



# Legal Services

## “Opportunity for Justice”

Reaching Out

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Legal Services of North Florida, Inc.

Spring 2002

## Legal Services Honors Richard M. Smith



Lt. Col. Richard Smith is presented the Lt. Col. Richard M. Smith Pro Bono Service Award by Chesterfield Smith at a Law Day reception May 1, 2001.

**W**ay back in 1982 when organized pro bono activity was entering a new era and level of importance among members of the Florida Bar, Lt. Col. Richard M. Smith was one of the first attorneys to answer the call to arms. The list back then contained 160 names of lawyers willing to be a part of a panel of volunteers to help meet the civil law needs of the poor from Leon, Wakulla, Franklin, and Jefferson counties. Few volunteers from the original list have gone on to contribute to this community quite like Mr. Smith. But, only when Legal Services of North Florida created an opportunity for area senior citizens to receive help through senior center legal clinics, did Mr. Smith find his niche. From 1987 to present Mr. Smith volunteered his entire practice of law to help senior citizens through LSNF. His work for seniors earned him the distinguished Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for the Second Judicial Circuit 1989. Just a little over ten years later, the Lt. Col Richard M. Smith Pro Bono Service Award was created in honor of Mr. Smith for his life time of volunteer achievement. Periodically, the award will be presented to

volunteer attorneys who have demonstrated significant pro bono work during their legal career.

Mr. Smith was the first recipient of the award presented by Holland & Knight legal architect Chesterfield Smith, his first cousin, at Law Day ceremonies sponsored by LSNF and the Legal Aid Foundation in May 2001. In his presentation speech, Chesterfield stated, “I say today: It is my strong belief that any program of Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. is worthy and deserving of the support of all lawyers in this area, and I of course am especially proud and pleased to be here when that event, by surprise, is for Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. to honor and to celebrate the success and accomplishments of my lawyer friend, first cousin, Colonel Richard McSwain Smith. There is not anyone in the Smith family so deserving of an award for performing distinguished pro bono legal services than is he. . .To my knowledge and gratitude, Richard Smith has dedicated for many years significant and valuable time and effort to helping legally those less fortunate than he, spending countless hours helping legally the poor and the elderly. It is very deserving that Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. is establishing the “Lt. Colonel Richard M. Smith Award” in his honor for those volunteers who after him have demonstrated locally significant pro bono work during their legal career. It is because of the personal and professional commitment of lawyers like Richard Smith and his free public legal service that such legal problems are ongoing today, with the unyielding and essential benefits which flow to those indigent clients so served.”

**Check out our Web-Site**  
**[www.lsnf.org](http://www.lsnf.org)**

**Hotline Expands Services**

Client response to Legal Services' telephone hotline has increased so significantly over the past year that the regular Tuesday and Thursday client "call-back" days each week have been expanded to include Monday and Wednesday.

When asked if they could stretch their attorney staff resources further to assist Legal Services, the agencies that make up the bulk of the hotline legal team responded favorably. The original commitment to staff a volunteer hotline twice each month, doubled to four. Department of Transportation's **Bruce Conroy**, Office of the Attorney General's **Catherine Lannon**, and City of Tallahassee Attorneys Office's **Pat Hurley** came through to increase the number of volunteers on our team. **Cari Roth** and **David Jordan** at Department of Community Affairs, as well as **Carol Gregg** at the Agency for Health Care Administration, rounded out the team with new volunteer recruits from each of their agencies.

Legal Services recognizes the following attorney volunteers for their help on our legal advice hotline. Please contact us if you are a participating attorney whose name does not appear.

