILLIAM REESE SMITH, JR., FLORIDA BAR LEADERSHIP ACADEMY WHO'S CLASS TWO MEMBERS ARE NOW HERE TODAY. IT IS AN INCREDIBLE HONOR FOR ME TO STAND HERE BEFORE YOU. IT IS SOMETHING I NEVER IMAGINED CERTAINLY LAST YEAR WHEN I HAD THE PLEASURE OF BEING HERE.

I CERTAINLY. I LOOK UP TO THOSE WHO HAVE STOOD HERE BEFORE ME. I'M INSPIRED BY THE SERVICE OF EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM AND ALL OF THE ATTORNEYS THROUGHOUT THE STATE WHO ARE PROVIDING PRO BONO SERVICE EVERY DAY AND ALWAYS GIVING WHAT THEY CAN. LIKE WITH ANYTHING IN LIFE, I AM NOT HERE TODAY ON MY OWN. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FOLKS WHO HAVE I HAVE TO THANK FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE IN THIS MOMENT. I WOULDN'T BE STANDING HERE WITHOUT THEIR LOVE, SUPPORT, FRIENDSHIP, EXAMPLE. FIRST OF ALL, THANK YOU TO THE HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS FOR NOMINATING ME FOR THIS AWARD. THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO THE FLORIDA BAR YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION FOR YOUR WORK TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP FLORIDA'S YOUNGER ATTORNEYS. I HAVE TO SEND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE INCREDIBLE ROSEMARY ARMSTRONG AND HER ORGANIZATION, CROSSROAD FOR FLORIDA KID AND TO THOSE AT BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES--ESPECIALLY NANCELY LUGO, WHO I KNOW IS HERE TODAY, DICK WOLFMAN, WHO INSPIRING ME TO GIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MY COMMUNITY WHICH I'M RECEIVING THIS AWARD. I WANT TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE PEARL SOCIETY FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT TO LEGAL SERVICES. TOGETHER, 35 WOMEN IN FIVE YEARS WE RAISED OVER \$129,000 FOR BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES. THANK YOU TO MY COLLEAGUES AT ZUCKERMAN SPAEDER, FOR ALWAYS SUPPORTING MY PRO BONO EFFORTS. I'M BLESSED RIGHT NOW TO WORK

WITH BRILLIANT, DEDICATED AND CARING ATTORNEYS AND THE EQUALLY INCREDIBLE SUPPORT STAFF, PARTICULARLY MY ASSISTANT KIM **O'BRIEN**. THANK YOU TO MY MOTHER, LIZ ALPERT, FROM WHOM I LEARNED HOW TO BE GENEROUS AND WHO'S UNWAVERING OPTIMISM INFLUENCED MY OWN OUTLOOK ON LIFE. THIS IS THE HARD PART. I WANT TO THANK MY FATHER, JONATHAN ALPERT. HE WAS A TRIAL LAWYER, A PROFESSOR AND A JUDGE AND THE ONLY HEAR REI REALLY EVER HAD WHO TAUGHT ME TOLERANCE, AND TO TREAT EVERYONE EQUALLY, NO MATTER THEIR POWER, AUTHORITY, STATUS IN LIFE OR CIRCUMSTANCES. MY DAD KNEW I HAD BEEN NOMINATED FOR THIS AWARD BUT HE PASSED AWAY BEFORE I FOUND OUT I HAD WON. AND IT'S FUNNY, FOR THOSE WHOEVER EVER LOST A PARENT YOU ALWAYS LEARN SOMETHING NEW ABOUT THEM. I NEVER KNEW MY DAD DID PRO BONO SERVICE. THE REASON I FOUND OUT WAS BECAUSE OF ALL OF THE TRIAL VICTORIES, ALL THE CLIENTS HE SERVED OVER THE YEARS, THE ONLY CLIENTS WHO SHOWED UP FOR HIS CELEBRATION OF LIFE, PRACTICALLY, IN FACT BEAT DOWN MY DOOR TO BE THERE, WERE CLIENTS WHOSE CASES HE TOOK ROW BONO AND THEY TOLD ME HOW HE TOOK THOSE CASES BASED ON PRINCIPLE AND NOT ON PAYMENT. SO FOR EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM, I HOPE YOU ALL KNOW HOW MUCH WHAT YOU DO REALLY MATTERS AND THAT YOU WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR IT. LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, THANK YOU TO MY FIANCE CORY LAWSON WHO STAND WITH ME EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

