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Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Patrice Moore Wins Judicial Excellence Award

CLEARWATER - Citing her professionalism, her commitment to service and her efforts to promote the advancement of women in the legal profession, the Pinellas County chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers has given its 2025 Judicial Excellence Award to Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Patrice W. Moore.

A glass sculpture identifying Judge Moore as the recipient of the award was given to the judge at a reception put together by the organization, which also goes by the acronym PFAWL, on April 10 at Savant on Second, an event venue in St. Petersburg.

When Judge Moore was elected in August, 2010, she became the first African-American female circuit court judge in the Sixth Judicial Circuit. She currently serves as the Unified Family Court administrative judge, and also has a caseload of her own, presiding over delinquency and dependency cases, domestic violence injunctions, girls' court, and truancy court.

Before she was elected, Judge Moore worked as an assistant public defender for the circuit's public defender's office for 14 years, in the mental health division. She had also served on the Florida Board of Psychology starting in 2009 and continued doing so for a bit after she was elected judge.

In September 2014, she was appointed by then Chief Judge J. Thomas McGrady to the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) and she now serves as the chair. At about the same time, she was appointed to the Steering Committee on Families and Children in Court by Ricky Polston, who was then the chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court.

In August 2022, Judge Moore was appointed to the Parenting Coordinator Review Board by Carlos G. Muniz, who is the current chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court.

In the community, Judge Moore has also been heavily involved in LawFest, an annual event where free legal advice is offered to residents on a wide variety of topics. She's also served as a judicial panelist on numerous occasions for PFAWL, and has met with some of the organization's members who are interested in becoming judges.

Judge Moore is a lifetime member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, National Council of Negro Women and the Links Incorporated. She received her undergraduate degree from Florida Memorial University and her Juris Doctorate from Stetson University College of Law.



From left to right: Christina Pacheco, PFAWL membership director; Judge Moore; Whitney Green, PFAWL president; and Samantha Sealey, PFAWL membership drive chair.