



KOZYAK • TROPIN
THROCKMORTON
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

John W. Kozyak, Esq.
jk@kttl.com | 305.377.0654

February 25, 2010

Ms. Vivian Reyes
Dade County Bar Association
123 N.W. First Street, Suite 214
Miami, Fl. 33128

RE: H.T. Smith/David W. Dyer Professionalism Award

Dear Ms. Reyes:

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of H.T. Smith for the Dade County Bar Association's David W. Dyer Professionalism Award. No other lawyer or Judge I know is more deserving of an award honoring one of Florida's most respected jurists, Judge David Dyer, who earned so much respect advocating for equality for all Americans. H.T. Smith has been at the center of this cause during his entire thirty-seven year career.

H.T. has been recognized by scores of organization, groups and publications including:

Award of Excellence, Thurgood Marshall College Fund (2008);

Henry Latimer Professionalism Award, University of Miami Law Alumni (2007);

Miami Jurisprudence Award, Anti-Defamation League (2007);

The Henry Latimer Diversity Award, Florida Bar EOLS, Florida Association of Women Lawyers, and Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association (2007);

Silver Medallion Award, National Conference of Christians and Jews (1998);

Act of Courage Award, ACLU of Miami (1992);

Presidential Award, National Bar Association (1986); and

Equal Rights & Justice Award, Legal Services of Greater Miami (1985).

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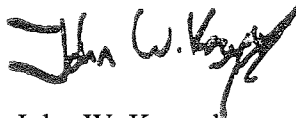
H.T. is a nationally recognized litigator, who has tried hundreds of cases. He was the first African-American Assistant Public Defender in Dade County in 1973. He was also the first African-American Assistant County Attorney in 1976, before starting a small firm with Harold Long. Florida International University School of Law chose H.T. to head its Litigation Skills program and I have heard many students say this is the best part of their legal education.

I fear that too many lawyers have viewed H.T. as one of the best black lawyers, but that is an injustice and slight that Judge Dyer would have never accepted. H.T. Smith is one of Dade County's best, most professional lawyers and most effective leaders regardless of race, gender, ethnic background or other qualifications. Time after time, I have witnessed H.T. Smith do the right thing and support deserving people and causes regardless of their background and focus. He champions the most qualified person and never asks for more. Despite H.T.'s successes in the courtroom and amazing leadership in our community, he has never been asked to join a major law firm. I respectfully suggest it is time for the Dade County Bar to recognize this extraordinary person.

I could not be more proud to call H.T. Smith my friend. I am never with him without smiling and beaming with pride for the paths he has opened, the good deeds he has done and the example he sets. I carefully reviewed the impressive list of previous winners for the David W. Dyer Professionalism Award. H.T. deserves to join this group.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very truly yours,



John W. Kozyak

JWK/mc

#310261/mc

