

17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
COURT OF FLORIDA
BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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ABOTA Honors Judges Fahnstock and Levenson With Top Awards

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL – The 17th Judicial Circuit Court is pleased to announce that the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) Fort Lauderdale Chapter has named Judge Fabienne E. Fahnstock its **2025 Jurist of the Year**. ABOTA also presented Judge Jeffrey R. Levenson with its **President's Award**.

Both judges were honored on Jan. 15 during ABOTA's 2025 Installation and Award Ceremony at the Lauderdale Yacht Club.

"The 17th Judicial Circuit is incredibly proud of Judge Fabienne E. Fahnstock for being named the 2025 Jurist of the Year by the American Board of Trial Advocates," said Chief Judge Carol-Lisa Phillips. "We also wish to extend our sincere congratulations to Judge Jeffrey R. Levenson on receiving the President's Award. Both honors are a testament to their dedication and service to our judiciary."

According to ABOTA, the Jurist of the Year Award recognizes a member of the bench who fosters the ethical and technical standards of practice in the field of advocacy.

Judge Fahnstock was selected by the membership of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Fort Lauderdale Chapter, for numerous reasons. She is recognized for upholding the highest standards of civility and professionalism in her courtroom, both in her expectations of attorneys and through her own judicial demeanor.

"Our members selected Judge Fahnstock for this award as we believe she embodies the best of what the 17th Judicial Circuit has to offer," said Miles A. McGrane IV, ABOTA Fort Lauderdale president.

The President's Award recognizes extraordinary contributions and dedication to furthering the mission of ABOTA.

Said Judge Levenson: “It is a privilege to receive this award from ABOTA, one of the most prestigious legal organizations. Recognition from attorneys I respect so deeply is especially meaningful.”

According to ABOTA’s website, “Justice by the People” is the advocacy group’s primary mission. ABOTA seeks to foster improvement in the ethical and technical standards of practice in the field of advocacy to more effectively represent litigants.

ABOUT THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida is the court for Broward County, headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, FL. It is the second largest circuit court in the state. Broward County has 90 judges. Of those, 32 are county court judges and 58 are circuit judges. Four courthouses comprise the 17th circuit and include the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, and three satellite courthouses: the North Regional Courthouse in Deerfield Beach, the West Regional Courthouse in Plantation and the South Regional Courthouse in Hollywood.

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