

SPEAKING OF JUSTICE

News From The Florida Bar Foundation
 volume 4 issue no. 2

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PETE CROSS

Iliana Gonzalez and her son Karls, 6, enjoy visiting the playground at the Coral Gables Youth Center. Karls, who is autistic, has shown great improvement since beginning applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy in January. Thanks to Karls' legal aid attorneys, Florida Medicaid now pays for the therapy, not only for him, but for all autistic children covered by Medicaid. Previously, Florida only required private insurers to cover it.

Federal judge orders state of Florida to cover autism therapy

At 18 months of age, Karls Gonzalez seemed like any other happy toddler. He would return his mother's smile, had a budding vocabulary that included words like "mama," "papa," and "cookies" and had developed a healthy appetite for solid food.

But by the time he turned 2, he had become a different child. He stopped speaking and making eye contact. He refused any food that was not pureed. At the playground he would just walk in circles, staring at his own shadow or at the wall. He never climbed on the equipment or interacted with other kids.

"He was like a little old man," said his mother Iliana Gonzalez, tears welling as she recalled her son's extreme detachment.

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Leadership and Funding for Justice in Florida

President's Message

As the first non-lawyer president of The Florida Bar Foundation, I am truly grateful for The Florida Bar and its members' support of the Foundation and its mission of providing greater access to justice.

In the past year, six Bar sections and divisions have come forward with gifts totaling \$336,000 in an effort to address the legal aid funding crisis brought about by the impact of low interest rates on revenue from Florida's Interest on Trust Accounts Program. Nearly 3,000 Florida lawyers have contributed either to the Foundation's "Now" fundraising campaign or through The Florida Bar's annual fee statement. The combined generosity of the Bar, its sections and divisions, and individual attorneys has resulted in gifts of more than \$620,000 to the Foundation in the past year.

The Trial Lawyers Section got it all started with a \$75,000 gift to fund a Children's Legal Services attorney position that was at risk of elimination. Encouraged by their peers, the leadership of the Family Law Section followed up with a \$75,000 contribution from the Section to the Foundation's Children's Legal Services Grant Program. The Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section meanwhile launched an effort that brought in \$85,000 in support for Children's Legal Services, a significant portion of which came from individual

donations. Next, The Florida Bar's Young Lawyers Division came through with a \$100,000 gift, which the Foundation has decided to use to replace lost funding for its Law School Loan Repayment Program to help legal aid organizations retain staff attorneys. Finally, the Criminal Law Section approved a \$25,000 gift, and the Alternate Dispute Resolution Section gave \$1,000. Additionally, the Bar aided us by waiving our booth fee at the annual Bar convention, allowing us to recruit additional Fellows at no cost.

I would be remiss if I didn't also thank Florida Bar President Gwynne Young and Immediate Past President Scott Hawkins for their efforts on behalf of legal aid. Scott not only led the Foundation's "Now" campaign, along with 2011-12 Foundation President Mickey Cummings, but he also accompanied me and Foundation Executive Director Jane Curran on our visit to Washington to encourage Florida's congressional delegation to fund the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), another major funder of civil legal assistance. While the final funding amount is still being negotiated in the budget process, we were quite pleased to see that a number of those with whom we had spoken, including some who had opposed LSC funding in the past, subsequently voted against an amendment to zero-out LSC funding.



Maria E. Henderson

And Gwynne has come out strong in support of the Foundation, both at her swearing-in ceremony and in her first president's message, urging Bar members to make financial contributions to the Foundation and look for new opportunities for stabilized funding.

There is still much to do. However, I am bolstered by my belief and the clear evidence that lawyers truly do care deeply about access to justice for everyone, including those unable to pay. And I feel privileged to lead the Foundation, an organization that has the support of so many dedicated and generous professionals within The Florida Bar.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria E. Henderson".

Maria E. Henderson, President

Criminal Law Section gives Foundation \$25,000

The Florida Bar's Criminal Law Section is the most recent Bar section to make a major gift to The Florida Bar Foundation.