**Celeste Adorno, Nancy Aliff, Martha Barrera, Andrea Bateman, Ed Bayo, Steven Been, Susan Bodell, John Bottcher, Al Bragg, Karen Brodeen, Michelle Buckalew, Bob Burdick, Kimberly Clark, Bruce Conroy, Rich Courtemanche, Ann Cowles, Brian Crumbaker, Stephanie Daniel, Alexis Decaprio, J.B. Donnelly, Bobby Downie, Barbara Edwards, Freda Ellis, Jim English, Janet Findling, Jim Floyd, Ashley Foster, Katherine Giddings, Carol Gregg, Lee Ann Gustafson, Will Haselden, Barbara Hines, Pat Hurley, Linda Hurst, Calvin Johnson, Caryl Kilinski, Kristy Johnson, Gregory, Jones, David Jordan, Olivia Klein, Catherine Lannon, Pam Leslie, Rick Lotspeich, Scott Matthews, Brian McGrail, Joe Mellichamp, Mary Miller, Jerry Murchison, Kim O'Connor, James Peterson, Prisilla Quinones, James Richmond, Jonathan Sanford, Debbie Schiro, Lou Shelley, Richard Shoop, Carol Simpson, Twyla Sketchley, Jan Smith, Mike Spellman, Ed Tellechea, Marrienne Trussell, Cathy Maus, Sandy UpChurch, Richard Weis, Mary K. Wimsett, Emory Williams, Roger Wood, and Sheauching Yu.**

## LSNF Internet Merge

At [www.lsnf.org](http://www.lsnf.org), attorneys who visit Legal Services of North Florida's web-site for the first time are amazed to discover how comprehensive, helpful, and easy it is to work on legal problems that go beyond their regular pro bono assignments. For the pro bono volunteer the resources are endless. Private access to additional resources on the site requires a user name and password, "probono" and "probono." Here one finds a page still under construction, yet full of guardianship and probate forms that can be downloaded, as well as a list of experts in various legal areas that are available for the volunteer attorneys to contact anytime. The Legal Brochure and Links section located on the simple to use navigation bar abounds with general and substantive legal information handy for both the experienced and novice lawyer.

Soon [www.lsnf.org](http://www.lsnf.org) will merge with [floridalawhelp.org](http://floridalawhelp.org) in an effort to expand information statewide. This site will have a client and advocate component. For the client, they need only enter their zip code or county into a text window to get a screen listing all civil law areas. Clicking on the area in question provides another more detailed list of subareas under the law. Clicking on the specific legal area brings up a list of all the legal services entities available within the geographical area to serve that client. Once at this page, the client may obtain further assistance by clicking "Find an Attorney," "Your Rights," "Help Yourself," or "Other Help." Clients may access forms used in a particular county or circuit. Attorneys may find this page helpful themselves when it comes to making referrals for clients they cannot help or locating pro-se pleading forms used in a certain circuit or county.

On the advocate or attorney side of the site, lawyers will have access to just about any resource imaginable within the civil law area as it relates to Florida and the nation-at-large. This side of the site is expected to take a little longer to develop as the amount of information available is enormous and needs extensive organizing. Attorneys from the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuits willing to assist in our substantive legal content development phase are invited to contact John Fenno at (850)385-9007 Ex 15 or email at [john@lsnf.org](mailto:john@lsnf.org).

Visit [www.lsnf.org](http://www.lsnf.org) and let us know what you think.



## Homeless Clinic Changes

Annually, the law office of Hopping, Green, Sams and Smith contributes funds toward the provision of legal services to the Tallahassee homeless. The Florida Supreme Court law clerks led by the Chief Justices' senior clerk for a long time assisted Legal Services by conducting client intakes at scheduled intake clinics each month. Typically, the clerks take client applications and send them to Legal Services staff attorneys for follow-up twice each month.

In an effort to improve homeless assistance, Legal Services added a new team of volunteers to provide on-the-spot legal advice. Attorneys from the Department of Transportation have helped staff the new arrangement. DOT Attorneys are now committed to conduct one clinic per month providing this additional service. Hats off to **Bruce Conroy** and his staff for accepting the challenge of helping Tallahassee's homeless.

