

>> ALL RISE.
HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE.
THE SUPREME COURT IN NOW IN
SESSION.
ALL WHO HAVE CAUSE TO PLEAD,
DRAW NEAR, GIVE ATTENTION.
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.
WELCOME TO THE FLORIDA SUPREME
COURT.

I SEA WE HAVE STANDING ROOM
ONLY.

WE GATHER HERE TODAY, WHAT IN MY
OPINION, I BELIEVE THE OPINION
OF MY COLLEAGUES IS ONE OF THE
MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN YOUR
ANNUAL CALENDAR.

THAT IS TO HONOR THE MEMBERS OF
OUR PROFESSION WHO VOLUNTEER
THEIR LEGAL SKILLS TO HELP THOSE
WHO OTHERWISE MIGHT NOT HAVE
ACCESS TO JUSTICE.

THIS YEAR WE ARE, WE ARE ALSO,
ARE HONORING THESE PEOPLE IN A
TRULY NEW AND SPECIAL WAY.

ONE THAT REFLECTS THE CHANGING
WORLD OF THE 21st CENTURY.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME, TODAY IS
THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY
THAT WE ARE OFFICIALLY
BROADCASTING A COURTROOM EVENT
ON FACEBOOK LIVE.

[LAUGHTER].

[APPLAUSE]

I TRUST THIS WILL BE THE FIRST
TIME THAT MY CHILDREN ARE
WATCHING ME IN A COURT EVENT.

[LAUGHTER].

SO IF YOU HAVE FRIEND AND FAMILY
WHO WANT TO WATCH, YOU CAN
SIMPLY TELL THEM TO GO TO THE
SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA
FACEBOOK PAGE AND WATCH US
THERE.

AND, ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT,
IF YOU WANT TO PULL OUT YOUR
SMARTPHONES RIGHT NOW AND TEXT
THAT INFORMATION TO YOUR FRIENDS
AND FAMILY, FEEL FREE SO TO DO
RIGHT NOW.

LET ME TELL YOU WHAT MY
CHILDREN'S PHONE NUMBER IS SO
YOU CAN TELL THEM.

[LAUGHTER].

THIS IS ONE WAY WE ARE
FULFILLING THE COMPREHENSIVE
COURT COMMUNICATIONS PLAN WE
ADOPTED TWO YEARS AGO WHICH HAS
BECOME, BY THE WAY, A MODEL
NATIONALLY FOR OTHER STATE COURT
SYSTEMS.

BY THE WAY, WE SUSPEND THE USUAL
RULES OF THE DECORUM FOR EVENTS
LIKE THIS ONE IN OUR COURTROOM.
SO YOU ALSO SHOULD FEEL FREE TO
APPLAUD AND TAKE PICTURES,
WHENEVER YOU WANT.

WE'LL JUST HOLD YOU IN CONTEMPT.

[LAUGHTER].

BUT LET'S MOVE ON TO THE COURT
BUSINESS.

OUR HIGHEST AWARD TODAY TO THE
TOBIAS SIMON PRO BONO AWARD,
TAKES THE NAME FROM A PIONEERING
LAWYER WHO BECAME AN EXAMPLE OF
ALL FLORIDA ATTORNEYS.

TOBIAS'S LEGACY, GIVING
COUNTLESS ADVICE FROM COUNTLESS
PRO BONO CLIENTS FOR MEMBERS THE
OPPRESSED IN SOCIETY TEACHING
THIS SAME ETHIC TO SCORES OF
STUDENTS.

OUR STATE BAR'S PRO BONO EFFORT
TAKE INSPIRATION FROM TOBIAS
SIMON'S MEMORY AND FROM A
EXPRESS PROVISION IN OUR
CONSTITUTION THAT GUARANTEES
ACCESS TO THE COURTS FOR REDRESS
OF ANY INJURY.

MORE THAN A CENTURY 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 QUOTE, I WILL NEVER REJECT FROM ANY CONSIDERATION PERSONAL TO MYSELF THE COST OF THE DEFENSELESS OHIO PRESSED, END QUOTE.

WE CONVENE IN CEREMONIAL SESSION TO HONOR THOSE IN OUR PROFESSION SHOWN EXEMPLARY COMMITMENT TO PEOPLE WHO WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO COURTS.

THE FIRST YEAR IN WHICH PRO BONO HOURS WERE COME WILD, THAT WAS 1993 AND 1994, SHOW THAT ATTORNEYS STATEWIDE DONATED 800,000 HOURS OF FREE SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

BY THE LATEST AVAILABLE REPORTING PERIOD FLORIDA ATTORNEYS COLLECTIVELY PROVIDED MORE THAN 1.5 MILLION HOURS OF FREE LEGAL SERVICE.

IN ADDITION TO NEARLY 24,000 HOURS PROVIDED BY LAW FIRMS ALONG WITH DONATIONS OF MORE THAN \$5.5 MILLION IN LEGAL AID. WE ALSO GATHER HERE TO HONOR JUDGES, TO HONOR A LAW FIRM, TO HONOR A VOLUNTARY BAR ASSOCIATION AND SPECIFIC ATTORNEYS FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

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

FLORIDA LAWYERS ALSO HAVE DONATED MANY MILLIONS OF HOURS TO OTHER KIND OF VOLUNTEERISM INCLUDING CHARITABLE, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIC WORK.

THIS IS WORK SERVING OF PUBLIC RECOGNITION WHICH IS THE REASON WE ARE HERE TODAY.

BEFORE RECOGNIZING SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS I THINK IT

IS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE THAT ALL OF US JOIN IN A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THE MANY THOUSANDS OF MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA BAR WHO HAD RECOGNIZED THEIR RESPONSIBILITY AND DISCHARGED IT WITH SUCH UNSELFISHNESS. LET'S DO THAT.

[APPLAUSE]

THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S PRO BONO ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD THE VERY 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 IS WAS NOT EASY ONE I FULLY CONCUR WITH THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS. RECOGNIZE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THEIR CHAIR, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA BAR, WILLIAM J. SCHIFINO.

IF YOU'RE PRESENT, PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE PRIOR RECIPIENTS. SHE IS NOT ONE OF THEM.

[LAUGHTER]

I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE PRIOR RECIPIENTS OF THE TOBIAS SIMON PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD.

THOSE WHO ARE PRESENT NOW STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

[APPLAUSE]

WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO HONOR THE MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA PRO BONO COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION.

THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE PRESENT WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND.

[APPLAUSE]

THERE YOU GO.

AND WE THANK YOU FOR THE WORK THAT YOU DO.

TODAY I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO HONOR THE RECIPIENT OF THE KAY MYERS

PRO BONO COORDINATOR AWARD,
DONNA McCRAy.

[APPLAUSE]

DONNA McCRAy IS WITH THE THREE
RIVERS LEGAL SERVICES IN LAKE
CITY AND I THINK SHE ALREADY HAS
STOOD UP AND GOT THE APPLAUSE.
THANK YOU.

WE THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE
PUBLIC SERVICE YOU PROVIDE
WITHIN YOUR FIELD OF WORK.
LET ME NOW TURN TO THE AWARDS.
SINCE 2005 THE COURT HAS
RECOGNIZED A STATE COURT JUDGE
FOR WORK TOWARD IMPROVING THE
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AS IT
RELATES TO PRO BONO WORK BY
LAWYERS.

EACH YEAR THAT JUDGE IS GIVEN
THE DISTINGUISHED JUDICIAL
SERVICE AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF
THOSE CONTRIBUTIONS.

SPECIFICALLY THIS AWARD HONORS
THE JUDGE WHOSE WORK BEST
EXEMPLIFIES THE ASPIRATIONAL
GOAL DESCRIBED IN THE COMMENTARY
OF CANNON 4-B OF THE CODE OF
JUDICIAL CONDUCT.

THE COMMENTARY SAYS, SUPPORT OF
PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES BY
MEMBERS ABOUT THE BENCH IS AN
ACTIVITY THAT 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
SHARED IT IS MY PRIVILEGE AND
HONOR TO ANNOUNCE THIS YEAR'S
RECIPIENT OF FLORIDA'S
DISTINGUISHED JUDICIAL SERVICE
AWARD.

IT GOES TO JUDGE VANCE E. SALTER

OF THE THIRD DISTRICT COURT OF
APPEAL IN MIAMI.

[APPLAUSE]

I'M NOT READY FOR YOU YET.
I HAVE GOT SOME THINGS TO SAY
ABOUT YOU.

