



AWARDS CRITERIA, GUIDELINES & SELECTION PROCEDURE

SEEKING: 2023 (Plaintiff) Trial Lawyer of the Year
Jurist of the Year
Fran Peacock Coker FLABOTA Community Service Award
Joseph P. Milton Professionalism and Civility Award

SEND LETTER in PDF FORMAT TO: flabota@flabota.org

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS: At the FLABOTA 25th Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress
July 27-30, 2023

Trial Lawyer & Jurist of the Year Awards: Saturday night Banquet
Coker & Milton Awards: Friday night Cocktail Party

WHO VOTES: Board of Directors – (3) FLABOTA officers, (3) Representatives from each of the 11 chapters in Florida and all Past Presidents of FLABOTA
Proxies are permitted for all BoD members EXCEPT Past Presidents

IMPORTANT DATES

NOMINATIONS DEADLINE: Monday, April 10, 2023 by 5:00pm EDT

PROXY NOTIFICATION DEADLINE: Friday, April 28, 2023 by 5:00pm EDT

VOTE MEETING: Monday, May 1, 2023 @ 4:00pm EDT

CRITERIA

Trial Lawyer of the Year:

1. Candidate has shown excellence in advocacy;
2. Candidate has a distinguished career;
3. Candidate has a superb reputation of high ethics and fair play;
4. Candidate has participated in a recent outstanding result;
5. Candidate has been committed to service to ABOTA; and/or
6. Candidate has exemplified the ideals of ABOTA.

Trial Judge of the Year:

1. The Judge is committed to preserving and improving the jury trial system;
2. The Judge is knowledgeable, prepared, and rules in a timely manner;
3. The Judge shows an adherence to the evenhanded administration of the rule of law;
4. The Judge demands professionalism from all lawyers; and
5. The Judge maintains open and accessible working relationships with the trial bar.

GUIDELINES

1. Any or all of the criteria maybe considered in arriving at the selection, giving weight to the various factors. In this way, a person's career, general background as a lawyer, as well as one or two recent results may be considered.
2. The person should be a practicing trial lawyer or sitting judge at the time of selection.
3. The person need not be involved in ABOTA, although the person's contribution to ABOTA in the past would be something that would be considered as part of factor number 2.
4. The honor should not be limited geographically to the host chapter.
5. Persons previously nominated can be nominated again.
6. Each chapter should form a committee independent of its President to nominate persons for the award.
7. Each nomination must be submitted by a separate written document, which may include the nominee's curriculum vitae, detailing the reasons why the chapter is nominating said individual. The nomination must be submitted to the appropriate person as designated each year.

SELECTION

1. The selection process will be made by majority vote of the FLABOTA Board of Directors at the May 1, 2023 virtual meeting.
2. Each person present may cast one vote per ballot.
3. Proxy voting shall be allowed in accordance with the requirements of the FLABOTA Bylaws.
4. Before the first ballot, a representative from each chapter may give a brief presentation for the chapter's nominee.
5. Each person entitled to vote shall cast one ballot. The two nominees with the most votes shall be subjected to another ballot, and the winner will be the nominee who has collected the most total votes.
6. Before the last vote, the FLABOTA President may allow a brief presentation on behalf of each nominee.
7. The voting process shall be strictly confidential, and the winning nominee shall be the unanimous winner by "acclamation."

Fran Peacock Coker FLABOTA Community Service Award

Established in March 2006 in memory of Fran Peacock Coker in recognition of her tireless devotion and accomplishments in the area of children's literacy, an issue so important to the administration of justice and preservation of trial by jury, to be bestowed, from time to time, to an individual, lawyer or non-lawyer, whose dedication to the community exemplifies the character, commitment and accomplishments of Fran Peacock Coker. Nominations are submitted to the Awards Committee which makes its recommendation to the Executive Committee which determines the award recipient.

Joseph P. Milton Professionalism and Civility Award

Established in July 2012 in honor of Joseph P. Milton and his service to FLABOTA in multiple roles, demonstrated at all times, the very highest levels of Professionalism, Civility and Ethics. To be bestowed from time to time to a FLABOTA member whose dedication to Professionalism, Civility and Ethics exemplifies the character, commitment to the profession and to the administration of justice, of Joseph P. Milton. Nominations are submitted to the Awards Committee, which makes its recommendation to the Executive Committee who determines the award recipient.

The candidate for this award must have:

- Conducted themselves with professionalism, civility and the highest degree of ethics, always exhibiting integrity, honor, courtesy and a sense of fair play.
- Educated the public about the civil justice system and the rule of law.
- Contributed their skill, knowledge and efforts to enhance and educate the profession.
- Demonstrated a commitment to serve others.

The existing FLABOTA Awards Committee is charged with determining a suitable candidate for the award. The candidate's name shall be submitted to the FLABOTA Executive Committee, who shall have the final decision on whether to give the award. The award may be annually, but there is no requirement to do so.