NORMALLY WHEN I SPEAK ABOUT PRO BONO SERVICE, I SHARE THE NEED AND THE REWARD FOR SUCH SERVICE ALONG WITH THE ENDLESS WAYS TO SERVE INCLUDING DONATING FUND TO ALLOW OTHERS TO DO THE WORK WHEN YOU CAN NOT. NO ONE IN THIS ROOM NEED SUCH ENCOURAGEMENT. SO INSTEAD, I WOULD LIKE TO BRIEFLY SHARE MY HEART WITH YOU. MY CORE BELIEF THAT MOTIVATES ME TO SERVE AND PERSISTS IN PERSUADING OTHERS TO ALSO GIVE WHAT THEY CAN TO LIFT UP THOSE AROUND THEM. IN THE WORDS OF THE GREAT HUMANITARIAN, HE WILY WIESEL, WE MUST NOT SEE ANY PERSON AS AN ABSTRACTION. INSTEAD WE MUST SEE IN EVERY PERSON A UNIVERSE WITH ITS OWN SECRETS, WITH ITS OWN TREASURES, WITH ITS OWN SOURCES OF ANGUISH AND WITH SOME MEASURE OF TRIUMPH. I GIVE MY TIME AND MY TALENTS AND MY TREASURE TO LEGAL SERVICES EFFORTS BECAUSE THOSE EFFORTS GIVE LIFE TO THE PEOPLE WHO OFTEN ARE SEEN AS AN ABSTRACTION. WHO OFTEN AREN'T HEARD AND AREN'T VALUED BUT WHOSE HUMANITY IS THE SAME AS OUR OWN. THANK YOU. [APPLAUSE] >> NOW TURN TO THE TOBIAS SIMON PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD. IT IS MY PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT THE FLORIDA LEGAL PROFESSION'S HIGHEST PUBLIC SERVICE HONOR. TOBIAS SIMON PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD. THIS YEAR'S AWARD GOES TO JOHN W. KOZYAK. OF MR.KODIAKTIC YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO HIS COMMUNITY IS THE COAST YAK MINORITY MENTORING

FOUNDATION AND ASSOCIATED ANNUAL MINORITY MEANTER TOKING PICK THICK. KOZYAK. THIS PICNIC DRAWS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE INCLUDING MINORITY LAW STUDENTS FROM ALL OVER THE STATE AS WELL AS LAWYERS AND JUDGES. MENTORS AND STUDENTS FORM RELATIONSHIPS, THAT LAST WELL BEYOND THE STUDENT'S TIME IN LAW SCHOOL. MR .KOZYAK TAKES PRO BONO CASES EVERY YEAR. HE HAS LED INITIATIVES TO BENEFIT LEGAL SERVICES OF GREATER MIAMI AND DADE LEGAL AID TO PUT SOMETHING BACK. ONE LETTER OF NOMINATION FOR THE TOBIAS SIMON HONOR SAID OF MR .KOZYAK, QUOTE, HE NEVER SAYS NO TO ANY CAUSE OR CONSIDERATION END QUOTE. IT IS MY PLEASURE TO ASK MR .KOZYAK TO APPROACH THE BENCH AND RECEIVE THE AWARD, SHANK HANDS OF JUSTICES, AND PROCEED TO THE PODIUM FOR REMARKS. [APPLAUSE] >> MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT. JUSTICE LABARGA, JUSTICES, BAR LEADERS, WINNERS, SARA ALBERT, YOU ALMOST BROUGHT ME TO TEARS. HONORED GUESTS, DEEPLY MON IN ORDER TO BE-- HONORED TO BE HERE. AND I THANK THE DADE PUTTING SOMETHING BACK PROGRAM FOR NOMINATING ME. THIS IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY LEGAL CAREER. I'M VERY PROUD TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO RECEIVE THE TOBIAS SIMON AWARD. I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING TOE BUY WAS SIMON A FEW TIMES. I KNOW AND ADMIRE HIS FORMER PARTNER, ELIZABETH DUFRESNE. MR .SIMON TOLD ME TO CALL HIM TOBY, AND I HOPE NONE OF YOU

