

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Laura Gallo honored as one of NCBJ’s “Blackshear Fellows”

The National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges selects a handful of minority lawyers to attend its annual Conference as "Blackshear Fellows" each year. Laura Gallo, a sole practitioner in Tampa, is one of five honorees this past year. She attended the NCBJ Conference in San Francisco in October. The fellowship benefits include attendance at special meetings and a stipend to be applied toward expenses.

The fellowship is named after Hon. Cornelius Blackshear, a retired U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of New York, to remind the lawyers of the illustriousness Judge Blackshear brought to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court bench as he distinguished himself by his renowned scholarship and development of bankruptcy jurisprudence. The NCBJ anticipates that the attorneys who are selected to be NCBJ Blackshear Fellows will be inspired by the example of Judge Blackshear, who dedicated himself to betterment of the legal and judicial system throughout his career.

Some interesting facts about Ms. Gallo: She has an LL.M in intellectual property, is a Big Sister in the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program, scuba dives, and knows how to dance the salsa. She came to the United States from Columbia when she was 19 and “embarked on the difficult path of learning English, attending college and later law school, while working to support myself, my parents and siblings.” Ms. Gallo also volunteers at the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association Clinic and takes cases from Bay Area Legal Services of Spanish-speaking debtors and helps Spanish people with their forms at the BALS Family Forms Clinic En Espanol.



Pictured: NCBJ President, Judge Mary Grace Diehl and Laura Gallo during the induction ceremony.

**The Tampa Division Clerk's Office Staff Honor Judge McEwen for her
Dedication to Pro Bono Work**



During the 2016 National Pro Bono Week held October 23rd through October 26th, the Tampa Clerk's Office staff showed their appreciation to Judge McEwen for all her efforts to help pro se debtors, parties and her role in promoting the Pro Bono Clinic. Her work is appreciated by the Bar, her colleagues and also very much by the Court staff. **Thank you Judge McEwen!**