



PRESS RELEASE

Administrative Office of the Courts

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For Immediate Release

JUDGE GASTON FERNANDEZ ANNOUNCED WINNER OF TAMPA BAY INN OF COURT 2010 ABRAHAM LINCOLN AWARD

The Honorable Gaston Fernandez received the 2010 Abraham Lincoln Award from the Tampa Bay American Inn of Court*, an annual award given to the member of the Inn who best exemplifies the goals of the Inn in promoting legal excellence, civility, professionalism, and ethics in the practice of law. Judge Fernandez is part of a proud Tampa tradition of dedicated young men and women who grew up in West Tampa and came back to Tampa to give back to the community and people that nurtured him. He graduated from Chamberlain High School in 1965, the University of South Florida in 1970 and continued to achieve during his law school tenure by making Dean's List at the South Texas College of Law. Judge Fernandez became a member of the Florida Bar in 1979 and served five years as an assistant state attorney in the office of the Hon. E.J. Salcines prior to entering private practice. During his career as a prosecutor, he tried over 100 jury trials and 300 nonjury trials. While in private practice Judge Fernandez earned recognition for his exceptional dedication to the community, pro bono service and extensive trial experience. He was appointed to the county bench by Florida Governor Lawton Chiles where he has served since 1999. Judge Fernandez joined the Tampa Bay Inn of Court in 2000 and has held the following positions with the Inn: President Elect 2001-2002, President 2002-2003, Counselor 2003-2004, and Executive Director 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007. The Lincoln Award is accompanied by a contribution to the Hillsborough County Bar Association Foundation**, which supports and promotes programs and projects which encourage assistance to the poor and disadvantaged, primarily with regard to their legal needs and to educate the public about the legal system. Judge Fernandez's name will be placed on the Lincoln Award plaque in the lobby of the Chester H. Ferguson Law Center, and a brick in his name will be placed in the commemorative brick walkway outside the Law Center.

*For more information about the American Inns of Court, please see

<http://www.innsocourt.org/>

**<http://www.hillsbar.com/Hillsborough%20County%20Bar%20Foundation/AboutUs.asp>

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PHOTO ONE CAPTION:

“(left to right) Mike Hooker, representing the Hillsborough County Bar Foundation is shown along with officers from the Tampa Bay Inn of Court and Judge Fernandez: Executive Director David Banker, President the Hon. John Conrad, Judge Gaston J. Fernandez, winner of 2010 Abraham Lincoln Award, Secretary Brian Oblow, Treasurer Meredith Wester and President-elect the Hon. Lisa Campbell.”



PHOTO TWO CAPTION:

“(left to right) Judge Fernandez’s parents, Gaston Fernandez (senior) and Gloria Fernandez; spouse, Charlene Fernandez; Judge Gaston J. Fernandez; and Carmen Lauderdale, Judicial Assistant