

# KELLY D. HANCOCK, ESQ.: A GENTLEMAN AND A TRUE PROFESSIONAL

by Christopher M. Neilson

*I immediately said yes, with no hesitation.*

Broward County Bar Association (BCBA) President John G. Jordan asked me to write an article for the Barrister about Attorney Kelly D. Hancock receiving the prestigious BCBA Lynn Futch Professionalism in Practice Award. The award is named for Lynn Futch, BCBA President 1998-1999. Lynn exemplified Professionalism, and sadly her stellar career and bright life were cut short much too soon, passing away on June 25, 2000.

Kelly truly deserves the award. It is impossible to write everything about Kelly's lifetime of Professionalism in an article limited to 500 words.

I have known Kelly Hancock since the 1970s. Prior to joining Krupnick & Campbell in 1989, Kelly served as an Assistant State Attorney, eventually becoming Chief of the Homicide Division of Broward County. He prosecuted many of South Florida's most well-publicized murder trials, four of which were featured on a syndicated television program "On Trial". Kelly, who has appeared on "60 Minutes", "20/20", and "Prime Time Live", was named "Best Prosecutor in South Florida" by South Florida Magazine.

It's hard for me to believe Kelly and I first met over 40 years ago when I was a Police Officer.



He is a good example of a good example and part of the reason I became an attorney. Kelly has always been courteous and has exemplified professionalism and genuine concern for everyone he has dealt with, especially victims and the families of victims of crimes. Through the years he has kept those same qualities with everyone. Having personally co-counseled with Kelly on many cases, I have seen his consistent compassion and effectiveness with numerous clients. I really got to know Kelly well during years working on cases with him through countless days of depositions, mediations, focus group trials, and case preparation.

Kelly is an amazing lawyer, advocate, and gentleman. I consider myself extremely privileged to have met and worked with him for it is through his example I have become a better person, lawyer and friend. He has quietly helped countless

people, and truly deserves the recognition of this award.

Kelly is my friend and one of the best. Just being around him feels right. Blessed with a perfect balance of everything, Kelly has an impeccable sense of timing and always knows just what to say and when to say it – Kelly treats people right. When you are with him, he is totally engaged. He lifts people up and encourages them by way of example to be the best they can. He has a great level of humility and acceptance. Kelly is always respectful, displays a kind and even temperament, and personifies collegiality. You can always count on Kelly to do what he says and be where he is supposed to be.

Nova Law Professor and former Chief Assistant Broward County State Attorney Chuck Morton said of Kelly: "He is considered by his peers to be one of the most highly skilled and respected trial advocates in Broward County". I will take it a step further - I think Kelly is one of the best lawyers anywhere.

CONGRATULATIONS MY DEAR FRIEND!



*Christopher M. "Chris" Neilson, Hollywood attorney, is past president of the Broward County Bar Association.*