Funding for this award will come from a fundraising drive with the proceeds to be donated to the ABOTA Foundation in accordance with Joe Milton's wishes. A suitable plaque or award will be purchased and located in the Dallas offices of ABOTA, with the names of each recipient to be added whenever the award is given.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FLABOTA Board of Directors

Includes three FLABOTA officers, three representatives from each of the 11 chapters in Florida and all Past Presidents of FLABOTA.

Officers of FLABOTA

Pedro Raúl Alvarez, Jr., President
Jeffrey Adelman, President elect
Rebecca Leigh Brock, Treasurer

Central Florida Chapter

President: James K. Powers
President Elect: Sammy M. Cacciatore
Treasurer: J. Charles Ingram
Secretary: Michael J. Damaso, II
Immediate Past President: Pedro Raul Alvarez, Jr.
National Board Representative: Rafael E. Martinez
National Board Representative: J. Scott Kirk
National Board Representative: Joseph L. Amos, Jr.
Membership Chair: Sammy M. Cacciatore

Ft. Lauderdale Chapter

President: Angela M. Castronovo
President Elect: Daniel Harwin
Treasurer: Mr. Miles A. McGrane, III
Secretary: Tamatha Alvarez
Immediate Past President: Eric Rosen
National Board Representative: Jeffrey A. Adelman
National Board Representative: Adele Blackmore

Jacksonville Chapter

President: P. Raymond Reid, Jr.
Vice President: Geoffrey Sessions
Treasurer: James Holland
Secretary: Elizabeth "Holly" Howanitz
Historian: Fraz Ahmed
Immediate Past President: Brian Currie
National Board Representative: Thomas S. Edwards, Jr.
National Board Representative: R. Scott Costantino
Membership Chair: Trevor G. Hawes

Miami Chapter

President: Andrew Moss
President Elect: Scott L. Mendlestein
Treasurer: David W. Grossman
Secretary: Daniel D. Dolan, II
Immediate Past President: Christopher E. Knight
National Board Representative: Joseph J. Kalbac, Jr.
National Board Representative: Henry Salas
National Board Representative: Manuel A. Rebozo
Membership Chair: Sean M. Cleary

North Florida Chapter

President: Kelly G. Hamer
Vice President: Mark Avera
Treasurer: Susan M. Seigle
Secretary: M. Suzanne Green
Immediate Past President: Jennifer C. Lester
National Board Representative: Jennifer C. Lester

Northwest Florida Chapter

President: Ross Goodman
President Elect: Robert C. Palmer, III
Secretary/Treasurer: Virginia M. Buchanan
National Board Representative: Robert C. Palmer, III

Palm Beach Chapter

President: Steven J. Rothman
President Elect: David C. Prather
Vice President: Barry A. Postman
Secretary/Treasurer: Eric R. Hoecker
Immediate Past President: Benjamin Lawrence Bedard
National Board Representative: Rebecca Brock
National Board Representative: Gerald F. Richman
Membership Chair: Brian R. Denney

Sarasota/Bradenton Chapter

President: Ralph L. Marchbank, Jr.
Vice President: Patricia D. Crauwels
Treasurer: Todd B. Miller
National Board Representative: Patricia D. Crauwels

Southwest Florida Chapter

President: Christopher J. Smith

President Elect: Jesse Gubernat

Immediate Past President: Ashley Withers

Tallahassee Chapter

President: James Gustafson

Treasurer: Christopher Barkas

Immediate Past President: Maria A. Santoro

Historian: Sidney L. Matthew

National Board Representative: Richard B. Collins

Board Member: Jim Floyd

Tampa Bay Chapter

President: Aram Papken Megerian

President Elect: Weston F. Smith

Vice President: Evan Bassett

Treasurer: Mindy McLaughlin

Secretary: Thomas S. Harmon

Immediate Past President: Christopher J. Schulte

National Board Representative: Christopher J. Schulte

National Board Representative: Weston F. Smith

National Board Representative: Hon. Daniel H. Sleet

Membership Chair: Troy J. Crotts

Past Presidents

Joseph J. Kalbac, Jr. (2021-2022)
Judge Nelly Khouzam (2020-2021)
R. Scott Costantino (2019-2020)
Michael A. Mullen (2018-2019)
William J. Clayton (2017-2018)
Jeffrey M. Goodis (2016-2017)
Gerald F. Richman (2015 - 2016)
Robert C. Palmer, III. (2014 - 2015)
Nancy L. LaVista (2013 - 2014)
C. Howard Hunter (2012 - 2013)
Tomas Gamba (2011 - 2012)
Robert Cole (2010 - 2011)
Jeffrey Garvin (2009 - 2010)
Patricia Crauwels (2008 - 2009)
Joshua Whitman (2007 - 2008)
John Fisher (2007)
William Hahn (2006)
Herman Russomanno (2005)
Davisson F. Dunlap (2004)
Addison "Sonny" Meyers (2003)
Michael Callahan (2002)
Joe Milton (2001)*
Charles Baumberger (2000)
Terry Young (1999)
John Holcomb (1998)
Howard Coker (1997)
Ben Weaver (1996)*
Eric Hewko (1995)
Martin Garcia (1994)
Gary Fox (1992 - 1993)

