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## Five Judges Honored For Their Expertise, Legal Acumen and Contributions To the Community

CLEARWATER - Five judges in the Sixth Judicial Circuit were over the last two months recognized for their professionalism, high standards of conduct, and contributions, both in and out of the courtroom.



Judge Thomas Ramsberger

Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Thomas Ramsberger, who presides over civil cases in the downtown St. Petersburg courthouse, was given the Stetson Lawyers Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award on June, 23, 2022, at the Florida Bar's annual convention in Orlando.

The award was given in recognition of Judge Ramsberger's many contributions in support of Stetson's mission. Judge Ramsberger has been an adjunct professor at Stetson for more than 22 years, teaching business ethics for a joint JD/MBA program, among others. He has also served as a judge for moot court trials.

Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Philip Federico was given the John U. Bird Judicial Excellence Award by the Clearwater Bar Association at its Annual Law Day Luncheon at Ruth Eckerd Hall on May 20.



Judge Philip Federico

The award was created to recognize honor, high ideals, personal character, judicial competence and service. Judge Federico presides over cases involving career criminals at the County Justice Center in Clearwater.

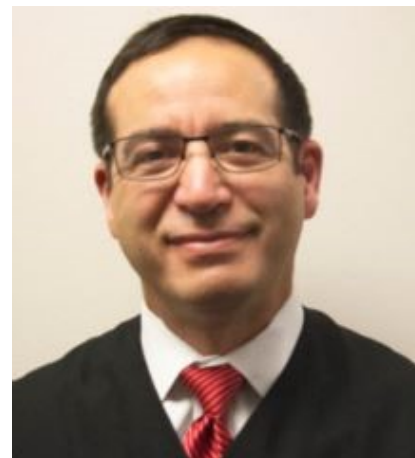
The day before, on May 19, Senior Judge Marion Fleming was given the annual Judicial Appreciation Award by the St. Petersburg Bar Association, at its annual judicial reception, which this year was held at the James Museum in St. Petersburg.



Senior Judge Marion Fleming

A local jurist typically wins the award after the bar solicits nominations. Among the factors considered are a nominee's courtroom demeanor, his or her judicial experience, helpfulness to lawyers and litigants, and activities off the bench that promote the administration of justice and civic participation.

On May 20, the Canakariss Inn of Court gave its annual award for judicial excellence in family law to Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Steve Berlin, who presides over a family division in the courthouse in downtown St. Petersburg.



Judge Steve Berlin

The Canakariss Inn of Court in Clearwater was founded in 1993 by a group of judges and lawyers who wanted an inn specifically for family law practitioners in Pinellas and Pasco counties, the two that make up the Sixth Judicial Circuit. Typically, the award is based on a tally of votes among its membership.

And, finally, on June 9, the Barney Masterson American Inn of Court presented its William J. Castagna Award for Judicial Excellence to Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Michael Andrews, who presides over criminal cases at the County Justice Center in Clearwater.



Judge Michael Andrews

For the award, named after a distinguished federal district court judge, members of the Florida Bar cast votes for the person they believe displays the highest standards in all aspects of judicial performance, including knowledge of the law, ethics, civility, professionalism and demeanor. At the June 9 event, which was held at the Safety Harbor Resort & Spa, there was also an award for best group presentation. There was a tie — between a group led by Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Brian Gnage and one led by Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge William Burgess.