

IN A LONG LIST OF NOMINEES WHO
ARE DESERVING OF RECOGNITION.
IT WAS NOT AN EASY TASK, I
CONCUR FULLY IN THE
RECOMMENDATIONS.

I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE
MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE.

WHEN I FINISHED READING THE
NAMES OF THE MEMBERS, I WILL ASK
THOSE IN ATTENDANCE TO BE STAND
AND RECOGNIZED.

SCOTT HAWKINS, CHAIR OF THE
COMMITTEE.

ROSE MARY ARMSTRONG, JUDGE JANE
BARTON III.

VIVIAN, MARY ANN, ANTHONY
HOLLOWAY, JENNIFER, TIMOTHY,
KATHERINE, SUSAN, MICHAEL
SEACREST, GLENNA SMITH, AND
LAURA.

THOSE WHO ARE PRESENT PLEASE
STAND NOW AND BE RECOGNIZED.

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

AT THIS TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO
RECOGNIZE PAST RECIPIENT OF THE
PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD.

THOSE PRESENT PLEASE STAND NOW
AND BE RECOGNIZED.

[APPLAUSE]

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

THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE PRESENT,
WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND IN

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU FOR THE WORK YOU DO
WITHIN YOUR AREA.

LET ME TURN TO THE AWARDS.

IN 2005 THE COURT ADDED A NEW
AWARD TO RECOGNIZE A STATE
COURT JUDGE FOR APPROVING THE
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AS IT
RELATES TO PRO BONO WORK FOR
LAWYERS.

IT OFFERS THE JUDGE WHO HAS WORK
BEST EXEMPLIFYING THE GOAL TO --
TO CATEGORY B OF CODE OF

JUDICIAL COMMENT.

IT SAYS SUPPORT OF PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES BY MEMBERS OF THE BENCH IS AN ACTIVITY THAT RELATES TO IMPROVEMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

THE COMMENT GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE JUDGES MAY ENGAGE IN A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE ATTORNEYS TO PERFORM PRO BONO SERVICES.

MORE OVER, THE AWARD --

FOR JUTE STANDING AND SUSTAINED SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

IN KEEPING WITH THIS ASPIRATION THAT WE AS JUDGES COLLECTIVELY SHARE, IT'S MY PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO ANNOUNCE THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT FLORIDA'S JUDICIAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD.

IT GOES TO JUDGE CLAUDIA THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT.

SHE CO CHAIRS THE BAR ASSOCIATION 5K RIVER RUN.

IT'S AN EVENT SHE CHAIRED OR CO CHAIRED FOR THE PAST TIME YEARS, THEY ORGANIZE, PROMOTE, AND COORDINATE THE RACE SINCE 2010 EXCEEDS 250 HOURS.

IT RAISES MONEY FOR BAY AIR AREA LEGAL SERVICES WROTE PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES.

IN ADDITION TO CHAIRING IN THAT SHE PARTICIPATED IN THE FLORIDA BAR'S PROJECT AND LAWSUITS.

AND HILLSBOROUGH ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS.

THAT'S AT THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW.

PREVIOUSLY CHAIRED THE FLORIDA BAR STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONALISM AND JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE.

CURRENTLY SERVES ON THE RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE COMMITTEE, THE JUDGE IS THE MEMBER OF THE SUPREME COURT STANDING COMMITTEE FOR FAIRNESS AND DIVERSITY AND DIVERSITY TRAINER.

A MEMBER AND THE PAST PRESIDENT

OF THE TAMPA BAY COURT WHO
STARTED THE FIRST MENTORSHIP
WITHIN THE PROGRAM.
HE SERVES AS A JUDGE MEMBER OF
THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DIVERSITY TEAM.

IN THE TIME ALLOTTED I CANNOT
POSSIBLY GO THROUGH THE RECORD
OF THE JUDGE.

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

IN THE --

THIS IS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF
PUBLIC SERVICE AND THE GOALS SET
BY HIM.

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

[APPLAUSE]

[INAUDIBLE]

GOOD AFTERNOON, EVERYBODY THIS
IS CERTAINLY A WONDERFUL
OCCASION, AND I'M HAPPY TO SEE
SO MANY OF MY FRIENDS AND LOVED
HERE.

AND SO MANY OF OUR COMRADES FROM
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

IT'S JUST A GREAT DAY FOR
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AND I CAN'T
THANK YOU ENOUGH, CHIEF JUSTICE,
FOR THIS SPECIAL RECOGNITION.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

I APPRECIATE THIS.

THIS IS FOR ME, THE ACADEMY
AWARDS OF MY CAREER.

AND IT'S A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY
TO THANK YOU, I'D LIKE TO THANK
ALL OF THE PEOPLE IN THE PRO
BONO ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND I'D
ALSO TO THANK THE HILLSBOROUGH
ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS WHO
NOMINATED ME FOR THE AWARD.

I COULD NOT BE MORE PLEASED.

I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE MY
FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO COME HERE
TODAY.

I WANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT ALL OF

THEM.

BUT I SEE SO MANY FRIENDS.

I'M GOING TO HAVE STOP WITH
MAYBE JUST MY FAMILY.

MY HUSBAND IS HERE, MY PARENTS,
ESTHER AND DALE CAME ALL THE WAY
FROM SOUTHEAST IOWA TO BE WITH
US TODAY.

HEY.

SOME OF YOU KNOW WHERE IOWA IS.

[LAUGHTER]

WHEN I FIRST CAME DOWN HERE,
PEOPLE ASKED ME IS IT THE PLACE
WHERE THE POTATOES CAME FROM.

I HAD TO STRAIGHTEN THEM OUT.

IT'S CORN.

MY SON IS HERE.

I'M PROUD OF JESSE, HE'S A
FRESHLY MINTED ATTORNEY AND GAVE
ME THE PRIVILEGE OF SWEARING HIM
IN.

HE'S A ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER
IN WEST PALM BEECH --

BEACH WE'RE PROUD OF JESSE.

OUR COUSINS CAME FROM

JACKSONVILLE TODAY, BECKY AND
BILLY, AND THEY JOINED US AND

OUR BEST FRIEND FORE, TED MAC
WHO WE MET IN LAW SCHOOL IS HERE
TODAY.

I'M USING UP MOST OF SPEECH TIME
RECOGNIZING THE DEER FRIENDS AND

--

DEAR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES THAT
CAME.

THANK YOU FOR THE CONTINUE TO
WAX ON.

MY OTHER CHILDREN COULD NOT BE
HERE TODAY.

MY DAUGHTER, AMBER, IS AN
ATTORNEY IN MEMPHIS, MY SON,
ADAM, IS IN LITTLE ROCK, HE'S
THE COMPUTER SOFTWARE ENGINEER,
AND MY SON MATTHEW IS A SENIOR
AT RHODES COLLEGE IN MEMPHIS,
AND HOPEFULLY THEY WERE ABLE TO
WATCH THIS ONLINE.

I CERTAINLY HOPE SO, AND I DON'T

KNOW WHERE THE CAMERA IS, BUT
HEY, KIDS, I LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU. 5

WISH YOU COULD BE HERE.

