

My name is Frances Guasch De La Guardia and I am running for Florida Board of Governors (FBOG), 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit, Seat 6.

I have practiced law for more than 30 years and have had a diverse legal career, including serving as a staff lawyer for five 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court judges, law clerk for the Honorable Melvia Green at the Third DCA, trial lawyer at a small firm, in-house appellate counsel for a national insurance firm, and my current position of partner at the multi-national law firm of Holland & Knight (H&K) going on 14 years. My career has provided me the unique insight of practicing in many areas of the law -- all while balancing work and motherhood.

For the past six years, I have served on the Cuban American Bar Association (CABA) Board of Directors. And in 2020, I had the honor of serving and leading the organization as president during the global pandemic. Despite the challenges of an extraordinary year, we were able to re-invent the organization's programming and pivot to an online service-based platform to benefit the community (members and non-members) via valuable CLE content and mental health webinars; I would bring that expertise to the BOG. During my term on the CABA Board I was able to gain insight into the BOG while serving as an ex officio member from 2018-2019.

While at H&K, I was nationally recognized for my pro bono (over 100 hours annually) and community service work (assisting victims of hurricanes Irma and Maria, in the Florida Keys and Puerto Rico).

I pledge to focus on:

- Taking my experience leading a voluntary bar organization during a pandemic and using that expertise to better meet the needs of our membership, whether on digital or in-person platforms, including member CLE and mental health programming and assistance.
- Ensuring we continue to embrace diversity and inclusion and advocate for equality and elimination of gender bias in the practice and business of law.

Throughout my career I have committed myself to the legal community and have a proven record of service. Serving is my calling and I wish to continue to serve. I hope that my record of community service and effective leadership will allow me to serve as your representative on the FBOG as your Circuit 11, Seat 6 representative.

Other Experience and Leadership:

The Florida Chief Justice's Advisory Committee for the Pro Bono Service Awards, 2020

CABA Foundation, President, 2021-Present.

CABA President 2020.

CABA Board of Directors, 2015-Present.

CABA Pro Bono, President 2019.

Florida Bar Board of Governors, Ex Officio Member 2018-2019.

Florida Bar Civil Rules of Procedure Committee, 2017-2019.

Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator, Civil and Appellate, 2014-Present

St. Thomas University School of Law: Advisory Board, 2016-Present

St. Thomas University School of Law: Alumni Association, President, 2016-Present

Florida Bar Appellate Rules of Procedure Committee 2007-2014.

I humbly ask for your support and respectfully ask for your vote beginning March 1, 2021. Visit my website [www.fdlgbog.com](http://www.fdlgbog.com) to review a list of endorsements of my candidacy.