

GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYONE!

THANK YOU HERMAN FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION!

LET ME BEGIN BY THANKING THE DADE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION FOR INVITING ME TO THE 2015 DADE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION BENCH AND BAR CONFERENCE.

I AM HONORED TO STAND HERE TODAY AND SHARE THIS STAGE WITH SEVERAL LUMINARIES OF THE LEGAL AND BUSINESS WORLD. ALL OF US IN THIS ROOM, AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AS A WHOLE, CAN REST EASIER KNOWING THAT YOU ARE AT THE HELM OF ENSURING THE FAIR ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

I WANT TO TAKE THE TIME TO CONGRATULATE TWO GENTLEMEN HERE WITH US TODAY. JUDGE ROSENBAUMON, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE 11TH CIRCUIT,

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO STEVE ZACK, ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS THE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

YOU BOTH CONTINUE TO MAKE THIS COUNTY SHINE WITH YOUR DISTINGUISHED CIVIL SERVICE.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES CEO, ARNOLD DONALD FOR JOINING US TODAY. WE ARE PROUD THAT CARNIVAL CONTINUES TO CALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HOME.

AND FINALLY, I WANT TO RECOGNIZE JORDAN DRESNICK AND JEFFREY RYNOR FOR THEIR SUCCESS IN PRODUCING THIS GREAT PROGRAM.

DEAR FRIENDS...

I AM PROUD TO KNOW THAT THE LARGEST C.L.E. CONFERENCE OF ANY VOLUNTARY BAR IN THE UNITED STATES IS BEING HELD RIGHT HERE, IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

AS MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY I AM THRILLED TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO ONE OF THE GREATEST COMMUNITIES IN THE WORLD. OUR COUNTY IS ALSO ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE AND EXCITING COMMUNITIES TO LIVE, WORK AND INVEST IN.

THE DADE-COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION IS AMONG THE LARGEST AND MOST DIVERSE GROUPS OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS IN THE U.S.

IT IS THANKS TO ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THESE THAT WE CONTINUE TO WITNESS THE INCREDIBLE GROWTH THAT WE SEE ALL AROUND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

I'M SURE MANY OF YOU HAVE SEEN THE TRANSFORMATION THAT OUR DOWNTOWN AREA IS EXPERIENCING. WELL, I HOPE THAT OUR 80-YEAR-OLD COURTHOUSE SOON UNDERGOES A MUCH NEEDED AND WELL-DESERVED MAKE OVER.

WE ARE TAKING THE NECESSARY STEPS TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A NEW HOME THAT WILL BE REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY AND A BUILDING THAT WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF THIS 21ST CENTURY.

AS YOU ARE ALL AWARE, THE DADE COUNTY COURTHOUSE WAS BUILT AT A TIME WHEN OUR COUNTY'S POPULATION WAS APPROXIMATELY 200,000.

TODAY, MIAMI-DADE IS HOME TO 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS. CLEARLY, OUR COUNTY HAS GROWN AND IT ALSO NEEDS A NEW COURTHOUSE.

MY ADMINISTRATION IS WORKING TO FIND THE RIGHT SOLUTIONS TO RENOVATING "CIELITO LINDO" WHILE REMAINING FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE AND PROTECTING TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

YOU, OUR HARD WORKING MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY SYSTEM, SPEND YOUR CAREERS COMMITTED TO ADJUDICATING COMPLEX LEGAL ISSUES, AND I THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.

ATTORNEYS IN THIS ROOM, MANY OF WHOM I AM DELIGHTED TO CALL MY COLLEAGUES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GOVERNMENT, DEFEND OUR COUNTY'S BEST INTERESTS AND ENSURE THAT ALL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY, CAN ENJOY EQUAL CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS.

AND THE ATTORNEYS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE WHO ARE AMONG THIS COUNTRY'S MOST EXPERIENCED AND DISTINGUISHED PRACTITIONERS IN AREAS RANGING FROM SECURITIES AND FIRST AMENDMENT, TO ANTITRUST AND FAMILY LAW.

INDEED, YOUR ADVOCACY HAS LED TO GREATER CONSUMER PROTECTIONS, ADVANCEMENTS IN HOW COURTS VIEW ARBITRAL AGREEMENTS, AND EVEN THE LEGAL LIMITS OF DIGITAL MARKETING.

PRESIDENT THOMAS JEFFERSON WISELY SAID: "RIGHTFUL LIBERTY IS UNOBSTRUCTED ACTION ACCORDING TO OUR WILL WITHIN LIMITS DRAWN AROUND US BY THE EQUAL RIGHTS OF OTHERS."

ALL 1,200 JUDGES AND ATTORNEYS IN THIS ROOM DEFINE THOSE RIGHTS, SO THAT OUR COMMUNITY CAN CONTINUE ITS PROGRESSION INTO ONE OF THE FINEST METROPOLITAN COMMUNITIES IN THE WORLD.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WOULD NOT BE THE FINE PLACE THAT IT IS TODAY TO WORK, LIVE, LEARN AND INVEST WITHOUT THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT EACH OF YOU HAVE MADE.

IN ALL THAT WE DO, OUR COMMON GOAL IS TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RESIDENTS.

SO ON BEHALF OF THE 2.6 MILLION RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND DEDICATION.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY!