I ALSO WAS LUCKY, JERED IS HERE
TODAY, HE'S ONE OF MY FAVORITE
PROFESSORS AT FSU COLLEGE OF
LAW.

AND IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO HAVE HIM
BE ABLE TO BE HERE TODAY AS WELL
AS THE DEAN.

THE DEAN IS HERE.

I CAME DOWN HERE BECAUSE OF
ANOTHER DEAN.

I WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
IOWA, AND ONE OF MY POLITICAL
SCIENCE PROFESSORS, DONALD BRUCE
JOHNSON TOOK ME UNDER HIS WING
WHEN I TOLD HIM I WANTED TO GO
TO LAW SCHOOL.

HE SAID YOU SHOULD GO TO
TALLAHASSEE.

I HAD NEVER BEEN SOUTH OF
MISSOURI OZARKS.

HE SAID YOU SHOULD GO TO
TALLAHASSEE, THEY STARTED A LAW
SCHOOL THERE AND DEAN MAISON
WENT DOWN THERE AND A LOT OF
IOWA PEOPLE ARE GOING DUNE THERE

--

DOWN THERE TOO.

IT SOUNDED LIKE A GOOD IDEA.

I THOUGHT I WAS GOING COME DOWN
HERE.

PLAY VOLLEYBALL ON THE BEACH
BETWEEN CLASSES AND GO HOME.

BUT FORTUNATELY, FOR ME, I MET
THE LOVE OF MY WIFE, WOODY, ONE
OF MY CLASSMATES AND FLORIDA IS
HOME NOW.

IT MADE ME PROMISE NOT TO CRY.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FSU
COLLEGE OF LAW TO GIVE ME A
SOLID FOUNDATION TO LAUNCH MY
LEGAL CAREER.

IT WAS GREAT.

WE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DO
INTERNSHIP AND I GOT TO INTERN
WITH THE PUBLIC DEFENDERS

OFFICE.
AND INTERN WITH THE CONSUMER
PRODUCTION DIVISION HERE AT THE

AG OFFICE ALL WHILE STILL IN LAW 6
SCHOOL.

IT'S A GREAT LEGAL EDUCATION AND
I WAS ALSO FORTUNATE TO GET A
JOB WITH EJ WHO WAS THE STATE
ATTORNEY IN TAMPA, AND LATER
BECAME A JUDGE AS WELL.

AND FROM THAT START, MY LEGAL
CAREER TOOK OFF.

JUDGE KNEW A LOT OF PEOPLE AND I
GOT TO NETWORK AND GET TO KNOW
THE TAMPA BAY COMMUNITY.

EVENTUALLY I EVEN RAN FOR OFFICE
AND GOT TO MEET EVEN MORE
PEOPLE.

THROUGHOUT MY CAREER I HAVE
TRIED TO HEEDS THE WORDS OF
PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

LIKE A LOT OF YOU, YOU WERE
PROBABLY YOUNG AND
IMPRESSIONABLE LIKE I WAS WHEN I
SAID ASK NOT WHAT YOU CAN
COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU BUT ASK
WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR
COUNTRY.

I TOOK THOSE WORDS TO HEART AND
THROUGHOUT MY LEGAL CAREER AND
THE 22 YEARS I'VE BEEN ON THE
BENCH.

I HAVE TRIED TO GIVE BACK TO THE
COMMUNITY THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM.
WHAT BRINGS A TEAR TODAY IS NOT
MY EFFORT.

IT'S THE TEAM EFFORT.

I'M HERE TODAY BECAUSE OF THE 5K
PRO BONO RIVER RUN.

WHAT A PLEASURE IT IS.

OUR EXECUTIVE DISTRICT DIRECTOR
IS HEAR TODAY.

AND THEY SPONSOR THE EVENT.

I HAVE TO CORRECT ONE THING
ABOUT THE BIO.

WE DON'T RAISE MONEY, IT WOULD
BE SWELL IF WE COULD RAISE MONEY
AND JOHN MAYBE WE OUGHT TO WORK
ON THAT PART OF IT.

BUT WHAT WE DOUGH IS EVERYBODY WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE RACE IS BEGIN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLEDGE HOURS.

AND ONE OF OUR AWARD WINNERS, 7 ONE OF OUR PROVEN PRODUCERS, ROSEMARY ARMSTRONG IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST PLEDGERS WHEN IT COMES TO PLEDGING HOURS TO PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES.

WE GIVE AN AWARD TO THE PERSON WHO PLEDGES THE MOST, SAYS THEY'RE GOING TO DO IT.

AND WE GIVE AN AWARD WHO ACTUALLY DOES THE MOST. BECAUSE IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO PROMISE BUT IT'S EVEN BETTER TO PERFORM.

WE GIVE AN AWARD TO THE TEAM THAT PLEDGES THE MOST HOURS TO PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES.

SO IT'S A GREAT E., WE'RE ROLLING ALONG.

WE RUN A LONG THE HILLSBOROUGH RIVER IN TAMPA.

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL THING GETTING TO SEE THE HAPPY, SMILING FACES RUNNING ALONG THE RIVER AND DOING GOOD THINGS FOR PEOPLE.

SO I'D LIKE TO JUST COMPLIMENT THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION SPONSORS OUR EVENT AS DOES MANY LAW FIRMS.

THEY DO A LOT OF THINGS TO SUPPORT PRO BONO IN OUR LEGAL COMMUNITY.

AND I JUST LIKE TO SAY ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU TO THE HCBA, AND IN CLOSING, I'LL SAY YES, WE ARE PRO BONO IN TAMPA BAY.

I'M PROUD TO BE HERE AND PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE LEGAL COMMUNE CITY.

THANK YOU, AGAIN, CHIEF JUSTICE AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWARD WINNERS.

[APPLAUSE]

[APPLAUSE]

>> WE'RE ALSO HERE TODAY TO
RECOGNIZE THE LAW FIRM FOR
DISTINGUISHED PRO BONO

CONTRIBUTIONS. 8

IT'S A SPECIAL HONOR BECAUSE THE
AWARD IS NOT GIVEN EVERY YEAR
BUT ONLY WHEN A TRULY DESERVING
FIRM IS NOMINATED.

THIS YEAR WE HONOR THE TAMPA
FIRM OF MARK AND WASHINGTON.
THE FIRM IS ONE OF THE LARGEST
FILERS OF BANKRUPTCY CASES IN
FLORIDA, GEORGIA, AND TENNESSEE.
SINCE THE INCEPTION THEY HAVE
DRIVEN TO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS
POSSIBLE.

IT'S EVIDENT IN THE LAWYER'S
PRESENCE IN THE VARIOUS
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND
THEIR LAWYER PRO BONO CASE LOAD.
A SPECIAL NOTICE THEIR EFFORT TO
PROVIDE PRO BONO SERVICE FOR THE
BAY AREA.

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM, TAMPA
BAY HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION.
2009, THE FIRM OFFERED TO ACCEPT
ALL PRO BONO KNOW BANKRUPTCY
CASES REFERRED TO IT.

