



THE FINIZIO ADVOCATE

All the Latest News, Updates and Announcements from the Law Offices of Finizio & Finizio, P.A. | August-September 2011

The Finizio Law Firm Wishes Everyone A Happy Labor Day.

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Case Profile: Racial Profiling and Discrimination

Finizio & Finizio client Ms. Estero (not her real name) is a 20 year old, Haitian, black, female who was a nursing student at the time this incident occurred. Ms. Estero was shopping at a nationwide pharmacy in Collier County and since that day she still suffers psychologically from nightmares and haunting images of her arrest and jail time all due to RACIAL PROFILING AND DISCRIMINATION.

Before the incident took place, Ms. Estero had shopped and paid for products at the store cash register. The Store Manager alleges he was watching her as she was browsing and said that she stole from the store. After stopping her at the cash register and not meeting his demands of emptying her purse, the manager detained her and another female Haitian and followed through on his threat to call the police. The police were called and she was arrested and taken into custody. She was taken to jail and held



overnight into the next day. Nothing in her purse was found to be stolen.

Finizio and Finizio has filed a lawsuit on behalf of Ms. Estero alleging racial profiling and improper detention and treatment of this young lady which occurred needlessly and resulted in her horrifying experience.

Unbelievably, the only concrete evidence of the wrongdoing by the store manager was captured on the store's video camera, but the pharmacy is claiming that the video was recorded over. Ms. Estero has to deal with the ramifications of this incident for the rest of her life. Despite the fact that she committed no crime, she has a permanent arrest record which creates hardships for her in obtaining employment as a nursing assistant where "no arrest" requirements are a condition for employment. Ms. Estero is suffering many hardships within her community as a result of this incident. In addition to her personal trauma, her reputation within the Haitian community, church and work have been severely tarnished due to this injustice.

Her lawsuit seeks to hold the Store Manager and his employer at fault for the circumstances that arose, for failing to properly investigate the Store Manager's background and qualifications, failure to properly train him as a Store Manager and failure to remove him from the management position after the incident occurred. Ms. Estero alleges that this nationwide company had no reason to suspect her of shoplifting other than the fact that she is black. The pharmacy is responsible for the negligent hiring and retention of the Store Manager and his racial profiling.

Partner Paul G. Finizio says, "Finizio & Finizio has been fighting this racial profiling battle for Ms. Estero because we feel strongly about discrimination and racial profiling. If you, your friends or loved ones have suffered from age, disability, race/color, national origin, sex/gender or religion discrimination at a store, pharmacy, work, etc., please call us at 1-866-FINIZIO (346-4946) to inform you of your rights.

The Hispanic Women of Distinction Luncheon

On August 12th, 2011 The Law Firm of Finizio & Finizio was proud to be a sponsor of the Annual Hispanic Women of Distinction Luncheon held at The Signature Grand in Davie, Florida. It was the 10th Anniversary of the Hispanic Women of Distinction Charity Award Luncheon. The luncheon was presented by The Bank of America in partnership with Latina Style Magazine. The twelve Latinas who were honored at this year's luncheon have pioneered the way for others to achieve their goals in business, healthcare, education, communications and charity here in South Florida. Also honored at the luncheon for Latina of the Year was Aida Levitan, PhD, an individual whose 35 years in communications and marketing has impacted millions of people around the globe. Community, culture and charity were this year's themes surrounding this event with over 1000 guests attending.

The silent auction, raffles and donations will benefit the Light of the World Clinic which was founded in 1989 by the late Dr. Erwin M. Vasquez who passed away in 2010. The Light of the World Clinic provides free medical services to the needy, underserved communities and immigrant populations by volunteer doctors, nurses and medical students from at least seven different universities and colleges. The luncheon was a huge success and enjoyed by all who participated and supported this great event.

Top Photo: Shelly Gonzalez, Sophie Bouzon, Sonia Baez, Vivian Sostre and Gladys Guerrero

Middle Photo: Brenda Sigurdson, Elizabeth Finizio and Ninowtzka Mier

Bottom Photo: Legal Assistants: Lizzy Bouzon, Shelly Gonzalez and Sophie Bouzon



The BCWLA Annual Installation of Officers and Board of Directors

Attorney Elizabeth Finizio of the Law Offices of Finizio & Finizio, will be installed as the President-Elect of the Broward County Women Lawyers' Association on September 9th, 2011, along with Jacquelyn Holden, President; Julie Hough, VP; Ninowtzka Mier, Treasurer and Cheryl Bucker, Secretary. The Honorable Barbara Lagoa of the Third District Court of Appeal will be administering the Oath of Office. The luncheon will be held at the Riverside Hotel in Fort Lauderdale beginning at 11:30 a.m. If you would like to attend, please visit the Broward County Women Lawyers' Association web site for more

information [Broward County Women Lawyers](#) website and click on Upcoming Events.

The Broward County Women Lawyers' Association is the Broward County chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL), the State of Florida's women's bar organization.