MIND IF I DO SO BECAUSE WITH UTMOST RESPECT THAT I ACCEPT THIS AWARD. LAST NIGHT AS I WAS FINISHING MY REMARKS. I RECEIVED AN AMAZING EMAIL FROM THE FLORIDA BAR'S PRESIDENT IN 1970, BURTON YOUNG, FROM ONE WHO I HAVE KNOWN FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND KNOW HIS SON AND PARTNERS. HE TOLD ME A STORY THAT TOBIAS SIMON CAME WITHIN ONE VOTE OF THE FLORIDA BAR BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF BEING DISBARRED IN 1969. THERE HAD BEEN A SIT-IN DAYTONA BEACH. AFRICAN-AMERICANS WERE PROTESTING THE CONTINUE WAGES OF ILLEGAL SEGREGATION THERE. THEY WERE ARRESTED THE STORY GOES, TOBY SIMON ADMITTED IT, HE RUSHED TO DAYTONA BEACH AND OFFERED TO HELP THEM. SOME DISGRUNTLED LAWYER TURNED HIM INTO THE BAR FOR SOLICITING CLIENTS. AND THE REFEREE WAS A JUDGE FROM JACKSONVILLE, STATE COURT JUDGE FROM JACKSONVILLE AND SAID, DID YOU DO IT? HE SAID, YES I DID MUCH. HE RECOMMENDED DISBARMENT. THE MATTER GOT TO THE FLORIDA BAR BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND AS BURTON YOUNG TELLS IT, THEY DEBATED ALL DAY WHETHER TO ACCEPT THIS RECOMMENDATION, SUSTAIN THE FINDINGS, BASED UPON ADMISSION OR TO DISMISS IT. AND ON, NEAR THE END, BURTON JUNK VOTED FOR DISMISSAL. IT WAS A TIE VOTE. THEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA BAR, MARK BUSEY, MARK HALSEY, I'M SORRY, SAID, I HAVE TO WORK WITH YOU MR .YOUNG FOR THE NEXT YEAR. I HAVE TO LIVE WITH MYSELF. CALL MR .SIMON AND TELL HIM HE A MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA BAR. I THINK ABOUT THAT JUST A FEW YEARS LATER, THREE YEARS LATER, I THINK IT WAS THAT THE FLORIDA BAR BOARD OF. I MEAN FOUNDATION RECOGNIZED HIM AS A WITH THE MEDAL OF HONOR. THEN A MAN WHO WAS ALMOST DISBARRED, ONE VOTE AWAY. THE SUPREME COURT RECOGNIZED HIM WITH THIS AWARD AND TODAY. I GET THAT AWARD AND JOIN SO MANY PEOPLE THAT I HAVE ADMIRED FOR SO MANY YEARS INCLUDING TOBY SIMON. I DON'T BELIEVE I EVER MET A LAWYER UNTIL I GOT OUT OF COLLEGE. I NEVER GAVE A THOUGHT TO BEING A LAWYER UNTIL LONG AFTER THAT, A FEW YEARS AFTER THAT. I WAS INTENT ON GOING TO BUSINESS SCHOOL BUT THE ARMY AND A BRIEF STINT OF WORKING WITH MY FATHER IN THE GROCERY BUSINESS IN ST .LOUIS AREA GOT IN THE WAY. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. SOMEONE SAID, WELL YOU LIKE TO READ, AND YOU SURE LIKE TO ARGUE, SO WHY DON'T YOU BECOME A LAWYER? AND THAT WAS OVER 40 YEARS AGO. AND I WAS NOT ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO LOVED LAW SCHOOL BUT I DID LOVE MY FIRST JOB, WORKING WITH JOHN UREL AND NOW SENIOR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE PAUL HUCK. THEY BOTH ADOPTED ME INTO THEIR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIVES. THEY TAUGHT ME THE IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS, ENCOURAGED ME TO START DOING PRO BONO WORK IN MY FIRST YEAR AS A YOUNG ASSOCIATE. I'M A RELATIONSHIP GUY, IF YOU KNOW ME. I WORKED FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS EACH WITH HARLEY TROPIN AND CHUCK THROBBING MORTON. THEY SUPPORTED AND ASSISTED ME

