



PRESS RELEASE

Administrative Office of the Courts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUDGE BARTON TO RECEIVE THE DISTINGUISHED JUDICIAL SERVICE AWARD FROM FLORIDA BAR

Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Judge, James M. Barton II, has been named the 2012 recipient of the [Florida Bar's](#) Judicial Service Award. As stated on the Bar's website, "The award...honors outstanding and sustained service to the public especially as it relates to support of pro bono legal services".

As the term "sustained service" suggests, supporting and promoting pro bono services is not something new for Judge Barton. He was elected to the county bench in 1990. By 1993 he was chair of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee. He served in that capacity until 2010. Judge Barton was appointed to the circuit bench in 1999. He has served as chair and still contributes as a member of the Florida Bar's Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services. He has personally logged more than 1,000 hours of pro bono services. He has been involved in numerous other efforts to promote and expand pro bono services including being instrumental in securing office space in the Hillsborough County Courthouse for Bay Area Legal Services.

Judge Barton has served as past president of the J. Clifford Cheatwood, Inn of Court. He presently chairs the Supreme Court Civil Jury Instruction Committee. In his own circuit, Judge Barton is a member of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Automated Data System Committee and chairs the Jury Management Committee.

Judge Barton's many awards include: Jimmy Kynes Pro Bono Award in 1993 and 2011; James M. "Red" McEwen Memorial Award 1991; 1995 and 2010 Robert W. Patton Outstanding Jurist Award; and the 1996 William Reece Smith, Jr. Award for Public Service from Stetson Law School.

The Distinguished Judicial Service Award will be presented to Judge Barton January 26, 2012 at the Florida Supreme Court. The presentation will be available for viewing via live webcast: <http://wfsu.org/gavel2gavel>.

Judge Barton currently presides in a General Civil Division. For a photo or more information please log on to the court's website: <http://www.fljud13.org/JudicialDirectory/JamesMBartonII/Profile.aspx>

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