The Section's Executive Council voted unanimously at the 2012 Florida Bar Convention to contribute \$25,000 to the Foundation to help alleviate the organization's funding crisis.

"The judges, professors and lawyers who make up the Criminal Law Section

of The Florida Bar were made aware of the financial crisis faced by The Florida Bar Foundation. The Section learned of the terrible tragedies faced by so many low-income people as a result of severe cutbacks to legal aid agencies," said Judge Lisa Porter, 2011-12 chair of the Criminal Law Section. "Helen Keller once wrote, 'I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do the something

I can do.' And so, the CLS Executive Council voted unanimously to make an unrestricted and substantial contribution to the Foundation."

Miami criminal defense attorney David Rothman, a member of The Florida Bar Foundation board, made the motion to contribute the funds.

"What followed was what I would call a love-fest of support," Rothman said.

YLD gives the Foundation \$100,000

The Board of Governors of The Florida Bar's Young Lawyers Division June 21 presented a \$100,000 check to The Florida Bar Foundation at the Bar's Annual Convention in Orlando.

The unrestricted gift will be used by the Foundation to offset cuts to its Law School Loan Repayment Assistance Program resulting from a steep decline in revenue from Florida's Interest on Trust Accounts (IOTA) Program.

"When the YLD became aware of the difficulties that The Florida Bar Foundation was experiencing due to the decrease in IOTA funds, we were very concerned about the impact it would have on the delivery of legal aid around the state," said then-YLD President Sean Desmond. "The seriousness of the situation was highlighted further when I sat through a meeting of the board of directors for the Foundation on March 16th of this year. It was apparent that many great legal aid programs were facing serious cuts to their funding."

Paul Doyle, director of the Foundation's Legal Assistance for the Poor Grant Program, recommended that the YLD funds be used to reduce cuts to the Foundation's Law School Loan Repayment Assistance Program, which the Foundation established to help its legal aid grantees attract and retain highly qualified legal aid attorneys.

The program was expanded after a 2007 study commissioned by the Foundation found that one of the top three reasons attorneys were leaving public service careers was "financial pressure due to student loans." The same study found that the starting salary for a Florida Bar member in a Florida legal aid program was \$38,500 and that the majority of law students graduate with educational debt of more than \$100,000.

Under its Law School Loan Repayment Assistance Program the



COURTESY OF THE FLORIDA BAR

Sean Desmond, 2011-12 president of the Young Lawyers Division, presents a \$100,000 check to Michele Kane Cummings, 2011-12 president of The Florida Bar Foundation. Behind them, from left, are Michael Faehner, Foundation board member and former YLD president; Paige Greenlee, YLD president; and Jewel White, Foundation board member and former YLD president.

Foundation provides legal aid attorneys up to 80 percent of their annual payments on need-based law school debt for up to 10 years, subject to funding availability. Annual payments are capped at \$7,500 and are in the form of one-year loans forgiven annually for attorneys who remain employed at a Foundation legal assistance grantee for the full 12-month period.

"You have no idea how very needed this is and how very appreciative I am," wrote one legal aid attorney upon receiving her loan repayment assistance check.

In 2010-2011, the Foundation committed \$1,103,905 to the program for benefits to 214 legal aid attorneys. The following year, the Foundation approved 182 applications for \$798,452 after the grant program allocation was reduced by a little more than 12 percent.

"One of the biggest challenges through this crisis with IOTA revenue is keeping the legal aid infrastructure intact,"

said 2011-12 Foundation President Michele Kane Cummings. "The Loan Repayment Program has been vital in enabling legal aid attorneys to remain in public interest law while paying down their law school debt. We know the members of the YLD can relate to this challenge, and we are so appreciative of their support for legal aid at this crucial time."

Desmond acknowledged the key roles played by foundation board member and former YLD President Jewel White and Florida Bar Board of Governors member David Prather, who approached the YLD to suggest a major gift to the Foundation.

"In addition to wanting to help, the YLD also remembered the strong partnership we have developed with the Foundation, who has been instrumental in assisting us to develop our YLD Affiliate Outreach Conference," Desmond said.

