

J SPEAKING OF JUSTICE

NEWS FROM FFLA, FORMERLY THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION
Volume 16 Issue no. 3

Quince, Tyree named 2024 Medal of Honor recipients



ZAC WOLF PHOTOGRAPHY

Left: Ret. Justice Peggy A. Quince is presented the 2024 Medal of Honor for a Lawyer by Craig Gibbs. Right: Dr. Lawrence W. "Larry" Tyree is presented the Medal of Honor for a Non-Lawyer by Judge Edwin A. Scales III. The Medal of Honor Award is sponsored by Florida Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company.

Former Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy A. Quince was awarded FFLA's Medal of Honor Award for a Lawyer, and retired college president Dr. Lawrence W. Tyree was awarded the Medal of Honor Award for a Non-Lawyer at FFLA's 2024 Award Ceremony and Breakfast in June.

The Medal of Honor is FFLA's highest honor. Sponsored by Florida Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company, it is presented each year to a member of The Florida Bar who has demonstrated his or her dedication to the objectives of The Florida Bar. The Medal of Honor may also be awarded to a member of the public or a lawyer not actively engaged in the practice of law who has made outstanding achievements in improving the administration of justice in Florida.

Quince, who served as Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court from 2008 to 2010, was honored for her decades-long legal and judicial career spent in service to the public, her extensive volunteer work on behalf of those less fortunate and her dedication to ensuring the halls of justice are open to all.

"Justice Quince never yielded to the public pressure and tension to win at the expense of professionalism," said Judge Chris Altenbernd in a letter of support for Quince's nomination. "Her arguments before the Second District and the Supreme Court were models of professionalism. Virtually her entire career was spent in service of the public. Peggy Quince was obedient to the rule of law. But equally, she was an ordinary, real person who chose to appear at countless public meetings to give people the assurance that the judiciary was

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



FFLA President Roberto R. Pardo's term began July 1, 2024. He practices in the areas of criminal defense and personal injury in Miami. Pardo earned his law degree from the University of Miami School of Law. Pardo served on the board of directors of The Florida Bar Foundation, now FFLA, from 2007-2013. He rejoined the board in 2016 and has served on more than a dozen committees. He served eight years on the Eleventh Circuit Judicial Nomination Commission. He has also served on the boards of the Cuban American Bar Association, earning its Presidential Award in 2021, the Miami chapter of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the League of Prosecutors. Pardo also served on the Eleventh Circuit Unlicensed Practice of Law Committee "D" and the Grievance Committee "B," for which he twice received a Meritorious Public Service Award.

FFLA stands at the threshold of achieving something many times greater than we could have imagined a decade ago. A little over a year after an amendment to the IOTA rule, we now have the resources to fund legal aid in a way that is pivotal - a generational opportunity to expand access to thousands more Floridians.

We have already seen that our grantees have been able to hire more lawyers and serve more clients. As they grow their programs, they can rest assured that IOTA funding will be consistent, allowing them to transform and reimagine the impact of broader legal options for the communities they serve.

Our board of directors and staff have been working diligently to implement new policies and procedures that ensure this increased funding is used efficiently and effectively. We review and analyze many data points reported by grantees to verify that IOTA funds are being used in accordance with the rule. With more responsibility comes more work, so FFLA has hired a grants assistant and a communications and development assistant to support our small staff.

We are excited and look forward to watching our state's civil legal aid system grow and help more people in need. We want to bring along all of the supporters and advocates of legal aid who have worked so long to see a bigger impact. It is a great time to get energized about the tremendous work our grantees do. I encourage you to learn about your local legal aid program and spread the word about the services they offer and the significance of their work.

Roberto R. Pardo

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New members join FFLA Board of Directors

FFLA has six designated directors, including the president of Florida Legal Services, the president, president-elect and immediate past president of The Florida Bar, and two judicial officers. Eighteen at-large directors serve a maximum of two three-year terms, with one-third selected by the Florida Supreme Court, one-third by The Florida Bar Board of Governors and one-third by FFLA's board. Up to four public members also serve three-year terms. Directors award grants, oversee fundraising, set policies and adopt the annual budget. The board can be contacted at BoardofDirectors@FundingFLA.org.



