



## Supreme Court of Florida

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### **Justice Lewis and Annette Boyd Pitts receive O'Connor Award for work in civics**

TALLAHASSEE – Florida Supreme Court Justice R. Fred Lewis and Annette Boyd Pitts, executive director of the Florida Law Related Education Association, received the Sandra Day O'Connor Award for the Advancement of Civics Education this week.

“Fred Lewis has become internationally known,” said Florida Chief Justice Jorge Labarga, “for his lifetime of work educating the general public about the importance of the rule of law and our independent judiciary. Receiving this award is well deserved recognition for the vital role he has played with the help of Annette Pitts.”

Justice O'Connor – well known for her many years as a decisive vote on the United States Supreme Court – was on hand Wednesday to present the award. It was given by the National Center for State Courts at the annual meeting in West Virginia of the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators.

When the NCSC announced earlier this year that Lewis and Pitts were the 2014 recipients of the award, NCSC President Mary McQueen said the selection illustrated what could be accomplished through “visionary leadership and ... extraordinary implementation.”

Justice Lewis created Justice Teaching when he became Florida's chief justice in 2006. Since then, he and Pitts have trained more than 4,000 lawyers and judges to teach civics in all middle and high schools in Florida.

Justice Teaching's lessons and activities are designed to promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills as well as deepen students' understanding of the justice system and the role of the courts in our constitutional structure.

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