

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR APRIL 2010**

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." Oscar Wilde.

Have you taken the time today to say "thank you" or acknowledge someone for their effort or achievement? I am the first to admit my failing in not giving enough credit to those who help support my efforts, whether at work, at home, or with respect to community activities. I submit that it is not that difficult to do and that if we all did more to acknowledge the good acts of others, we would create a better world around us.

In the Spring of each year since 1997, the DCBA acknowledges a member of our legal community by bestowing upon him or her the David W. Dyer Professionalism Award. This award is given to a member of our legal community who exemplifies the best qualities of professionalism, including devotion to the public good, respect for the civil rights and sensibilities of others, and a willingness to provide pro bono or reduced fee services where appropriate. This year, the nominees for the award are Irwin J. Block, Esquire, The Honorable Alan S. Gold, U.S. District Court Judge, and H.T. Smith, Esquire. Each of these men are outstanding individuals who have achieved distinction in their profession through hard, honest effort while maintaining the highest ethical standards. The recipient of this year's David W. Dyer Professionalism Award will be announced in the immediate future. The award will be presented at our June Installation Dinner Gala. Congratulations to all of our distinguished nominees.

In addition to the Dyer Award, the DCBA in May will hold its Annual Awards Luncheon. During this event, those who have served the bench, bar and community will be celebrated with acknowledgement and thanks for their efforts. If you have never attended one of our Awards Luncheons, you should stop by in May. It is truly one of the highlights of the year.

On March 18, 2010 the Dade County Bar Association in conjunction with our *Put Something Back* Pro Bono Project for Haitian Relief completed a seminar that was live from the Courthouse and simulcast across the Internet in the form of a "Webinar." Like other seminars and Haitian relief efforts before it, the success of the March 18 Webinar was the result of the combined effort of many individuals, including Chief Judge Joel H. Brown, the members of our Immigration Law Committee, led by Mayra Joli, all our dedicated volunteer lawyers (you know who you are) and our able DCBA and *Put Something Back* staff. My thanks goes out to all those who are assisting in doing the good work of the DCBA during my year as President.

Having served in my capacity as President since June of last year, I can now say based on experience and without equivocation that we have a diverse, distinguished, and energized Board of Directors and executive leadership team. Our committee chairs have been active in putting forth worthwhile programs that serve the interests of our members. Thanks to all is well deserved.

Whether you are finding this article in your inbox at the office or have received it at home or elsewhere, take a moment to pause and reflect on those to whom you might be able to express your thanks. As Oscar Wilde observed, intentions are not enough. Take action today...and see how easy it is to make your world a better place.