

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUCCESSFUL "LAWYERS FOR LITERACY" INITIATIVE  
BOOSTED BY LAW SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

MIAMI, FL, December 4, 2006 -- The Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership, awarded an Ingenuity Grant in 2005 by Coca Cola North America for its *Lawyers for Literacy* initiative, has announced the first *Lawyers for Literacy* Law School Fellowship program. The Fellowship, a collaborative effort between the University of Miami, Florida International University and St. Thomas University, rewards chosen law school students who desire to expand their involvement in community and literacy initiatives.

"The law schools have supported and contributed to the success of this pro bono project by providing additional motivated and dedicated advocates for adult literacy from their student bodies and, at the same time, have secured an opportunity for their students' professional development and enhancement," commented United States District Judge and leading literacy program advocate Ursula Ungaro. "Their participation has been a 'win-win' for the fellows, the law schools and the program."

*Lawyers for Literacy* was created by the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership, a local non-profit organization that emphasizes the importance of early literacy in developing competent, productive and responsible citizens. Focusing particularly on families with young children, the organization advances three areas of family learning-- Parents as teachers, children's literacy and adult literacy.

"We greatly appreciate the efforts of the talented lawyers and their law firms that have joined with us to bring this important initiative to fruition," commented project director Lisa Blair. "The Family Learning Partnership views the initiative as an extension of its effort to organize local professionals in the cause of literacy."

*Lawyers for Literacy* is designed to improve family literacy skills such as reading and writing, and also to simplify, prevent and resolve legal issues related to personal finances, immigration, criminal law, workplace rights, landlord/tenant law, family law, and health care. The literacy program utilizes judges, lawyers and law students who donate time and expertise throughout the community. There are presently more than 60 volunteers in the literacy program.

The Fellows, one of whom will have the opportunity to be an intern for Judge Ungaro, will assist the lawyers and judges who teach literacy classes, attend a once-a-month 'lunch and learn' session on varying legal issues with a program judge, and help *Lawyers for Literacy* to recruit additional volunteers.

The Law School Fellows, chosen after an extensive and competitive application process, are:

**University of Miami Fellows**

Gregory D'Incelli  
Daniel Lever  
Serena Witter

**Florida International University Fellows**

Victoria Bechtold Kush  
Jason A. Breslin  
Dorris Torres

**St Thomas University School of Law Fellows**

Damaris D. Rosich-Schwartz  
Jane Bolin  
Jessica Blydenburgh

Student Liaison: Randi Spector, University of Miami School of Law

Local firms who were instrumental in the creation of the Fellowship program include White & Case; Greenberg Traurig; Tew Cardenas, LLP; Boies, Schiller & Flexner, LLP; Kenny Nachwalter; The Federal Bar Association South Florida Chapter; and Haber & Ganguzza, LLP. In addition, Brian F. Spector and Ken Feldman at St. Thomas University assisted with program development.

*Lawyers for Literacy* volunteers include attorneys from Kenny Nachwalter; Greenberg Traurig; White & Case; Milton Hirsch, P.A.; Shook Hardy & Baron, P.A.; the US Attorney's Office; Federal Public Defender's Office; and the Office of the State Attorney. Approximately 10 federal and state judges including Judges Graham, Ungaro and Lenard, as well as former circuit court Judge Alex Ferrer, are contributing their time to this community initiative.

For more information, contact Jennifer Clarin at Boardroom Communications at 954-370-8999 or email [jclarin@boardroompr.com](mailto:jclarin@boardroompr.com).

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