

JUDGE GREER, OTHERS HONORED FOR PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT

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Judge Greer, others honored for professional commitment

A number of Florida Bar members were recognized at The Florida Bar's recent Annual Meeting in Orlando. Among the awards presented were:

President's Award of Merit Presented to Judge George Greer

So that he could receive the award in front of his peers, the Judicial Luncheon was the setting for Sixth Circuit Judge George Greer, the trial judge in the Terri Schiavo case, to receive the President's Award of Merit.

"Those who know Judge Greer and practice in front of him believe he is the ideal jurist," said President Kelly Overstreet Johnson. "He is fair, he is impartial, and his rulings are based on law, not emotions and not politics.

"Despite a stellar career, Judge Greer's knowledge and integrity were monitored and commented upon by the world at large, as he weighed the facts of an extremely difficult case, and applied the law as he saw it. Yet Judge Greer, a hardworking judge committed to the rule of law, to the independence of the judiciary, and to the fundamentals of American democracy, received as a result of his efforts hate mail and death threats resulting in 24-hour security, had to move out of his home, and was asked to leave his church, all in the course of doing his job.

"For his longstanding dedication to our system of justice, for his work in the Terri Schiavo case, and for the personal hardships he has suffered as a result, it is my great honor to present Judge George Greer with the President's Award of Merit."

Participants at the Judicial Luncheon responded with a rousing standing ovation.

In accepting the award, Judge Greer said: "When you honor me today, you really honor the entire judiciary."

President's Award of Merit Presented to Jerry Beer

Beer was described by Johnson as an outstanding tax lawyer, wonderful husband and father, friend, and dedicated Board of Governors member who toiled to come up with a workable change to the methodology for section subsidies by the Bar.

"This was a very difficult and time-consuming job, requiring input and suggestions from many people," Johnson said. "Jerry spent hundreds of hours analyzing and comparing different ways of computing how the subsidies could work. Jerry did a great job and ultimately the board accepted Jerry's recommendations in a fashion that most of those involved thought was fair."

Beer's award recognized his "leadership during eight years of service on the Board of Governors, including two terms as chair of the Budget Committee, and service on the Executive Committee, and for your wise counsel, loyalty, and friendship."

President's Award of Merit Presented to Manny Morales

President Johnson witnessed Morales' perspectives, leadership abilities, and extraordinary sense of humor as a member of the Bar Board of Governors.

"He needed all of those skills when he agreed to chair the 2004 Advertising Task Force," she said, adding that she purposely appointed a committee with many diverse points of view on advertising—"from those who thought advertising should be banned to those who thought there should be no restrictions whatsoever."

The award was presented to Manuel Morales for "your extraordinary service and outstanding leadership in the study of lawyer advertising rules and suggested changes thereto. Your efforts have strengthened protection of the citizens of Florida while balancing the rights afforded commercial speech. Your absolute and unwavering dedication to The Florida Bar, and to the lawyers and citizens of our state, deserves our highest commendation and sincere gratitude."

G. Kirk Haas Award Presented to Ray Abadin

"Ray has worked extremely hard the last several years to improve communications and cooperation between the Cuban American Bar Association and The Florida Bar," President Johnson said.

"He is immediate past president of CABA, and was instrumental in helping me reach out to minorities and get them involved in The Florida Bar. Ray also chaired this year's very successful diversity symposium, which brought together representatives of minority and

specialty bars from across the state to learn about diversity in legal employment and to dialogue with Bar leadership about inclusion issues.”

Abadin is the current chair of CABA’s foundation, which administers endowed scholarships at three law schools, as well as raises money to create additional scholarship funds for minority law students.

The Government Law Section Claude Pepper Outstanding Government Lawyer Award Presented to Jack Shreve

In the nomination for this award, Jack Shreve was described as “one of the finest public servants that Florida has ever known and among the state’s most outstanding lawyers for the past quarter-century.”

Shreve, who currently serves as senior general counsel for consumer affairs in the Office of the Attorney General, was awarded the Claude Pepper Outstanding Government Award, which recognizes extraordinary and exemplary contributions by practicing government lawyers.

Following law school, Shreve was a prosecutor in Brevard County and a city attorney for Cocoa Beach before being elected to the House of Representatives, where he served with distinction for two terms from 1970-74. He then joined the Florida Department of State as public counsel, where for 25 years he advocated for Floridians in utility-related matters. After his retirement in 2003, Attorney General Charlie Crist asked him to become an advisor on consumer affairs issues.

LOU FROST, who retired last year after serving for 36 years as the Fourth Circuit Public Defender, received the Criminal Law Section’s Selig Goldin Award during the Bar’s Annual Meeting from section Chair Paul Zacks. Frost has worked in the public defender’s office since the 1963 *Gideon* decision, and was appointed as the Fourth Circuit public defender by Gov. Claude Kirk in 1968. He was never opposed in 10 runs for reelection. Frost helped set up public defender offices around the country, has been active in the Criminal Law Section, and has seen alumni from his office go on to 20 circuit and county judgeships, two federal district judgeships, and one seat on the Florida Supreme Court.