[LAUGHTER]

I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU IN A MINUTE.

>> OKAY.

[LAUGHTER]

>> NOW THAT WILL DEFINITELY GO
IN ONE OF THE CHAPTERS IN MY
BOOK.

OKAY, TO BEGIN WITH, THE SPIRIT
OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN IS IN THE
LIFEBLOOD OF JUDGE SALTER.
A MAN WHO HAS BEEN APPROPRIATELY
CALLED, THE AMBASSADOR OF
PRO BONO.

TO HAVE MORE THAN 30 YEARS OF
PRIVATE PRACTICE THROUGH MORE
THAN 30 YEARS OF PRIVATE
PRACTICE, JUDGE SALTER WORKED
TIRELESSLY TO PROVIDE AND
PROMOTE PRO BONO SERVICES.

IN 2007 HE WAS APPOINTED TO
FLORIDA'S THIRD DISTRICT COURT
OF APPEAL.

IN THE APPLICATION HE SUBMITTED
TO THE THIRD DISTRICT JUDICIAL
NOMINATING COMMISSION HE WROTE,
AND I QUOTE, I THINK IT IS
ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO HAVE
PRACTICE IN BOTH WORLDS ON
BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC COMPANY AND
THE WEALTHY BUT ALSO FOR THE
MARGINALIZED AND I WOULD DEVOTE
THE BALANCE OF MY CAREER TO
BEING SURE THAT BOTH WORLDS GET
THE SAME JUSTICE AND THE SAME
OPEN DOOR TO THE COURTHOUSE, END
QUOTE.

JUDGE SALTER REGULARLY
ORGANIZES, PROMOTES, AND
PRESENTS SEMINARS ON PUBLIC
INTEREST LAW.

HE IS CO-CHAIR OF THE
FLORIDA BAR STANDING COMMITTEE
ON PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES.
HE REGULARLY RECRUITS AND

CHALLENGES LAWYERS TO ACCEPT
PRO BONO CASES, STAFF CLINICS
AND MENTOR FELLOW LAWYERS ON
PRO BONO CASES.

ROSEMARY BARKETT, A FORMER CHIEF
JUSTICE OF THIS COURT, SAID OF
JUDGE SALTER, VANCE IS ONE OF
THE MOST HUMBLE AND
SELF-EFFACING PEOPLE I KNOW.

HE DOES NOT SEEK SELF-PROMOTION
OR RECOGNITION, AND HIS HUMILITY
IS A WONDERFUL EXAMPLE OF
GOODNESS FOR ITS OWN SAKE.

IN THE TIME ALLOTTED TO ME HERE
TODAY I CAN NOT POSSIBLY GO
THROUGH THE ENTIRE RECORD OF
PUBLIC SERVICE OF THIS JUDGE.
BUT I INVITE YOU AND ENCOURAGE
YOU TO READ THAT RECORD IN THE
BOOKLET DISTRIBUTED HERE TODAY.
JUDGE SALTER TRULY IS A SHINING
EXAMPLE OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE
GOALS SET OUT IN CANNON 4-B.

THE COURT NOW RECOGNIZES--

[LAUGHTER] VANCE SALTER, JUDGE
VANCE SALTER.

APPROACH THE BENCH.

AND RECEIVE YOUR AWARD.

SHAKE THE HANDS OF THE JUDGES.

[APPLAUSE]

>> YOU SEE I WAS TRYING TO
SHORTEN THINGS UP A LITTLE BIT.
THAT NEVER WORKS.

CHIEF JUSTICE, JUSTICES,
PRESIDENT HIGER, HONOREES,
FRIEND AND MY DEAR WIFE MARY,
I'M SO HONORED TO RECEIVE THIS.
NATURALLY I WANT TO THANK MY
COLLEAGUES WHO NOMINATED ME AND
THOSE WHO SELECTED ME FOR THIS
GREAT HONOR.

I HAVE, BEYOND THAT TWO SHORT
THOUGHTS FOR TODAY.

THE FIRST IS, I WAS JUST DOING
MY JOB.

THE JOB I GOT WHEN JUDGE SEITZ,
WHO YOU WILL HEAR FROM IN A
MINUTE, ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF
OFFICE TO ME 10 1/2 YEARS AGO.

I GOT TO PRESERVE, SUPPORT,

DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
U.S. AND THE CONSTITUTION OF
FLORIDA.

WELL, IN THAT CONSTITUTION OF
FLORIDA IS ARTICLE I, SECTION
21, EXCUSE ME FOR READING IT BUT
A JUDGE SHOULDN'T FLUB THE
CONSTITUTION DURING THE COURSE
OF REMARKS.

THE COURT SHALL BE OPEN TO EVERY
PERSON, 21 MILLION PEOPLE IN
THIS STATE, FOR REDRESS OF ANY
INJURY AND JUSTICE SHALL BE
ADMINISTERED WITHOUT SALE,
DENIAL, OR DELAY.

THAT'S MY JOB.

SO THAT'S THE FIRST THOUGHT.
AND IT'S A JOY TO DO THAT JOB
WITH LEGAL SERVICES GROUPS,
LEGAL AID GROUPS, CLINICALS,
FROM THE LAW SCHOOLS, A TEAM,
JUSTICES LEADING THE WAY AND
JUDGES, SO IT IS A WONDERFUL
PRIVILEGE TO DO THAT, I WANT TO
TELL YOU.

I WAS JUST DOING MY JOB.
THE SECOND POINT IS SHORTER, IT
IS ACTUALLY THREE WORDS.

I'M NOT DONE YET.

I'M NOT DONE.

I HOPE I HAVE ABOUT THREE MORE
YEARS.

I'M DONE WITH THESE REMARKS.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.

[LAUGHTER].

I'M NOT DONE DOING PRO BONO AND
HELPING ENCOURAGING.

GOOD LORD WILLING AND THE CREEKS
DON'T RISE, I HAVE ABOUT THREE
MORE YEARS ON THE BENCH AND THEN
WILL IT BE SENIOR JUDGE, WILL IT
BE EMERITUS LAWYER?

THOSE CHAPTERS REMAIN TO BE
WRITTEN BUT I ASSURE YOU I'M NOT
DONE.

SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THIS
AWARD.

IT MEANS A GREAT DEAL.

[APPLAUSE]

>> FOR THE RECORD YOU'RE NOT

ALLOWED TO BE DONE.

[LAUGHTER].

IN 2016 WE FIRST GAVE OUT 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 COMBINATION OF THEM ESPECIALLY AS IT RELATES TO THE SUPPORT OF PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES.

THE AWARD IS GIVEN TO A JUDGE WHO EXEMPLIFIES THE IDEALS EMBODIED IN THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR UNITED STATES JUDGES.

THAT IS A JUDGE WHO ADVANCES THE GOALS OF EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW AND WHO ENCOURAGES PRO BONO SERVICE BY FLORIDA LAWYERS.

SO SPECIFICALLY THE COMMENTARY TO THE CODE STATE HAS A FEDERAL JUDGE, QUOTE, MAY ENCOURAGE LAWYERS TO PROVIDE PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES, END QUOTE.

IT IS MY PRIVILEGE, AND HONOR TO ANNOUNCE THE 2018 AWARD GOES TO 9TH DISTRICT COURT JUDGE PATRICIA SEITZ OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

[APPLAUSE]

YOU KNOW ENCOURAGING PRO BONO SERVICE IS NOTHING NEW TO JUDGE SEITZ.

WHEN SHE WAS SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA BAR IN 1993 BECOMING THE FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE IN THAT OFFICE SHE SPENT MUCH OF HER YEAR AS PRESIDENT TRAVELING AROUND THE STATE AND ENCOURAGING LAWYERS TO EMBRACE A NEW RULE ON PRO BONO SERVICE.

JUDGE SEITZ WAS NAMED TO THE FEDERAL BENCH BY PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON IN 1998.

DOES THE BAR RULE ON PRO BONO SERVICE DOES NOT APPLY TO FEDERALS, MEMBERS OF THE

JUDICIARY, SHE HAS NEVER STOPPED PROMOTING THE CAUSE.

MOST RECENTLY JUDGE SEITZ HAS DEVOTED TIME TO THREE MAJOR PROJECTS.

ONE, FLORIDA PRO BONO MATTERS.

TWO, THE CARE COURT, C-A-R-E.

WHICH OFFERS MENTORING IN A SPECIAL COURT FOR PRISONERS REENTERING THE COMMUNITY AFTER EXTENDED SENTENCES.

