QUALITY OF LIFE
AWARD APPLICATIONS
KAYSIA EARLEY
The Michael K. Reese Quality of Life Award recognizes the person and/or entity that, through humanitarian respect, advances balance and fulfillment in lawyers’ lives by redefining current work habits and schedules to provide more flexibility and a more meaningful existence. Quality of Life shall be defined as finding equilibrium between work and family and community involvement to maximize good health and minimize stress in one’s career.

Name of Nominee: Kaysia M. Earley, Esquire

Nominee’s Telephone: (301) 379-7528

Nominee’s Email: KEarley@Earleylawfirm.com

Name of Nominator: Waseme Z. Marcelin

Nominator’s Telephone: (954) 513-8069

Nominator’s Email: WMarcelin@Earleylawfirm.com

Attachments: It is mandatory to attach a letter or statement from the nominator explaining why the nominee deserves this award. It is optional to attach materials from third parties, such as photographs, articles, or additional letters in support.

The completed application is due by Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. Email this cover sheet and all attachments to Awards Co-Chair Lara Bach at Lara.Bach@weil.com with a copy to tmiller@flabar.org.
It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I nominate Mrs. Kaysia M. Earley for consideration for The Michael K. Reese Quality of Life Award in recognition of her advances in redefining current work habits and schedules to provide more flexibility and a more meaningful existence in the legal field. Kaysia is uniquely qualified for this honor because of her innovative vision for Earley Law Firm, PLLC, which she founded in July of 2016. Utilizing her experience working for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), a government agency voted “Best Place to Work” due to its telework program, Kaysia modeled Earley Law Firm after this agency from its inception. Her virtual platform improves company flexibility, thus creating a manageable work/life balance, reduced turnover, increased productivity, and continues to save the firm in overhead costs. Furthermore, in less than a year, the Firm has managed to increase and sustain its profits through innovative and cost-effective marketing campaigns which utilize social media platforms, as opposed to the antiquated and often expensive forms of advertising which contribute to environmental waste.

Kaysia understood early on, the importance of efficiency and minimizing unnecessary overhead costs and wasting resources. For these purposes, Kaysia highly promotes a virtual-based business model which utilizes the use of the latest legal software technology for many of the tasks in which brick-and-mortar law firms are not willing or have not yet adapted to. Kaysia’s innovative approach to her practice ensures a more productive legal practice, which translates to cost savings for the company and for her pro-bono and paying clients. A few ways in which Kaysia is able to keep costs down, is through the substitution of on-site staff with virtual assistants and paralegals and most importantly, replacing in-house servers with cloud-based solutions. Kaysia also promotes technical and leadership training opportunities to improve the morale and effectiveness of Earley Law Firm's highly talented growing legal team. Kaysia’s goal is to provide top notch legal services to clients and she can effectively do so mainly because she makes great use of the tools and software options currently offered within the legal industry. For example, her client-friendly website is modernized and features up-to-date information and will soon re-launch with a secure Client Portal login system. This feature will enable clients to efficiently upload and download case documents, as well as see real-time case development, view invoices and communicate concerning their case. In turn, Kaysia maintains client satisfaction, while increasing staff efficiency. By allowing our many clients to upload their documents securely, I can better devote time and energy in a plethora of other areas such as planning Kaysia’s community speaking events or implementing new marketing strategies.
Personally, I have experienced the benefits of working remotely, while maintaining my duties as the Marketing Coordinator and Paralegal for nearly a year. I have been able to assist in building the company’s main website and social media sites, handle numerous legal tasks, communicate with clients via telephone/ email correspondence, send and receive faxes, e-file, complete payroll/ HR tasks, etc.- all while living overseas in Cairo, Egypt with my husband and young daughter. I was honored when Kaysia not only shared her vision of branching out and starting her own law firm, but asked me to come aboard with her. Having the flexibility to do what I love while I remain overseas with my husband as he serves our country, greatly provides equilibrium between work and family. I have been working in this field for several years and have never experienced such a level of satisfaction as I currently have now working under Mrs. Earley. Kaysia is truly a huge supporter of family and minimizing stress in the busy legal work environment. We are undoubtedly able to better serve our community and clients through the innovative advancements we are making daily and the sky is truly the limit. I salute her for her achievements in redefining what it means to successfully balance work, family, and community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Waseme Z. Marcelin

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Earley Law Firm’s Social Media Sites

Facebook:  https://www.facebook.com/EarleyLawFirm/
Facebook keeps our family, clients, and friends updated on upcoming community events, trial wins, and political happenings pertinent to our cause for justice. The Facebook business page offers client reviews section and options to place marketing ads to target potential clients on a local or national level or global level.