THAT ACT SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED
THE BACKLOG OF BANKRUPTCY CASES.

2011, THE FIRM TAMPA ATTORNEYS
HANDED SINCETY PRO BONO CASES.
DONATING 300 HOURS OF SERVICE.

THE COURT RECOGNIZES GLEN TO
APPROACH THE BENCH ON BEHALF OF
THE FIRM TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

SHAKE THE ---
AWARD.

SHAKE THE HANDS OF THE JUSTICES
AND PROCEED TO THE FRONT FOR
REMARKS.

[APPLAUSE]

[INAUDIBLE]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I DON'T
THINK YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW
NERVOUS YOU MAKE ME.
I DON'T GET NERVOUS, I PROMISE.

CHIEF JUSTICE, I'M HONORED HERE.
I REALLY AM, BECAUSE I CAN'T
TAKE CREDIT FOR ANY OF THIS.
I WAS TALKING TO ANY BOSS, THEY
ARE OUT OF ATLANTA, AND THEY
HIRED ME A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO.

ONE OF THE THINGS THEY TOLD ME 9
WAS THAT I HAD TO CLEAN UP
TAMPA.

OBVIOUSLY THEY WANTED TO BE MORE
PROFITABLE.

THAT'S FINE.

THAT'S MY WHEEL HOUSE.

THEN THEY SAID GO OUT AND GET
BACK TO THE COMMUNITY AND GIVE
BACK TO THE COMMUNITY AND GAVE
ME THE TOOLS TO DO.

IT BUT AS JUDGE JUST SAID, IT'S
VERY MUCH TEAMWORK AND I'M
LUCKY, JOHN KINDS, THE
HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY THERE,
THE MIDDLE DISTRICT IN OF
ITSELF.

I CAN SAY THIS AND I HOPE IT
COMES ACROSS AS GENUINE.

MY BOSSES OF HUNDREDS OF MILES
AWAY, SO THIS SHOULD BE GENUINE.
THEY ARE FANTASTIC.

THEY GIVE ME THE TOOLS TO DO THE
STUFF.

SO DID THE JUSTICES AND THE
JUDGES IN TAMPA.

THEY ACTUALLY MAKE IT SOME OF
OUR PRO BONO CASES ARE
DIFFICULT, AND THEY TREAT IT
WITH COMPASSION AND THEY JUST
HAVE A SENSE ABOUT IT OF ALL
FAIRNESS, AND THEIR LEGAL ARGUMENT
IS EXCEPTIONAL, AND BELIEVE ME.

THE DECISIONS DO NOT COME DOWN
IN MY FAVOR ALL THE TIME.

BUT THEY COME DOWN FAIR, AND
THAT'S WHAT I APPRECIATE.

THE FACT THAT I HAVE GENTLEMAN
THAT I WORK FOR THAT ALLOW ME TO
DO THIS.

AND KNOWING FULL WELL I'M GOING
GET A FAIR SHAKE FROM THE JUDGES
DOWN THERE.

IT MAKES IT WORTHWHILE.
ANYBODY WHO HAS A JOB LIKE MINE,
WHO IS AN MANAGING ATTORNEY, YOU
REALIZE THAT, YOU KNOW, THE DAYS
ARE STUFF.
SOMETIMES YOU'RE NOTHING MORE
THAN --

I HATE TO SAY THAN A WARDEN,
KEEPING THE INMATES IN CHICK --
CHECK.
IT'S TRUE.
THIS ARE DAYS YOU'RE A GOOD
SOLDIER.
THERE ARE DAYS MY BOSSES SAY I
WANT YOU TO FIGHT THE BATTLE AND
MOTIONS.
SOMETIMES THEY ARE UNPOPULAR.
YES, SIR, I GOT IT.
I'M ON.
IT.
THAT'S TOUGH.
THERE'S DAYS THAT I'M IN COURT
AND, YOU KNOW, A JUDGE SAYS, LET
ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, COUNSELOR,
AND TELL YOU NOTHING GOOD COMES
AFTER THAT STATEMENT.
[LAUGHTER]
EVER.
[LAUGHTER]
MOST RECENTLY, IT'S LET ME GET
THIS STRAIGHT, YOUR CLIENTS
THOUGHT MY ORDER WAS A
SUGGESTION?
[LAUGHTER]
NOT THE SHARPEST ON THE UPTICK
SOMETIMES.
LET ME TELL YOU ONE THAT WAS NOT
A RHETORICAL QUESTION, AND TWO,
THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MY
MIND SHOULD NOT COME OUT OF MY
MOUTH.
[LAUGHTER]
THANKFULLY I BIT MY LIP AND I
ANSWERED POLITELY, BUT THOSE ARE
THE TOUGH DAYS.
BUT THE GOOD DAYS OUTWEIGH THE
TOUGH.
I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY, I WAS
THINKING ABOUT THIS ON THE DRIVE

UP, THERE WERE TWO THAT STUCK
OUT.
ONE WAS A TRUCK DRIVER, AND
THESE TWO EXAMPLES OF THE PRO
BONO WORK WE DO THEY ARE POLAR
OOP SIT.
A TRUCK DRIVER TOUGH GUY.
GOT WIPED OUT IN THE DIVORCE.

SHE GOT THE LICENSE SUSPENDED.
HE COULDN'T DRIVE AND WAS LIVING
IN A TENT.
HE TELLS THE STORY AND IT WAS
LEGITIMATE.
I WAS LIKE THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE.
WE TOOK CARE OF IT AND FILE --
WE GOT HIS LICENSE BACK.
IN A MONTH HE WAS BACK TO MAKING
\$40,000 A YEAR.
HE SAID YOU CHANGED MY LIFE.
THAT'S FANTASTIC.
THE OTHER ONE, THIS WAS FAMILY.
I THINK THEY HAD THREE KIDS.
THE MOTHER WAS LAID OFF, SHE HAD
BREAST CANCER, AND THE
7-YEAR-OLD HAD LEUKEMIA.
AND YOU'RE SITTING THERE, THEY
WANTED TO WIPE OUT THE 401(K)
AND THEY HAVE KIDS EVENTUALLY
GOING TO COLLEGE.
I SAID LET ME HAND THIS.
THEY SAID YOU CHANGED MY LIFE.
I THINK THAT'S WHY WE BECOME
LAWYERS IS TO HELP FOLKS
ULTIMATELY AND AT THE END OF THE
DAY, YOU KNOW, I'M GOING TO HAVE
A JUDGE BARK AT ME SOMETIMES
IT'S MY FAULT.
SOMETIMES IT'S NOT.
AT THE END OF THE DAY WHEN YOU
CAN HELP SOMEBODY, I THINK THAT
MATTERS.
I HOPE YOU WILL ACCEPT MY
GRATITUDE.
I'M HUMBLED, MORE IMPORTANTLY --
SO THANKS.
[APPLAUSE]
[APPLAUSE]