AND THREE, THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION THROUGH WHICH SHE HAS OFFERED INSPIRATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR FEDERAL PRACTITIONERS TO EXPAND THEIR PRO BONO SERVICE.

BRUCE BLACKWELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION SAYS OF JUDGE SEITZ, HE SAID, JUDGE SEITZ THROUGHOUT HER LIFE WHILE A PROMINENT AND DISTINGUISHED LAWYER, AS THE FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA BAR AND CONTINUING THROUGHOUT OUR HER LENGTHY SERVICE ON THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT HAS STRONGLY CHAMPIONED ALL MANNER OF PRO BONO INITIATIVES AND ESSENTIALLY WALK THE TALK DAILY, END QUOTE.

JUDGE SEITZ'S OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE DETAILED IN THE BOOKLET DISTRIBUTED HERE TODAY.

WHICH I ENCOURAGE YOU TO READ CAREFULLY AND YOU WILL SEE HOW MUCH SHE HAS DONE.

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

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

SEE, JUDGE SALTER, THAT IS HOW IT IS DONE.

[LAUGHTER]

[APPLAUSE]

CONGRATULATIONS.

DON'T FORGET THIS.

>> MR. CHIEF JUSTICE, MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT, HONOREES, FAMILY AND FRIENDS, WHEN THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S LETTER ARRIVED I WAS SURPRISED BECAUSE I DON'T SEE MYSELF IN THE SAME LEAGUE AS ALL OF THOSE THAT ARE SITTING HERE BEING HONORED TODAY.

WHO HAVE USED THEIR TALENTS, THEIR SKILLS, AND THEIR INFLUENCE TO INSURE THAT THOSE ON THE MARGINS MUCH OUR SOCIETY HAVE THE SAME ACCESS TO JUSTICE AS THOSE WITH POWER AND MEANS. SO, I WAS INCREDIBLY TOUCHED AND GRATEFUL WHEN I READ THE NOMINATING REMARKS OF BRUCE BLACKWELL, ERICA GARCIA, HILLARY BASS, AND THE FIRST RECIPIENT, OR THE LAST RECIPIENT, BANKRUPTCY CHIEF JUDGE LAUREL ISOKOF.

THEY REALLY TOUCHED ME TO THE CORE, BECAUSE I REALLY STAND HERE TODAY ON THE SHOULDERS OF ALL OF THE LAWYERS WHO ARE UNSUNG HEROES IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

WHO, ESPECIALLY THOSE MEMBERS OF THE THREE CHAPTERS OF THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS WHO HAVE CONSTANTLY REPEATEDLY, AND PROACTIVELY GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO INSURE THAT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN NEEDS HAVE THEIR LEGAL NEEDS MET, AND THEY ARE THE ONES WHO I WANT TO SING AND SALUTE AND I THANK YOU VERY MUCH BECAUSE THEY ARE TRULY OUR SUPERHEROES, THOSE ARE THE REAL PRO BONO LAWYERS FOR ME.

SO I THANK YOU FOR THIS AWARD AND FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SING THEIR PRAISES.

TODAY ALSO GIVES ME AN

OPPORTUNITY TO FLASH BACK 25 YEARS TO THE FIRST THING THAT I GOT AS PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA BAR WHICH WAS THE SUPREME COURT'S OPINION REQUIRING MANDATORY REPORTING OF PRO BONO.

AND THE OTHER BAR PRESIDENTS HERE WILL REMEMBER THOSE OPPORTUNITIES AND ADMITTEDLY, THE INITIAL REACTION OF FLORIDA LAWYERS TO THE MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENT WAS LUKEWARM.

I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL TO JACK HARKNESS, THE IMMEDIATE PAST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FLORIDA BAR, THAT HE HIRED THE ONE AND ONLY SUPERSTAR PRO BONO LAWYER, KENT SPULER.

AND WITH KENT WE CONTACTED EVERY FLORIDA, EVERY BAR ASSOCIATION IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO TAP THE PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS OF OUR LAWYERS.

AND IT WAS AMAZING. LAWYERS, LAW FIRMS, BAR ASSOCIATIONS, ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE, SURPRISING EVEN THEMSELVES AS TO HOW CREATIVELY THEY COULD MATCH THEIR EXPERTISE TO PROVIDE MORE AND MEET MORE OF THOSE UNMET LEGAL NEEDS.

AND THE SYNERGY THAT THAT INITIALLY HAPPENED SO BUILT ON ITSELF, CREATING MORE CREATIVITY AND MORE INVOLVEMENT, THUS ACCOMPLISHING THE SUPREME COURT'S GOAL OF LIGHTING THE PRO BONO FIRE.

BUT AS WE ALL KNOW, A FIRE NEEDS CONSTANT FUEL AND FANNING OF THE FLAMES TO MAKE IT A BLAZE.

SO I AM SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF LAWYERS IN THE FLORIDA BAR HAVE DOUBLED SINCE 1993 OUR NUMBER OF PRO BONO HOURS HAS NOT, AND IN FACT THE LAST THREE YEARS IT HAS GONE DOWN.

SO I CALL UPON EVERYONE HERE WHO ARE TRULY MY HEROES IN PRO BONO TO REMEMBER NOT ONLY WE NEED TO DO WHAT WE ARE DOING INDIVIDUALLY, BUT WE NEED TO GO OUT AND RECRUIT NEW BLOOD AND TO CAJOLE, TO INVITE, TO PUSH OUR SORT OF RELUCTANT PRO BONO HEROES TO COME AND GRAB ON TO OUR OATH, TO EMBRACE IT AND TO DIVE IN.

IT IS SO MUCH EASIER TODAY, ESPECIALLY WITH, I WANT TO PUT IN A PLUG FOR PRO BONO MATTERS, THAT NEW ELECTRONIC MATCHING, SORT OF LIKE DATE MATCHING, THAT IS AVAILABLE ON YOUR HANDHELD PHONE, THAT THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION HAS FOUND.

AND I HAVE A SMALL CARD. IF I HAD MORE I WOULD HAND THEM OUT.

BUT, TOGETHER, MY FRIEND, WE CAN PASS A FLAMING TORCH.

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO FUEL AND FAN THE FLAMES.

I THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING HERE AND FOR THIS AWARD.

[APPLAUSE]

>> WE ARE ALSO HERE TODAY TO RECOGNIZE A LAW FIRM FOR THE DISTINGUISHED PRO BONO CONTRIBUTIONS.

THIS YEAR WE HONOR THE LAW FIRM OF HALISKY AND DAVIS OF DAYTONA BEACH AND SANFORD.

PROVIDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE IS IN THE DNA OF THESE REMARKABLE LAWYERS.

JIMMY ALLEN DAVIS WAS RECIPIENT OF THE FLORIDA BAR PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD FOR THE SEVENTH AWARD IN 2017.

DEBORAH HALISKY IS WITH LEGAL SERVICES OF MID FLORIDA FROM 2008 THROUGH 2015 AND WAS A MENTOR FOR DAVIS.

HALISKY AND DAVIS FORMED IN 2016.

AS AN EVOLUTION OF TWO SOLE PRACTICES.

MR. DAVIS SAID, A PRO BONO MENTOR WHO LEGAL AID DECIDED TO FORGE A PRACTICE TO BRIDGE THE MARKET GAP BETWEEN THE INDIGENT AND HOSE WHO HAVE LITTLE TO NO TROUBLE RETAINING COUNSEL.

HALISKY AND DAVIS COORDINATES AND ADMINISTERS A WEEKLY LEGAL ASSISTANCE CLINIC PEOPLE WITH, HOUSING, FAMILY, AND CONSUMER LEGAL ISSUES CAN SPEAK WITH A LAWYER AT NO COST.

THE TWO LAWYERS ALSO STAND, THE TWO LAWYERS ALSO ATTEND NON-PROFIT CONFERENCES TO NETWORK WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL HOUSING FAIRS.

OVER JUST SEVEN MONTHS IN 2017, HALISKY AND DAVIS CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN 225 DIRECT HOURS OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO ABOUT 160 INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AND ACCEPTED MORE THAN 30 PRO BONO CASES FOR FULL REPRESENTATION. HALISKY AND DAVIS HOPES TO SEE OTHER LOCAL ATTORNEYS JOIN WITH THEM AS THE CLINIC EXPAND TO SERVE EVEN MORE PEOPLE.