Twitter:  https://twitter.com/EarleyLawPLLC
Company Website:  [http://www.earleylawfirm.com/](http://www.earleylawfirm.com/)

Client-friendly website is modernized and features up-to-date information and will soon re-launch with a secure Client Portal login system. This feature will enable clients to efficiently upload and download case documents, as well as see real-time case development, view invoices and communicate concerning their case.

**Community**

Scholars of Taravella High School following Kaysia Earley Esquire's in depth presentation on the T.R.A.P.S message.
DEBORAH BAKER-EGOZI
The Michael K. Reese Quality of Life Award recognizes the person and/or entity that, through humanitarian respect, advances balance and fulfillment in lawyers’ lives by redefining current work habits and schedules to provide more flexibility and a more meaningful existence. Quality of Life shall be defined as finding equilibrium between work and family and community involvement to maximize good health and minimize stress in one’s career.

Name of Nominee: Deborah Baker-Egozi

Nominee’s Telephone: 305-537-3909

Nominee’s Email: deborah.baker-egozi@gmlaw.com

Name of Nominator: Rebecca Ocariz

Nominator’s Telephone: 305-934-2089

Nominator’s Email: rebeccaocariz1@gmail.com

Attachments: It is mandatory to attach a letter or statement from the nominator explaining why the nominee deserves this award. It is optional to attach materials from third parties, such as photographs, articles, or additional letters in support.

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I am honored to nominate Deborah Baker-Egozi for the Michael K. Reese Quality of Life Award.

Deborah Baker-Egozi is a shareholder at the law firm of Greenspoon Marder concentrating her practice in commercial litigation, with significant focus on the areas of business and real estate litigation. Ms. Baker-Egozi has significant experience litigating jury and non-jury trials and handling appeals in both state and federal courts. She has been recognized by South Florida Legal Guide as a Top Lawyer, as a Florida Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers Magazine and as a Legal Elite by Florida Trend magazine.

Ms. Baker-Egozi also sits on the Florida Bar Board of Governors. She ran for this position in a hotly contested election in 2016 in order to advocate for women lawyers and to improve gender equality in the profession. During her service as Governor, she has been a vocal supporter of the proposed Parental Leave Rule which would make court continuances mandatory for lead attorneys seeking relief because of parental leave absent substantial prejudice to the opposing party. Ms. Baker-Egozi has forcefully lobbied for the passage of this Rule speaking to numerous voluntary bar associations, lawyers, judges and other Governors concerning the necessity and appropriateness of such a Rule.

As a result of her advocacy, the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, the Miami-Dade County Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, the Pinellas County Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, the Cuban American Bar Association, the Gwen S. Cherry Black Lawyers Association and the Dade County Bar Association all passed resolutions stating that they are in favor of the Rule. Additionally, because of her persuasive discussions with the Chair-Elect of the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges, that organization voted overwhelmingly to support the Rule.

The enactment of this Rule will allow lawyers to continue to pursue their careers as trial lawyers while simultaneously pursuing a family. It ensures that attorneys are able to provide the best possible service by allowing them the flexibility to continue to represent their clients even when they become parents. The Rule helps to foster a greater work-life balance by allowing women and men the judgment-free opportunity to be active in their children’s lives from the time of their birth without sacrificing advancement of their careers.

Deborah Baker-Egozi is a role model for attorneys committed to becoming leaders in the profession and equally committed to being successful parents. Ms. Baker-Egozi is a shareholder in a prestigious law firm, a community leader and the proud mother of Levi (5) and Megan (3). She has worked tirelessly to effectuate change in improving work life balance in the legal profession.

Deborah Baker-Egozi exemplifies the qualifications set forth for the Michael K. Reese Quality of Life Award and is deserving of this honor.