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Judges Recognized for Their Conduct On and Off the Bench

CLEARWATER - Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Thomas Ramsberger was given the Judicial Appreciation Award by the St. Petersburg Bar Association on Friday, Oct. 2, 2020, in what was just the latest instance of a judge in the circuit winning recognition for his or her conduct on and off the bench.

Judge Ramsberger, who presides over civil cases in downtown St. Petersburg, was praised for his courtroom demeanor, judicial experience, and helpfulness, as is everyone who is granted the award each year.

But Judge Ramsberger was also recognized for some additional traits those who nominated him took pains to mention, including a habit of closely reading all motions and responses before a hearing, and an efficient approach that results in a case moving as quickly as possible to its disposition.

“You know that he cares and that he has carefully considered both sides,” said Chief Judge Anthony Rondolino, who announced the award at a St. Petersburg Bar Association Zoom event.



Circuit Judge
 Thomas Ramsberger



Chief Judge
 Anthony Rondolino

Judge Rondolino himself was given the John U. Bird Judicial Excellence Award by the Clearwater Bar Association on Sept. 17, 2020.

The award was created to recognize honor, high ideals, personal character, judicial competence and service.

But Judge Rondolino was also singled out for the deft way in which he has led the circuit during the pandemic. He has kept judges, attorneys, and the public up to date on how the circuit was to fulfill its constitutional duties while keeping his staff, his fellow judges, attorneys and members of the public safe.

That same day, Pasco County Judge Paul Firmani was given the 2020 Leader in Law award by the Women Lawyers of Pasco, which is affiliated with the Florida Association of Women Lawyers. Judge Firmani was surprised with the award after he swore in the group’s new executive board for 2020-2021 in his courtroom at the West Pasco Judicial Center in New Port Richey.

“An anchor on the bench and in the community, we recognize Judge Firmani’s contributions, dedication, compassion and service,” a special plaque read. “You never fail to give your all, reflective in your unique ability to challenge us both personally and professionally, to strive for fairness, equity and a just result.”



Pasco County Judge
 Paul Firmani



Pinellas County Judge
 Myriam Irizarry

As a county judge, Judge Firmani handles civil cases such as those involving evictions and small claims. He is also an acting circuit judge who handles dependency cases, or those in which parents risk losing custody of their children unless they change their behavior or the environment in which they are raising them.

The day before, on Sept. 16, Pinellas County Judge Myriam Irizarry, who retired Oct. 1, was one of five Hispanic judges from across the state who were recognized as part of an Hispanic Heritage Month celebration hosted by various bar and Hispanic bar associations throughout Florida.