

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jeffrey Rynor

*“Nothing  
great  
was ever  
achieved  
without  
enthusiasm”*

*Ralph Waldo  
Emerson*

As a trial attorney, your primary goal is to convince a jury that your client is right. The 8 characteristics which best aid a lawyer as a persuader are sincerity, naturalness, confidence, enthusiasm, courtesy, openness, preparation and organization. Conveying professionalism as an attorney in terms of fairness and seeking justice is something a jury develops a feeling about during the course of a trial. There are obstacles to effective communication with a jury, such as too much information. However, by being yourself you can overcome many of the barriers to success. James Scott Bell, in his book, *Top Courtroom Performances*, tells a Gerry Spence story in which he lets a jury know about his fear because he has an “awesome responsibility.” Gerry is being open with the jury and the jury responds favorably. Bell quotes a portion of the summation of Gerry in the *Silkwood* case:

I'm standing here talking to you now about the most important things that I have ever said in my life. And, I have a sense that I have spent a lifetime, fifty years to be exact, preparing somehow for this moment with you. And so, I'm proud to be here with you, and I'm awed, and I'm a little frightened, and I know that's hard for you to believe because I don't look frightened. But I've been frightened from time to time throughout this trial. I've learned how to cover that up pretty well .... (W)hat I am setting out to do today is frightening to me. I hope I have the intelligence, the insight, the spirit and the ability - and just the plain old guts - to get to you what I have to get to you.”

In an effort to embrace openness, I think it is appropriate to thank the people and law firms who have made this year a success by giving of their time, intelligence and enthusiasm to help our profession. In no particular order I would like to thank the following people.

1. Treasurer, Jane Muir: Ralph Waldo Emerson said “Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.” Jane has done it all, from spending countless hours dealing

with the accounting to implementing new initiatives.

2. Board members, Brad Trushin and Antonio Romano: Thank you for your presentations on professionalism and bringing such luminaries to speak as the Chief Judge of the Florida Supreme Court, Fred Lewis.
3. Board member, Latoya Brown: Thank you for creating two unique programs that helped children in our community be better prepared to start school and for your program celebrating Black History month.
4. DCBA YLS President, Stuart Weissman: Thank you for putting together YLS events that were creative and successful. Your articles and your leadership were much appreciated.
5. Secretary, Gilbert Squires: Nelson Mandela said “If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.” Although Gilbert speaks over 10 languages fluently, his greatest gift is his insight and ability to find solutions. Thank you.
6. Vice President, Stephanie Carman: John Quincy Adams said “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” Thank you for your past leadership as President of the Young Lawyers Section of the Dade County Bar and for your continuing contributions to our profession and the DCBA.
7. Thank you to A.J. Barranco, Neal Sonnett, Judith Korchin, Kendall Coffey, Dean Colson, Herman Russomanno, Francisco Angones, David Rothman, Benedict Kuehne, Dennis Kainen, Erwin Gonzalez, William Aaron Tom Pennekamp, Jr., Jack Hickey, Robert Fiore, Judge John Thornton, Jr., Merrick L. “Rick” Gross, John Murray, Steven Befera, Steven Davis, Andrea Hartley, Garrett Biondo, Leslie Smith, Herman Russomanno

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III, Edith Osman and Jason Murray for your continued and much appreciated support of the Dade County Bar Association.

8. Thank you to H.T. Smith, Richard Milstein, Brian Spector, Stephen Zack, Judge Dresnick (retired) and Edward Blumberg for your senior leadership this past year.
9. Thank you to our Executive Director of Legal Aid, Karen Ladis, for all of your wonderful lawyers and staff and for changing the lives of so many people in our community.
10. Thank you to our distinguished past-president, Joseph Serota, for doing an excellent job chairing the building committee.
11. Thank you to all the judges and lawyers for participating in our DCBA programs.
12. Thank you to Governor Scott, Senator Nelson, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, CEO Arnold Donald, CEO Richard Fain, President of Miami-Dade College Eduardo Padron, noted historian Arva Moore Parks McCabe and Law Professor Alan Dershowitz for speaking to our lawyers.
13. Thank you to our incoming treasurer of the DCBA, Effie Silva, for chairing our program, Women of Distinction.
14. Thank you to Greenberg Traurig, Coffey Burlington, Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, 11th Circuit Civil Court and Criminal Court in becoming a Workplace Mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami through the School to Work program aimed at helping students improve their chances of graduating and transitioning to the workplace.
15. Thank you to our terrific executive committee, Jordan Dresnick, Stephanie Carman, Gilbert Squires, Jane Muir, Latoya Brown, Gerri Satin, Suzette Russomanno, Thomas Santoro, and Richard Milstein.
16. Jordan Dresnick, President-Elect: Vince Lombardi said "The price of success is hard work, dedication to the

job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand." Jordan's creative genius, brilliant programming and his hard work have been a game changer. Thank you.

17. Thank you to my beautiful wife Kayla and my four wonderful children Helen, Morgan, Sam and Jack.
18. Thank you to my law partners, Isaac Mitrani, Steven Adamsky, Howard Toland, Pam Chamberlin, Loren Cohen, Elana Goodman, Eric Colburn Sage, and James Webb.

The Dade County Bar Association has celebrated 100 years of service to the bench, bar and our community.

With much appreciation, I thank everyone for giving me the honor of serving as the President of the Dade County Bar Association this past year.

*Jeffrey Rynor*