BUT THE COURT NOW RECOGNIZES DEBORAH HALISKY AND JIMMY ALLEN DAVIS TO RECEIVE THE AWARD AND SHAKE THE HAND OF THE JUSTICES AND PROCEED TO THE PODIUM FOR REMARKS.

IF YOU WOULD, PLEASE.

>> THANK YOU.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH, CHIEF JUSTICE, JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT, AND EVERYONE HERE TODAY. MR. DAVIS AND MYSELF ARE STILL OVERWHELMED AND SURPRISED BY THIS RECOGNITION AND HONOR TODAY.

WE'RE NOT A FANCY LAW FIRM. WE HAVE VERY LIMITED RESOURCES BUT WHAT WE DO HAVE TO GIVE IS

OUR TIME BUT WE'RE STILL A
LITTLE GUY IN A PRETTY BIG POND
OF A LOT OF ADVOCATES AND
COMMUNITY GIVERS.

IN THAT REGARD WE SINCERELY
THANK MID FLORIDA HOUSING
PARTNERSHIP, WHO IS A
NON-PROFIT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING
DEVELOPER, PROVIDER AND HOUSING
COUNSELING AGENCY WITHIN OUR
AREA, FOR TAKING THE TIME TO
NOMINATE US FOR THIS HONOR
TODAY.

AND WHO PROVIDES US WITH THE
SPACE AND THE RESOURCES THAT
ALLOWS US TO GIVE BACK TO OUR
COMMUNITY, ALL THE TIME THAT WE
HAVE TO GIVE EACH WEEK.

WINSTON CHURCHILL SAYS, WE MAKE
A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET.

WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE.
MR. DAVIS AND MYSELF SHARE THAT
SENTIMENT WITH OUR COMMUNITY
PARTNERS WHO ARE VERY IMPORTANT
TO US.

NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT TO US
THAN HELPING SO ONE WHO NEEDS
OUR HELP, TO BE GOOD ATTORNEYS
AND CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF OUR
COMMUNITY AS THE CHIEF JUSTICE
SAYS, THIS IS IN OUR DNA,
ALONG WITH A REALLY INABILITY TO
SAY NO SO MUCH OF THE TIME.

WE NEVER FORGET THAT BUT FOR OUR
EDUCATION AND OUR EXPERIENCE
WE'RE PEOPLE AND AS THOSE PEOPLE
WE WANT THE SAME THINGS.

A ROOF OVER OUR HEAD, FOOD IN
OUR BELLY, AND SOME SENSE THAT
WE MATTER IN THE WORLD.

WE ARE SO FORTUNATE EVERY WEEK
TO FEEL THAT APPRECIATION FROM
THE PEOPLE THAT COME INTO OUR
CLINIC.

YOU KNOW, AS LAWYERS, WE'RE
TRAINED PROBLEM-SOLVERS.

TO A CLIENT IN THE THROES OF
FORECLOSURE, AT THE BACK END OF
IMPENDING EVICTION, DIVORCE, OR
SIMPLY OVERWHELMED BY DEBT AND

DEBT COLLECTORS, SOMETHING THAT I THINK WE ALL UNDERSTAND IN SOME SENSE, TIME IS EVERYTHING. AND OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE PERSPECTIVE, GUIDANCE AND WITH THE HELP OF OUR PARTNERS SOME PATH TO RELIEF IN WHATEVER FORM MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE. WE REGULARLY GET HUGS, HANDSHAKES, THE OCCASIONAL TEAR, AND SOMETIMES, IF WE'RE LUCKY, WE CAN PULL OFF A MIRACLE IN THE COURTROOM.

WE ACCEPT THIS HONOR TODAY IN TRUTH ON BEHALF OF ALL THOSE UNRECOGNIZED, DILIGENT AND COMPASSIONATE ATTORNEYS NOT UNLIKE US WHO WORK TOO MANY HOURS, FOR TOO LITTLE PAY, BUT GIVE OF THEIR TIME WITHOUT COMPLAINT OR EXPECTATION OF REWARD.

THEY MATTER AS MUCH AS WE MATTER, AS THOSE LITTLE GUYS ON THE FOREFRONT WHILE, WE KNOW WE CAN'T CHANGE THE WORLD, WE TRULY BELIEVE THAT WE ALL CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR LITTLE CORNER OF IT.

YOUR RECOGNITION TODAY GIVES ADDED MEANING AND MOTIVATION TO OUR-- EFFORTS, AND IT INSPIRES US TO CONTINUE TO BE MORE DESERVING AND WORTHY OF THE HONOR YOU HAVE GIVEN US TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

>> EACH YEAR THE COURT ALSO RECOGNIZES A VOLUNTARY BAR ASSOCIATION FOR ITS OUTSTANDING PRO BONO CONTRIBUTIONS.

THIS YEAR OUR HONOREE IS THE GEORGE EDGEComb BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE TAMPA AREA.

THE GEORGE EDGEComb BAR ASSOCIATION IS THE LARGEST PREDOMINANTLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION IN THE TAMPA AREA AND SERVES AS MODEL FOR

PRO BONO SERVICE AS A VOLUNTARY BAR, GOING OUT TO CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY CENTERS TO FIND PEOPLE IN NEED.

THE GEORGE EDGECOMB BAR ASSOCIATION HAS A STRONG TRADITION OF EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WHO MAY BE FACING LEGAL OR FINANCIAL CRISIS OR DO NOT KNOW WHERE TO LOOK FOR HELP. SINCE 2004 THE MAJOR OUTREACH EFFORT OF THE ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN ITS LEGAL WORKSHOP, HELD IN PREDOMINANTLY MINORITY NEIGHBORHOODS.

THE WORKSHOPS, WHICH CAN DRAW AS MANY AS 100 PEOPLE, OFFER LEGAL COUNSELING TO THE UNDERSERVED INDIGENT POPULATION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

IT HELPS TO FULFILL THE BAR'S MISSION OF EMPOWERMENT.

THEY ALSO PROVIDE A FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH AT THE WORKSHOPS AND THE LUNCH USUALLY FEATURES A PRESENTATION ON A TOPIC WITH BROAD APPEAL TO THE AUDIENCE.

THE ASSOCIATION WAS FOUNDED IN 1982 IN MEMORY OF THE LATE GEORGE E. EDGECOMB, THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN COUNTY JUDGE IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

IT ESTIMATES IT HAS CONTRIBUTED 1930 HOURS OF TIME IN 16 WORKSHOPS FROM 2004 THROUGH 2017 AND IT WAS HONORED IN 2017 WITH 13 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PRO BONO COMMITTEE AWARDS, I'M SORRY WITH THE 13th JUDICIAL PRO BONO COMMITTEE AWARD FOR AN OUTSTANDING PRO BONO SERVICE BY AN ORGANIZATION.

THE COURT WILL NOW RECOGNIZE THERESA JEAN-PIERRE COY TO APPROACH THE BENCH, RECEIVE THE AWARD, SHAKE THE HAND FOR THE JUSTICE AND GIVE REMARKS IF YOU SO CHOOSE.

[APPLAUSE]

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.

CHIEF JUDGE JUSTICES, FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

YOU HAVE TO FORGIVE ME, BECAUSE MOST OF MY REMARKS WERE ALREADY IN THE CHIEF JUDGE'S PRESENTATION HERE, SINCE I WROTE THEM DOWN I'M GOING TO SAY THEM AGAIN ANYWAY SO IT MAY COME OFF TWICE BUT I AM HONORED TO ACCEPT THIS AWARD ON BEHALF OF THE GEORGE EDGECOMB BAR ASSOCIATION. WE HAVE LARGEST AFRICAN AMERICA'S VOLUNTARILY BAR ASSOCIATION.

IT WAS NAMED AFTER GEORGE EDGECOMB, THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN JUDGE IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

SINCE 2004, WITH THE HELP OF THE FLORIDA BAR DIVERSITY GRANT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SERVE UNDERSERVED MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

EACH YEAR LAWYERS, JUDGES, AND LAW STUDENTS, ALTHOUGH THE LAW STUDENTS DON'T ACTUALLY GIVE OUT ANY LEGAL ADVICE BUT IT IS TO TRAIN THEM SO WHEN THEY BECOME MEMBERS OF THE BAR SO THEY CAN ALSO GIVE PRO BONO SERVICES LATER.

THEY VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME, ALWAYS ON A SATURDAY, TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY ON VARIOUS AREAS OF THE LAW.

