

PBACDL Honors Donnie Murrell



by
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On May 28, 2015 the Palm Beach Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers awarded our own L.D. “Donnie” Murrell the first Barry M. Cohen Champion of Justice Award. Every spring, the PBACDL recognizes one person for their commitment to justice in criminal law. This year the award was renamed after county court judge Barry M. Cohen. The criteria for the award were expanded to recognize “courage and integrity in seeking justice and fairness in criminal law.”

Presenting the award on behalf of the PBACDL was Scott Berry, the Immediate Past President.

The ceremony was attended by family, fellow criminal defense lawyers, Judges and even past clients...some of which were fellow criminal defense lawyers and Judges. Present was Kevin Coleman, a man released after serving 13 years of a life sentence for a murder he did not commit. He was released thanks to Donnie’s efforts in a case he took on, pro bono. Also there in honor of the man that freed his father, was Kevin’s five year old son, Cordey.

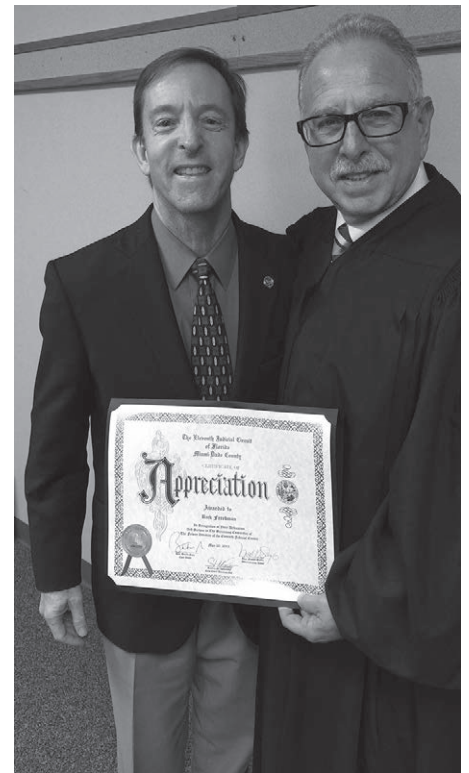
In calling Donnie to tell him he was chosen to receive the Champion of Justice Award, Scott Berry noted, “He was speechless. It was like he couldn’t understand what I was telling him. It was as though he had no idea



how much he has meant to so many people for so long.” Scott went on to perfectly sum up what Donnie means to our FACDL family and those who know him, “In you, Donnie, we all see the lawyer we set out to be when we started our careers. We see the lawyer we hope to be. We see the lawyer we think we are when we have our best days.”

Donnie Murrell is the lawyer you want at the table with you when it is a case too big and too important to do alone. He is the lawyer we need heading Strike Force. He is the lawyer we need at board meetings to set the compass in search of reason and common sense. For all of his accomplishments and accolades he is ever the humble, ordinary, move-on-to-the-next-case kind of guy. He does not crave the spotlight, but is the first to offer his assistance and expertise even when there is no pay day ahead. Donnie Murrell is a true Champion of Justice.

From all of us at FACDL... Congratulations Donnie on an honor well deserved! 🏆



Court Honors Super Volunteer Freedman for Committee Service

At a recent meeting of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Screening Committee, FACDL Past President Judge Richard Hersch presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the Circuit Court to long time FACDL member and super volunteer, Rick Freedman, for hundreds of hours of volunteer time on the committee. The Committee screens applicants for the court appointment wheel for all criminal cases and appeals, and works with the Chief Judge on rules that apply to the wheel.

The Certificate was created and signed by Chief Judge Soto, Administrative Judge Sayfie, and presented by Judge Hersch.

Congratulations to Rick for a job well done! 🏆