Hon. Paetra T. Brownlee

Judge Brownlee is a Sixth District Court of Appeal judge. She was appointed as an FFLA designated director by The Florida Supreme Court.



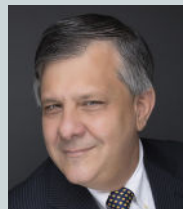
Magdalena Ozarowski, Esq.

Ozarowski is Of Counsel at Ausley McMullen in Tallahassee. She was appointed by The Florida Bar to FFLA's board as an at-large director.



Deborah C. Giles

Giles is a mediator with the Eighth Judicial Circuit Court in Gainesville. She was appointed as a public member by FFLA and The Florida Bar.



Douglas H. Reynolds, Esq.

Reynolds is a litigation partner with Tripp Scott, PA. in Ft. Lauderdale. He was appointed as an at-large director by FFLA.



Joe Jacquot, Esq.

Jacquot is a business litigation shareholder with Gunster in Jacksonville. The Florida Supreme Court appointed him as an at-large director of FFLA.



Raychelle A. Tasher, Esq.

Tasher is an assistant U.S. attorney at the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida. FFLA appointed her as an at-large director.



Patrick S. Montoya, Esq.

Montoya is a senior partner at Milberg in Miami. FFLA appointed him as an at-large director.



Hon. Thomas D. Winokur

Judge Winokur is a First District Court of Appeal judge. He was appointed as an FFLA designated director by The Florida Supreme Court.

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their judiciary, and not a court controlled by the elite. Both in her personal and professional life, she has had that rare ability to be a kind and gentle person, who still has the courage and strength to stand up for what she believes is right."

Tyree, who led nine separate colleges as president or interim president over his career, was honored for his leadership in and stewarding of others through the higher education system to promote equal justice and his devotion to serving The Florida Bar as a volunteer. He was nominated by seven past presidents of The Florida Bar Foundation (now FFLA).

"Countless underprivileged and underserved segments of our population, including those served both directly and indirectly by The Florida Bar Foundation (now FFLA), have benefited from the skill sets incubated through the lifelong

efforts of Dr. Tyree," wrote the past presidents. "He has personally and corporately stewarded many to make a difference. Critical to us, he has been a stalwart for the organized Bar, at both the local and state level. Several Florida Bar presidents have relied on his counsel. He was awarded the Bar's President's Award of Merit. Dr. Tyree showed a deep interest in the work of The Florida Bar Foundation (now FFLA) and spent much time becoming engaged in its work and its governance. He championed the Foundation's work and its mission to serve the underserved through funding legal aid groups throughout Florida."

June Board of Directors report

The FFLA Board of Directors met in person in Orlando on June 20, 2024. The major actions of the board and reports received included:

Adoption of FY 24-25 Operating Budget

The Budget and Finance Committee recommended, and the board approved, a FY 24-25 operating budget of \$2,710,819, which represents a 10% increase from the previous year's budget. The majority of the increase is a result of plans to add three new staff positions. The board adopted a proposed capital budget in the amount of \$73,529 for expenses associated with FFLA's building, including replacing air conditioning units and required parking lot resurfacing.

It was also reported that projected actual expenses for FY 23-24 were expected to come in under budget by about \$402,000. This is the sixth year in a row in which FFLA has come in under budget.

Children's Legal Services grants approved

The Children's Legal Services program provides funding for legal assistance to needy children in critical areas that affect their safety, well-being and future development. The board previously allocated \$1,600,000 to fund Children's Legal Services this fiscal year. FFLA received 17 applications requesting a total of \$2,315,158 (145% of available funding).

The board reviewed the recommendation of the grants committee and approved funding 11 projects (see pg. 5). FFLA is appreciative of the efforts of Retired Judge Hugh Carithers, Judge Stefanie Moon, Ayana Barrow, Bob Pardo and Brian Currie for reviewing applications and assisting staff.

