

Judge Pamela Campbell Wins Jurist Of the Year Award

CLEARWATER - Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Pamela Campbell has been given the 2018 Jurist of the Year Award by the Florida chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. It is one of the most prestigious distinctions that can be granted to a judge in the state.

Judge Campbell received the award at the 21st Annual FLABOTA Conference at the Boca Raton Resort and Club on Friday, July 20, 2018.

As both an attorney and, later, as a jurist, Judge Campbell has "worked tirelessly to improve the administration of justice and to promote professionalism," according to remarks penned by Kevin McLaughlin, president of the Tampa Bay chapter of ABOTA.

As a lawyer, Judge Campbell was active as a leader from the outset, McLaughlin wrote, serving at various times as president of the St. Petersburg Bar Association; president of the Stetson College of Law Alumni Association; and co-president of the Barney Masterson Inn of Court. Her practice focused on probate, guardianship and health matters, and she was so good at practicing law that she received an "AV" rating from Martindale Hubbell.

In court, she represented the parents of Terri Schiavo, in an extremely high-profile right to life case, and she did so with the same zeal and professionalism she brought to all her cases, McLaughlin wrote. It was for such conduct that she was given the Richard T. Earle Jr. Professionalism Award from the Masterson Inn of Court and the Gulf Coast Business Review Professionalism Award in 2003.

She was also a founding member of the St. Petersburg Bar Foundation, whose mission it is to fund, develop, and promote efforts designed to improve the legal profession, and to help the public better understand the judicial system and the ways in which they can gain access to it. In 2006, the foundation presented Judge Campbell with its Heroes Among Us Award, which recognizes attorneys for what they do in court and out in the community.

Out in the community, Judge Campbell served as the director and chairperson of Operation Par, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program; served a 4-year term as a gubernatorial appointment to the Florida Board of Medicine; and inspired the creation of "Constitution Hall," an interactive exhibit designed to teach eighth-graders the differences between the three branches of government and the rights embedded in the U.S. Constitution.

Before she became a lawyer, Judge Campbell had 14 years of experience in the legislative arena, working in an administrative role in the Florida House of Representatives, the United States Senate, and later as a political consultant with a national governmental affairs firm. She practiced law in St. Petersburg for 17 years, and she was appointed to the bench by then-Gov. Jeb Bush in 2006, running for election unopposed two years later.

She has served in the felony criminal division, family division, and civil division and currently presides in the probate division in the St. Petersburg courthouse, downtown.

Judge Campbell received her Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law in 1989, and her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Florida in 1985.



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