GENERALLY OUR WORKSHOPS ARE HELD IN CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY CENTERS, THAT DONATE THEIR SPACE AND ENCOURAGE THEIR MEMBERS TO ATTEND.

THIS YEAR, WE'RE STEPPING OUT OF THE BOX AND WE'RE ACTUALLY HEADING OUR LEGAL REDRESS WORKSHOP AT A LOCAL MALL IN TAMPA SO WE CAN BE, SO WE CAN ACCESS MORE MEMBERS THE COMMUNITY.

IF THERE ARE ANY BAR, VOLUNTARY

BAR ASSOCIATIONS WHO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW WE DO WHAT WE DO, PLEASE SEE ME.

WE ARE MORE THAN HAPPY TO SHARE HOW WE'RE ABLE TO HOLD THIS EVENT EVERY YEAR.

ONCE AGAIN ON BEHALF OF GEBA, THANKS CHIEF JUSTICE LABARGA, THE COMMITTEE THAT NOMINATED US, OUR DEVOTED MEMBER, NOT CHIEF JUDGE, MAGISTRATE McCUE FROM THE FEDERAL COURT FOR NOMINATING US.

WE ARE HUMBLLED BY THIS AND THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> I WILL NOW ASK MICHAEL J. HIGER, PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA BAR TO PRESENT THE FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENT'S PRO BONO SERVICE AWARDS.

TO INTRODUCE THE PRESIDENT OF THE BAR'S YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION, FOR FURTHER REMARKS.

I SAID THEY COULD DO THAT.

I SAID THEY COULD DO THAT.

>> THIS, MY FRIENDS IS A CELL PHONE.

IT IS NOT JUST FOR TEXTING OR FACEBOOK OR EVEN TO WATCH YOUR FAVORITE BASEBALL GAME.

TO THE CONTRARY, INSTEAD YOU CAN USE THIS DEVICE 24/7, ANYTIME, ANY PLACE, TO HELP SOMEONE IN NEED IT CONNECT WITH SOMEONE IN NEED WHO NEEDS OUR LEGAL SERVICES ANYWHERE IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

AND HERE'S THE BEST PART.

IT'S SO EASY, EVEN A LAWYER CAN DO IT.

[LAUGHTER].

YOU START BY GOING TO FREELEGALANSWERS.ORG.

AND YOU CREATE A PROFILE FOR YOURSELF, VERY EASY.

ALL YOU GOT TO DO IS KNOW YOUR NAME AND CLICK ON A FEW CATEGORIES OF LAW, SUCH AS LANDLORD TENANT, THAT EASY.

YOU HAVE NOW CREATED YOUR PROFILE.

ONCE YOU CREATED YOUR PROFILE, BACK TO THIS DEVICE, THE CELL PHONE, YOU WILL START GETTING EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS WHETHER ON THE CELL PHONE OR ANY OF THE LEGAL, ANY OF THE ELECTRONIC DEVICES THAT YOU HAVE AND THEY WILL START ALERTING YOU THAT SOMEONE IN FLORIDA, IN NEED, HAS A QUESTION.

AND THEN, AGAIN, EASY, YOU CLICK ON THE LINK.

JUST PUSH THE BUTTON.

IT TAKES YOU TO THE QUESTION.

AND IF YOU CAN ANSWER THE QUESTION, THAT'S GREAT, AND IF YOU CAN'T, NO PROBLEM, GOES BACK IN THE QUEUE AND SOMEONE ELSE WILL ANSWER IT.

IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

IF YOU TAKE JUST A COUPLE MINUTES A DAY, BECAUSE THAT IS ALL IT TAKES, JUST A COUPLE MINUTES A DAY, EVERYONE OF US HAS A COUPLE MINUTES IN THEIR DAY, OR, IF YOU TAKE A COUPLE MINUTES A WEEK, OR A COUPLE MINUTES A MONTH, YOU WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

IT WILL MEAN SO MUCH TO SO MANY WHO OTHERWISE WOULD NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ONE OF US, TO HAVE ACCESS TO A LAWYER.

FREE LEGAL ANSWERS IS BY JUST ONE SIMPLE WAY, YOU HEARD JUDGE SEITZ MENTION ANOTHER, PRO BONO MATTERS.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS, MANY GREAT IDEAS OUT THERE FOR BRIDGING THE ACCESS TO JUSTICE GAP.

TO DATE, THROUGH FREE LEGAL ANSWERS WE HAD 616 VOLUNTEER LAWYERS WHO HAVE ANSWERED 1600 QUESTIONS.

THIS SHAWL EFFORT MAKE AS LARGE IMPACT ON THOSE WHO NEED OUR HELP.

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT.

FRIEND, FAMILIES, OF ALL OF OUR DISTINGUISHED HONOREES, TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE GATHERED HERE TODAY, TO SHARE IN THIS CELEBRATION, IT IS NOW MY PRIVILEGE, IT IS NOW REALLY MY HONOR ON BEHALF OF THE FLORIDA BAR AND ITS 106,000 MEMBERS TO RECOGNIZE 21 OF OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE MADE A LARGE IMPACT ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE. LET ME GIVE YOU A JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF THEIR EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY TODAY'S FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENTS, FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENTS PRO BONO SERVICE AWARDS RECIPIENTS.

ONE WORKED FOR TWO YEARS TO LITIGATE A CASE INVOLVING A FOREIGN-BORN VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HER 8-YEAR-OLD SON WHO HAD POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AFTER WITNESSING HORRIFIC ABUSE.

ONE HELPED RESTORE PEACE OF MIND FOR A VETERAN AND HIS WIFE WHO WERE OVERSHADOWED AND BY CREDIT CARD AND MEDICAL DEBTS AND FEARED LOSING EVERYTHING THEY HAD WORKED FOR.

ONE HAD REPRESENTED MORE THAN 125 CHILDREN AS A GUARD FOR OVER 25 YEARS AND DONATED MORE THAN 2500 HOURS ON CLOSED CASES.

ANOTHER VOLUNTEERED TO SERVE AS A GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOR A GROUP-- FOR GROUP OF FOR CHILDREN ABUSED, ABANDONED OR NEGLECTED.

ONE PROVIDED \$400,000 IN AN AWARD TO LEGAL AID AFTER WINNING A FORECLOSURE FLAWED AWARD.

OTHERS HAVE MENTORED TROUBLED PEOPLE, PARTICIPATED IN LEGAL ADVISE CLINICS AND VETERANS EVENTS, SERVED ON COMMITTEES AND HELPED FORGE NEW PARTNERSHIPS TO SERVE THE NEEDY AND USED FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS TO ASSIST MIGRANT WORKERS.

A NUMBER OF THESE HONOREES
DONATED HUNDREDS OF HOURS EACH
YEAR, MANY OF THEM BEGAN THEIR
PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICE WHILE
THEY WERE STILL IN LAW SCHOOL.
ALL OF THESE MEN AND WOMEN ARE
BEING RECOGNIZED TODAY FOR
DEMONSTRATING TO ALL OF US, TO
THE 106,000 LAWYERS THAT MAKING
A REAL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES
OF OTHERS, THAT IS REALLY OUR
HIGHEST CALLING.

NOW LET ME BEGIN BY HONORING
THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE.

I WILL ASK EACH OF THE
RECIPIENTS OF THE FLORIDA BAR'S
PRESIDENT'S PRO BONO SERVICE
AWARDS TO COME FORWARD TO
RECEIVE THEIR CERTIFICATE AS I
CALL THEIR NAMES.

FROM THE FIRST CIRCUIT, ANTONIO
BRUNI.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE SECOND CIRCUIT, DAN B.
HENDRICKSON.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE THIRD CIRCUIT, JOHN J.
KENDRON.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE-- FOURTH CIRCUIT,
ANDREA P. REYES.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE FIFTH CIRCUIT, DANIELLE
RIGGINS.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, ERICA K.
SMITH.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT, PAMELA
R. MASTERS.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT, RAYMOND
F. BRADY.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE NINTH CIRCUIT, JOHN R
DIERKING.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE 10th CIRCUIT,
STEPHEN R. SENN.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE 11th CIRCUIT, ALL
ABOUT THE U, BABY, DAVID
SCHULER.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE 12th CIRCUIT,
ROBERT L. YOUNG.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE 13th CIRCUIT, JO
ANN PALCHAK.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE 14th CIRCUIT,
JENNIFER WINTRODE SCHULER.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE 15TH CIRCUIT, LEWIS
MARC SILBER.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE 16th CIRCUIT--
16TH CIRCUIT, ASHLEY N. SYBESMA.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE 17th CIRCUIT,
HILLARY A.CRRHSRY.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE 18th CIRCUIT,
TIMOTHY A. MORAN.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE 19th CIRCUIT, JEFF
BATISTA.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE 20th CIRCUIT,
COLETTE J. KELLERHOUSE.

