

Eight Women Lawyers Honored for Free Legal Services to the Poor

TALLAHASSEE, Feb. 4 Eight woman lawyers received The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Award for their commitment to providing free legal services to the poor. A ceremony honoring all recipients was held February 4 at the Supreme Court in Tallahassee.

M. CATHERINE LANNON

Tallahassee, Florida • Second Judicial Circuit

Lannon has been employed as an Assistant Attorney General since 1982. She has been instrumental in encouraging changes to rules barring or restricting attorneys within the Office of the Attorney General from engaging in the delivery of pro bono legal services to the indigent. Lannon is a Past President of both Legal Services of North Florida, where she continues to serve on the board of directors, and the Legal Aid Foundation of the Tallahassee Bar Association. Lannon provides pro bono services through Tallahassee Women Lawyers' Refuge House Legal Clinic. She was also an integral part of the planning and creation of the Legal Advice Clinic at the Neighborhood Justice Center.

DEBORAH J. ANDREWS

Ponte Vedra Bch., Florida • Seventh Judicial Circuit

After spending the early part of her career in Washington, D.C. with the law firm of King & Spalding and providing hundreds of hours of pro bono work to the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, Andrews moved to Florida. She serves on the Board of the Palm Valley Community Center and has spearheaded efforts to assist needy families during the holidays. Andrews has also provided hundreds of hours of pro bono service to the Northeast Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club in its efforts to protect wetlands and wildlife habitat.

HOLLY R. SKOLNICK

Miami, Florida • Eleventh Judicial Circuit

Skolnick has served as chair of Greenberg Traurig's Pro Bono Program since 1995, where she recruits Greenberg Traurig attorneys to take pro bono matters, coordi-

nates pro bono referrals, and supervises those attorneys. Under her supervision, Greenberg Traurig attorneys have represented more than 30 different not-for-profit organizations and countless individuals in need of legal services. In 1996, Skolnick spearheaded the establishment of the Greenberg Traurig Fellowship Foundation. The Foundation funds the salary and pays the law school loans of public interest attorneys for two years to allow them to work full-time with various legal aid organizations.

SUSAN W. FOX

Tampa, Florida • Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Fox joined the Tampa firm of Macfarlane, Ferguson & McMullen in 1976 and became a shareholder in 1983. She specializes in and is Board Certified by The Florida Bar in Appellate Practice. Fox has been involved in several noteworthy pro bono projects in the past 18 years, including the Battered Women's Clemency Project. Fox donated over 1,100 hours in 1995-98 to assist with the clemency request of Tammy Duque, who spent more than 16 years in prison and was granted clemency in 1998. For the past three years, Fox's firm, through her coordination, has provided Back-up Counsel for The Spring of Tampa Bay, a domestic violence shelter. Fox's firm has also handled approximately 20 domestic violence injunction cases and donated approximately 500 hours of legal services for Bay Area Legal Services.

JOY A. BARTMON

Boca Raton, Florida • Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

In 1990, just before opening her private practice, Bartmon was hired as the first Program Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program. During this time, she recruited, trained and supervised 50 pro bono attorneys for the GAL Program and represented the Program and Guardians in court proceedings. Bartmon was the recipient of the Program's 1998 Karen Starr Marx Child Advocacy Award. In the past year, she has volunteered 95 hours as a pro bono attorney, acting Program

Attorney and Guardian ad Litem. In addition, Bartmon has given more than 20 pro bono hours annually to the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.

ANNE V. ALPER

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida • Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

After receiving her law degree in 1989, Alper worked at the Office of the State Attorney in the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, where she focused on the plight of sexually and physically abused children. In 1995, she began working at the Office of the Guardian ad Litem, continuing her focus on the special needs of children. Alper has devoted well over 500 pro bono hours each year in private practice while also teaching professionals in the legal, medical, educational and psychological fields how to effectively communicate with children, both in and out of the courtroom setting. Alper says she lives by the motto, "children need to be seen, heard and believed."

AMY E. GOODBLATT

Orlando, Florida • Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

Goodblatt has actively participated as a pro bono volunteer for the Seminole County Association in the area of family law since 1985. She has taken numerous complex cases which other attorneys declined, and rarely refuses a request to take on an additional pro bono case. Goodblatt has logged over 450 hours since 1991. Goodblatt mediates indigent cases for both Seminole and Orange counties. She credits her law partners, staff and associate attorneys with facilitating her pro bono efforts.

MIKELE STANDER CARTER

Blairsville, Georgia • Out-of-State

Carter, the daughter of character actor Lionel Stander (Max on "Hart to Hart") joined the Miami Police Department in 1961 and became the first female patrol sergeant in the world (1971) and the City of Miami's first female assistant city attorney (1973). In 1985, Carter opened an office in Blairsville, in the North Georgia mountains. She received the first pro bono award ever given in the North Georgia mountains by Georgia Legal Services. Carter routinely spends six months in Florida and six in Georgia. While in Florida, she works at Brevard County Legal Aid and staffs their clinics. In addition, she received the Brevard County Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award in 1998.