IN EVERYTHING I'VE DONE AND THOUGHT OF DOING. I COULD NOT BE MORE PROUD OF MY PARTNERS. CORY CASTRO AND HERE TODAY WITH CHUCK. MY ASSISTANT, MARTA HAS WORKED WITH ME 30 YEARS AND DESEVENS LOTS OF CREDIT. MY WIFE SAYS THANK GOOD FOR HER. CORY AND OUR FORMER PARTNER AND A U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE HAVE DONE SO MUCH FOR PRO BONO AND BEYOND. THEY ARE THE ONES THAT DESERVE THE PRO BONO AWARDS. MY RIGHT HAND WOMAN WHEN IT COMES TO THE PICNIC. EVERYTHING ELSE HAVING TO DO WITH DIVERSITY. MY FAVORITE LAWYER AND HOWEVER AND MY BEST FRIEND IS BARBARA SILVERMAN. WHO ALWAYS ENCOURAGED ME FOR 38 YEARS. INCLUDING THE CRAZY YEARS WHEN I WAS DEFINITELY TOO FOCUSED ON BUILDING A PRACTICE AND NOT HOME ENOUGH, TO BE WITH HERE AND MY WONDERFUL KIDS. BOTH SPECIAL YOUNG MEN, BEN AND JEREMY, WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD. WHATEVER CREDIT I GET TODAY, OR THROUGHOUT MY CAREER, FOR PROVIDING PRO BONO SERVICES OR HELPING DIVERSIFY THE FLORIDA BAR IS SHARED BY PEOPLE I JUST MENTIONED. THOUSANDS OF OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAVE HELPED ME. AND I APOLOGIZE I DON'T HAVE TIME TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEM BUT IF YOU KNOW ME, YOU KNOW THAT I CARE ABOUT YOU. AND ONE, FINALLY MY MENTOR, BOB JOSEPHSBURG WHO HELPED ME AT EVERY STAGE. HOWEVER THERE IS NOT A DAY THAT GOES BY THAT I DON'T THINK AND

THANK MY MOTHER FOR SETTING THE BAR HIGH. MY MOTHER AND FATHER WERE PART OF THE GREATEST GENERATION AND THEY ARE STILL LIVING. THEY BOTH HAVE PARKINSON'S DISEASE NOW. SO I'M SPENDING MUCH OF MY TIME NOW AS CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL PARKINSON FOUNDATION. THUS THIS PIN. THEY KNOW WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE DIRT POOR AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HELPING OTHERS. I GREW UP IN A TOTALLY SEGREGATED CITY, I WOULD SAY A MEANLY SEGREGATED CITY IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ABOUT 20 MILES FROM FERGUSON, MISSOURI. I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL YOU COULD SEE COLORED-ONLY SIGNS IN ST .LOUIS. MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME THAT IT WAS WRONG TO JUDGE PEOPLE BY THEIR COLOR. IT WAS MANDATORY TO BE NICE AND **RESPECTFUL TO EVERYONE.** MY MOTHER MINIMIZES HER INTELLECT, HER IMPACT ON OTHERS. BUT I WILL NEVER FORGET, SMALL LADY AND I, EATING ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE DRUGSTORE COUNTER IN THE EARLY '60s IN ST .LOUIS. BECAUSE, IN HER WORD, IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO. SHE IS MORE COURAGEOUS, FAR WISER THAN SHE WILL EVER KNOW OR ACKNOWLEDGE. I KNOW MY PARENTS ARE WATCHING. I MUST SAY, THANK YOU. SOMETIMES IT'S JUST THAT SIMPLE, THE RIGHT THING TO DO. MY MOTHER WOULD MAKE TOBY SIMON PROUD. EVERY PERSON I MEET THROUGH ROW BONO WORK AND EVERY MINORITY STUDENT I HAVE MATCHED WITH A LAWYER OR JUDGE MAKE ME A BETTER PERSON. MY FIRM AND I HAVE REPRESENTED