>> ALSO RECOGNIZES A VOLUNTARY

BAR ASSOCIATION FOR THE
OUTSTANDING PRO BONO
CONTRIBUTIONS.
THIS YEAR IS THE TAMPA BAY
HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION.
THE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
CONSISTS OF ATTORNEYS WHO
HAVE AN AREA OF REPRESENTING
HISPANIC CLIENTS AND THE FOURTH

LARGEST HISPANIC POPULATION IN
FLORIDA.
THEY HAVE PROGRAMS TO
HELP THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY.
THE OPERATION OF THE VOLUNTEER
CLINIC, TRANSLATION OF LEGAL
FORMS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS IS AMONG
THE PRO BONO --
ASSIST SPANISH-SPEAKING
INDIVIDUALS WITH THE COMPLETION
OF THE FAMILY LAW PACTS.
THAT ADDRESSED A VARIETY OF
ISSUES FROM THE MODIFICATION OF
CHILD SUPPORT.
BUT IT COMES FREE AND HELPS
THOSE IN TAMPA.
MEMBERS HAVE ASSISTED MORE THAN
100 INDIVIDUALS SINCE THE
PROGRAM BEGIN IN APRIL 2009.
ASSOCIATIONS ACHIEVEMENTS MORE
THAN I CAN --
I URGE YOU TO READ THE MATERIAL
IN THE.
THE COURT WILL RECOGNIZE THE
FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE
ASSOCIATION, LUIS.
[APPLAUSE]

>> HE DIDN'T WANT THIS AWARD, I
GUESS.
I'LL BRING IT TO YOU.
WE'LL JUST BRING THESE BACK TO
TAMPA.
YOU KNOW, IT'S A GOOD JOB IN
TAMPA.
AND IT'S WORKING TOGETHER, YOU
KNOW, JUDGE HAS BEEN INVOLVED
WITH THE TAMPA BAY HISPANIC BAR
ASSOCIATIONS FROM ITS EARLY
INCEPTION.

YOU KNOW, GLEN TALKED ABOUT HIS FIRM BEING INVOLVED WITH THE TAMPA BAY HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION.

IT TRULY TAKES A COMMUNITY TO SERVE A COMMUNITY, AND IT'S EVERYBODY JOINING TOGETHER AND HELPING THE COMMUNITY.

THE TAMPA BAY HIS PANIC BAR ASSOCIATION IS NOT AN

ORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME.

I WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS, AND I HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND THAT LONG, I WOULD LIKE TO THINK.

I HAVE TO THANK ONE OF THE COLLEAGUES OF THE JUSTICES FOR USHER PUSHING ME IN THE DIRECTION OF STARTING THE TAMPA BAY HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION.

THE BAR ASSOCIATION CAME ABOUT WHEN I WAS IN --

I USED TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION, NO LONGER A YOUNG LAWYER AS WELL. BUT WHEN I WAS INVOLVED IN THAT ORGANIZATION, I HAD A MEETING OVER IN ORLANDO AND I MET WITH THEN BAR PRESIDENT FRANK, AND JUSTICE TIM AND OTHER STATEWIDE LEADERS OF HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATIONS.

AND WE WENT AROUND THE ROOM INTRODUCING OTHERS, I SAID I GO BY TONY.

I SAID I'M TONY FROM TAMPA. THE JUSTICE LOOKED AT ME AND SAID, WHAT HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION IS THERE IN TAMPA? I SAID, JUDGE, THERE ISN'T ONE. HE LOOKED AT ME AND SAID, YOU'RE KIDDING?

TAMPA HAS A HUGE HISPANIC POPULATION, A RICH HERITAGE IN HISPANIC CULTURE, AND TERRORIST NOT A --

THERE'S NOT A BAR ASSOCIATION OVER THERE SERVING

THE HISPANIC POPULATION?
I SAID JUDGE, THERE ISN'T ONE.
I KNOW, THERE'S ONE IN ORLANDO
AND MIAMI AND THE PUERTO RICAN
ASSOCIATIONS I WAS INVOLVED WITH
AT THE TIME.
THERE WAS NOT A HISPANIC BAR
ASSOCIATION FOR TAMPA.
SO JUDGE LOOKED AT ME AND SAID,
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT
THAT TONY?

I SAID LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
I WENT BACK TO TAMPA, I HAD A
MEETING WITH ANOTHER LAWYER,
RICARDO, AND WE STARTED
BRAINSTORMING ABOUT WHAT DO WE
NEED TO TALK TO GET THIS
ORGANIZATION OFF ITS FEET?
AND AGAIN, A COMMON THREAD, YOU
HEARD JUDGE MENTION EJ, IT'S
PEOPLE HELPING OTHER PEOPLE.
THE JUDGE MET WITH US, JUDGE
VIRGINIA COVERINGTON, AND OTHER
LAWYERS, GILL SANCHEZ.
WE MET AND WITH THE HELP OF
THOSE ATTORNEYS AND JUDGES, WE
WERE ABLE TO START THE
ORGANIZATION INCLUDING HELP FROM
OTHER HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATIONS.
MARLENE OF CAB BOW WAS A
PRESIDENT AT THE TIME.
AND SHE LENT HER BYLAWS TO US TO
START THE ORGANIZATION.
THE MISSION OF THE ASSOCIATION
WAS NOT TO HELP OUR MEMBERS GET
TO RISE TO THE JUDICIAL BENCH.
WE HAVE DONE A PRETTY GOOD JOB
OF HAVING HISPANIC JUDGES IN
TAMPA FOR A LONG TIME.
THE MISSION OF THE ORGANIZATION
WAS MORE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY,
TO HELP THE COMMUNITY.
WE SAW A GREAT NEED FOR THAT
THAT WAS GIVEN THE LARGE
HISPANIC POPULATION IN TAMPA.
WE SAID HOW CAN WE HELP THEM?
AND WE IDENTIFIED PROJECTS SUCH
AS THE FAMILY FORUMS CLINIC, I
DON'T PRACTICE FAMILY LAW.

EVEN BEING A LAW AND TRYING TO GET THROUGH THE FAMILY FORMS IN YOUR OWN LANGUAGE IS VERY DIFFICULT.

SO WE GOT THE FORMS TRANSLATED WITH SOME HELP FROM THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION, AND WE HOST VOLUNTEER AT THE COURT HOUSE WEEKLY BASIS HELP.

THOSE CITIZENS WHO DO NOT SPEAK ENGLISH AND HELP THEM DO THE FAMILY FORMS.

OUR MISSION IS TO HELP THOSE IN THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY WHO NEED HELP, AND TO ENCOURAGE FUTURE PERSONS OF HISPANIC HERITAGE TO HELP THEIR COMMUNITY.

AND I WOULD URGE YOU NOT -- I'M PROBABLY SPEAK TOGETHER BAR HERE.

EVERYBODY BELIEVES IN PRO BONO IN THE WORLD.

THE FOLKS IN THE INTERNET WORLD OR WHENEVER IT'S BEING BROADCASTED.

I ENCOURAGE YOU TO GIVE BACK, GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY AND HELP YOUR COMMUNITY.

WHERE YOU SEE A NEED, GO OUT THERE JUST LIKE JUSTICE DID, PUSH ME OUT THERE.