In 2004-05, when Foundation board member Michael Faehner was

see YLD, p. 7



PETE CROSS

“This order will save thousands of other Florida children from being unnecessarily and permanently disabled. And while the intensive therapy can be costly, the evidence also established that providing applied behavior analysis for Karls and other children like him will ultimately save significant public funds.”

**– Monica Vignes-Pitan
Legal Services of Greater Miami**

Gonzalez soon learned that Karls had regressive autism, a form of the disorder that often becomes apparent by a child’s second birthday. Karls not only stopped engaging with those around him, but also became aggressive. As he grew older, his mother’s arms became covered in bruises and bite marks from his frequent outbursts.

After three years of speech, physical, and occupational therapy, which were covered by Florida Medicaid, Karls showed no improvement. Having talked with his neurologist and other experts and done a lot of her own research, Gonzalez knew that the therapy Karls really needed was applied behavior analysis (ABA), a widely recognized, intensive treatment for autism that uses techniques such as positive reinforcement to influence behavior. But there was one problem. Medicaid did not cover it, and on her husband’s salary, the family had no way to afford it.

Karls’ situation changed, however, after a social worker from Baptist Children’s Hospital in Miami referred Gonzalez to legal aid.

Since Jan. 30, Karls, now 6, has been receiving ABA therapy thanks to his attorneys at Legal Services of Greater Miami (LSGMI), Florida Legal Services (FLS) and the Miami law firm of Alderman & Kodsi. His legal team was able to secure Medicaid coverage for the therapy after a preliminary injunction order, and on March 26 U.S. District Judge Joan Lenard issued a permanent injunction ordering the state of Florida to begin providing coverage of ABA for all children on Medicaid diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

“The Medicaid population of children diagnosed with autism and/or autism spectrum disorder are deserving and will be given ABA treatment in the state of Florida,” said Lenard in an oral order from the bench. Following a four day trial, she referred to the case as one of the most important she had ever heard.

Lenard’s ruling took effect immediately, and the new policy and necessary forms have been made available on the website of the Agency for Health Care Administration.

LSGMI attorney Monica Vignes-Pitan worked on the federal case with lead attorney Miriam Harmatz in the FLS Miami office and private attorney Neil Kodsi, whose trial expertise was critical. They also had help from co-counsel Betsy Havens, an Equal Justice Works Fellow who also has a master’s in public health, and whose fellowship at FLS is supported by The Florida Bar Foundation and the law firm of Greenberg Traurig.

While state law has required private insurers to cover ABA therapy for autistic children since 2008, Florida’s Medicaid program had continued to deny coverage by claiming, among other things, that the therapy was “experimental.” The plaintiffs’ rebuttal expert cited an abundance of scientific literature that thoroughly undermined the state’s claim.

“Judge Lenard’s order will eliminate the tragic disparity between the prognosis of privately insured children with autism, who receive ABA, and those on Medicaid, who do not,” said Harmatz, one of the state’s leading Medicaid advocates. “This case will have national impact because, while most states mandate that private insurance companies cover ABA, most Medicaid programs do not provide coverage.”

Autism advocates pointed out at trial that ABA therapy will provide autistic children the help they need to lead productive lives and not be dependent on the state through more costly group homes.

“This order will save thousands of other Florida children from being unnecessarily and permanently disabled,” said Vignes-Pitan. “And while the intensive therapy can be costly, the evidence also established that providing applied behavior analysis for Karls and other



PETE CROSS

“The Medicaid population of children diagnosed with autism and/or autism spectrum disorder are deserving and will be given ABA treatment in the state of Florida.”

Oral order issued from the bench by U.S. District Judge Joan Lenard in a case brought on behalf of three Miami children including Karls Gonzalez, left.

children like him will ultimately save significant public funds.”

The Agency for Health Care Administration has said it will appeal the ruling.

Karls was one of three autistic Miami children on whose behalf the case was brought, but the outcome has made more than 8,000 children currently in the Florida Medicaid program eligible for ABA therapy.