BCWLA is a diverse group of lawyers and judges who reside, work, and socialize in Broward County. The unifying factor for the BCWLA is the recognition that the

successful practice of law reaches far beyond the courtroom. While BCWLA members vary in terms of experience, areas of practice, gender, age, and ethnicity, we share the common vision that a successful legal

community thrives on the commitment of its lawyers and judges to the legal and civic community.

The Finizio Family to be Honored by Symphony of the Americas

On October 25, 2011, the Symphony of the Americas Society will host its annual Style & Substance Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty Six, honoring prominent individuals who have distinguished themselves through outstanding service and commitment to our community. The Finizio Family will be recipients of this prestigious award for their support of the arts in Broward County.

For more information on attending the Style and Substance Luncheon, or to place a congratulatory ad in the commemorative program journal, contact: Judy Marini at 954-644-9049 or judymarini@aol.com

The Finizio family patriarch, Rick Finizio, an icon in our community, passed away in November 2010, leaving behind a legacy of philanthropy to his wife, four children, Michael, Paul, Marianne and Jamie Finizio, his grandchildren, and his community.



Marianne Finizio, Michael Finizio, Jamie Finizio Bascombe, Paul Finizio

Jamie and Paul, through their Trial Law Firm of Finizio & Finizio, based in downtown Fort Lauderdale, are well known for their enthusiasm, energy and dedication to positively influencing others' lives, and continuing the tradition established by their father of support of the Symphony of the Americas. Paul, in addition to being

President of the prestigious Il Circolo Palm Beach Italian Cultural Society and area coordinator of the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF), has been recognized and presented with the Distinguished Alumni of the Year award by the Nova Southeastern University School of Law. Jamie has received the March of Dimes Women of Distinction Award and the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Mother of the Year award. Committed to children in need she has served on the Pace Broward Girls Center Board and Committee for the past 17 years and is past President of both the Nova Southeastern School of Law Alumni Association and Broward Women Lawyers Association. Both Jamie and Paul are members of the Board of Governors of Nova Southeastern University School of Law and have continuously served their state and local Bar Association Boards.

Marianne Finizio, with a Master's in Business Administration, is Vice Chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery at the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami, and is equally dedicated to public service. She is intimately involved with Project Medishare as a board member, tirelessly helping the needy people of Haiti. She also dedicates her time and energy in support of the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis and Shake-a-Leg Miami, and other local charities. Marianne is also a Dale Carnegie Instructor and mentors her younger colleagues in the health care profession.

Michael, Senior Vice President of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Glendale, California and financial guru of the Finizio Family, has taken their tradition of community involvement to the West Coast. He resides in Hollywood, California and is deeply involved in the Los Angeles operatic and cinematic communities. A "Distinguished Toastmaster" and award winning public speaker, Michael is dedicated to educating and helping others to communicate effectively to reach their highest potential.

2011 Broward County Bar Bowling League

Another successful and fun filled season of bowling has been completed by the 2011 Broward County Bar Bowling League. The league consisted of 20 teams made up of some of the sharpest legal minds in Broward County including Judges, attorneys and members of their legal



Jennifer Erdelyi, Ninowtzka Mier, Santino Finizio, Beth Finizio and Cheryl Bucker

support staffs. The teams competed on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9pm for 13 weeks, bowling 3 games per night at The Manor Bowling Lanes in Wilton Manors. The season ended with prizes and trophies being awarded to the teams and an assorted food buffet for the participants. Finizio and Finizio attorney Elizabeth Finizio says "Participating in the league gives everyone a chance to have some fun and enjoy a lot of laughs with other members of the various firms around town. This type of activity also builds a sense of camaraderie and lasting friendships between everyone who is involved. We are already looking forward to next season." The BCWLA Striking Ladies finished in the middle of the pack at the 11th position coming on strong in the second half of the season after a sluggish start. Nova Law student Santino Finizio filled in for the injured Beth Finizio as an alternate and helped the team with some great laughs and some well needed strikes!

PMA CORNER

POSITIVE MENTAL ATTITUDE

"The glory of Friendship is not the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship; it's the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone else believes in him and is willing to trust him with his friendship." *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

The Plan for September 11th Observance

On Sunday, September 11th, an American flag should be displayed outside every home, apartment, office and store in the United States. Every individual should make it their duty to display an American flag on this tenth anniversary of one of our country's worst tragedies.



We do this in honor of those who lost their lives on 9/11, their families, friends and loved ones who

continue to endure the pain, and those servicepersons who today are fighting at home and abroad to preserve our cherished freedoms.

In the days, weeks and months following 9/11, our country was bathed in American flags as citizens mourned the incredible losses and stood shoulder-to-shoulder against terrorism. Sadly, those flags have all but disappeared. Our patriotism pulled us through some tough times and it shouldn't take another attack to galvanize us in solidarity. Our American flag is the fabric of our country and together we can prevail over terrorism of all kinds.

Show your support and fly our flag in honor and remembrance of our fallen heroes!! We will never forget.