



## FLORIDA'S CHILDREN FIRST HONORS FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENT JESSE H. DINER

*Diner Lauded For Commitment to Legal Representation for Foster Children; Event Celebrates Success Stories, Raises \$100,000 for Advocacy Statewide*

Fort Lauderdale, Florida -- Florida's Children First (FCF), the statewide legal advocacy organization focused on protecting the legal rights of at-risk and foster care children, honored Mr. Jesse H. Diner and several foster care success stories at its Child Advocate Awards and Reception in February.

The event, held in Fort Lauderdale, was attended by more than 300 attorneys, child advocates, elected officials, judges, community and business leaders, and others concerned about the future of Florida's children, especially abused, abandoned and neglected children and youth. The event raised some \$100,000 for the organization.

"As President of the Florida Bar, Jesse has utilized his position as Florida Bar President to advance the rights of foster children to legal representation in Florida," said FCF President Howard Talenfeld. The other foster care honorees included Michael Lewis, who was honored as the Young Adult Honoree, and Linsey Brewster-Jenkins and Alexeve Jenkins, who were honored as FCF's Foster / Adoptive Family of the Year. "They serve as a role models and inspiration for any of us who strive to improve how Florida's vulnerable children are treated."

FCF's annual Broward event recognized Mr. Diner for his support of legislation designed to obtain counsel children in foster care and the dependency system, and support for recommendations of the Florida Bar's Legal Needs of Children Committee. He has championed the passage of legislation that would provide attorneys and zealous advocacy for foster children to effectively reduce or eliminate the powerlessness children face when entering the legal system. He also has backed the Florida Bar's effort to recruit and train pro bono lawyers to represent these children.

"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," Mr. Diner has written.

"This event reflected the support of our sponsors, guests and advocates from across the state, who are committed to both vulnerable citizens and organizations like Florida's Children First," said FCF Executive Director Christina Spudeas. "The success of our ongoing mission to help children statewide is linked directly to their ongoing help."

Florida's Children First is supported by 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; among others. To learn more, or to make a contribution, call 954-796-0860 or send an email to [fcf@floridaschildrenfirst.org](mailto:fcf@floridaschildrenfirst.org).