Law School Civil Legal Clinic grant awarded

The board previously approved an allocation of \$1,000,000 from IOTA collections to fund Law School Civil Legal Clinics (LSCLC). LSCLC grants are typically awarded in June for clinics beginning the following fall and spring semesters. FFLA received five applications requesting a total of \$551,750.

The Grants Committee recommended and the board approved funding one project, Florida State University College of Law's Eliminating Economic Barriers Immigrant and Farmworker Clinic, for \$125,000, using other collections (not IOTA collections).

It also recommended suspending the program and reviewing it in light of the changed circumstances related to law school clinics since the program's inception. The board created a work group to review the program and have discussions with law schools, and present its final report in December. Laura Boeckman, Dax Bello, Robert Murphy, Douglas Reynolds and Patrick Montoya were appointed to the work group.

Improvements in the Administration of Justice grants

In March, the board approved Florida's Children First and the Innocence Project of Florida for AOJ funding, and authorized the Grants Committee review team to ask CABA Pro Bono Legal Services and Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida for further information about the AOJ projects for which they had applied for funding.

The review team evaluated timelines, specific performance metrics, budget worksheets, and minimum viable grant amounts for the projects and reported back to the Grants Committee. The committee recommended, and the board approved, funding CABA's project in the amount of \$125,000 and respectfully declining Coast to Coast's project.

Investment Committee Report

The Investment Committee brought forth a recommendation to the board to engage in an RFP process for an investment manager. The board approved the recommendation. A work group will be appointed to proceed and report back in time for the board's December meeting.

IOTA Work Group Report

Judge Suzanne Van Wyk, chair of the IOTA Work Group, reported on an informational meeting with the Florida Supreme Court. The Work Group will meet to review the IOTA Implementation Work Plan's objective standards in light of feedback from the Court and will endeavor to make any changes deemed necessary. The Work Group will also take up its annual review of the IOTA Work Plan, review assignments related to grantees, and begin work on an application process for potential new qualified grantee organizations.

