



Dade Legal Aid

MAY NEWSLETTER



As May comes to a close, we are reflecting on a month filled with mentorship, service, leadership, and community. From welcoming the newest class of the Robert C. Josefsberg Leadership Academy to celebrating attorneys, interns, staff, and upcoming opportunities to serve, Dade Legal Aid – Put Something Back remains grateful for the people who continue to strengthen access to justice across Miami-Dade County.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Rhea Shivnani

This month, we are proud to spotlight Rhea Shivnani, a rising senior at the University of Miami studying Political Science. Originally from Jamaica, Rhea is involved with Model United Nations and The Miami Hurricane, the University's student newspaper. Rhea interned with Dade Legal Aid – Put Something Back this past semester, where she gained insight into our work and supported our mission of expanding access to justice. We are so grateful for her time, dedication, and assistance.

STAFF HIGHLIGHT



Mark R. Brown, Esq.

Dade Legal Aid is proud to recognize Mark Brown, Managing Attorney in the Put Something Back Project. Mr. Brown first joined Dade Legal Aid in 1998 as a Florida Bar Foundation Fellow while attending St. Thomas University School of Law. Since then, he has served in multiple roles, including Project Attorney in the pro bono department and manager of Dade Legal Aid's first Domestic Violence Office in Miami Beach. Today, Mr. Brown represents South Florida's diverse indigent population in all aspects of PSB. He also lectures, trains and supports attorneys and staff, and mentors countless pro bono attorneys participating in Put Something Back.

FFLA SUMMER FELLOWS



We are excited to welcome this year's Funding Florida Legal Aid Summer Fellows! These talented law students will spend their summer gaining hands-on experience and working alongside staff and volunteer attorneys to expand access to justice for our community.



Emmanuella Petit, 3L

Emmanuella is a rising 3L at St. Thomas University College of Law, where she serves as the rising President of the Haitian American Student Bar Association, the former Vice President of the Black Law Student Association, and a member of the Caribbean Law Student Association. She also provided legal services to clients on immigration issues as a Law Student Representative Clinician at STU Law. She received a B.A. in Criminal Justice from Florida Atlantic University.



Shamuell Yepes, 3L

Shamuell is a rising 3L at St. Thomas University College of Law with a deep interest in immigration law, personal injury law, family law, and criminal law. At STU Law, he serves as a mentor to incoming 1L students. He has clerked for the City of Hialeah Municipal Government and graduated from St. Thomas University with a B.A. in Political Science and Government summa cum laude.



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



The Robert C. Josefsberg Leadership Academy officially welcomed Class IX this month. Members gathered for a Meet & Greet at Backbone Wine Co., where they had the opportunity to connect with one another, meet alumni, and begin building relationships ahead of the first session. We are excited to see this new class grow as leaders in the legal community!

NEW ATTORNEYS BREAKFAST



This month also included the New Lawyers Coffee with the Court, where Karen Ladis, Esq. welcomed new attorneys and Lotoya Brown, Esq. served on a panel. Events like these provide meaningful opportunities for new attorneys to connect with the courts, the bar, and the broader legal community.



ANNUAL PRO BONO REPORTING

It's that time of the year!

Annual Bar Statements are now available online.



ANNUAL PRO BONO REPORTING

FOR JULY 1, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026 YEAR

(Required per Rule 4-6.1d)

You are required to report your pro bono hours.



Pursuant to the reporting requirement of
Rule 4-6.1(d), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.



OR YOU MAY CLICK BELOW TO
CONTRIBUTE TO DADE LEGAL AID,
A QUALIFYING LEGAL AID ORGANIZATION.



**DADE
LEGAL AID**
PUT SOMETHING BACK.
GET INVOLVED.



By taking a pro bono case, you can make a meaningful difference in the life of an individual or family in need while helping expand access to justice in our community. Your time, expertise, and commitment can help provide stability, hope, and critical legal assistance to those who need it most.

Please email **Stephanie Grosman** (sgrosman@dadelegalaid.org) to take a case!

ON THE HORIZON



36TH ANNUAL BANKRUPTCY SKILLS WORKSHOP

JUNE 5, 2026

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Pending FL CLE: 7.5 general CLE credits, including ethics and technology

Co-hosted by University of Miami School of Law, The Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida, and Dade Legal Aid/Put Something Back



Dade Legal Aid
Put Something Back
Est. 1949

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, July 16, 2026

34th Annual Nuts & Bolts
of Family Law
(Virtual Presentation)

Seminar is **Free** for all attorneys who
agree to accept a pro bono Family Law
case from Dade Legal Aid
Put Something Back.

Dade Legal Aid | 28 West Flagler Street Suite 608 | Miami, FL 33130 US

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