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Robin S. Moselle

In Remembrance

The close of 2015 brought with it the passing of three Broward County attorneys, each who epitomized the very best in our legal profession. I had the honor of knowing these three notable individuals, and each contributed to the Broward County Bar Association in their own unique way.

On December 2, Sheldon “Shelly” Schlesinger, referred to as “The Dean of Broward Civil Litigators” by the Miami Herald, passed away at the age of 85. Named one of the most powerful personal injury attorneys in the county, Shelly assisted innumerable individuals when they were wrongfully injured, and his legal accomplishments

included being a part of the landmark legal team that successfully defeated the tobacco industry on behalf of the citizens of Florida. His office building, located just down the street from the Broward County Bar Association, stands out as prominently as Shelly did. I had the honor of sitting with Shelly on the Board of Governors for Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broward College of Law. When Shelly spoke, the room became silent, and everyone listened to his words with rapt silence. In addition to being the embodiment of the best in the legal profession, Shelly’s philanthropy was far reaching. He was a long time member of the Broward County Bar Association, and was always available with his time, funding, or resources when asked to contribute to a BCBA cause or event.

The Broward County legal community suffered another loss when Bruno DiGiulian passed away on December 6. As accomplished and renowned as he was as a family law attorney, Bruno was perhaps better known as a mentor to those in the legal community, always giving of his time and advice. In addition to serving as president of the Broward County Bar Association in 1971, Bruno was the recipient of the Lynn Futch Professionalism in Practice Award in 2000, and until very recently, remained active on the BCBA Bench & Bar Committee. Bruno would always arrive at the meetings with a smile on his face and regale the committee with stories in a humorous fashion.

The end of the year also saw the passing of James “Jim” Cobb, Jr. Jim began his legal career as a prosecutor in the Miami Dade State Attorney’s Office before joining the Office of Statewide Prosecution in the Florida Attorney General’s Office, serving under four different administrations. Jim was the recipient of many accolades from victims of crime, and the both the Federal and State law enforcement community. Jim was active in the Broward County Bar Association, and we served on the Board of Directors together for a few years. Jim helped form the BCBA Professionalism Committee, believing that attorneys should be held to a higher standard of professionalism, integrity and competence. Through his work on the Professionalism Committee Jim was able to instill these qualities in the newly minted attorneys joining the profession.

Psychologist and philosopher William James said, “The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.” It is unquestionable that Shelly, Bruno and Jim will be missed, and each lived a life whose legacy will live on. **B**