Passing of the Gavel and Thanksgiving for Service

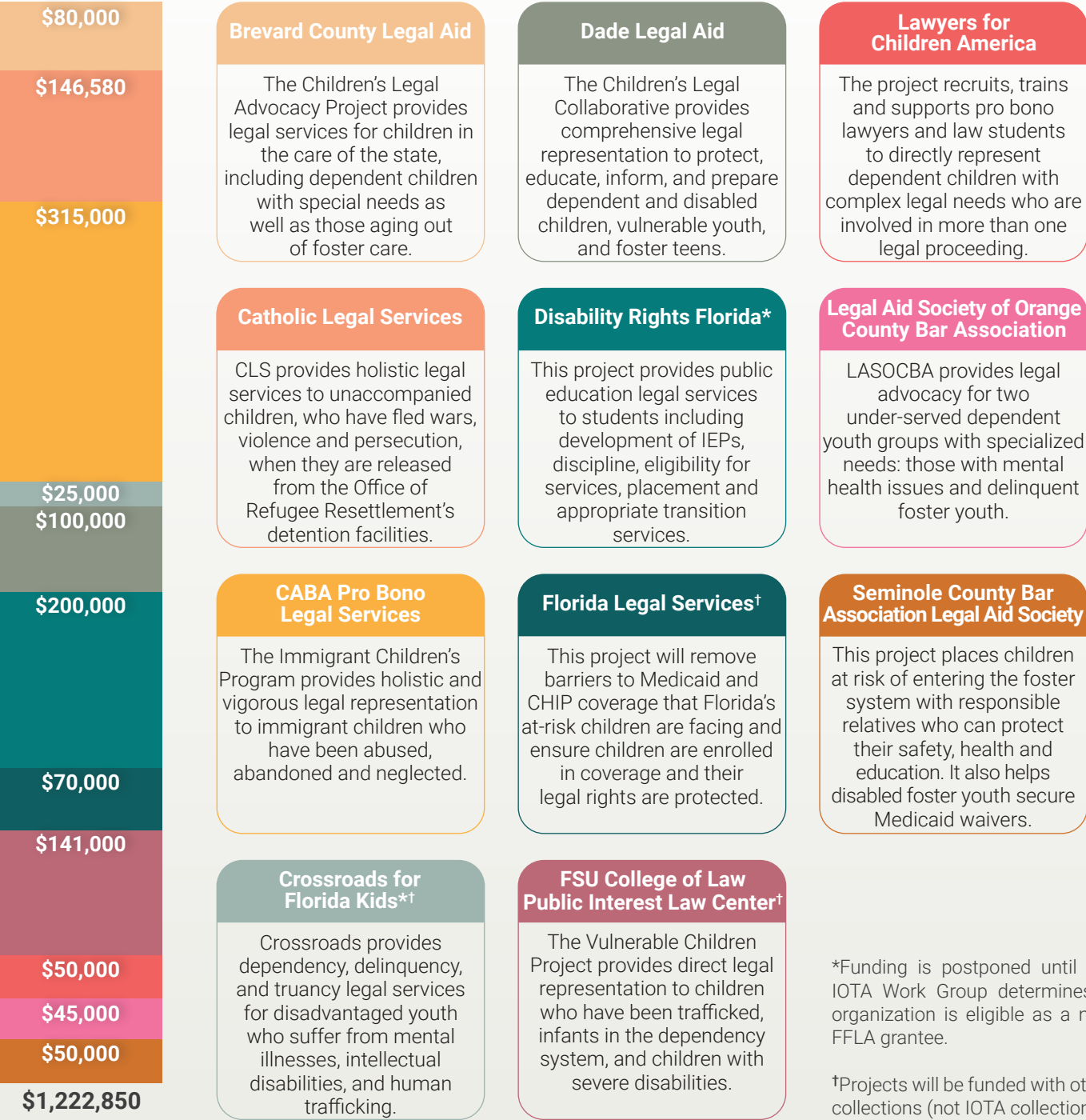
In President Murray Silverstein's absence, Immediate Past President Suzanne Van Wyk passed the president's gavel to President-elect Roberto R. Pardo. Mr. Pardo announced his committee assignments and dates for board meetings for FY 24-25, which were ratified by the board.

Immediate Past President Van Wyk also recognized those members of the board and the Foundation Endowment Trust who were terming off and thanked them for their service and commitment. Those members are: Jack Harkness, Esq., Ret. Justice James E.C. Perry, Raymond Reid, Esq., Hon. Jeffrey T. Kuntz, George W. Tinsley Sr., and Juliette E. Lippman, Esq. President-elect Pardo also welcomed and introduced new directors (see pg. 3).

Next Meeting

The board's next scheduled meetings will be on September 19 – 20, 2024, in Miami, Fla., hosted by the University of Miami School of Law.

11 Children's Legal Services grants awarded



Additional grants awarded

Applicant	Grant/Project	Amount Funded
CABA Pro Bono	Improvements in the Administration of Justice grant: Neurodivergent Legal Assistance Program	\$125,000
Florida State University Public Interest Law Center	Law School Civil Legal Clinic grant: Eliminating Economic Barriers Immigrant and Farmworker Clinic	\$125,000

Donation roundup



SECTION DONATION

The Florida Bar Family Law Section Executive Committee presented a donation of \$37,500 to FFLA Executive Director Donny MacKenzie at The Florida Bar Annual Convention in June. The donation funded four additional Civil Legal Aid Summer Fellows.

CY PRES AWARD

The Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court approved a cy pres award to FFLA from the Rosenberg v. Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services settlement. FFLA received \$3,567 in unclaimed class action settlement funds. Under cy pres, courts can approve a charitable donation out of unclaimed class action funds.



For more information or to make a donation, visit FundingFLA.org or contact Development Director Michelle Fonseca at 407-960-7000 or mfonseca@FundingFLA.org.



