

January 1, 2011

McPharlin honored for child advocacy

Florida's Children First honored child advocate and attorney Tracey McPharlin at its annual Palm Beach Child Advocate Awards Reception.

The event had approximately 100 attendees and raised more than \$27,000, which will go toward FCF's child advocacy efforts across the state.

McPharlin passed away just 10 days after the ceremony on November 6, 2010, in Ft. Lauderdale following a battle with cancer.

McPharlin received recognition for her numerous pro bono cases and efforts that have benefited children and youth in Palm Beach County and around the country. Her work in *H.A.L. v. Foltz* resulted in the landmark 11th Circuit Court of Appeals decision, which paved the way to protect many other children in this state and throughout the country who are sexually abused in foster care.

Scott Hawkins, president-elect of The Florida Bar, also presented The Florida Bar Hugh Glickstein Award to McPharlin for her work with the Public Interest Law Section. South Florida attorney Todd McPharlin accepted the awards on behalf of his sister.

"Tracey was a true advocate for our cause," said FCF President Howard Talenfeld. "Her passion for protecting the rights and well being of foster children throughout the state of Florida has been inspiring. I was so proud to honor her and recognize the tireless efforts she made protecting this most vulnerable, at risk population."