Meanwhile, Karls has undergone a remarkable transformation after less than five months of ABA therapy.

“Hello. How are you?” he asks upon meeting someone for the first time. Although his words sound rehearsed, a bit like a foreign language student, he speaks with a sunny confidence and looks his new acquaintance in the eye.

“Say cheese!” he calls out, as he flashes his best Hollywood smile at a stranger pointing a camera his way.

Karls has also stopped hitting and biting and instead started participating in all kinds of activities that would have been unthinkable before. He teaches himself sign language on the computer and has learned how to count to 10 in several languages. He will sit still and pay attention to his speech therapist, enabling him to benefit from a form of therapy that had been wasted on him before. He can understand games like tag, can toss a

ball to someone, and will approach other children with interest in what they are doing.

Gonzalez said even Karls’ neurologist has found his new behaviors remarkable for a child with such a severe form of autism.

“Before, you could call him, ‘Karls, Karls!’ and you were talking to the air,” Gonzalez said. “Now I am seeing the child I lost. He is bigger. He is older. But he is the child I lost.”

FLS and LSGMI both receive general support grants from The Florida Bar Foundation that enable their staff attorneys to devote the tremendous amount of time needed to pursue such landmark cases.

“This is our legal services community at its best – a very needy client, a local legal aid attorney, an expert attorney from a statewide legal aid program, a new EJW attorney and a pro bono private attorney,” said Florida Legal Services Executive Director Kent Spuhler.

Gonzalez said she thanks God for meeting the social worker who referred her to legal aid.

“A lot of kids need this, not just Karls,” she said. “There are kids who can take advantage of this from a much younger age, and it will help them even more.”



PETE CROSS

“Before, you could call him, ‘Karls, Karls!’ and you were talking to the air. Now I am seeing the child I lost. He is bigger. He is older. But he is the child I lost.”

– Iliana Gonzalez

Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section and its members support Foundation's Children's Legal Services grants

The Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar has generated more than \$85,000 worth of financial support for The Florida Bar Foundation's Children's Legal Services grants through a combination of refunds, in-kind contributions, and a campaign to solicit voluntary donations from Section members.

The Section's Pro Bono Co-Chair, Adele I. Stone, also a past president of The Florida Bar Foundation, made a presentation to the Section's Executive Council urging its support for Children's Legal Services in light of a severe drop-off of IOTA funds, which have traditionally supported the program. The presentation was developed with assistance from Section Treasurer Drew O'Malley and past chairs of the Section Laird Lile and Sandy Diamond.

"We were extremely pleased with the support from the Section's Executive Council, who recognized the importance of supporting legal aid at this critical time. And Section membership has really gotten behind the effort," Stone said.

The Section's Executive Council voted to refund to the Foundation the sponsorship fees it previously paid to the Section in the amount of \$50,740. It also voted to waive sponsorship fees for three Section Executive Council meetings in the coming year. These sponsorship fees are valued at \$15,500. Sponsorship entitles the Foundation to exhibit at those Section meetings.

The Section also voted to explore seeking voluntary donations to the Foundation from Section members to be paid into a Donor Advised Fund at the Foundation. In the meantime, Section Chair George J. Meyer has sent e-mail blasts to the Section's Executive Council members that already have resulted in gifts of \$20,210 from individual Section members.

"I am proud to see so many Section members coming forward with individual gifts to The Florida Bar Foundation," said Meyer. "We will continue to make every effort to ensure that our membership is aware not only of the need, but also of the great work the Foundation does

in supporting local legal aid programs throughout the state."

For 20 years, the Foundation has provided special annual grants to Florida legal aid organizations to fund legal services for children. Approximately 25 children's advocates currently working at legal aid organizations around Florida have been supported by these grants. Without additional resources, the jobs of 10 or more of those attorneys are at risk in the next three years due to the recent sharp decline in revenue from Florida's Interest on Trust Accounts (IOTA) program, the chief funding source for The Florida Bar Foundation. IOTA revenue has fallen 88 percent since 2008.