TRIBUTE GIFT

The Florida Fellows Institute Class VI raised \$6,884 in honor of the Florida Fellows Leadership Team to donate to FFLA. The class, made up of trust and estate attorneys, earmarked the donation for legal aid programs that offer estate planning, probate and guardianship services.

IOTA funding at work

Data from FFLA grantees' 2023 IOTA funding reports shows:



\$7,686,386

in IOTA funds distributed to 35 legal aid organizations

428,352

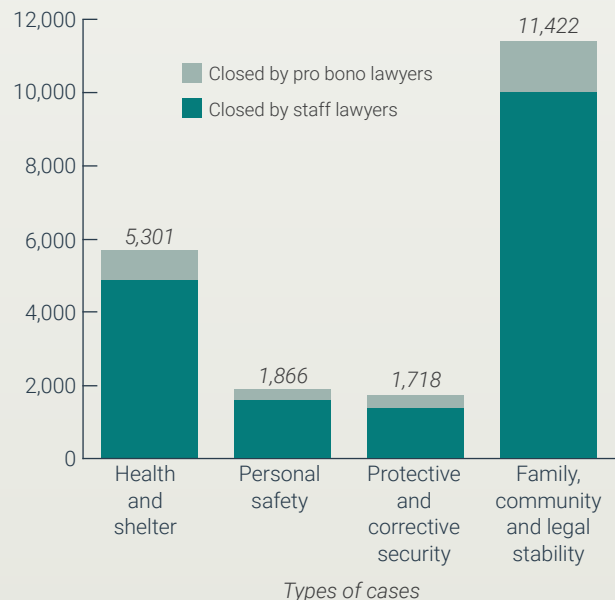
clients received qualified legal services paid for or facilitated by IOTA funds



\$14,517,003

obtained for clients, including judgements, awards, fees, reimbursements and benefits

20,307 CASES CLOSED IN 2023



FFLA hosts Annual Award Ceremony & Breakfast

FFLA held its Annual Award Ceremony & Breakfast on June 20 during The Florida Bar Annual Convention in Orlando.

Use your phone's camera to scan these QR codes to see videos and photos of the event, or visit FundingFLA.org.



Photo gallery



Videos



FFLA President-elect Roberto R. Pardo presents the Jane Elizabeth Curran Distinguished Service Award for Roderick N. Petrey to Florida Justice Institute board member Maria Borges and executive director Michael Langley on Rod's behalf.



John Patterson of Shutts, sponsor of the President's Award, presents the award to FFLA board member James P. Schwarz.



Martha Diaz, Dax Bello, Lesley Mendoza and Britany Bonner



FFLA board member Katie Fackler presents the Florida Pro Bono Law School Challenge MVP Award to Marni B. Lennon and Charlton C. Copeland of the University of Miami School of Law.



Aramis Ayala, Sharlene Stanford, Charise Morgan-Joseph, Judge Michael Robinson



FFLA board members Roberto R. Pardo, Ret. Judge Hugh Carithers and Ian M. Comisky



Ret. Justice Peggy A. Quince, Ava Doppelt and Brandon Prescott



Ray Reid, of sponsor Pajcic & Pajcic, presents the Goldstein-Van Nortwick Award to Lynn Hearn and Ronnie Graham of Florida Health Justice Project Award (left) and to Simone Chriss of Southern Legal Counsel and Hearn and Graham of FHJP (middle). Reid presents the 2nd runner-up Goldstein Van Nortwick Award to Jodi Siegel and Dan Marshall of SLC and Jeff Hearne of Legal Services of Greater Miami (right).



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Mission

To increase access
to the justice system
for people of limited means,
FFLA funds legal services,
develops innovative tools
and programs, and supports
legal aid providers
and the courts.

www.FundingFLA.org

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FUNDING FLORIDA LEGAL AID

The Florida Bar Foundation's new name is FFLA! Though our name has changed, our mission, staff, board members and operations remain the same. We are rebranding to increase awareness and educate those outside of the legal community about the acute need for legal aid funding and the valuable economic impact of accessible, free legal counsel.

