

Award for Judicial Excellence Presented to Circuit Judge Khouzam

ST. PETERSBURG – Sixth Judicial Circuit Judge Nelly N. Khouzam has been presented with the William Castagna Award for Judicial Excellence, which recognizes a member of the Pinellas County judiciary who displays the highest standards of judicial excellence in knowledge of the law, ethics, civility, professionalism and demeanor.

The award was presented by Barney Masterson Inn of Court during the group's year-end banquet at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club Saturday night (June 16).

Judge Khouzam – currently the administrative judge for Civil Division of the Circuit – has sat on the Sixth Judicial Circuit bench since being appointed in 1994. In 2002, she was named by the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) as its Florida Jurist of the Year. She has served in the Sixth Circuit's Civil, Family and Criminal divisions. Immediately prior to going on the bench, Judge Khouzam was a partner at Silberman & Khouzam, P.A., a Clearwater law firm where she concentrated her practice in medical malpractice cases, civil litigation and appellate cases. She previously was a partner at Fowler, White, Gillen, Boggs, Villareal & Banker P.A. of St. Petersburg and also worked for two years in Lakeland as staff attorney for Judge Jack R. Schoonover of the Second District Court of Appeal



Judge Nelly N. Khouzam

As a faculty member at the Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies, Florida Judicial College and as a speaker at various Judicial Educational Conferences, for the Florida Bar and local bar associations, she has lectured on jury trials, attorney misconduct, jury selection, probation, and factors to be considered in sentencing. She has published articles on business litigation, pre-trial stipulations, medical malpractice laws, and “*From the Bench: Do's and Don'ts of Talking to the Jury.*” She also has served on numerous bar and judicial committees.

Judge Khouzam has a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Florida and is a graduate of the University of Florida College of Law. She also studied at Oxford University in England

Inns of Court, legal mentoring organizations, are rooted in the 800-year-old tradition of the Inns of Court in England. For more than 20 years, American Inns of Court have provided judges, lawyers, and law students an opportunity to participate actively in developing a deeper sense of professionalism, achieving higher levels of excellence and furthering the practice of law with dignity and integrity. The Pinellas organization's name honors Barney Masterson, a local attorney whose professionalism and ethics set an example for many young lawyers.