

DCBA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE NOVEMBER, 2009

November brings thoughts of the great American holiday of Thanksgiving. The image of Native Americans sharing the bounty of the harvest with Pilgrims in cooperative understanding and thanks is a powerful one. The concept of the Pilgrim Feast is promulgated in our schools and contemporary literature. It relays a positive message of trust and cooperation.

This month we are again acting to sponsor the Minority Mentoring Picnic now in its sixth year. This effort is in cooperation with many others, including founder John W. Kozyak, leading law firms, voluntary bar associations, and alumni associations, and serves an important need (matching Black and other minority law students/young lawyers with volunteer mentors). Please join us at Amelia Earhart Park in Hialeah on November 14, 2009 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Bring the family. This is truly an enjoyable and worthwhile event that shouldn't be missed. For more information go to: www.kttlaw.com/mmp/annualpicnic.htm. Stop by the DCBA tent. We will be handing out cold beverages to help wash down all the great food (look for the jerk chicken and roasted pig)! The Pilgrims would be jealous!

Also this month, our luncheon on November 20 will focus on human rights and associated legal issues, including those involving our immigration laws. After all, the Pilgrims were immigrants weren't they? Our featured speaker will be Terence C. "Terry" Coonan, Executive Director of the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, Associate Professor of Criminology and Courtesy Professor of Law at Florida State University. Mr. Coonan is one of the world's leading experts on human rights abuses and on domestic and international laws affecting human rights. He has traveled to the ends of the globe to gain understanding of these issues, so increasingly important in our rapidly shrinking world. You will be shocked to hear the stories of those affected so close to home. After hearing Mr. Coonan, you may be inspired to help his cause. Get your reservations in now by logging on to our website at: www.dadecountybar.org.

As part of our November luncheon, we will be introducing and honoring our South Florida Immigration Judges. These Federal Officers work often in obscurity just blocks from our luncheon venue. This month, they will be duly recognized and thanked for the tens of thousands of cases they handle each year in order that our immigration laws be enforced and our society protected. Please come to meet and show your support for these dedicated public servants.

In closing, reflecting on the message of Thanksgiving, the famous Norman Rockwell image of the three generations gathered around the dining table comes to mind. All those depicted in the image are focused on the Grandmother bringing to the table the plump, perfectly baked turkey. From outside we look in focused on the family who are enjoying their togetherness in an idyllic circumstance. In the Pilgrim image, the Native Americans share their knowledge of planting and their native environment with the Pilgrims and the Pilgrims share their western European knowledge of the sciences. Each gained through the other in dignified cooperation. In short, all can be thankful

when being human is realized through giving of self with integrity to others, or to a dignified cause. On behalf of the officers, directors, and staff of the DCBA, we wish you a very happy and safe Thanksgiving.