[APPLAUSE]

AND WHEN WE SAY OUT-OF-STATE, WE
REALLY MEAN OUT-OF-STATE.

ALL THE WAY FROM LONDON, ANAYANS
RODRIGUEZ.

[APPLAUSE]

CAN WE GIVE THESE FOLKS ONE MORE
ROUND OF APPLAUSE?

[APPLAUSE]

EACH MUCH THESE MEN AND WOMEN
HAVE GIVEN SO SELFLESSLY OF
THEMSELVES TO SO MANY AND ARE A
SHINING EXAMPLE TO ALL OF US, TO
EACH OF US, THAT WE TOO CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE.

EVEN IF IT IS JUST IN THE A
SMALL WAY JUST AS FREELANCERS,
JUST TO LIGHT THE SPARK, IT IS
NOW MY PRIVILEGE TO ASK ZACHARY
T.ZUROWESTE, PRESIDENT OF THE

YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION OF THE
FLORIDA BAR, TO COME FORWARD THE
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION PRO BONO
SERVICE AWARD.

>> OKAY.

NOW THAT EVERYBODY IS SEATED,
LET'S GIVE A BIG ROUND OF
APPLAUSE FOR ALL OF THESE
RECIPIENTS.

[APPLAUSE]

>> CHIEF JUSTICE, JUSTICES, YOUR
HONORS, COLLEAGUES, AND FRIENDS,
MY 3-YEAR-OLD SON BELIEVES THAT
ALL SUPERHEROES WEAR CAPES.
AND THAT A FANCY OUTFIT, A
SPECIAL TOOL, AND A SUPERPOWER,
ARE NEEDED TO SAVE THE DAY.
BUT ONE DAY, HE WILL LEARN THAT
REAL HEROES DON'T NEED ANY OF
THOSE THINGS.

THEY USE THE POWER OF LOVE,
DEDICATION, AND RESPECT TO HELP
THEIR FELLOW MAN.

AND TODAY, I AM HONORED TO
INTRODUCE TO YOU ONE OF THOSE
REAL-LIFE SUPERHEROES, MISS
ALLISON STOCKER.

WITH ONLY FIVE YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE AS AN ATTORNEY AT THE
LAW FIRM OF AKERMAN IN
JACKSONVILLE, ALLISON AND HER
COLLEAGUES SAW AN INJUSTICE
COULD NOT BE IGNORED.

HER CITY REFUSED TO PERMIT A
NON-PROFITS PLANS TO PURCHASE
AND RESTORE AN OLD APARTMENT
BUILDING TO CREATE PERMANENT
HOUSING FOR DISABLED, HOMELESS
VETERANS.

DISABLED, HOMELESS, VETERANS.
CAN YOU THINK OF A MORE
DESERVING GROUP?

USING HER LEGAL EDUCATION FROM
THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, THE
SUPPORT OF HER HUSBAND DAN, AND
HER COLLEAGUES, HER LOVE OF THE
LAW, AND HER RESPECT FOR
VETERANS, SHE DEDICATED OVER 560
PRO BONO HOURS HANDLING THE
LITIGATION AGAINST THE CITY.

FIGHTING FOR THOSE WHO COULD NOT FIGHT FOR THEMSELVES.

ULTIMATELY ALLISON AND HER COLLEAGUES SECURED A HISTORIC SETTLEMENT THAT CREATES PERMANENT HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESS AND DISABLED FAMILIES, THAT WILL HAVE AN IMPACT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN HER COMMUNITY, AND ACROSS THE STATE. THE LAWSUIT'S OUTCOME IS PRECEDENT-SETTING ACROSS FLORIDA, AND AFFIRMS THE IMPORTANCE OF FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS TO DEFEND AND PROTECT DISABLED PERSONS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN LAND USE DECISIONS.

IT IS SIMPLY AMAZING.

AND SHE ACCOMPLISHED ALL OF THIS WHILE CARRYING HER FIRST SON, BENJAMIN, WHO IS THE ADORABLE LITTLE QUIET BOY RIGHT BACK THERE.

AND SOME DAY BENJAMIN WILL LEARN THAT IN OUR EYES HIS MOM IS A REAL-LIFE SUPERHERO, WHO LIFTED UP SOME OF OUR COUNTRY'S GREATEST HEROES, AND HE WILL BE AS PROUD OF HER AS WE ARE TODAY. WITHOUT FURTHER ADIEU, ON BEHALF OF THE FLORIDA BAR YOUNG LAWYERS DIGS, I WOULD LIKE TO DIVISION AND INVITE MISS STOCKER TO JOIN ME AND PRESENT TO HER THE FLORIDA BAR YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION, PRESTIGIOUS PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU, ZACK.

CHIEF JUSTICE, JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT.

IT IS TRULY AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD TODAY.

AND I COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT THE LOVE AND SUPPORT OF MY HUSBAND DAN, MY SON, MY PARENTS, MY COLLEAGUES AND PARTNERS AT AKERMAN, I SEE TOM INGRAM BACK

THERE, WHO WORKED JUST AS
TIRELESSLY ON THIS CASE AS I
DID, THE FOLKS IN ABILITY
HOUSING I SEE GREG BACK THERE
HAPPILY SMILING AND WAVING, AND
MY COLLEAGUES AT AKERMAN.
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE TODAY TO
SEE ME RECEIVE THIS AWARD.
TO REFLECT BACK ON THE GOOD THAT
WE DID AND THE PEOPLE WE WERE
ABLE TO SERVE.

AS I DROVE OVER HERE THIS
MORNING, AND REFLECTED ON WHAT I
MIGHT SAY, I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW I
WAS ABLE TO DRIVE OVER HERE
TODAY IN A RELIABLE CAR,
WELL-RESTED, AFTER HAVING
EXERCISED THE NIGHT BEFORE, HAD
HOME-COOKED MEAL, GETTING A GOOD
NIGHT'S SLEEP AND SLEEPING
SAFELY UNDER MY OWN ROOF.
I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW I MADE THIS
DRIVE BEFORE DOWN THE I-10
CORRIDOR WITH MY FAMILY AND A
FEW OF OUR PRICELESS POSSESSIONS
WHEN HURRICANE MATTHEW AND THEN
HURRICANE IRMA BORE DOWN ON
FLORIDA.

AND I REMEMBER FEELING, LIKE WE
WERE HOMELESS, LIKE, WE WERE
UNSAFE, AND UNCERTAIN ABOUT WHAT
WE WOULD COME HOME TO, OR IF WE
WOULD COME HOME TO ANYTHING AT
ALL?

MY TIME AND EFFORT IN THE
ABILITY HOUSING CASE WAS WITH
ONE GOAL IN MIND, AND IT WAS TO
HELP FIGHT FOR THOSE 12 CITIZENS
THAT WOULD NOT HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE IN THE
COTTAGE AVENUE APARTMENTS IN
SPRINGFIELD.

TO HELP PROVIDE THEM WITH THE
BASIC LUXURIES THAT WE PROBABLY
ALL TAKE FOR GRANTED.
A ROOF OVER OUR HEAD, A SAFE
PLACE TO SLEEP, ACCESS TO
MEDICAL CARE, AND ACCESS TO
TRANSPORTATION AND FOOD.
WORKING ON THIS CASE TAUGHT ME A

LOT ABOUT PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND WHAT A LASTING IMPACT THAT CAN MAKE ON ONE PERSON'S LIFE AND THEIR WELL-BEING.

BECAUSE IF YOU'RE NOT, IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP AT NIGHT, OR WHERE YOUR NEXT MEAL IS GOING TO COME FROM, OR IF YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM AN UNTREATED MENTAL ILLNESS, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY FOCUS ON ANYTHING ELSE.

YOU CAN'T THINK ABOUT GETTING A JOB, YOU CAN'T WORRY ABOUT KEEPING YOUR HOME CLEAN, YOU CAN'T THINK ABOUT GIVING BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY OR DOING PRO BONO SERVICE.

YOUR FOCUS IS ONLY ON YOUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS, SAFE SHELTER, FOOD, AND ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE.