PUSH A YOUNGER LAWYER OUT THERE.

TELL THEM WHAT GOOD THEY CAN DO TO THE COMMUNITY.

TELL THEM HOW THEY CAN HELP THE FOLKS.

IT'S VERY REWARDING, AS EVERYBODY KNOWS.

IF YOU GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY, YOU'LL GIVE BACK IN DOUBLES AND MULTIPLES OF NAP I APPRECIATE EVERYBODY HONORING US, AND GLEN, I'LL BRICK YOU BACK YOUR AWARD.

I WON'T TAKE IT FROM YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

I'LL ASK GLEN YOUNG THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA BAR TO PRESENT THE SERVICE AWARDS.

THEN TO INTRODUCE THE PRESIDENT
OF THE BAR YOUNG LAWYER DIVISION
FOR FURTHER REMARKS.

>> THANK YOU, CHIEF JUSTICE.
MAY IT PLEASE, THE COURT,
JUSTICES, MEMBERS OF FLORIDA
BAR, SPECIAL GUESTS, FAMILY AND
FRIENDS OF OUR DISTINGUISHED
HONOREES, IT IS AN HONOR AND
PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO PARTICIPATE
IN THIS CEREMONY AND ON BEHALF
OF PRESIDENT ELECT GENE AND GREG

COLEMAN AND THE MEMBER OF THE
FLORIDA GOVERNORS FLORIDA BAR
AND MORE THAN 95,000 MEMBERS OF
THE ORGANIZATION, I WOULD LIKE
TO CONGRATULATE AND THANK EACH
OF THE RECIPIENTS FOR THE WORK
THEY HAVE DONE.
TODAY IS A VERY SPECIAL DAY, NOT
ONLY FOR EVERYONE IN THIS
COURTROOM BUT FOR MANY THOUSANDS
OF FLORIDIANS WHO HAVE RECEIVED
LEGAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE
VOLUNTEER EFFORTS AND DISTRICT
PRO BONO SERVICE OF LOBBYERS.
I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT DURING THE
2011, 2012 FISCAL YEAR OF THE
FLORIDA WAR THEY HAVE
CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN \$1.8
MILLION TO THE LEGAL AID.
THEY ARE TRULY COMMITTED TO
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR
COMMUNITIES, AND HERE ARE JUST A
FEW EXAMPLES OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS MADE
BY SOME OF TODAY'S FLORIDA BAR
PRESENCE PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD
RECIPIENT.
ONE ASSISTS IN LANDLORD.
TENANT DISPUTE, WRITES LETTERS
TO CREDITORS TO STOP HARASSING
PHONE CALLS TO CLIENTS, AND
HELPS UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS.
ANOTHER ASSISTS LOCAL NONPROFITS
THAT WORK TO REVITALIZE
NEIGHBORS INCLUDING --
NEIGHBORHOODS INCLUDING

DEVELOPING AFFORDABLE HOUSES.
ONE REPRESENTS CHILDREN AGING
OUT OF FORECASTER CARE BY
PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES AND
VOLUNTEERING WITH ORGANIZATIONS
TO PROVIDE CLOTHING AND LIVING
RESOURCES AS WELL AS EDUCATION
AND CAREER GUIDANCE.
ANOTHER REPRESENTS HOLOCAUST
SURVIVORS, PRO BONO WITH CLAIMS
FOR REFERRATION FROM THE GERMAN
GOVERNMENT.
ANOTHER PRO BONO SERVICE BY THE
INDIVIDUALS INCLUDES SERVING AS

ATTORNEYED A LITEMENT AND
GUARDIANED A LITEM.
AND ASSISTING CLIENTS ON LEGAL
AID CLINICS AND COMMUNITY
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.
THANK YOU TO THE HONOREES, THEIR
FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND
COLLEAGUES.

I HAVE TO TAKE A POINT OF
PERSONAL PRIVILEGE HERE TODAY
BECAUSE I TOO AM FROM
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

[LAUGHTER]

AND AS PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA
BEFORE BAR, IT MAKES ME FEEL
PARTICULARLY PROUD TO SEE SO
MANY PEOPLE FROM THE 13TH
CIRCUIT WHO ARE HERE FOR THE
GOOD WORK I KNOW THEY HAVE DO
AND HAVE DONE OVER THE YEARS.
AND EVEN THOUGH SCOTT HAWKINS
CHAIRIED THE COMMITTEE AND I
DIDN'T CHOOSE THE PEOPLE, IT
MAKES ME VERY, VERY PROUD TO SEE
EACH OF YOU HONORED AND TO COME
FROM THERE.

I HAD MANY OTHER FRIENDS THAT
ARE HERE TODAY WHO ALSO ARE
BEING RECOGNIZED FOR WHAT THEY
HAVE DONE.

I THINK THIS IS ABOVE ALL A DAY
THAT MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE A
LAWYER.

AND SO THANK YOU TO EACH OF YOU,
AND AT THIS POINT, I'D LIKE TO

ASK EACH OF THE RECIPIENT OF THE
FLORIDA BAR PRESENCE PRO BONO
SERVICE AWARD TO COME FORWARD AS
I CALL YOUR NAME AND RECEIVE
YOUR CERTIFICATE.

FROM THE FIRST CIRCUIT,
FREDERICK J. GANT.

[APPLAUSE]

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE SECOND CIRCUIT,
CAROLINE DAVIS CUMMINGS.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE THIRD CIRCUIT, MONICA.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE FOURTH CIRCUIT EMMERSON

MATTHEW.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE FIFTH CIRCUIT, JANICE
JOY.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, GUINEAN
SMITH WILLIAMS.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT, TONYA
ARE MAIN SCHMIDT.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT, MARY
ELLEN CROSS.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE NINTH CIRCUIT, BRUCE
HUBERT BLACKWELL.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE TENTH CIRCUIT, JENNINGS
PARENSEN.

[APPLAUSE]

FROM THE ELEVEN CIRCUIT, MAXINE
MASTER.

[APPLAUSE]

THERE ARE ACTUALLY TWO
RECIPIENTS FOR THE TWELFTH
CIRCUIT, FIRST JAMES D. JIM
MCDONALD.

[APPLAUSE]

AND SECOND, JANELLA KAY
LEGALMAN.

[APPLAUSE]

[APPLAUSE]

AND FROM THE THIRTEENTH
CIRCUIT, JEANNE.

[APPLAUSE]
[APPLAUSE]
FROM THE FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT,
ROBERT ALLEN.
[APPLAUSE]
FROM THE FIFTEEN CIRCUIT, BRIDGE
ANN.
[APPLAUSE]
FROM THE SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT, MARY
VANNEN BROOKE.
[APPLAUSE]
FROM THE SEVENTEENTH CIRCUIT,
STEPHEN WAYNE MARCUS.
[APPLAUSE]
FROM THE EIGHTEENTH CIRCUIT,
STEPHEN D. CRAMMER.

