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DAILY BUSINESS REVIEW

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..... *14th Annual*

**MOST EFFECTIVE
LAWYERS 2018**

The 14th annual Most Effective Lawyers special report recognizes the extraordinary work performed by South Florida attorneys in the past year.

Honorees were selected from more than 110 nominations. Attorneys were asked to show proof of positive results obtained for their clients, illustrating obstacles overcome and their impact on public policy and business interests.

This year the Daily Business Review recognizes about 50 attorneys in 20 categories. Two awards were given in two highly competitive areas — government relations/regulatory and products liability.

Legal professionals distinguished themselves with their work in the fast-changing field of cybersecurity, a copyright fight over telenovelas, a change in Florida statutory at the U.S. Capitol and litigation with wide-ranging social impact.

The annual recognition is based on one overriding benchmark — tangible results and impact. Congratulations to everyone who participated.

— Catherine Wilson
Managing Editor

Becker's Yolanda Cash Jackson Lobbied to Send Bethune Statue to Washington

Yolanda Cash Jackson
Firm: Becker

Florida has kept a relatively low profile when it comes to Confederate symbols in public places, except for one very public place — National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

One of the state's statues honors Confederate Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith.

Becker shareholder Yolanda Cash Jackson helped lead a campaign to replace his statue with one honoring civil-rights leader and educator Mary McLeod Bethune. She's half of the pair recognized in the Bethune-Cookman University name.

Bethune's backers scored a significant legislative victory in Tallahassee this year that culminated in Gov. Rick Scott signing a bill to add Bethune's likeness to Statuary Hall in Washington D.C.

Florida becomes the first state to honor an African-American woman in the national hall.

The state Senate backed the proposal on a 37-0 vote in January, the state House voted 111-1 in February to support the replacement, and Scott signed the bill in March.

"I'm proud of our team, and I'm proud of our state for taking that step," Becker managing shareholder Gary Rosen said. "It was the right thing to do and it's gratifying when our lobbyists can champion such a wonderful cause and be in the forefront for such a positive step for our state."

The process began over three years ago when then-state Rep. Jose Felix Diaz filed a bill to remove Smith's statue. The Legislature agreed in 2016 as part of a nationwide backlash against Confederate symbols in the wake of the shooting deaths of nine African-American churchgoers in Charleston, S.C.

Against that backdrop, Jackson and the Daytona Beach university began their campaign to place Bethune's name on a special committee



JILL KAHN

Yolanda Cash Jackson

ballot to raise awareness of Bethune's career.

Others were pressing for more internationally prominent entrepreneurs and entertainers.

Jackson's lobbying efforts included forging a compromise with groups like the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy, which initially opposed the removal of Smith's statue.