The financial support from the Section and its members, together with two other \$75,000 gifts – one from the Trial Lawyers Section and another from the Family Law Section – already have gone a long way to bolster the funding available for Children's Legal Services, saving three children's legal services attorney positions for the coming year.

Dean Cannon receives 2012 President's Award for Excellence

Florida House Speaker Dean Cannon, R-Winter Park, received the President's Award for Excellence at the Foundation's annual dinner.

Cannon was recognized for his leadership in increasing the appropriation for the Florida Access to Civil Legal Assistance Act during the 2012 legislative session from \$1 million to \$2 million in House-Senate negotiations.

"We cannot adequately express our gratitude to Speaker Cannon for his effort to ensure that low-income families and individuals, including foster children, domestic violence victims, veterans and the disabled, have somewhere to turn when facing civil legal issues," said 2011-12 Foundation President Michele

Kane Cummings, who selected Cannon to receive the award. "We know that he truly understands how vital civil legal assistance funding is to ensuring access to justice, and that it is a very worthwhile investment that produces great returns for Florida."

According to a recent study the Foundation commissioned from Florida TaxWatch, 2008-09 FACLA funding of \$1 million created 170 non-legal aid jobs in the state economy, produced \$13 million of economic output, provided \$22 million of disposable income; and generated \$13.86 of economic impact for every \$1 spent by the state for FACLA funding.

Although Fla. Gov. Rick Scott vetoed the 2011 and 2012 FACLA appropriations, the strong 11-year history of legislative



Cannon receives President's Award.

JUDY WATSON TRACY

support for FACLA underscores the importance the legislature places on ensuring access to justice for all Floridians. The Legislature has supported FACLA with appropriations of \$1 million to \$5 million every year since the Act was first passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Hank Coxe receives 2012 Medal of Honor Award

Henry M. Coxe III received The Florida Bar Foundation's 2012 Medal of Honor Award for a lawyer, the Florida legal profession's highest award, June 21 at the Foundation's 36th annual reception and dinner, held in conjunction with The Florida Bar Annual Convention at the Gaylord Palms Resort in Orlando.

A Jacksonville attorney widely recognized for his pro bono work, fundraising for legal aid, and leadership of the organized Bar, Coxe was recognized for his lifelong commitment to duty and service to the public, to improving the administration of justice, and to advancing the science of jurisprudence.

"Hank Coxe has exhibited extraordinary leadership skills since his admission to The Florida Bar and becoming an assistant state attorney in Jacksonville," said former Florida Supreme Court Justice Major B. Harding. "He has exhibited innovation, courage, and professionalism in the practice of law and in Bar-related activities throughout his career. Those characteristics reflected the leadership that caused his colleagues to install him as president of The Florida Bar and warrant his selection to receive the 2012 Florida Bar Foundation Medal of Honor."

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid presented Coxe with its highest honor, the Equal Justice Award, in 2004. His many hours of pro bono service also earned him The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Award in 1985. His other recognitions



2011-12 Foundation President Michele Kane Cummings presents the 2012 Medal of Honor Award to Henry M. Coxe III.

include The Florida Bar President's Award of Merit, the ABOTA President's Award, the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Steven Goldstein Award and the Florida Bar Criminal Law Section's Selig I. Goldin Award.

A criminal trial attorney and director with the Bedell firm, Coxe has served as president of the Jacksonville Bar Association and The Florida Bar. He currently serves on the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, as well as the Florida Innocence Commission, which is partially funded by The Florida Bar Foundation.

As a 10-year member of The Florida Bar Board of Governors, Coxe made lawyer discipline and professionalism a focus, helping to ensure both fairness and public confidence in the legal profession. He also has served as a member of the Judicial Nominating Commissions for the Fourth Judicial Circuit and First District Court of Appeal.

Foundation board member David Rothman said Coxe's agenda as a leader is always founded on a single notion: "to do the right thing for the right reason."

