CLEARWATER - A slew of judges in the Sixth Judicial Circuit was recognized this spring by various organizations for, among other things, their professionalism, community outreach, high ethical standards, even athleticism, with the most recent accolades given Wednesday, June 5, 2019.

It was then that Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Linda Allan was given the 2019 William Castagna Award for Judicial Excellence at the Barney Masterson American Inn of Court banquet. It’s typically given for, among other things, knowledge of the law, ethics, professionalism and demeanor. Earlier, on May 11, Judge Allan, at the Clearwater Bar Association’s annual Law Day Luncheon in Safety Harbor, was given the John J. Bird Judicial Excellence Award, which was created to recognize honor, high ideals, personal character, judicial competence and service.

On May 3, Pinellas County Judge Lorraine Kelly was recognized by the St. Petersburg Bar Association, at its annual luncheon in St. Petersburg. Judge Kelly was given the bar’s Judicial Appreciation Award. 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.

On April 16, Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Kimberly Sharpe Byrd was given the Judicial Professionalism Award by the group, the Women Lawyers of Pasco County, at its annual Judicial Reception event in New Port Richey. Typically, the award is given in recognition of a jurist’s continuing efforts to foster a relationship between the bench and the bar, and to encourage those who practice law to maintain high ethical standards and to present themselves as models of civility and patience for others to emulate.

Also, on May 14, Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Frederick L. Pollack was given the Canakaris Award for Judicial Excellence in Family Law for his exemplary contributions to the family law profession by the Canakaris American Inn of Court.

Finally, it should be noted that Senior Judge Lynn Tepper, in addition to giving one of two Saint Leo University commencement addresses on April 27 at the Florida State Fairgrounds, was also honored by the Saint Leo University College of Arts in Music for her contributions to the university. And, last but not least, Senior Judge Robert E. Beach, who is also a master swimmer, was inducted into the Eila Athletic Hall of Fame at his high school in Carlsbad, California. He graduated from there 71 years ago.