

Equels and Fabar establish social justice endowment at FSU's College of Law

Thomas K. Equels, Managing Director of The Equels Law Firm and his wife Laura Fabar, Managing Director of Laura M. Fabar & Associates, L.L.P., have established an endowment at The Florida State University College of Law to teach legal students about the importance of social justice. The Equels - Fabar Endowment for Social Justice will fund programs and scholarships aimed at developing individual virtues to improve society.

The concept of social justice and responding to people in need helped shape me as an attorney; so the creation of this program was a personal dream for Laura and me,² Equels said. "My pro bono cases have always been very important to me," said Fabar," and we are grateful that we can contribute something back to encourage young lawyers to make pro bono a part of their lives."

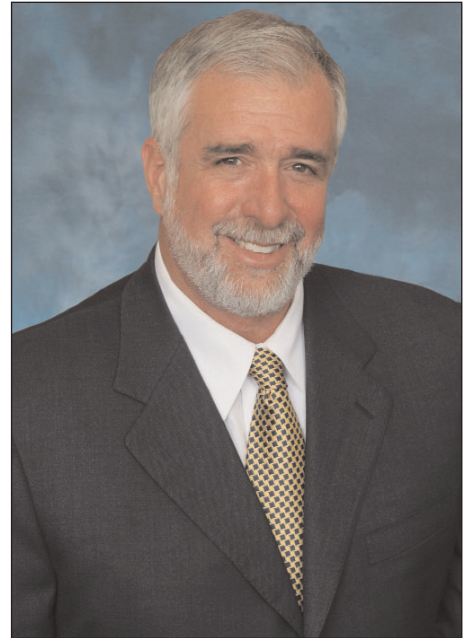
Equels, who received a juris doctor degree from The Florida State University College of Law, is no stranger to social justice work. In 1987, Equels was awarded the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award and the Federal Bar Public Service Award and in 1995, he received the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Miami's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award. The Vietnam War veteran was honored with two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, 15 Air Medals, and the Purple Heart for combat. Currently, Equels is working on a teach-



Laura Fabar.

ing project in schools and churches helping to promote virtues for success through both seminars and the arts.

Fabar is also heavily involved in social justice efforts. She was the first recipient of the Ray H. Pearson Guardian-Ad-Litem Award, which recognizes exemplary service to the Court and to the Children of Miami-Dade County, for her pro bono Guardian-Ad-Litem work. In 1999, the American Bar Association, Section of Family Law honored Fabar in appreciation of her pro bono activity in the field of family law. Fabar was also one of the main



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lawyers in the Elian Gonzalez case. Currently, Fabar is a volunteer Guardian ad Litem in several cases.

The lawyer who takes on a guardian ad litem case and protects a young child, the high school student who working in a church food line to help feed the homeless, the doctor at the free clinic in a migrant camp, are all, by their individual efforts, creating a more just and virtuous society,² Equels said. ³Laura and I have been blessed in both our legal practices and civic activities. We are eager to share our experience with the next generation of lawyers.