WORKING WITH ABILITY HOUSING AND ACHIEVING WHAT WE DID FOR THE JACKSONVILLE COMMUNITY AND FOR OTHERS WHO FACE HOUSING DISCRIMINATION, FOR THEIR DISABILITIES WAS SUCH A HUGE REWARD IN AND OF ITSELF FOR ME. SO NOW, I HOPE THAT BY RECEIVING THIS AWARD, I CAN HELP BRING AWARENESS EVEN TO JUST ONE PERSON ABOUT WHAT PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IS, AND WHAT A LASTING IMPACT IT CAN HAVE ON SOMEONE'S LIFE AND THEIR WELL BEING.

I HOPE BY RECEIVING THIS AWARD TODAY, I HAVE INSPIRED OTHERS TO DO THE PRO BONO SERVICE AND GET THE IMMENSE SATISFACTION THAT I RECEIVED JUST FROM WORKING WITH THESE PEOPLE AND AS GREG SAID BEFORE, I'M TAKING THIS AWARD AND I'M RECEIVING IT FOR THE TEAM BECAUSE THIS WAS CERTAINLY NOT AN INDIVIDUAL EFFORT AND I COULDN'T BE HERE TODAY, ACCEPTING THIS AWARD IF IT

WEREN'T FOR THE SUPPORT OF
EVERYONE AT AKERMAN AND EVERYONE
AT ABILITY HOUSING AND ALL THE
WONDERFUL WORK WE DID TOGETHER.
SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

>> NOW, I TURN TO THE---

[INAUDIBLE]

MY PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE THIS
YEAR'S-- [INAUDIBLE]

NOW IT IS ON.

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
STEPHEN M. TODD OF TAMPA.

[APPLAUSE]

IN 2006, MR. TODD ATTENDED A
BENCH BAR SEMINAR AT WHICH
13th CIRCUIT CHIEF JUDGE
EMANUEL MENENDEZ, JR.,
ENCOURAGED LAWYERS TO ENGAGE IN
PRO BONO SERVICE.

MR. TODD ALSO NOTICED THE ONE
BUTTON PART OF A CAMPAIGN TO GET
EACH LAWYER TO ACCEPT ONE
PRO BONO CASE ON THE LAPEL OF
THEN JUDGE JAMES BARTON II.
INSPIRED, MR. TODD BECAME A
GUARDIAN AD LITEM.

SINCE THEN, HE HAS FOUND THAT
THE CHILDREN AND THE FAMILY
SITUATIONS HELP HIM UNDERSTAND
THAT LIFE IS ABOUT SERVING
OTHERS.

HIS SERVICE HAS BEEN OFFERED
PRIMARILY TO FOUR ORGANIZATIONS.
ONE HE JOINED CROSSROADS FOR
FLORIDA KIDS IN 2012.

EVEN HIS CLIENTS RUNAWAY OR
COMMIT CRIMES, EVEN IF HIS
CLIENTS RUN AWAY OR COMMIT
CRIMES, HE STANDS BY THEM.

MR. TODD HAS SERVED AS
GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOR MORE THAN
20 CHILDREN SINCE 2007.
HE IS NOW A MASTER GUARDIAN

AD LITEM, A NEW PROGRAM IN WHICH NEW GUARDIANS ARE ASSIGNED TO MORE EXPERIENCED GUARDIANS.

TWO, AND THREE, HE ALSO MENTORED YOUNGER LAWYERS THROUGH THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION'S MENTORING PROGRAM. AND FOUR, IN THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HE HELPED ORGANIZE A HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ATTORNEY INTAKE NIGHT AT BAY AREA LEGAL SERVICES.

DURING HIS 27 YEARS AS A MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA BAR, MR. TODD HAS DONATED MORE THAN 2,000 HOURS OF PRO BONO SERVICE.

HE WROTE, IN ADDITION TO UNDERSTANDING THAT PRO BONO IS AN OBLIGATION, I HAVE DISCOVERED SOMETHING PROFOUNDLY MORE IMPORTANT AS I HAVE CONTINUED TO WORK FOR CHILDREN AS A CROSSROADS ATTORNEY.

I HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT IT IS THE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO BLESS ME AND HELP ME TO GROW BOTH AS AN ATTORNEY AND AS A PERSON.

I CAN NOT NAME ALL OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HONORS IN THE TIME THAT I HAVE HERE TODAY BUT I URGE ALL OF YOU AGAIN TO READ ABOUT THEM IN THE BOOKLET AVAILABLE HERE.

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO ASK MR. TODD TO APPROACH THE BENCH AND RECEIVE THE AWARD, SHAKE THE HANDS OF THE JUSTICES AND PROCEED TO THE PODIUM FOR REMARKS.

MR. TODD.

[APPLAUSE]

>> CHIEF JUSTICE LABARGA, JUSTICE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THANK YOU AS WELL TO THE COMMITTEE AND TO ROSEMARY ARMSTRONG.

WHERE IS ROW MARY, FOR NOMINATING ME FOR THIS AWARD. I'D LIKE TO START WITH A

SHOUTOUT TO MY SON ABLE WHO IS
HERE TODAY AND HORRIFY HIM.
TODAY IS HIS 16TH BIRTHDAY.
[LAUGHTER].

SEW CHOSE TO, WELL, SORT OF
CHOSE TO COME ALONG WITH HIS OLD
MAN TO THIS EVENT, AND I AM VERY
GRATEFUL THAT HE IS HERE.

TO BORROW THE SLOGAN OF THE
GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM, FOR
JUST A MOMENT AND I'M DOING SO
WITH PERMISSION I'M TOLD, I DO
PRO BONO WORK AS AN ADVOCATE FOR
CHILDREN BECAUSE I AM FOR THE
CHILD.

THAT'S MY PURPOSE IN DOING
PRO BONO.

THAT'S NYE NICHE.

EACH ONE OF YOU NEEDS TO FIND
YOUR OWN NICHE IF YOU HAVE NOT
ALREADY TO FIND THAT AREA OF
PRO BONO WHERE YOU CAN SERVE,
SERVING THE CHILDREN HAPPENS TO
BE MINE.

ALONG THOSE LINES I WOULD LIKE
TO TALK ABOUT AN AREA IN OUR
SOCIETY WHICH IS A GROWING
PROBLEM AND TO SUGGEST A
SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.
THE PROBLEM IS, THAT THERE IS AN
EPIDEMIC OF CHILD NEGLECT AND
ABUSE IN OUR STATE, IN OUR
NATION.

AND THE PROBLEM IS GETTING
WORSE.

EVERY WEEKDAY IN COURTROOMS IN
FLORIDA ARE JAM-PACKED WITH
CHILDREN AND THEIR CAREGIVERS
LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS FROM AN
OVERWORKED COURT SYSTEM.

HERE ARE JUST A COUPLE OF THE
CASES THAT I DEALT WITH THAT ARE
COMMONPLACE.

I WENT TO VISIT ONE HOME WHICH
WAS A REALLY DISGUSTING HOTEL
ROOM, WHERE THE MOTHER WAS THERE
WITH HER THREE SMALL CHILDREN.
THE MOTHER WAS SO DRUGGED BY
FENTANYL AND OXYCODONE, THAT SHE
COULDN'T GET UP TO FEED HER

CHILDREN.

I REPRESENT ANOTHER CHILD WHOSE MOTHER'S METHOD OF DISCIPLINE WAS TO TAKE HIS HEAD AND RAM IT AGAINST THE WALL UNTIL HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS.

CASES LIKE THESE ARE HAPPENING EVERY DAY IN OUR STATE.

WE CAN'T TURN A BLIND EYE TO THEM.

CASEWORKERS ARE OVERWHELMED.

I KNOW ONE DEDICATED CASEWORKER WHO TOLD ME THAT SHE IS ASSIGNED TO WORK ON 34 CASES.

SHE SAID THAT SHE IS SO BUSY, THAT SHE CONSIDERS HER OWN 11-YEAR-OLD SON TO BE HER 35th CASE AND SHE WAS SERIOUS.

IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ALONE IN 2017, 1650 CHILDREN WERE SHELTERED DURING THE YEAR.

THAT IS FOUR CHILDREN PER DAY, REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES, PLACED INTO AN UNFAMILIAR SYSTEM, REQUIRING THAT THERE BE A CASE WORKER AND THAT IS JUST HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

EACH OF THESE CHILDREN NEEDS AN ADVOCATE.

