

2009 KAY MEYERS PRO BONO COORDINATOR AWARD

The ***Kay Meyers Pro Bono Coordinator Award*** honors a pro bono coordinator who is an outstanding coordinator in a local legal services provider as well as an active member of the Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association.

Named for Kay Meyers, Pro Bono Coordinator for the Polk County office of Florida Rural Legal Services, this award honors Kay's dedication to her job, the volunteer attorneys and clients, as well as her significant contributions to the Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association. Her untimely death in 1992 inspired the FPBCA to honor her service with this award.

Past recipients of the ***Kay Meyers Pro Bono Coordinator Award*** are Bonnie Silverstein [Legal Aid Society of the Palm Beach County Bar], Christine Marini [Broward Lawyers Care], Marcia (Lockhart) Green [Three Rivers Legal Services], Cathy Tucker [Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar], Rob Johnson [Legal Aid Society of the Palm Beach County Bar], Susan Christmas [Brevard County Legal Aid], John Fenno [Legal Services of North Florida], Sheila Sieg [Bay Area Legal Services] and Bruce Levine [Put Something Back], Donna Graf [Florida Rural Legal Services], Linda Harradine [Legal Aid of Manasota] and Kimberly Rommel Enright [Legal Aid Society of the Palm Beach County Bar].

We ask that program directors, board members, pro bono attorneys and/or members of the Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association take this opportunity to nominate an outstanding member of the FPBCA for this annual award. A plaque will be presented during the fall meeting of the Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association.

Nominee _____ Position _____

Program _____ Address _____

City/Zip _____ Phone _____

How many years as pro bono coordinator? _____

What positions has this coordinator held in the FPBCA? _____

What makes this nominee deserving of the ***Kay Meyers Pro Bono Coordinator Award*** (i.e., what significant and/or innovative contributions has this nominee made in the advancement of pro bono delivery in Florida) (*use back if needed*)

Nomination submitted by _____
(Name and organization)

Please send this Nomination Form to ***Kay Meyers Pro Bono Coordinator Award***, c/o Marcia Green, marcia.green@trls.org, Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc., 901 N. W. 8th Avenue, Suite D-5, Gainesville, FL 32601, FAX 352-375-1631.

Deadline for receipt: January 7, 2009

Kay B. Meyers Pro Bono Coordinator Award

Kay B. Meyers worked for Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc. from 1981 until her death on October 31, 1992. She began at FRLS as a legal secretary, advanced to an office manager and then to administrative assistant/part-time pro bono coordinator. *This split task role is a familiar challenge to many coordinators.* Ultimately Kay became a full-time pro bono coordinator.

FRLS serves 14 counties in central and south Florida. Based in the Polk County office of FRLS, Kay's responsibilities included several counties. Three formal agreements she established in Hardee, Highlands and Polk County especially made Kay proud. In addition, she began advice clinics and recognition events in each county.

As a charter member of FPBCA, Kay played a major part in the formation and growth of the organization. The driving force behind the series of desk books, she helped recruit authors and coordinated with the Florida Bar for publication. She began the newsletter and helped write the Bylaws and Procedural Guidelines. Her dedication helped with the growth of FPBCA and the inclusion of more coordinators.

Kay was active in several local organizations including the Polk County Legal Secretaries Association, for which she served as president, and the Lakeland Spouse Abuse Center. She was the mother of four children and the grandmother of five.

Unfortunately, Kay began smoking as a young woman and, in spite of health warnings and many attempts to quit, she could not. Her stroke and bypass surgery slowed her, but she continued to attend FPBCA meetings until her death. In her honor, the FPBCA made a donation to the Lakeland Spouse Abuse Shelter.

Kay had the qualities that make a great coordinator. She liked people and liked to talk and tell stories. A great salesperson, if she believed in something, she wanted you to know why and believe it too. She liked to know the rules (think bylaws and procedures). FPBCA benefitted greatly from her leadership, her fun, humor and ideas.

In the small world inhabited by coordinators, we do not get recognized or even acknowledge each other's good work. This is why the FPBCA created an annual award named for Kay Meyers to honor and recognize the contributions and dedication of a coordinator in their own project and to the Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association.