



Judge Delano and Laura Gallo

Tampa Attorney Laura M. Gallo Receives Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's Outstanding Pro Bono Service by a Lawyer Award
By: Hon. Caryl E. Delano, Chief Judge

On April 27, 2022, it was my honor to present the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's 2022 Outstanding Pro Bono Service by a Lawyer Award to Laura M. Gallo. Ms. Gallo was nominated for the Award by the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association and Bay Area Legal Services' Volunteer Lawyers Program.

Ms. Gallo, the Managing Partner of Gallo Law, P.A., concentrates her practice in the fields of bankruptcy, immigration, and family law. During the course of her ten-year legal career, Ms. Gallo has provided almost 1,600 hours of pro bono service through her volunteer work with the Colombian Consulate, La Iglesia Nueva Vida, the Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP), and the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association, as well as from referrals from attorneys who know her passion for pro bono service.

Ms. Gallo has handled more than 60 pro bono bankruptcy cases. She works in the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association's Pro Bono Clinic to assist pro se debtors. And if, during a hearing, a judge asks for a volunteer to assist Spanish-speaking bankruptcy debtors, Ms. Gallo always comes forward.

Ms. Gallo's contributions to pro bono service, the legal community, and to our country are exemplary. She was born in Colombia, South America, and came to the United States when she was 19 years old. Ms. Gallo learned English while working on her GED, and then attended college and law school. Not only did Ms. Gallo support herself while she attended school, she also helped support her parents and siblings.

Ms. Gallo's passion to serve her community, her commitment to pro bono service, her willingness to help others, and her fluency in Spanish have made her a significant asset to the legal community and to the Volunteer Lawyers Program. In fact, she joined the VLP in 2011—the same year that she was admitted to The Florida Bar. And when Ms. Gallo learned about the VLP's difficulty in finding bilingual pro bono attorneys to assist Spanish-speaking clients, Ms. Gallo requested that all the VLP's Spanish-speaking clients with bankruptcy issues be referred to her.

Over her decade-long career, Laura Gallo has shown a dedication to pro bono service, a passion for helping to make life better for others, and a willingness to provide legal services to a population in need. Please join me in congratulating her on being named the recipient of the 2022 Outstanding Pro Bono Service by a Lawyer Award.