

Sun-Sentinel

SOCIETY *Scene*

February 10, 2010



FLORIDA CHILDREN'S FIRST

Florida Children's First to honor Jesse H. Diner



Florida's Children First board member Melissa Lader Barnhardt, left, honoree Florida Bar President Jesse Diner, Executive Director Christina Spudeas, board member Senator Skip Campbell, board member Julie Talenfeld, and President Howard Talenfeld



Honoree Florida Bar President Jesse Diner and Florida's Children First board member Senator Skip Campbell

Florida's Children First (FCF), the statewide legal advocacy organization focused on protecting the legal rights of at-risk and foster care children, will honor at its upcoming Child Advocate Awards and Reception Mr. Jesse H. Diner, President of the Florida Bar, who has made advancing the rights of children a major emphasis in Florida.

FCF's annual Broward event will recognize Mr. Diner for his efforts supporting legislation designed to obtain counsel for children in foster care and the dependency system, supporting the recommendations of the Florida Bar's Legal Needs of Children Committee. He has championed the passage of legislation that would provide attorneys for foster children, ensuring foster children receive "the same zealous advocacy adult clients expect of their lawyers," he has written. He has also to support Florida Bar's efforts in recruiting pro bono lawyers to represent these children. "Too often, children come to court powerless, with no one

representing them at all. Given the complexity of issues involved, we need to ensure that every child has quality representation from highly skilled guardians ad litem and well-trained attorneys."

"Jesse is a true friend of Florida's most vulnerable children," said FCF President Howard Talenfeld. "In words, leadership and deeds, his efforts have ensured that those in the best position to help the most needy are ready and able to do so. We at Florida's Children First are honored to acknowledge his commitment to helping children across the state."

Kristi Krueger, Local 10 Anchor, will serve as the event's mistress of ceremonies. Also in attendance will be child advocates, elected officials, judges, and community and business leaders, and others concerned about the future of Florida's children, especially abused, abandoned and neglected children and youth.

"The success of Florida's Children First comes directly from our supports, sponsors,

guests and advocates from across Florida," said FCF Executive Director Christina Spudeas. "By supporting the mission of Florida's Children First, they help foster children all around the state."

Last year's event was attended by more than 300 people, including judges, attorneys and child advocates.

This year's event will be held on Wednesday, February 24, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at The Tower Club (100 Southeast Third Ave., One Financial Plaza) in Fort Lauderdale. A \$100 contribution is suggested, with all proceeds to benefit Florida's Children First.

To RSVP, call 954-796-0860 or send an email to fcf@floridaschildrenfirst.org. Florida's Children First thanks its sponsors Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate; Regions Bank; United Automobile Insurance Group; Boardroom Communications Inc.; White & Case; American National Bank; President's Fest in the Park; Daily Business Review among others. ■



Florida's Children First board member Melissa Lader Barnhardt, left, Executive Director Christina Spudeas (seated), and board member Senator Skip Campbell