[APPLAUSE]
FROM THE NINETEENTH CIRCUIT,
WILLIAM CANT DEBRAWL.
[APPLAUSE]
AND FROM THE TWENTIETH CIRCUIT,
DAVID.
[APPLAUSE]
AND OUR OUT OF STATE
REPRESENTATIVE, LEON CLAUDIA.
[APPLAUSE]
AGAIN, CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF
OUR RECIPIENT.
LET'S GIVE THEM A BIG HAND OF
APPLAUSE.
[APPLAUSE]
AT THIS TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO
CALL ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE
YOUNG LAWYER'S DIVISION, PAGE
GREENLY TO COME TO THE PODIUM TO
PRESENT THE YOUNG LAWYER'S
DIVISION PRO BONO AWARD.

>> THANK YOU, PRESIDENT YOUNG.
MAY I PLEASE, THE COURT,
JUSTICES, AND WELCOME TOO OUR
MANY DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.
IT'S MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE
THIS YEAR'S YOUNG LAWYER
DIVISION PRO BONO AWARD
RECIPIENT REBECCA LAWRENCE FROM
MIAMI.
THROUGHOUT MY YEARS ON THE
BOARD, THE CONSIDERATION OF

NOMINATIONS FOR THIS AWARD HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THE FAVORITE THINGS I HAVE GOTTEN TO PARTICIPATE IN.

THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF NOMINEES WE RECEIVE IS TRULY EXCEPTIONAL EVERY YEAR.

AND THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION. THE PRO BONO AWARD RECOGNIZES A YOUNG LAWYER WHO PROVIDES OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THOSE IN NEED OF LEGAL SERVICES. FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW, A YOUNG LAWYER IS SOMEONE UNDER 36 YEARS OF AGE OR PRACTICING LESS THAN FIVE YEARS.

ALTHOUGH EVERYONE IN THE ROOM

TODAY RECOGNIZES THE NECESSITY FOR PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF THEIR FINANCIAL NEED --

MEANS TO HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO AND REPRESENTATIVE IN OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM, UNFORTUNATELY THE DEMAND FOR FREE LEGAL SERVICES LARGELY OUTWEIGHS THE AVAILABILITY.

WITH THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES WE'RE ENDURING WITH, THE DEMAND FOR FREE LEGAL SERVICES HAS INCREASED.

AT THE SAME TIME, AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, FUNDING FOR LEGAL AID SERVICE PROGRAMS AROUND THE COUNTRY HAS DECREASED.

THIS MAKES IT MORE THAN IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE NOBLE PROFESSION STEP FORWARD AND HELP TO ENSURE THAT ALL PEOPLE ENJOY EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW. THE YLD HAS BEEN A LEADER IN PROVIDING PRO BONO SERVICES AND RECOGNIZING THE LAWYERS WHO DECADE THEMSELVES TO THE SERVICES.

WE HAVE A PRO BONO COMMITTEE FROM SARASOTA WELCOME A NUMBER OF PRO BONO DIRECTORS ACROSS THE STATE AND THE MEETING TROUT THE

YEAR.

WE HAVE WORKED LAST YEAR AND THIS YEAR TO HIGHLIGHT THE YOUNG LAWYERS IN THE MONTHLY KNEW LETTERS.

TED, --

TODAY WE ARE CONTINUING THE LONG STANDING TRADITION TO -- BY GIVING THE AWARD TO REBECCA. THE FLORIDA BAR SUGGESTS THAT ALL LAWYERS ASPIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TWENTY HOURS ANNUALLY TO PRO BONO SERVICE.

THAT MAY NOT SEEM LIKE A LOT AND MANY ASPIRE TO DO THAT.

PARTICULARLY AS YOUNG LAWYERS, AT LARGE FIRMS, WE QUICKLY REALIZE THAT WITH THE DEDICATION

TO THE TIME TO PRO BONO SERVICES, SOMETHING ELSE HAS TO GIVE.

WE HAVE SO MANY DEMANDS ON OUR TIME.

IT THIS IS ONE OF THE MANY THINGS THAT MAKES REBECCA TRULY REMARKABLE.

SHE'S STILL A YOUNG LAWYER, SHE HAS GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE ASPIRATION OF TWENTY HOURS A YEAR.

IN FACT SHE'S GONE FOR A BEYOND IT.

REBECCA IS A 2009 GRADUATE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY SCHOOL OF LAW.

AND SHE RECEIVED HER UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

REALIZING THAT SHE WANTED TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICE TO LOW INCOME INDIVIDUALS, AFTER GRADUATIONS FROM LAW SCHOOL REBECCA --

THE GOAL OF LEARNING SPANISH TO ALLOW HER TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES TO THE SPANISH-SPEAKING POPULATION.

WHILE THERE, SHE MET THE NOW

HUSBAND, AND AS THEY FIGURED OUT THE IMMIGRATION PASS TO GET HIM TO THE U.S., REBECCA STARTED TO SEE SOMEHOW SHE COULD REALIZE HER OWN DREAMS OF HELPING LOW INCOME INDIVIDUALS PARTICULARLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN THROUGH PRO BONO IMMIGRATION WORK.

REBECCA IS NOW A FIFTH YEAR ASSOCIATE AT THE IN MIAMI. SHE STARTED THE CAREER IN THE NEW YORK OFFICE OF THIS FIRM. IT WAS THEN THAT SHE TRULY STARTED TO SHOW HER DEDICATION TO PRO BONO WORK.

AS A SUMMER ASSOCIATE THERE, SHE RECEIVED A FIRM'S FELLOWSHIP WHICH ALLOWED HER TO SPONSOR A PRO BONO PROJECT OF HER CHOICE.

REBECCA CHOOSE TO TRAVEL TO BORDER TOWNS IN TY LAND TO INTERVIEW BURMESE REFUGEES ABOUT THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE FOR REPORT ON POTENTIAL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLENCE -- VIOLATIONS DURING THE FIRST YEAR AS AN ASSOCIATE, REBECCA CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN 1,000 PRO BONO HOURS.

A MERE 980 MORE THAN WE WERE ASKED TO ASPIRE TO ACHIEVE. AMONG THE WORK SHE HAS DONE, REBECCA SUCCESSFULLY HELPED THE SPANISH-SPEAKING WOMAN WHO SURVIVED ABUSE FROM THE U.S. SPOUSE TO OBTAIN LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENCY UNDER THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ABILITY.

REBECCA HAS WORKED TO OBTAIN SURVIVOR BENEFITS FOR CONCEIVED CHILDREN BEFORE THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

AGAIN, ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY. REBECCA IS GOING GIVE CREDIT TO HER FIRM, WHICH SHE SAID HAS PROVIDED WITH THE ESSENTIAL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT NECESSARY TO WORK THE AMOUNT OF PRO BONO HOURS REBECCA HAS.