MANY SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUAL. WE'VE GOTTEN SOME GREAT AWARDS HERE. HAD SOME TAKEN AWAY HERE. WE'VE-- WE'VE MADE A GOOD LIVING BUT NOTHING REALLY COMPARES TO A TEARFUL PRO BONO CLIENT THAT YOU'VE HELPED SAVE THEIR HOUSE OR THEIR APARTMENT, OR YOU HELPED PRESERVE THEIR DIGNITY. LEGAL AID PUTS SOMETHING BACK DOES THIS EVERY DAY. I THANK THEM AGAIN NOMINATING THEM. MINORITY MENTORING PROGRAM ENABLED ME TO DO THE RIGHT THING AND GIVE SOMETHING BACK. THERE ARE TONS OF STORIES THAT WOULD LIKE TO TELL ABOUT THAT. BUT THE ONE THAT MAYBE MAKES THE MOST IMPACT ON ME, PROBABLY WILL SURPRISE THE PERSON I MENTIONED, HIS NAME IS HILTON NAPOLEON. HILTON IS FROM DETROIT. HILTON'S UNCLE WAS, HEAD OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. I LINED UP HILTON WITH THE BEST OF THE BEST MENTORS. HE WOULD NEVER CALL THEM. FINALLY FOUND THEM. I SAID WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING? ERVING GONZALEZ IS WILLING TO MENTOR YOU. ED IS READY TO MENTOR YOU. AND HE FINALLY STARTED DOING IT AND LATER CAME TO ME AND SAID, YOU KNOW, JOHN, YOU'RE THE FIRST WHITE PERSON I EVER TRUSTED. THAT COMMENT MEANT SO MUCH TO ME THEN AND NOW. ONE OF MY OTHER MENTEES, NATALIE JAMES, SOMEBODY I ADMIRE SO MUCH THAT REFER TO HER AS MY HAITIAN-AMERICAN DAUGHTER. SO I'VE GOT ENAS MUCH OUT OF THIS AS I HAVE PUT IN. WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS.

WHEN I GRADUATED FROM LAW SCHOOL IN 1975, OUR FIRST JEWISH JUSTICE HAD JUST BEEN APPOINTED SIX MONTHS BEFORE THAT. FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN JUSTICE. JUSTICE HATCHET, WHO IS HERE, NOT YET HAD BEEN APPOINTED. FIRST HISPANIC JUSTICE FOLLOWED MANY YEARS LATER. I USED TO THINK IN MY EARLY YEARS THAT BEING A MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA BAR WAS JUST A BUNCH OF GRAY-HAIRED WHITE GUYS. THEN I BECAME ONE. [LAUGHING] AND I LOOK AROUND AT THE BAR NOW AND I'M VERY, VERY PROUD OF WHAT I SEE. I'M PROUD OF THE OTHER AWARDEES, THE PEOPLE, THE STORIES THEY HAVE TOLD. I'M NOT GOING TO STOP AND I DON'T VIEW THIS AS A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. WE HAVE WORK TO DO. LEGAL AID, LEGAL SERVICES, PUBLIC DEFENDERS, TO NAME A FEW NEED MORE SUPPORT AND FUNDING. OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM NEED AND MUST HAVE ITS INDEPENDENCE. MINORITY LAWYERS NEED TO CONTINUE LEADING THE WAY THROUGH OUR FRAGILE SOCIETY. WHICH IS STILL NOW TOO QUICK TO JUDGE PEOPLE BY THEIR COLOR, THEIR GENDER, THEIR PREFERENCES, THEIR DISABILITIES, OR THEIR RELIGION. COME TO THE PICNIC NEXT YEAR. JOIN JUSTICE QUINCE, JUSTICE PARIENTE, HOPEFULLY OTHER JUSTICES AND ABOUT 4,000 OTHERS AND FEEL GOOD ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION BUT DON'T FORGET FERGUSON, THE MANY PLACES LIKE IT OUT THERE. DO NOT FORGET OUR MUSLIM BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO ARE SO MISUNDERSTOOD AND TARGETED. DO NOT FORGET OUR OATH TO MAKE

SURE EVERYONE HAS LEGAL REPRESENTATION. AND NEVER TELL A LAWYER JOKE. WE'RE NOT JOKING ABOUT OUR OBLIGATIONS TO THE POOR AND THE NEEDY. AND PLEASE, DO NOT FORGET WHEN MY MOM WOULD SAY, DO THE RIGHT THING. THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART. [APPLAUSE] >> TO THOSE OF YOU HONORED HERE TODAY, TO THOSE EVERYWHERE IN FLORIDA WHO NONE NOR THE SPIRIT OF-- HONOR THE SPIRIT OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LET ME URGE YOU TO, 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 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 VAIN, LET'S GIVE A LAST ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO ALL OF OUR AWARD WINNERS. [APPLAUSE] AND 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. AND WE ASK THAT THE RECIPIENTS REMAIN HERE IN THE COURTROOM FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND YOU WILL LATER JOIN OUR GUESTS IN THE ROTUNDA. THIS CEREMONIAL SESSION NOW STANDS ADJOURNED. THANK YOU.