

Let Me Tell You About My Best Friend

By: *Rebecca Morgan, Esq.*



LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY BEST FRIEND MARY ALICE JACKSON, who is this year's NAELA recipient of the Theresa Award.

Mary Alice is a tireless advocate for access to justice for all clients, especially those who have special needs. She is empathetic, creative and intelligent in her approach to representing her clients. She goes the extra mile time after time for her clients. Mary Alice brings joy to those she meets. She has an energy that radiates from her. You know immediately that she cares about people, especially those who are disadvantaged.

Mary Alice, “the lawyer,” is licensed in Florida and Texas, where she practices elder law and special needs planning, including estate planning for individuals with disabilities and their families. She is board certified in elder law in Florida, where she served as chair of the elder law section and president of the Sarasota County Bar Association. She’s a fellow of NAELA, received the Powley Award for her public service and holds an AV+ rating from Martindale Hubbell. In private practice now in Austin, Texas, she is a member of the Texas Chapter of NAELA, serves on the NAELA public policy steering committee, and is a member of the Special Needs Alliance where she serves on its Board of Directors and its public policy committee.

We at Stetson are thrilled to call her one of ours, and it will come as no surprise that she graduated with honors. She’s a long-term adjunct for the College of Law, currently teaching in Stetson’s LL.M. in Elder Law. She received the Reece Smith Public Service Award from the College of Law in recognition of her pro bono service. She is a sought-after speaker and author.

Now let me tell you about Mary Alice, the person. She is one of those rare human beings who, when you are in her presence, she makes you want to be a better person. She is smart, funny, hard-working, quick witted, ready to help at the drop of a hat, and has a heart as big as Texas. Her compassion for her clients is boundless. She is a steadfast friend, loyal to the end. She is devoted to her family and her friends. Her heart belongs to her family and she lives her life in honor of her late son Andrew.

Mary Alice Jackson is one-of-a-kind and we are all better for knowing her.