

## The Family Law Section's "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" PUBLIC RECOGNITION PROGRAM

By: KIM ROMMEL-ENRIGHT, ESQUIRE and ROBIN J. SCHER, ESQUIRE

This year, the new Section Chair Diane M. Kirigin formed an *Ad Hoc* Committee to address the need for public recognition of those attorney/judicial officers and affiliate members of The Family Law Section of The Florida Bar who are really making a difference in our State. She appointed us as the committee's Co-Chairs. By way of background, Kim is the *Pro Bono* Coordinator for the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County and Robin is currently in private practice, but she spent many years also working at Legal Aid, coincidentally, with Kim. As such, we both have a heightened appreciation for the legal, financial and emotional needs of the underserved and disadvantaged in our State. Chair Kirigin has assigned our Committee with the task of identifying, selecting and publicly acknowledging the efforts of The Florida Bar, Family Law Section members (including Affiliates) who "make a difference" in the lives of the underserved and/or disadvantaged in our State. Public perception of marital and family law attorneys and those professional and paraprofessionals who provide forensic and/or support services to us is at an all time low. In keeping with this year's Section theme of "Building Better Relationships" (as well as the Big Bar's "ONE" *pro bono* program), it is the two-prong goal of this Committee to educate the public at large about those Section Members who "make a difference" by providing outstanding *pro bono* services or by engaging in other types of outstanding volunteer community activities/pursuits that improve the lives of Florida's children and families; **and** to encourage other Section members to undertake new or continuing *pro bono*/volunteer services/activities.

Beginning October, 2010 and in each subsequent edition of FAMSEG, the Committee will select the Section "Member" and "Affiliate Member" of the month. Those selected will be honored in feature articles in FAMSEG, accompanied by press releases, and will receive recognition plaques memorializing their service/activities. These selected nominees will be finalists in what will culminate in the designation of one of the honorees from each category as the Section "Member" and "Affiliate Member" of the Year, to be honored at the Section's Annual Luncheon in June, 2011. We need **your** help in identifying worthy nominees. We are reaching out and soliciting nominations from the Statewide legal service and legal aid organizations, voluntary bar associations, judicial Circuits, charitable, social service and humanitarian organizations, minority, children and senior citizen groups, and government social service agencies. However, **YOU** may already have personal knowledge of friends or colleagues who are deserving of this recognition.

### **TO BE ELIGIBLE THE NOMINEE MUST:**

- \* If the Nominee is an attorney/judicial officer, he or she must be a member of The Florida Bar, in good standing.
- \* Be a member of The Family Law Section.
- \* May be an employee or member of an organization providing free or low cost legal services to the disadvantaged or underserved; however, the *pro bono* services or volunteer activities for which the person is nominated cannot arise from a work related service or activity for which the Nominee is paid {i.e. as part/scope of his or her normal, everyday workload}.
- \* The Nominee's overall or cumulative *pro bono* and/or volunteer service/activities record may be considered. For the inaugural year of the "Making A Difference" public recognition program (the 2010-2011 Bar year), consideration of the service/activities is not limited to the immediate past year.
- \* The *pro bono* and/or volunteer service/activities must be verifiable by the Committee.

**Please assist us by sending in your nominations today.** We have provided a **NOMINATION APPLICATION** link: [http://www.familylawfla.org/pdfs/making\\_a\\_difference\\_nomination\\_application.pdf](http://www.familylawfla.org/pdfs/making_a_difference_nomination_application.pdf) for your convenience. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us: **KIMBERLY ROMMEL-ENRIGHT** at: **1-561-655-8944-Extension #265** or [kenright@legalaidpbc.org](mailto:kenright@legalaidpbc.org) or **ROBIN J. SCHER** at : **1-561-478-0312** or [rjscher@cjamiesonlaw.com](mailto:rjscher@cjamiesonlaw.com). Instructions for submission are on the application.