

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

On January 28, 2016, Judge McEwen accepted the Chief Justice's Distinguished Federal Judicial Service Award at the Florida Supreme Court.



Pictured: Chief Justice Jorge Labarga and Judge Catherine Peek McEwen



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Former law clerk, Cissy (Skipper) Sevelin, received the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award. Established in 1981, the award was intended to encourage lawyers to volunteer free legal services to the poor and communicate to the public some sense of the substantial volunteer services provided by Florida lawyers. The honor was well deserved.

In 2014, Cissy donated an astounding *863 pro bono hours* to various organizations—and even more in 2015! Among the organizations Cissy provided pro bono services to are Bay Area Legal Services' Volunteer Lawyers Program, Crossroads for Florida Kids, Inc., Are you Safe, Inc., Teen Court, and the Guardian Ad Litem program. More important than providing pro bono legal services, Cissy makes frequent trip to jail to visit troubled teenagers as part of the Crossroads for Kids program, counseling them to make better choices. In nominating Cissy for the award, a staff attorney with Bay Area Legal Services wrote: "Ms. Sevelin has not only provided significant pro bono legal assistance to indigent clients but has also made a substantial emotional impact on each of these clients' lives."

We would like to recognize Cissy, who is now in private practice in Thonotosassa, for such a well-deserved honor.