The Florida Bar Foundation Medal of Honor Award Program was established in 1977.

from YLD, p. 3

YLD president, the YLD gave \$25,000 to the Foundation to support Children's Legal Services grants. Since that time, Foundation grants to Young Lawyer affiliates throughout the state have supported community outreach projects.

"We remembered that the Foundation's early support of the conference several years ago under the

vision of then-YLD President Jamie Billotte Moses and Foundation Executive Director Jane Curran, who helped create a special opportunity to inspire young lawyers to incorporate pro bono and community service into their lives and practices," Desmond said.

"Since the mission of the Foundation reflects the spirit of the YLD

so closely, it was an easy decision for the YLD board to vote for this gift to the Foundation during this time of need. The YLD also remains dedicated to continuing to explore ways to assist the Foundation in the future with developing new ways to generate funding."

“Now” campaign raises \$92,000

Hundreds of low-income Floridians in need of civil legal representation will get it thanks to 334 Florida lawyers, judges and others who donated a total of \$84,663 to The Florida Bar Foundation’s special “Now” fundraising campaign.

The campaign, named to underscore the urgent need for donations to legal aid in the face of a steep decline in revenue from Florida’s Interest on Trust Accounts Program, included an e-mail appeal from Florida Bar President Scott Hawkins and Florida Bar Foundation President Michele Kane Cummings.

“Legal aid funding in Florida is headed off a cliff, and Florida’s poor are going to pay the price — unless we act,” Hawkins and Cummings wrote in an e-mail to all Florida Bar members.

An 88 percent drop in IOTA revenue since 2008 will require the Foundation to cut 71 percent of its legal aid funding by

its 2014-15 grant year. The drop in IOTA revenue results from low bank interest rates since the recession. Historically, the Foundation has provided roughly a third of all legal aid funding in the state.

“The Foundation had very responsibly set aside a significant reserve fund, but no one could have predicted such an extended period of such extremely low interest rates,” said Darryl Bloodworth, an Orlando attorney with Dean, Mead, Egerton, Bloodworth, Capouano & Bozarth, P.A.

Dean Mead encouraged its attorneys to contribute to the Now Campaign through a payroll deduction that was created specifically for the campaign.

“We felt it imperative to do our part. It will take a long time for local legal aid organizations to rebuild after such drastic cuts, and the more we can all do as members of the Bar to mitigate the situation, the better,” Bloodworth said.

The Bar Foundation estimates that its funding cuts will cause layoffs of about 120 of the 410 legal aid lawyers at work in 2010.

Cummings expressed gratitude on behalf of the Foundation to Hawkins for his leadership of the campaign and to all the attorneys, judges and other individuals who contributed.

“We are so appreciative of those who heeded the call,” Cumming said. “We would have liked to see greater participation from Bar members, but that just makes us all the more thankful to those who stepped up. And of course, for those who missed out on the campaign, we will still take donations by check or online at any time.”

For a list of donors to the Now Campaign, go to: www.floridabarfoundation.org/thanksnow

2012-13 officers, directors begin terms

The Florida Bar Foundation’s 2012-13 officers and directors took office July 1. Read more about the Foundation’s officers, newly appointed directors and reappointed directors at www.floridabarfoundation.org. A complete list of board members is on page 10. Newly appointed Foundation directors, who will serve three-year terms, are:



Designated Director
Eugene K. Pettis
Florida Bar President-Elect



Public Member
Mary Gardiner Evertz



Public Member
Thomas R. Oldt



Hon. James M. Barton, II



Gregory P. Brown



Benjamin L. Crump



Stephen R. Senn

Florida Legal Services receives Goldstein Award for Excellence

Florida Legal Services received the 2012 Steven M. Goldstein Award for Excellence for its successful challenge to Fla. Gov. Rick Scott's suspension of rulemaking by state agencies.

When Scott issued his first executive order suspending rulemaking by state agencies, FLS sought to protect the autonomy of state agencies as set out in the Administrative Procedures Act and to safeguard the Act's integrity as a means to bring about systemic change in public assistance programs.

