

Palm Beach County attorneys honored for pro bono work at ceremony

NoteworthyNews



Palm Beach County attorneys who went above and beyond to provide pro bono legal services in 2018 were recently honored.

TRACEY BENSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Palm Beach County attorneys who went above and beyond to provide pro bono legal services in 2018 were recognized during a ceremony held Nov. 7 in the ceremonial courtroom of the main courthouse in West Palm Beach by the 15th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee. The group's inaugural Pro Bono Awards Pinning Ceremony and Ice Cream Social was hosted in conjunction with the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County.

There were more than 100 attendees, including 20 judges, former Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente, and the Florida Bar President John Stewart.

Several speakers expressed gratitude to the award winners for their selfless dedication to pro bono advocacy and encouraged others to handle pro bono cases. Pariente and Stewart spoke about the importance of pro bono work and individually pinned the award winners.

"I am thrilled to be part of this inaugural pro bono pinning ceremony. I hope you know how much you are appreciated for what you have done to make a

difference in the lives of your clients through your advocacy,” said Pariente.

“During fiscal year 2018-19, Florida lawyers contributed 1.6 million hours of pro bono services to people in need and \$6.2 million to legal aid organizations. In every single pro bono case, they are making a difference in somebody’s life, helping a family and giving hope,” said Stewart.

Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Krista Marx emphasized how “volunteering improves not only mental health and wellbeing but also provides physical health as well.”

Pro Bono Committee Chair Circuit Court Judge Samantha Schosberg Feuer discussed the grave need for more attorneys to handle more pro bono cases citing that while “over 3 million people in Florida are in need of pro bono legal services, only 20 percent of those people receive them.”

“No matter what may be going on in your professional or personal lives, you all have made a commitment to take the time to assist those in our society who need us the most and that dedication cannot be overstated,” said Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division President Santo DiGangi.

Anne Hinds, an attorney recognized for donating more than 100 hours of pro bono services, explained that while she realizes her volunteerism makes a difference in the lives of the children she represents, it is the children who make a significant difference in her life and “you actually get more than you give.”

PROBONO AWARDS PIN RECIPIENTS

Gold (100+ hours)

Anne Hinds, Schwartz | White Attorneys at Law; Vicki Krusel, Vicki Tucci Krusel, Attorney at Law PLLC; Lawrence Moncrief; Jay Mussman, Day Pitney LLP; Michael Stern; Holly Tabernilla.

Silver (50-99 hours)

Richard Abedon; Jonathan Burns, JB Law, P.A.; Grant Gisondo, Law Offices of Grant J. Gisondo, P.A.; Jason Lazarus, Pankauski Hauser PLLC; Donia Roberts, Donia Adams Roberts, P.A.

Bronze (20-49 hours)

Alex Alijewicz, Alex Alijewicz, CPA, P.A.; Darryl Figueroa, Darryl P. Figueroa,

Esquire; Richard Kleid; Deena McNamara, McNamara & McNamara, P.A.;
Terry Verduin.