

FORECLOSURE QUESTIONS AND STRESS? ALLEN LAW TEAM HAS ANSWERS

By Roxanna Pacheco



ALLEN LAW WANTS THEIR COMMUNITY TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST WRONGFUL FORECLOSURE SUITS BY HIRING AN ATTORNEY. FROM LEFT EMILY HARRIS, PARALEGAL; BETH FOOTE, OFFICE MANAGER; KARLA ALLEN, ATTORNEY AND OWNER; JANELLE MILLER, ATTORNEY; AND DAYNA BOUCHARD, ATTORNEY OF ALLEN LAW

One Riverview attorney wants homeowners to know they have options when it comes to foreclosure. "I cringe whenever I hear of someone who had a foreclosure filed and they just walked away," said Karla Allen, attorney and owner of Allen Law in Riverview.

In January, Florida's Attorney General Pam Bondi released a report, known as the Fraudclosure Report, outlining major defenses to foreclosure filings. The report revealed that approximately one in every 116 Hillsborough County households is in foreclosure.

Transfers of ownership from one bank to another have been causing some discrepancies and some unintentional initiation of foreclosure proceedings.

It's important, Allen explained, "To bring them to task by seeking discovery." Seek documents, ask questions and find out who's touched the note, and which sponsor ended up with the original, she added. With a little homework, it is possible to stop a foreclosure. "That's where

people need help, knowing what questions to ask." That is what Allen Law wants to provide its community: attorneys prepared not to just buy time but to take action.

A graduate of Stetson University with an area of focus in elder law, Allen opened her own practice a month after being sworn in in October of 2008. Her inspiration to help others, she explained, has been her experiences as a mother of a special needs child who had a liver transplant at just three years old and is now 12. Raising her children at the same time she was finishing school, Allen was still able to excel. She was awarded the Matthew Bender Elder Law Book award for her academic achievements.

Allen is also a member of the Hillsborough Association of Women Lawyers, National Association of Elder Law Attorneys and Association of Florida Elder Law Attorneys.

Halfway through her second year in practice, Allen now employs seven other people including two attorneys- Dayna Bouchard and Janelle Miller. Paralegal Emily Harris joins Office Manager, Beth Foote, a receptionist, file clerk and a public relations and marketing manager.

Allen Law, P.A. focuses on elder law, family, bankruptcy, civil litigation, special needs trusts and foreclosure to name a few. Occupying two full units at Park Place in Riverview, Allen Law is located at 10019 Park Place Ave. off of Gibsonton Dr. Staff is available Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and until 1:30 p.m. on Fridays. Call 671-4300 or visit www.allenlawpa.com.

NEWLY INDUCTED HONORARY MAYOR OF RUSKIN CELEBRATES 20 YEARS IN BUSINESS

By Roxanna Pacheco



Wilhelm Heating and Air Conditioning is actively involved in saving the community money while simultaneously raising money to support the community. Working hard as candidate for Honorary Mayor of Ruskin for five years, owner Mary Ann Wilhelm has raised almost \$20,000 for the community. This year will mark the 20th anniversary of Wilhelm Heating and Air Conditioning and Wilhelm's first year as official Honorary Mayor.

Wilhelm's husband brought the company to Ruskin from New York in 1991. He started working right out of his truck. Business grew rapidly and, within the year, Wilhelm Heating and Air Conditioning opened its first office. When her husband passed away in 2004, Wilhelm took over.

An authorized dealer of Carrier, a central air conditioning system brand, Wilhelm Heating and Air Conditioning also provides service, maintenance and repair on central air conditioning units.

"We're not selling you stuff you don't need," Wilhelm explained. She believes in her product and the integrity of its benefits for her customers. Carrier, she explained, "makes the most energy efficient system on the market today."

Currently, it has 9,700 active customers. Shawn Eaton, property manager for Eaton Realty in FishHawk, is one of

those active clients. Eaton Realty manages 34 single-family homes. It has used Wilhelm for its on call air conditioning maintenance for years, Eaton explained. "They are prompt, courteous and competitively priced." Wilhelm has

won several business accolades for customer service, business practice and technical skills.

An active member in her community, Wilhelm has been with the Ruskin Chamber of Commerce for more than 10 years. She has actively raised money for Deputies Darlings, an organization which supports overlooked families who make too much for necessary government assistance but not enough to make ends meet, Wilhelm explained.

As for her Honorary Mayor role Wilhelm said, "I just aim to enjoy and have fun with the role. Supporting the chamber and their members will be my primary function."

"We strive to provide," Wilhelm explained of her business and community involvement.

Wilhelm Heating and Air Conditioning is located at 802 4th St. S.W. off of College Ave. in Ruskin. For more information about Wilhelm's business and charitable endeavors, visit www.wilhelmac.com or find it on Facebook. To contact directly, call 641-1811.

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