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Judges and Lawyers Bring Law Day to Hundreds of South Florida Students With Help From Stearns Weaver Miller Attorney Stephanie Turk

MIAMI, FL — May 25, 2021 — Stearns Weaver Miller announced that the United States District Court and leaders from three South Florida Chapters of the Federal Bar Association ("FBA") conducted a virtual civics program for students in honor of Law Day. The event was coordinated by United States District Court Judge Beth Bloom and attorney, Stephanie Turk.

Law Day is observed annually across the nation to celebrate the role of law in society and to cultivate a deeper understanding of the legal profession. While customarily celebrated inside the courthouse, due to the pandemic, the event has been presented virtually for the past two years.

The virtual platform provided an opportunity to reach a broader audience, increasing from 50 Miami-Dade students in prior years to nearly 1,000 students from across Miami-Dade, Broward County, and Palm Beach Counties this year. Students from Hialeah Gardens Senior High School's Law Academy and Barbara Goleman Senior High School's Law Magnet & Law Society were actively engaged in the program, while other schools were able to observe the program via Zoom and YouTube Live.

The theme of event was "Advancing the Rule of Law Now," focusing on the idea everyone shares the responsibility to promote the rule of law, defend liberty, and pursue justice. The students learned about how the rule of law applies to everyday life through interactive polling questions, follow-up comments from seven volunteer attorneys, and a thoughtful discussion about current high-profile issues, including the effect of recent election reform laws on voting rights, Florida's new anti-rioting law, and the Derek Chauvin trial. To close, the students were given the opportunity to ask the Judge and volunteer attorneys questions regarding any topic.

"The level of the students' engagement and their ability to articulate their reasoning regarding several current events topics involving the rule of law was inspiring," said Turk.

Stephanie, a Labor & Employment attorney experienced in both Employment Litigation and Employment Counseling, has served on the FBA South Florida Chapter Board of Directors since 2017, including as the <u>current Secretary</u> and Civics Liaison. She was instrumental in establishing the Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions Program ("CD3") in Miami. Learn more about the CD3 program <u>here</u>.

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