Three Judges Recognized and Honored

CLEARWATER – As he nears the end of his tenure as chief judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, J. Thomas McGrady garnered yet another accolade in May, this one presented by the Clearwater Bar Association.

McGrady was given the John U. Bird Judicial Excellence Award by then-bar president Josh Chilson at the bar’s Law Day Luncheon and Annual Meeting on May 8, at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa., according to Karen E. France, the bar’s executive director.

The award was created to recognize honor, high ideals, personal character, judicial competence and service.

Meanwhile, farther south, the St. Petersburg Bar, at its April 10 Membership Luncheon, gave its 2015 Judicial Appreciation Award to Walter Logan, according to Melissa Byers, the bar association’s executive director.

A local jurist typically wins the award after the bar solicits nominations. Among the factors considered are a nominee’s courtroom demeanor, his or her judicial experience, helpfulness to lawyers and litigants, and activities off the bench that promote the administration of justice and civic participation.

Judge Logan retired as of last year after serving as a circuit judge for nearly 20 years.

Judge McGrady is ending his third term as chief judge as of July 1. In 2011, the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) named McGrady Florida Jurist of the Year.

Also in April, the Pasco County chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers announced that the recipient of its inaugural Judicial Professionalism Award was Circuit Judge William R. Webb. The purpose of the distinction is to recognize a local judge who best exemplifies service to the community, profession and legal system. The judge has also worked to inspire others to pursue a career in the legal profession.

“Judge Webb has a long history in Pasco County and has been instrumental in coordinating local continuing legal education programs about professionalism,” Mischelle D’Angelone, president-elect of Women Lawyers of Pasco, said in a prepared statement.

“In addition, lawyers who regularly appear before Judge Webb provided comments to our board of directors about his continued support of professionalism in the courtroom,” she said.

Webb was presented the award on April 21, at the group’s first judicial reception.