



**For Immediate Release**

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**LEGAL SERVICES OF GREATER MIAMI CELEBRATES PRO BONO CHAMPIONS'  
EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTION DURING COVID-19**

**Miami, FL** – November 1, 2021 - **Legal Services of Greater Miami (Legal Services)** recognized the volunteer services of over **325 attorneys and professional partners** at its **2021 annual Pro Bono Celebration**. This year's event, livestreamed on October 28, 2021, and generously sponsored by Jacqueline Simkin LLB, LLM, was a great success drawing hundreds in our legal community.

**“Pro bono attorneys provide access to justice which resonates into the community by empowering individuals, families, and neighborhoods impacted by COVID,”** said **Legal Services Pro Bono Advocacy Director Jayme Cassidy**. **“With the help of our pro bono champions, we provided housing stability for families during the eviction crisis, created neighborhood stabilization by assisting small businesses and nonprofits, paved equal access to education for special needs children, and secured public benefits to ensure financial stability for families.”**

Highlighting the evening was the presentation of the **2021 Equal Justice Awards** to the following in recognition of their extraordinary commitment to equal justice:

- **Small/ Solo Firm Award:** Ryan C. Tyler, Esq.
- **Collaborative Partnership Award:** Restaurant Brands International US Services LLC and McDermott Will & Emery LLP
- **Impact Award:** Steven Kellough, Esq.
- **Professional Partner Award:** Gerson, Preston, Klein, Lips, Eisenberg & Gelber, P.A.
- **Clinic Partner Award:** Rob Collins, Esq.
- **Partners for Equal Justice Award:** Alvaro A. Acevedo Jr., Esq., CPA, LLM

**Neki Mohan co-hosted the event along with Legal Services Board Treasurer and Chair of the Pro Bono Committee, Karen Lapikas**. Legal Services was excited to welcome the night's special guest speaker, **The Honorable Laurel Myerson Isicoff, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court, who encouraged pro bono service and addressed the pro bono honorees commending them for their dedication and time helping low-income members of the community especially as COVID continued.**

**“The need for legal services in our community cannot be met without pro bono volunteers,”** said **Legal Services Executive Director Monica Vignes-Pitan**. **“Our impact for the last 55 years has only been possible because of the ongoing support of so many dedicated pro bono professionals, and we were delighted to shine a light on their achievements and service.”**

To view the Pro Bono Celebration on demand, please visit [bit.ly/LegalServicesProBono2021](https://bit.ly/LegalServicesProBono2021).

## **About Legal Services of Greater Miami**

Legal Services of Greater Miami is the largest provider of broad-based civil legal services for the poor in Miami-Dade and Monroe and is recognized in the state and in the nation as a model legal services program. In any given year, Legal Services provides services which benefits almost 20,000 vulnerable members of our community who have nowhere else to turn for help – women, children, seniors, veterans returning from combat, people with disabilities, low wage workers and the homeless--who have problems in the areas of tenants' rights, homeownership, health and income maintenance, employment, special education, tax and consumer rights. For more information, visit [www.legalservicesmiami.org](http://www.legalservicesmiami.org) and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).