

Isom to Receive 2013 Distinguished Judicial Service Award

Hillsborough Circuit Judge Claudia Rickert Isom will receive the 2013 Distinguished Judicial Service Award. The award, which honors outstanding and sustained service to the public, especially as it relates to support of pro bono legal services, will be presented by Chief Justice Ricky Polston at a Jan. 31 ceremony at the Supreme Court of Florida.

Judge Isom has been a circuit judge in the 13th Judicial Circuit since 1991. She is currently assigned to the Probate, Guardianship and Trust Division. Although not permitted to participate in direct pro bono legal services because she is a judge, Isom is nevertheless committed to pro bono work and giving back to the community.

She currently co-chairs the Hillsborough County Bar Association's 5K Pro Bono River Run. It is an event she has chaired or co-chaired for the past three years. Isom estimates her volunteer hours organizing, promoting and coordinating the race since 2010 exceed 250. The run raises money for Bay Area Legal Services' pro bono services.

In addition to volunteering in the judicial mentorship program, Isom has participated in The Florida Bar's E-Mentoring Project for law students and the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers' Mentorship Project with Stetson University College of Law. She previously chaired The Florida Bar's Standing Committee on Professionalism and the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee and currently serves on the Rules of Civil Procedure Committee. Isom is also a member of the Supreme Court's Standing Committee on Fairness and Diversity and is a certified diversity trainer.

Isom graduated from the University of Iowa in 1972 with an education degree. She is a 1975 graduate of Florida State University School of Law, where she married her classmate, Woody Isom, in 1973. She has four children (including two attorneys) and two grandchildren.

Isom grew up on a farm in Southeast Iowa and has lived in Florida since 1972.

This year's awards ceremony, which also honors individual, circuit, young lawyer, law firm and voluntary bar efforts, is scheduled for 3:30 P.M., Jan. 31 at the Supreme Court of Florida. The program will be broadcast taped-delayed at a later date. Check local cable listings for details and on the Internet at <http://wfsu.org/gavel2gavel>