WE ARE LUCKY REBECCA DECIDED TO

MOVE TO FLORIDA AND TO CONTINUE
HER PRO BONO EFFORTS HERE.
SHE IS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING
IN THE MIAMI PRO BONO ROUND
TABLE, AND WORKS TO RECRUIT AND
TRAIN OTHER TURNS --
ATTORNEY IN OUR FIRM TO TAKE ON
IMMIGRATION CASES FROM CATHOLIC
SERVICES.
A LAWYER WITH WHOM REBECCA WORKS
CLOSELY.
REBECCA'S DEDICATION CHANGED
LIVES OF HER CLIENTS IN
REMARKABLE WAY.
PARTICULARLY WITH ONE YOUNG
FEMALE CLIENT, IT WAS THE NEED
OF LEGAL, PSYCHOLOGY, AND
PHYSICAL ASSISTANCE.
REBECCA RELENTLESSLY FOUGHT TO
LOCATE THE RESOURCES THE CLIENT

NEEDED TO LIVE IN A SAFE
ENVIRONMENT.
REBECCA'S ROLE AS A PRO BONO
ATTORNEY HAS IMPACTED THE
IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY ON A LARGE
SCALE, AND SHOULD BE GIVEN
RECOGNITION.
REBECCA CLEARLY RECOGNIZES THAT
IT IS AN HONOR TO BE A MEMBER OF
THE LEGAL PROFESSION, AND THAT
THAT POSITION CARRIES WITH IT AN
OBLIGATION TO HELP THOSE IN
NEED.
AND SHE HELPS REMIND ALL OF US
HERE THAT WE HAVE THE SAME
OBLIGATION.
FOR THIS REASON, I'M VERY PROUD
TO PRESENT THE YOUNG LAWYER'S
DIVISION PRO BONO AWARD TO
REBECCA LAWRENCE SOSA.

[APPLAUSE]

[APPLAUSE]

>> WOW.
QUITE A WONDERFUL WORDS, I'M
JUST SO INCREDIBLY HUMBLED AND
THRILLED TO BE ABLE TO STAND
HERE BEFORE YOU.
I ALSO WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR

TAKING THE TIME TO RECOGNIZE PRO BONO WORK.

IT IS SO IMPORTANT, OBVIOUSLY NOT JUST IN ECONOMICALLY DIFFICULT TIMES, BUT IT IS ALWAYS IMPORTANT.

WE ARE FORTUNATE AS LAWYERS AND THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE OUT THERE THAT CAN USE SOME HELP.

I PROMISE YOU, IF YOU REACH OUT YOUR HAND TO SOMEBODY IN THEIR TIME OF NEED, YOU CAN SAVE THEM FROM --

[INAUDIBLE]

AND I SEE THAT FIRSTHAND.

MANY PEOPLE HAVE SHARED OTHER SIMILAR STORIES OF SEEING THAT.

I'M HONORED TO BE ABLE TO BE A PART OF HELPING OUT SOMEBODY.

WE HAVE ALL NEEDED HELP IN VARIOUS POINTS IN OUR LIFE.

IT'S REWARDING ME AND FOR ALL OF US TO BE PART OF A PROFESSION THAT CAN DO SO MUCH TO HELP SO MANY PEOPLE.

THANK YOU ALL.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN AWARDED TODAY, AND TO ALL OF THE OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE CONTRIBUTING THEIR TIME AND MONEY AND EFFORT AND SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL OF THE LAWYERS FLORIDA AND BEYOND, GIVING YOUR TIME TO PRO BONO WORK.

IT'S GIVING ME MORE JUICE TO KEEP GOING SOMETIMES FOR THE LONG HOURS WE HAVE TO DEVOTE IN OUR JOBS AND TO DEVOTE TO THE EXTRA WORK WE DO ON THE TIME.

I WANT TO TALK ABOUT ONE OF MY MEMORABLE CASES THAT WE HEARD A LITTLE BIT ABOUT TODAY.

THIS WAS MY --

I LEARNED SPANISH WHEN I MET MY HUSBAND.

THIS IS MY FIRST SPANISH SPEAKING CLIENT.

HE HOLD A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY
HEART.

AND HE WAS JUST SO BRAVE, HE'S
FROM GUATEMALA, SHE HAD A
DIFFICULT SITUATION, WAS AN
ABUSIVE SPOUSE IN THE U.S.

I SALUTE HER.

SHE WAS ABLE TO GET OUT OF THE
RELATIONSHIP AND GOT HELP FROM
ME AND MY FIRM AND OTHER
ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP PROVIDE
THE RESOURCES TO CONNECT LAWYERS
WHO WANT TO DO PRO BONO WORK.
IT'S REALLY TRANSFORMATIONAL
EXPERIENCE FOR HER AND FRANKLY
FOR ME.

SHE WAS A CATERPILLAR WHO
BLOSSOMED TO A BUTTERFLY.
WHEN I HAD MET HER SHE WAS TIMID
AND SCARED AND DIDN'T KNOW WHERE
HER LIFE WAS GOING GO.
AND SOMETIMES IT TAKES SOME

TIME.

IN THE COURSE OF WORKING FOR
OVER TWO YEARS, WITH E WERE ABLE
TO GET HER LEGAL PERMANENT
RESIDENCE.

I'M PROUD OF HERE AND THE EFFORT
OF MY FIRM AND THE PEOPLE WHO I
WORKED WITH TO HELP HER GET
THERE, AND SHE'S A DIFFICULT
PERSON TODAY.

THAT'S BECAUSE OF THE KIND OF
WORK THAT WE'RE SUPPORTING HERE
TODAY.

SO I CARRY HER WITH ME OFTEN.
I BROUGHT HER THANK YOU NOTE SHE
WROTE TO ME AFTER SHE WAS ABLE
TO, --

NOW THAT SHE HAS LEGAL STATUS.
SHE WAS ABLE TO VISIT HER SON
WHO SHE SENT BACK TO GUATEMALA
TO LIVE WITH HER PARENTS WHILE
SHE WAS IN DIFFICULT TIMES IN
THE HOME SHE WAS IN.

AND SHE CALLED ME FROM GUATEMALA
WITH HER SON TO SAY THANK YOU.
HE WAS SO HAPPY.

I COULD HEAR IT IN THEIR VOICES.

STARTED TO CRY, IT WAS TOUCHING.
I JUST WANT TO --
HOPEFULLY INSPIRE EVERYONE IN
THIS ROOM.
EVERYONE CAN PLAY A PART.
EVERYONE CAN MAKE TRAUMATIC
CHANGES IN OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES
AND IN THEIR OWN LIVES AS WELL
THROUGH PRO BONO WORK.
IN HER CARD TO ME, SHE SAID --
I'LL TRANSLATE IT AFTER WARDS.
[SPEAKING SPANISH]
TO A SPECIAL PERSON WHO
COMMITTED TO CHANGING MY LIFE
FOREVER.
AND BEING HERE TODAY, I CAN TELL
HER SHE'S REALLY CHANGED MINE
FOREVER TOO.
THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL OF YOU,
AND THIS IS JUST AN HONOR TO BE
HERE.
THANKS VERY MUCH.
[APPLAUSE]

[IT'S MY PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE
THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT FOR THE
LEGAL PROFESSIONS HIGHEST HONOR.