*Deceased

PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Trial Lawyer of the Year Recipients

1992 Rex Conrad (deceased), Ft. Lauderdale
1993 Raymond Ehrlich (deceased), Jacksonville
1994 Larry Stewart, Miami
1995 Stuart Grossman, Miami
1996 Leon Handley, Central Florida
1997 Bill Wagner, Tampa Bay
1998 Frank Perritt, Jacksonville
1999 Mike Maher, Orlando
2000 Joe Milton (deceased), Jacksonville
2001 Herman Russomanno, Miami
2002 Chan Muller, Orlando
2003 Wayne Hogan, Jacksonville
2004 John Edwin Fisher, Orlando
2005 Charles H. Baumberger, Miami
2006 John L. Holcomb, Tampa Bay
2007 Howard C. Coker, Jacksonville
2008 Robert A. Cole, Jacksonville
2009 William E. Hahn, Tampa Bay
2010 Addison J. Meyers, Miami
2011 Jeffrey R. Garvin, Ft. Myers
2012 Timon V. Sullivan, Tampa Bay
2013 Gary D. Fox, Miami
2014 Rutledge R. Liles, Jacksonville
2015 Tomas "Tom" Gamba, Miami
2016 Michael A. Mullen, Miami
2017 George E. "Buddy" Schulz, Jacksonville
2017 Robert L. Parks, Miami
2018 C. Howard Hunter, Tampa Bay
2019 Curry Gary Pajcic, Jacksonville
2020 Louis J. La Cava, Tampa Bay
2021 Jay Cohen, Ft. Lauderdale
2022 Rafael Martinez, Central Florida

Jurist of the Year Recipients

1998 Judge Chris Altenbernd, 2nd DCA
1999 Judge Jack Schoonover, 2nd DCA
2000 Judge Fredricka Smith, 11th Circuit
2001 Justice Major Harding, Supreme Court
2002 Judge Nelly Khouzam, 6th Circuit
2003 Judge Donald R. Moran, 4th Circuit
2004 Judge Joseph P. Farina, 11th Circuit
2005 Judge James Whittemore, Fed. Middle District
 Judge George W. Greer, 6th Circuit
2006 Judge Ronald V. Alvarez, 15th Circuit
2007 Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis, Supreme Court
2008 Judge Harvey E. Schlesinger, Fed. Middle District
2009 Judge Belvin Perry, Jr., 9th Circuit

2010 Judge Manuel Menendez, Jr., 13th Circuit
2011 Judge J. Thomas McGrady, 6th Circuit
2012 Judge Susan Harrell Black, U. S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeal
2013 Judge Robert N. Scola, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
2014 Judge Jorge Labarga, Florida Supreme Court
2015 Judge Jennifer Bailey, 11th Circuit
2016 Judge Tyrie W. Boyer, 4th Circuit
2017 Chief Judge Ronald N. Ficarrotta, 13th Circuit
2018 Judge Pamela A.M. Campbell, 6th Circuit
2019 Ret. Judge Peter L. Dearing, Jacksonville
2020 Chief Judge Bertila Soto, Miami
2021 Judge Daniel Sleet, 2nd District Court of Appeal
2022 Chief Judge Anthony Rondolino, 6th Circuit

Fran Peacock Coker FLABOTA Community Service Award Recipients

2008 Joseph P. Milton, Jacksonville
2009 James G. Stolhanske, Pensacola
2010 John J. Schickel, Sr., Jacksonville
2011 Wayne Hogan, Jacksonville
2012 Judge Karen K. Cole, Jacksonville
2013 James "Coach" Day, Jacksonville
2014 Dr. Sherilynn Scott, Miami
2015 Steve Rossman, Miami
2016 Hank & Mary Coxe, Jacksonville
2017 E. Keith DuBose, Sarasota - Bradenton
2018 Steven P. Kellough, Miami
2019 Michael R. Freed, Jacksonville
2020 Judge Patricia A. Seitz, Miami
2021 Luther & Judy Battiste, South Carolina
2022 Philip G. Little, Jacksonville

Joseph P. Milton Professionalism and Civility Award Recipients

2013 Michael T. Callahan, Tampa Bay
2014 Gerald F. Richman, West Palm Beach
2015 Chris Knopik, Tampa Bay
2016 Daniel J. Gerber, Central Florida
2017 Joseph "Skooter" Kinman, Jr., Tampa Bay
2018 Michael A. Mullen, Miami
2019 Robert A. Cole, Jacksonville
2020 Christopher J. Schulte, Tampa Bay
2021 Judge Peter T. Fay, Miami
2022 Judge James A. Edwards, Central Florida