

## Honoring the Legacy of One of the Greats

by Candice Maze, FFCR Executive Director

Along with our entire local and national juvenile court community, we are deeply saddened by [the passing earlier this month of The Honorable William E. Gladstone](#). One of our nation's greatest juvenile court judges, Judge Gladstone was a true crusader for children and youth in Florida and the force behind many programs that help at-risk youth and abused children across the state. He is especially beloved by all of us at FFCR as one of our founders and a staunch supporter of our Citizen Review Panel Program. Last year, on FFCR's 25th Anniversary, [we had the privilege of honoring Judge Gladstone](#) with the Judicial Champion Award for his life's work as both a judge and an advocate overseeing the health and welfare of abused, neglected and delinquent children and youth across our state.



On a personal note, I was blessed to have had the opportunity to get to know Judge Gladstone from my early days as a young lawyer at the Guardian ad Litem Program and throughout the years as my career progressed. To me, and many others, he was a role model, mentor, advisor and friend. His energy, passion and enthusiasm for his work were contagious. When you talked to Judge Gladstone, he really, truly listened and, despite being rather a celebrity in our field, he always took the time to find a way to help make a connection or share some advice. He was humble and gracious - a true Southern gentleman with an irreverent sense of humor.

I and many others are better off for knowing Judge Gladstone, and he will be sorely missed. His legacy will continue to inspire and guide us in our work on behalf of the vulnerable and voiceless in our community. May his memory be a blessing to us all.