--

[INAUDIBLE]
PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD.
THIS YEAR'S AWARD GOES TO JEANNE
OF TAMPA.
SHE MADE AN PRIORITY TO HELP
ABUSED, NEGLECTED AND ABANDONED
CHILDREN MANY WITH SPECIAL
NEEDS.
SHE WAS WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS A
ADOPTION ATTORNEY AND HAS USED
HER SKILLS FOR THE BENEFIT OF
THOSE IN NEED.
SHE HAS DONE THIS FOR LOCAL BAR
ORGANIZATIONS AND OFFERED TO
HANDLE EVERY ADOPTION CASE
REPRESENTED TO THE BAY AREA
LEGAL SERVICES.
STATE HAS WORKED WITH THE STATE
TO PROVIDE PRIVATE ADOPTION
SERVICES FOR THOSE IN NEED AND
CREATED A NONPROFIT.
THE ORGANIZATION RAISES MONEY TO

GIVE PRIVATE GRANTS --

[INAUDIBLE]

TO PARENTS.

AND ALL SHE HAS DONATED MANY
HUNDREDS OF PRO BONO HOURS.

ADOPTED PARENT WHO IS MY
PLEASURE TO ASK THIS YEAR'S
AWARD RECIPIENT TO APPROACH THE
BENCH AND RECEIVE YOUR AWARD,
AND SHAKE THE HANDS OF THE
JUSTICES, AND PROCEED TO THE
PODIUM.

[APPLAUSE]

I'M EXCEPTIONALLY HONORED TO
STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY.

I GIVE A THOUSAND THANKS TO THE
JUSTICE OF THE FLORIDA SUPREME
COURT AND THE BAR, PARTICULARLY
GLEN YOUNG AND MARGARET
MATTHEWS.

TO ONE OF MY VERY EARLY MENTORS
IN LIFE, BEN HILL, WHO NOT ONLY
GAVE ME MY FIRST JOB BUT
EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF PRO

BONO WORK.

I WANT TO THANK YOU AND
ACKNOWLEDGE THE MARY ARMSTRONG
WHO NOMINATED ME FOR THIS AWARD
AND REMARKABLY FROM TAMPA WON
THIS AWARD LAST YEAR.

[LAUGHTER]

I SALUTE EVERYONE TODAY THAT HAS
BEEN HONORED BY THE FLORIDA
SUPREME COURT.

IT IS JUST OVERWHELMING, I THINK
AS YOU KNOW TO BE HERE.

I GREW UP IN FORT LAUDER DALE
FLORIDA, I WAS THE OLDEST OF
FOUR CHILDREN.

AND NO ONE IN MY FAMILY EVEN
WENT TO COLLEGE.

IT WAS BASICALLY HARD WORK, NOSE
TO THE GRINDSTONE.

WE GOT THINGS DONE.

SOUTH FLORIDA WAS A PLACE THERE
WERE STARK CONTRAST BETWEEN THE
HAVE AND THE HAVE NOTS.

AND THERE WERE DIFFERENCES EVEN
THOUGH WE PLAYED BY THE SAME

RULES ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES
GIVEN TO PEOPLE.

PEOPLE OF COLOR, PEOPLE WHO HAD
DIFFERENT NAMES, PEOPLE WHO LOOK
DIFFERENT, PEOPLE WHO SPOKE IN A
DIFFERENT WAY WERE NOT GIVEN THE
SAME OPPORTUNITIES.

SO THOSE IMAGES AS I MATURED
KIND OF SEARED A MEMORY IN MY
BRAIN THAT I THINK CONTRIBUTED
TO THE PERSON THAT I AM TODAY.
AND IT'S KIND OF CAUSED ME TO
LIVE BY A VERY, I GUESS, SIMPLE
ADAGE OF WINSTON CHURCHILL, WE
MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE EARN.
WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE
GIVE.

AND GIVING HAS ALWAYS BEEN A
PART OF MY LIFE, PARTICULARLY IN
THE AREA OF ABUSED, NEGLECTED
AND ABANDONED CHILDREN.

WHEN SIT HERE TODAY IN THE
COMPANY OF SOMEONE LIKE TIBIAS.
HE WAS A GIANT IN THE LEGAL
PROFESSION, HE WAS A PASSIONATE

VISIONARY, HE WAS SOMEONE WHO
HAD WORK ON THE BEHALF OF THE
DOWNTRODDEN SIMPLIFYING THE
VERY, VERY BEST QUESTION BE AS
LAWYERS.

BUT IF HE WERE HERE TODAY, WE
WOULD TELL YOU THESE AWARDS ARE
NOT ABOUT US.

THEY ARE ABOUT SHINING THE LIGHT
OF DAY ON THE DISENFRANCHISED.
ABOUT THE POOR, AND ABOUT THE
PEOPLE THAT CAN'T DO THE THINGS
IN LIFE THAT WE CAN DO.

THAT CAN'T EVEN FIND A PLACE TO
LIFE THAT IS FREE OF DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE, FREE OF ABUSE, THAT'S
FREE OF NEGLECT.

AND SO IN HIS HONOR, I THINK I
ISSUE A CALL TO ALL OF YOU, AND
SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES HAVE DONE
HERE TODAY.

GO BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITIES AND
EMBRACE PRO BONO.

DO IT WITH A PASSION, DO IT WITH

PERSEVERANCE, A PROMISE YOU WON'T
BE LET DOWN.
IT WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST
MEANINGFUL THINGS YOU DO.
FOR MY SAKE, I KNOW OUR CHILDREN
COUNT ON YOU TO DO THAT.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
[APPLAUSE]

>> THOSE HONORED HERE TODAY,
THOSE EVERYONE IN FLORIDA WHO
HONOR THE SPIRIT OF PUBLIC
SERVICE, LET ME URGE YOU,
THERE'S NO GREATER CAUSE THAN
SERVING JUSTICE EVEN WHEN IT
MEANS YOU MUST PLACE YOURSELF
BETWEEN THE JUST CAUSES OF THE
POOR AND OPPRESSED AND THE
UNJUST OPINIONERS OF THE
POWERFUL.
AND IN SO DOING NOT ONLY DO YOU
HELP THOSE IN NEED, BUT AS
TIBIAS SIMON RECOGNIZES, YOU
HAVE HELP PRESERVED THE MANY
BASIC RIGHT.
LICK.

THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF THE RULE
OF LAW WHICH HAS MADE THIS
NATION GREAT.
LET'S GIVE A LAST ROUND OF
APPLAUSE FOR OUR LAWYERS HERE.
[APPLAUSE]
[APPLAUSE]
[APPLAUSE]

ON A FINAL NOTE, WE INVITE
EVERYONE HERE WHO IS AN HONORED
AWARD WINNER TO RECEIVE TO THE
ROTUNDA FOR THE CELEBRATION.
WE ASK THAT THE RECIPIENT REMAIN
HERE IN THE ROOM FOR THE
PHOTOGRAPHS.
THE CEREMONIAL SESSION NOW
STANDS ADJOURNED.
[APPLAUSE]
>> ALL RISE.
[INAUDIBLE CONVERSATIONS]
[INAUDIBLE CONVERSATIONS]