## Annual Honors

Law Week in May provided the backdrop for annual recognition activities as Legal Services of North Florida and the Legal Aid Foundation hosted its annual recognition reception. Participants and co-sponsors of the event were the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit members of the Board of Governors, the Florida State University College of Law, the Hispanic Bar Association, the Tallahassee Bar Association, the Tallahassee Women Lawyers, the Florida Government Bar Association and the Barristers. Tribute was paid to over one thousand volunteers throughout the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit at the President's Box high atop Doak Campbell Stadium, Florida State University.

Introduced by ABA President, **Martha Barnett**, former ABA President, **Chesterfield Smith**, offered keynote remarks to over two hundred in attendance. Special recognition was awarded to Col. Richard M. Smith the recipient of the first Col. Richard M. Smith Career Service Award and to the two Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Circuit Award recipients from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuits, **Nina N. Ashenafi** and **Billy-Joe Hoot Crawford**. Besides the many attorneys in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit who were recognized, so too were a number of law school students whose volunteer efforts aided both legal services organizations.



## Thank you Partners

Once again our Partners in Service came through. Since 1994, lawyers throughout Legal Services' service area have contributed funds to support the delivery of legal services to select segments of our community, such as the elderly, homeless, and victims of domestic violence.

Listed below are the law firms and individual lawyers who contributed in our most recent "Partners" campaign. Legal Services of North Florida acknowledges and appreciates this dedicated group of community servants.

### Law Firms

*Katz, Kutter, Haigler, Alderman, Bryant & Yon, P.A.; and Hopping, Green, Sams & Smith, P.A.*

### Attorneys

*James S. Alves, Susann Anstead, Karen Asher-Cohen, Scott Ashley, Governor Reubin Askew, Terri Jo Barron, Irene A. Bassel, Mary-Anne Bestebreurte, James D. Beasley, Brian Bibeau, Kathy Bible, Rochelle Birnbaum, Nancy Stewart Black, Byron Block, Robert Blythe, Kenneth Borick, Elizabeth Bowman, Fred Breeze, Richard S. Brightman, Bill L. Bryant, Jr., Joy Bruner, Nancy M. Burke, Barbara Busharis, Robert Byrne, Leonard Carson, Gordon C. Cherr, Mary Clark, Susan F. Clark, Jorge Chamizo, Richard Coates, Bert L. Combs, Judge Kenneth E. Cooksey, Kevin B. Covington, William Cramer, Greg Cummings, Peter C. Cunningham, Gerald Curington, Rebecca Daffin, Robert Daniti, Ken Davis, J. Riley Davis, Ralph DeMeo, Jeffrey M. Dikman, Martin R. Dix, Julie Eddy, Phil W. Edwards, Charles Ehrhardt, David B. Erwin, F.B. Estergren, Paul R. Ezatoff, Howell Ferguson, Jody L. Finklea, John M. Fite, Jeffrey Frehn, Natalie B. Futch, Sally Gertz, Katherine E. Giddings, John Gioiello, Patricia Gleason, Michael Gordon, Ted Granger, Walter Green, William H. Green, Mitchell B. Haigler, E. Duncan Hamner, Leigh Hart, Shawn Michael Heath, Carol L. Hendrix, William B. Hicks, Melanie Hines, Wade L. Hopping, Norman Horton, Robert Hubbard, Gary K. Hunter, Jr., William Hyde, Nick V. Iarossi, Joseph Jacobs, Edward S. Jaffry, Paul Jess, Jonathan T. Johnson, Elise Judelle, Allan J. Katz, Susan Kirkland, Kris Knab, Larry Krieger, Edward L. Kutter, Sharon D. Larson, Arden J. Lea, Richard P. Lee, Kenneth Levine, Sheri Levine, Gerald Lewis, Nancy Linnan, Anne Longman, Wendy S. Loquasto, John C. Lovett, William Lyons, Suzanne Mann, Robert A. Manning, Frank E. Matthews, Stephen Mathues, Helene Mayton, Elizabeth W. McArthur, Donna McNulty, Tim Meenan, Joseph Mellichamp, Richard D. Melson, C. Douglas Miller, Travis L. Miller, Kyle Mitchell, John Moneyham, Barbara Moore, Theresa Moore, Thomas R. Moore, Tim Scott Morris, Angela Morrison, Julie Smith Myers, Shannon L. Novey,*

