

Accolades



In February 2020, *The Palm Beach Post* reported “The Best of Palm Beach County Awards.” **SDSBS** was chosen as The Best Law Firm! We are proud of the recognition that our home community has given us. Thank you! ♦



In October 2019, **Karen Terry** was elected vice-president of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. **Matt Schwencke** was sworn in as a new member. ABOTA is a national association of experienced trial lawyers and judges. It was founded in 1958 to foster improvement in the ethical and technical standards of practice in the field of advocacy. ABOTA members are dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the right to a civil jury trial provided by the United States Constitution’s Seventh Amendment. Membership is by invitation only. ♦



In March 2020, the Palm Beach County Bar Association’s *Bar Bulletin* featured attorney **Laurie Briggs** in its “Member Spotlight.” The article featured Ms. Briggs’ early background and education and her extensive support for numerous charities including SDSBS Giving B.A.C.K. (Basic Acts of Community Kindness). For over 15 years, she has been deeply involved in Friends of Foster Children, Inc., dedicated to meeting the needs of children in foster care in Palm Beach County. She has been president of its board of directors for the past 12 years. At SDSBS, she has worked primarily on tobacco litigation, overseeing the firm’s more than 500 tobacco-related cases. Congratulations for the recognition, Laurie! ♦



Attorney **David Vitale** was recently appointed to the board of directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Delray Beach, Florida. They work to help youth of all backgrounds become responsible citizens and leaders. ♦



Attorney **Michael Kugler** was recently appointed to a four-year term as commissioner of the Palm Beach County Commission of Ethics. As commissioner, he will be fostering integrity in public services and promoting the public’s trust and confidence in the local community. ♦



In November 2019, the Forgotten Soldiers Outreach, Inc., hosted its “Fifth Annual Hero’s Toast Champagne Brunch” held at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach, Florida. This organization was founded to help send a little bit of home to deployed military personnel, including letters of encouragement and “We Care” packages of much-needed care items. **Jack Hill** accepted the “Distinguished Taking the Time to Care Award” on behalf of SDSBS, recognizing the firm’s continued support and participation in the organization’s mission. ♦



In January 2020, attorneys **Juan Diaz** and **Boris Zhadanovskiy** were sworn in as members of the board of directors of the Young Lawyers Section of the Palm Beach Justice Association. This will be Mr. Zhadanovskiy’s second term of office on the board. Attorney **D. J. Ward** was elected treasurer on PBCJA’s board of directors. The goal of PBCJA, established in 1988, is to provide civil trial lawyers with the tools and resources needed to improve and enhance trial practices. ♦



In January 2020, three SDSBS paralegals were sworn into offices of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Paralegal Association of Florida, Inc. **Olga Patterson** was elected chapter president. **Angela Eckman** was elected the chapter’s second vice-president. And **Aracely Mayorga** was elected chapter secretary. Congratulations to all! ♦