



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS of Women

Nevertheless She Persisted:

Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

March is National Women's History Month and the Broward County Commission on the Status of Women honors these extraordinary women in our community who nevertheless persist in the fight against discrimination at all levels and in all forms. Their achievements and contributions are successfully challenging the status quo and championing change for women in the workplace.



Kamala Anandam

Kamala Anandam's biography begins with her mother, a fourth-grade dropout who was widowed in 1936 with the oldest of her nine children still in high school. She persevered until her four sons and five daughters received a college education. Against all odds, she successfully completed a multi-million dollar, multi-institutional computer project while working. She has helped many women and girls to believe in themselves and persevere to reach their goals. Her founding of the Weston Branch of the American Association of University Women and the AW Foundation speaks to her patience, persistence and perseverance until a task is accomplished.



Elyse Claprod

Elyse Claprod is a maternal/child advocate and has dedicated her career to helping women and their newborns gain access to healthcare services for prenatal and pregnancy care. Her accomplishments include serving on the Children's Services Council; receiving the CEO Award from Broward Health Medical Center for the Gift Program – which provides Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis vaccines for post-partum women and their families which helped diminish the spread of whooping cough countywide; serving on the board of March of Dimes; and as past board president of Healthy Mothers-Healthy Babies Coalition of Broward County. Elyse has a degree in Health Services from Florida Atlantic University and is currently working in the field of organizational leadership at Broward Health Corporate.



Sonya Crudup

Sonya Crudup is the Director of Residential Services at the Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center in Pembroke Pines which provides treatment and support to substance addicted mothers and their families. Sonya, a 1998 graduate of the Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center, has held the positions as a Residential Specialist, and Case Manager/Peer Mentor, and is currently the Residential Services Manager of the Center. She is a Certified Addiction Counselor who plans to continue her education in social work. Sonya dedicates herself to providing the Center's women and children living with the disease of addiction with strength, hope, structure and support.



Jacqueline Powell

Jacqueline (Jackie) Powell is a sole practitioner at the Law Offices of Jackie Powell & Associates. A native of Jamaica, Jackie graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and earned her Juris Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad Law Center. For more than 17 years, she served the community as a youth mentor at Gateway Church in Fort Lauderdale. Jackie continues to serve the community as a volunteer Guardian Ad Litem, as well as being active in several non-profit organizations. During her third year of law school, she worked as

a certified legal intern at the Broward County Public Defender's Office. Upon being admitted to the Florida Bar, she continued to work as an Assistant Public Defender for approximately 8 years. The time that Jackie served as an Assistant Public Defender taught her the skills that she needed to become a trial attorney and a zealous advocate for her clients.



Sonya Artis Richards

From pregnant and homeless to national author, motivational speaker, and owner of Led by Motivation, Sonya has channeled her sorrow, depression and anger to become a better, more optimistic woman and has dedicated herself to helping others in the community. Sonya has authored two published books, penned four different magazines, become a motivational speaker, and opened Led by Motivation, LLC solely to help the hurting, needy and disenfranchised. Currently, she is writing three books while working full-time for the Department of Health as a Program Manager in the Test and Treat Program combat-

ting AIDS. Sonya uses her past pain and struggles to give others hope, and serves as a role model with her life's mantra, "If I can survive, you can too"



Sasha Shulman

Sasha Shulman began her career as an Assistant State Attorney in Broward County. She prosecuted capital homicide cases and served in the Domestic Violence Unit, handling thousands of cases and fighting tirelessly for victims. Sasha is now a sole practitioner concentrating on Estate Planning and Criminal Law. Her advocacy for women is exemplified by her continued commitment to provide representation to victims of domestic violence. She is also committed to the advancement of women by participating in the Women to Women mentoring program offered through her alma mater, Tulane University. She also mentors young attorneys through the Broward Bar Association. Sasha continues to

be a voice for women and a strong advocate for the rights of minorities.



Liza E. Smoker

Liza E. Smoker is a Partner at Rogers, Morris & Ziegler, LLP and focuses her practice in the areas of real estate, commercial and civil litigation, business, and other matters. She was born and raised in Fort Lauderdale and spends much of her free time giving back to the city she loves. Liza was president of the Broward County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section from 2014 to 2015. During her service on the Young Lawyers Board, the organization provided countless hours of community service and raised more than \$200,000 for local charities. In 2016, she helped spearhead an initiative to organize more than 20 events throughout Broward and Palm Beach Counties to raise awareness of the harmful effects of

pornography, including its impact on children, sexual abuse, and the link to sex trafficking. She currently works with legislators and other government officials on other methods of raising awareness of sex trafficking and its link to pornography in our community, including an educational Resolution currently pending in the House (HR 157) and the Senate (SR 480).



Yanina Szumiel (Posthumously)

Yanina Szumiel was born in 1924 to immigrant parents and as her mother before her, she made her way with quiet determination, integrity and resolve amidst the turbulence of war, civil, social and political unrest. Despite uncertainty from the residuals of the Great Depression, she successfully conquered adversity by securing employment in a male-dominated workplace; attending night classes; cultivating an accounting career and loving home, while preserving and honoring cherished European values and traditions. A 7 time cancer survivor, she fought valiantly and supported many along the way. She will be admired and long remembered for her kind, gentle ways; dedication to family and church; service to

community; and relentless passion for veteran affairs and child advocacy.



Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Sworn into the United States House of Representatives in 2005, Broward resident Debbie Wasserman Schultz has advocated at the national level for justice, equality, and opportunity for our local citizens. A tireless advocate for women and children, she introduced the Rape Survivor Child Custody Act, offering termination of parental rights for rapists, and the PROTECT Our Children Act. Following breast cancer, Debbie introduced the EARLY Act and co-authored the PALS Act to increase breast cancer education and access to mammograms. Since her re-election in 2016, she introduced the Fair Housing for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivors Act of 2017 and the #MeToo Congressional Ethics Act.

The shootings at the Broward County Fort-Lauderdale Hollywood International Airport inspired the Airport ALERT Act, and she responded to post-Irma issues with the Nursing Home CARE Act. Active on five Committees, she sponsored the Veterans PARC Act of 2017 when local veterans informed her of difficulties accessing Veterans Affairs facilities, and the Marine Oil Spill Prevention Act for preservation of Broward's coastline and wetlands.