*Kim O'Connor, Jarret Oeltjen, Miguel A. Olivella, Jr., Eric T. Olsen, Cheryl Oslinker-Smith, Lisa Pease, Thomas Pelham, Robert Perkins, Gary V. Perko, Michael P. Petrovich, Bruce Platt, Thomas Pobjecky, David L. Powell, William D. Preston, Mary Anne Price, Eric Prutsman, Phillip Quaschnick, John Radey, Carolyn S. Raeppe, Mary L. Rajchel, Judy Rice, Harold Richmond, Douglas S. Roberts, D. Kent Safriet, Gary P. Sams, Timothy G. Schoenwalder, Stephanie A. Segalini, Michael Simpson, Robert P. Smith, Kent Spriggs, Paul Stadler, Thomas W. Stahl, Dan R. Stengle, Cheryl G. Stuart, Elizabeth Tarbert, Mike Tartaglia, Robert J. Telfer, III, Harry O. Thomas, Dan Thompson, Robin Thompson, Eric Tilton, Keith C. Tischler, James Tribble, Richard Tritschler, Stephen Turner, Alexander Twedt, Robert VanHorne, Karen Varn, Kathleen Villacorta, Thomas Warren, Darrell White, Skip White, Stephen R. White, William Whitson, Patrick K. Wiggins, Larry J. Williams, Lee L. Willis, David A. Yon, David Young, Paul A. Zeigler, and Jerome A. Zivan*

**For those who contributed to the Partners through the United Way, we thank you too. United Way does not release names of individual donors.**

**Join with over two hundred lawyers throughout the Florida Panhandle** who are helping Partners in Service. Become a Partner by responding to our **mailing in a couple of weeks or call (850) 385-9007 Ext. 15, or fax (850) 385-7603, or email your request by clicking Partners in Service through Legal Services web-site, www.lsnf.org.**

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## CONGRATULATIONS

**Alex Littlefield & Jerry Gerde  
2002 Florida Bar  
President Pro Bono Awardees  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuits**

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## Thanks to Kelly and Claude

Attorneys **Kelly Overstreet Johnson** of Broad & Cassel and **Claude Walker** of Huey, Guilday, Tucker, Schwartz & Williams, PA settled a class action law suit and split a total donation of \$39,600 between Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. and the Legal Aid Foundation, Inc. of the Tallahassee Bar Association earlier this year.

## Law Week Celebration 2002

On May 1, 2002, Legal Services of North Florida along with The Capital City Bar Presidents Council and The Tallahassee Bar Association Legal Aid Foundation celebrate Law Day at a reception and dinner. The event begins with a short pro bono recognition reception in the President's Sky Box at the University Center of Doak Campbell Stadium from 5:00 to 7 p.m. The 30 minute recognition ceremony will feature keynote speaker, Florida State University President, **Sandy D'Alemberte**. Music will be provided by John Copps. Appetizers and libations will be served. **ALL ATTORNEYS AND GUESTS ARE INVITED.** The dinner event immediately follows the reception, moving from the President's Box to the University Club. Featured dinner speakers will be **Justice Richard W. Ervin, Attorney General Robert A. Butterworth, and Judge Thomas H. Barkdull, Jr.**

## Volunteer Attorney Recruitment

LSNF is looking for more volunteers to assist in a number of different projects. We are also interested in updating our current volunteer records. All attorneys who have volunteered (or who are currently volunteering) or contributed money are asked to complete the newsletter

insert and mail or fax to us today. **THANK YOU!**  
 LSNF Board Members: President Ted Mack, Carolyn Cummings, M. Catherine Lannon, David Jones, Oliver Hill, Larry Krieger, Joel Margules, Kathryn Price, Phil Smith, Stella Ward, Joanne Battle, Martha Barrera, Marty Dix, Lee Baldwin, Dean Morphonios, Ben Crump, Mary Still, and George Polite.