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## **Chief Judge Rondolino Awarded the John U. Bird Judicial Excellence Award**

CLEARWATER - Anthony Rondolino, chief judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, was given the John U. Bird Judicial Excellence Award by the Clearwater Bar Association on Sept. 17, 2020.

Typically, the recipient is given a plaque at the bar's annual luncheon in Safety Harbor, but this year, it had to be given remotely, with a member of Judge Rondolino's staff giving him the plaque in person after he was praised via Zoom by Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Kimberly Campbell.

The award was created to recognize honor, high ideals, personal character, judicial competence and service. Past recipients include former chief judge J. Thomas McGrady, and Morris Silberman and Nelly Khouzam, both judges on the Second District Court of Appeals.

Judge Rondolino was recognized as the longest serving circuit judge except for one, having played a role in about 300 jury trials, either during his 15 years as a lawyer or during his 25 years on the bench.

While a judge, he has presided over a wide range of civil cases, including accident claims, medical malpractice actions and three lengthy tobacco litigation trials. He has taught courses as an adjunct professor at Stetson Law School and has served on several boards and committees, including the Child Support Enforcement Coordinating Council, of which he was the chairman, and the Pinellas County Domestic Violence Task Force.

Several nominated him for the award because of his deft leadership during these difficult COVID-19 times. Among other things, he kept judges, attorneys, and the public up to date on how the circuit was to fulfill its constitutional duties during the pandemic while keeping his staff, his fellow judges, attorneys and members of the public safe.



Chief Judge Anthony Rondolino

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