A STARTING POINT TO HELP DEAL WITH THIS EPIDEMIC PROBLEM IS THAT MANY PEOPLE STAND UP AND SAY, I AM FOR THE CHILD AND THEN ACT ON IT.

I SEE FLORIDA'S 100,000 ATTORNEYS AS A POTENTIAL ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS UNIQUELY SITUATED TO STEP UP AND TO HELP THE CHILDREN IN OUR STATE.

I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT EVERY LAWYER IN FLORIDA HAS GREAT POTENTIAL DUE TO OUR EDUCATION, TO OUR DIVERSITY, TO OUR PASSION TO HELP CLIENTS, TO OUR ABILITIES IN DIFFERENT AREAS, TO DO PRO BONO WORK, NOT ONLY WORKING FOR CHILDREN, BUT WORKING IN YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE.

THE 2012 ROSEMARY ARMSTRONG WON THE SAME AWARD AND STARTED AN ORGANIZATION CALLED CROSSROADS FOR FLORIDA KIDS, IN WHICH SHE IS RECRUITED UPWARDS OF 70 ATTORNEYS IN THE TAMPA BAY AREA TO GO TO COURT AND BE ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN IN TAMPA BAY. ROSEMARY ASKED ME TO TAKE ONE DEPENDENCY CASE BACK IN 2012 AND I DID AND I REMEMBER SOMEBODY SPOKE EARLIER AND SAID SHE COULDN'T SAY NO.

I THINK ALL OF US WORKING IN PRO BONO HAVE THAT QUALITY. WE'RE JUST UNABLE TO SAY NO AND I DEFINITELY CAN'T SAY NO TO ROSEMARY ARMSTRONG.

I TOOK ANOTHER CASE AND THEN ANOTHER.

I BECAME MORE COMFORTABLE DOING THE TYPE OF WORK THAT WE WERE DOING ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN, AND I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I ENJOY AND HAVE ENJOYED EVERY MINUTE OF IT.

IN SPITE OF THE TRAGEDIES THAT I SEE.

AND AS THE CHIEF JUSTICE SAID, EACH CASE I HANDLE HELPS ME TO GROW AS A PERSON.

I REALIZED AFTER A WHILE, I CAN'T FIX EVERYTHING IN THESE CHILDREN'S LIVES.

THEY WERE A MESS BEFORE I GOT THERE.

THEY WILL BE A MESS AFTER I LEAVE BUT I CAN DO A LITTLE BIT FOR THEM.

I CAN LISTEN TO THEM.

I CAN BE TEAR ADVOCATE WHEN NO ONE EVER AD VOTE INDICATED FOR THEM.

I CAN SHOW THEM WHAT IT MEANS TO CARE.

I CAN GIVE THEM MY BEST ADVICE.

I CAN DESCRIBE FOR THE JUDGE WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON IN THAT CHILD'S LIFE SO I AM THE EYES OF THE JUDGE IN THAT CHILD'S HOME.

SO THERE IS A LITTLE BIT I OR EVERY PRO BONO LAWYER CAN DO TO HELP.

MY FAVORITE CLIENT IS JUSTIN. ROSEMARY ASSIGNED ME TO HELP JUSTIN WHEN HE WAS 17 YEARS OLD. HE IS NOW 19.

HIS PARENTS LOST PARENTAL RIGHTS WHEN HE WAS MUCH YOUNGER. HE WAS BOUNCING BETWEEN TEMPORARY HOMES.

HE LACKED GUIDANCE IN HIS LIFE. I LIKE JUSTIN BECAUSE HE HAS SUCH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.

SO I HELPED HIM TO NAVIGATE THROUGH THE COURT SYSTEM, AND THEN I HELPED HIM TO MAKE SOME LIFE CHOICES WHEN HE TURNED 18. HIS LATEST PROBLEM WAS HE WAS STOPPED BY POLICE, RECEIVED A TICKET FOR DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE.

AND I SAID, JUSTIN, WHY DON'T YOU GET YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE? AND I FOUND OUT HE HAD A LEARNING DISABILITY, HE STRUGGLED TO STUDY FOR THE TEST. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE JUST WORTH IT TO DRIVE WITHOUT TAKING THE TEST.

SO I SAT DOWN WITH HIM AND I HELPED HIM STUDY FOR THE DRIVING TEST.

HE KEPT PUTTING IT OFF. HE FINALLY PASSED IT THIS PAST DECEMBER.

THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM WERE DISMISSED BY THE COURT. YOU CAN SEE IN HIS EYES HOW THAT EMPOWERED HIM JUST TO HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE, TO GET A JOB AND DRIVE TO THAT JOB.

IT IS HOW JUSTIN ENRICHED ME THROUGHOUT MY TIME WITH HIM, THAT IS SPECIAL TO ME. HE IMAGINES HIMSELF AS A LADY'S MAN.

[LAUGHTER].

HE IS CONSTANTLY WORRIED ABOUT HIS HAIR.

HE TOLD ME VERY CONFIDENTIALLY
THIS PAST DECEMBER THAT HE IS AN
EXPERT IN COLOGNES AND HE
LECTURED ME ABOUT HOW TO APPLY
COLOGNES IN THE PROPER MANNER.
SO THERE IS NO WAY IN 2006, WHEN
I STARTED ON THIS JOURNEY I
COULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT I WOULD
BE ENRICHED BY SPENDING TIME
WITH A 19-YEAR-OLD WHO IS
LECTURING ME ON HOW TO APPLY
COLOGNES.

THESE CASES CAN BE VERY SAD BUT
LIKEWISE VERY REWARDING.
YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH SO MUCH FOR A
CHILD BY DOING SO VERY LITTLE
FOR A CHILD.
ONE PLACE TO START IS SIMPLY TO
SAY I WILL JUST TAKE ONE CASE,
IN 2018.
JUST ONE.

THAT IS YOUR RESOLUTION FOR THE
REST OF THE YEAR.
I WILL MENTOR JUST ONE CHILD FOR
2018.

OR IF YOU'RE A MANAGING ATTORNEY
FOR A LAW FIRM YOU CAN SET THE
EXAMPLE BY ENCOURAGING YOUR
ASSOCIATES AND YOUR ATTORNEYS TO
TAKE PRO BONO CASES.

I COULD NOT DO PRO BONO WITHOUT
THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT OF
MY BOSS, CHIP FLETCHER, AND MY
SUPERVISING ATTORNEY ROB BRAZEL.
I'M GRATEFUL ROB IS HERE TODAY
AND GENERAL ANY TARR WHO HIRED
ME ALL THOSE YEARS AGO IN OUR
OFFICE, I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE AND
RUDY FROM OUR OFFICE.

MAYBE YOUR ROLE WOULD BE TO
ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO TAKE ONE
CASE THIS YEAR.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS SAID, IT IS
EASIER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN
THAN TO REPAIR BROKEN MEN.

I AM FOR THE CHILD.

WILL YOU JOIN ME.

I'M VERY HUMBLED TO RECEIVE THIS
HONOR.

I THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE] APPLAUSE.

>> I MUST SAY HOW INSPIRED I AM AND HOPEFULLY YOU ARE BY THE STORIES WE ALL HAVE HEARD HERE TODAY.

STORIES OF PROFESSIONALS WHO GIVE THEIR TIME, FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OTHERS.

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN HONORED HERE TODAY, THOSE EVERYWHERE ELSE IN FLORIDA, WHO HONOR THE SPIRIT OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LET ME URGE YOU, THERE IS NO GREATER COST THAN SERVING JUSTICE, EVEN WHEN IT MEANS YOU MUST PLACE YOURSELVES BETWEEN THE JUST CAUSES OF THE POOR AND OPPRESSED AND THE--

[INAUDIBLE]

IN DOING SO, 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 ESSENCE OF, THE VERY ESSENCE OF THE RULE OF LAW, WHICH HAS MADE THIS NATION GREAT.

IN THIS VEIN LET ME GIVE A LAST ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR ALL OF OUR AWARD WINNERS HERE 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. AND WE ASK THAT A RECIPIENTS REMAIN HERE IN THE COURTROOM FOR PHOTOGRAPHS.

YOU WILL LATER JOIN OUR GUESTS IN THE IN ROTUNDA, AND HAVE WHATEVER IS LEFT FOR YOU THERE.

[LAUGHTER].

THERE IS A PRIZE FOR BEING RECOGNIZED.

THIS CEREMONIAL SESSION NOW STANDS ADJOURNED.

THANK YOU.

