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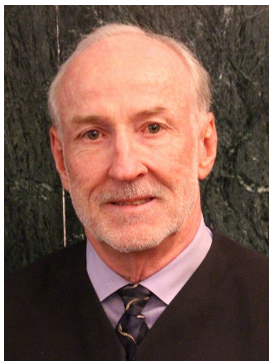
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Public Information Office

Two Judges Recognized and Honored For Their Expertise and Leadership

CLEARWATER - Two judges in the Sixth Judicial Circuit were recognized this month for their leadership, expertise and willingness to mentor others by two prominent groups whose members hail from the legal community.

Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Jack Helinger has been awarded the 2015 Canakaris Award for Judicial Excellence in Family Law, while Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Shawn Crane won the annual Judicial Professionalism Award granted by the Pasco chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers.



Judge Jack Helinger

Judge Helinger's award was bestowed on April 19 by the Canakaris Inn of the Court, a group of area lawyers and judges whose mission it is to promote professionalism and legal excellence in the practice of family law.

Roughly 70 to 80 of the inn's members voted for Judge Helinger during the awards process, said Attorney Lee Greene, one of the inn's founders.

"He's been one of the leaders statewide in the family law arena, and on the bench he's as good as it gets," Greene said. "He's very dedicated."

Judge Helinger has held seminars on some of the more nuanced changes in family law, and he spearheaded an effort to have seasoned lawyers and judges speak one-on-one with less experienced ones, Greene said.

Meanwhile, Women Lawyers of Pasco, the Pasco County chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, presented its 2016 Judicial Professionalism Award to Judge Shawn Crane, during the group's second annual judicial reception on April 19.

The purpose of the Judicial Professionalism Award is to recognize a local judge who best exemplifies service to the community, profession and legal system. The recipient is also someone who has demonstrated diligence in inspiring others to the mission of legal professionalism.

"Judge Crane serves as the Administrative Judge for Pasco County and he has worked hard for judicial services in our county," said Amanda Colón, vice president of Women Lawyers of Pasco. "Leadership and teamwork are two characteristics we recognize in our organization and we believe Judge Crane exemplifies both of those important qualities as a judge."



Judge Shawn Crane

As the Pasco County chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Women Lawyers of Pasco actively promotes and recognizes the leadership roles of its members in the legal profession, judiciary and community at large.