In *Whiley v. Scott*, FLS successfully petitioned the Florida Supreme Court on behalf of a blind woman who wanted to recertify for Food Stamps using an abbreviated application designed to accommodate her disability. Implementation of the abbreviated form had been put on hold due to Scott's executive order.

"The Goldstein award is named for someone who spent much of his career in legal services to the poor. I have no doubt that, were Steve still alive, he would be overjoyed to see the wonderful advocates at Florida Legal Services honored for their work on behalf of a remarkable woman, Ms. Whiley, whose spirit has not been crushed by the burdens she bears," said Sandy D'Alemberte, who, along with his wife and law partner Patsy Palmer, served as pro bono counsel on the case.

In *Wiley*, the Florida Supreme Court held that the governor lacked the power to suspend rulemaking and reinstated the Administrative Procedures Act as the arbiter of agency rulemaking.

FLS staff attorneys Cindy Huddleston, Kathy Grunewald, Valory Greenfield and Anne Swerlick worked on the petition.

"The APA is an integral tool that legal services advocates use daily in their practice to force systemic change in policy and compel equal protection and due process in individual cases," wrote the FLS staff attorneys in their award application.

The Goldstein Award is provided biennially by the Foundation in recognition



JUDY WATSON TRACY

Florida Legal Services staff attorneys Kathy Grunewald, left, and Cindy Huddleston, right, accepted the 2012 Steven M. Goldstein Award for Excellence on behalf of FLS. With them are Sandy D'Alemberte, and his wife and law partner Patsy Palmer, who served as pro bono counsel on the case.

of the late Steven M. Goldstein's commitment and contributions to high-quality impact representation of the poor. It is meant to encourage and support individual staff and legal aid program pursuit of such representation. A grant

of \$25,000 is awarded to the program whose staff work is being recognized, to be utilized for general support in providing legal assistance to the poor. A \$3,000 training scholarship is also awarded for the benefit of the individual staff who worked on the winning project.

The 2012 Steven M. Goldstein Award Runners-up were:

First Runner-Up

Southern Legal Counsel Inc.

Statewide Litigation to Establish a Program to Transition Medicaid Recipients in Nursing Homes into the Community

\$10,000 plus \$1,000 training scholarship

Second Runners-Up (tie)

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida Inc.

Challenge to Sanford Housing Authority's Proposed Demolition of Affordable Public Housing

Florida Justice Institute Inc. and Legal Services of Greater Miami Inc.

Challenge to Public Housing Authority's Illegal Denial of Section 8 Housing Assistance

\$2,500 each plus \$500 training scholarship

FOUNDATION FACT

Florida legislators who were the leading advocates for civil legal assistance funding were recognized June 21 at The Florida Bar Foundation's 36th annual reception and dinner. Recognized were Rep. Rich Glorioso, R-Plant City, chair of the House Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff, R-Ft. Lauderdale, chair of the Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; and Sen. Mike Fasano, R-New Port Richey, who was succeeded by Bogdanoff as chair of the Senate panel, for funding the act in their respective budgets. The legislators led an effort that resulted in a \$2 million appropriation for civil legal assistance under the Florida Access to Civil Legal Assistance Act during the 2012 legislative session. The funds were to be administered by The Florida Bar Foundation through a competitive application process to support the work of Florida's legal aid organizations, which are facing increased demand from Floridians facing job loss, bankruptcy, domestic violence and other civil legal matters. Fla. Gov. Rick Scott later vetoed the 2011 and 2012 FACLA appropriations; however, the strong 11-year history of legislative support for FACLA underscores the importance the Florida Legislature places on ensuring access to justice for all Floridians.



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Julio C. Jaramillo, Second Vice President

Michele Kane Cummings, Immediate Past President



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Stephen R. Senn

Jewel White

Every day, in every city in Florida,

we help legal aid help those least able to afford a lawyer.

We are The Florida Bar Foundation,

and we believe the justice system works best when it works for everyone.



Leadership and Funding for Justice in Florida