

Notables

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GL Homes VP of Community Relations Sarah Alsofrom, GL Homes President Misha Ezratti and Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County Executive Director Bob Bertisch at Apex at Avenir in Palm Beach Gardens, a GL Homes community. [TRACEY BENSON]

Annual Justice for All Gala on May 10 helps ensure county's most vulnerable continue receiving vital legal services

Since 1949 Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County has been working on behalf of our community's most impoverished and underserved folks by providing essential legal services free of charge.

By Steve Dorfman • Notables Staff Writer

If you watch the news on TV or read the headlines, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that there are still plenty of good things happening in the world these days.

One daily example of this is the vital work that's done by the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County (LASPBC) on behalf of our community's most vulnerable and underserved folks.

Founded in 1949, LASPBC is among the most successful and wide-reaching legal aid organizations in the U.S. — providing myriad legal services to underprivileged children, families, elders, and others in need.

As the leaders of LASPBC are quick to point out, its vital mission is sustained by

two primary components; 1) the dedication and expertise of their staff of 155 including 55 in house attorneys; and 2) the unwavering support from members of the private bar and local philanthropic community that provide the resources necessary to support their work.

From at-risk infants, toddlers and teens to aged-out foster kids, developmentally disabled adults, and impoverished veterans and seniors, LASPBC's often-desperate clients can range in age from one month to 100 years old.

And on Saturday, May 10, at 6 p.m. at the Kravis Center (701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach) LASPBC's leaders will laud



Edrick Barnes and Florida Bar President-elect Rosalyn 'Sia' Baker-Barnes [CAPEHART]

See LEGAL AID, 2D



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LEGAL AID

from 1D

the work done by its staff and volunteers at its annual Justice for All Gala fundraiser — where organizers expect more than 550 attendees to be on hand to witness firsthand the impact the organization has on our community. Formerly known as the Pro Bono Recognition Evening, the 2025 Justice for All Gala is being chaired by Amy and Jeff Devore and Michelle and Judge Scott Suskauer, and the presenting sponsor is the firm Searcy, Denney, Scarola, Barnhart & Shipley. Premier sponsors are Justice Barbara Pariente (ret.) and Judge Fred Hazouri (ret.)

The theme of this year’s Gala: Celebrating “Legal Aid in Bloom.”

“We are grateful to our community members, especially the firm of Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart and Shipley, and local companies like GL Homes, for increasing their support this year,” said LASPBC Executive Director Bob Bertisch. “This year, more than ever before, it is imperative we have the funds needed to continue our mission to provide legal services for our community members. Every dollar raised at the Gala stays local and supports our work.”

Since 2017, GL Homes has regularly sponsored fun and creative outings and activities for the special needs adults LASPBC represents.

“Our most heartwarming Legal Aid Society initiative is our longstanding involvement with



Jeff and Amy Devore with Michelle and Judge Scott Suskauer [TRACEY BENSON]

the young adults who are intellectually and developmentally disabled (IDD),” said GL Homes President Misha Ezratti. “With a focus on physical activity and new experiences, we’ve watched them develop social skills and healthy habits. With this newfound confidence, these deserving young adults have gained meaningful employment and more independence.”

GL Homes Vice President of Community Relations Sarah Alsofrom has participated in this initiative since its inception and is particularly fond of the 2025 Gala theme: “The Gala’s ‘in bloom’ theme and our relationship with these special young adults strikes the perfect note. In the eight years we’ve developed a relationship with these young men and women, they’ve blossomed before our eyes. Step by step, they’ve come into their own.”

Highlights of the May 10 Justice for All Gala also will include the following:

■ McDonald Hopkins receiving the And Justice for All award

in recognition of their pro bono legal work for LASPBC clients.

■ Bob Shalhoub, Esq. being presented the Suzanne and John Foley Serving Justice Award for his longstanding dedication to LASPBC’s mission.

■ Danielle H. Moore receiving the Harreen Bertisch Children’s Advocacy Award in recognition of her commitment to improving the lives of Palm Beach County children.

To learn more about the Justice for All Gala and/or to purchase tickets, as well as LASPBC’s work and how to support the organization’s mission, visit legalaidthpb.org.

IF YOU GO

What: Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County’s Justice for All Gala
When: Saturday, May 10, 6 p.m.
Where: Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach
Tickets: \$300
Contact: 561-822-9763 or dbrookes@legalaidthpb.org
Website: legalaidthpb.org