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Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton Founding Partner John W. Kozyak Honored with the Tobias Simon Pro Bono Service Award

The Florida Bar recognizes Kozyak for his extraordinary voluntary contributions as a legal professional

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (Feb. ____, 2015) – Coral Gables-based law firm [Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton](#) is pleased to announce that Founding Partner [John W. Kozyak](#) has been honored with the 2015 Tobias Simon Pro Bono Service Award by the Florida Bar for his outstanding voluntary contributions and dedication to diversity as a legal professional.

Kozyak was presented with the award by Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Jorge Labarga at a January 29th ceremony at the Supreme Court of Florida in Tallahassee. The Tobias Simon Award, the highest statewide pro bono award, was created in 1982 and named after late Miami lawyer Tobias Simon, a civil rights lawyer. It is intended to encourage and recognize extraordinary voluntary contributions by Florida lawyers in making legal services available to persons who otherwise could not afford them, and to focus public awareness on the substantial voluntary services rendered by Florida lawyers in this area.

“I am truly honored to have received this award by the Florida Bar,” said Kozyak. “It has been extremely rewarding on a personal level to represent the poor in pro bono matters and match minority law students with judges and lawyers to serve as their mentors. I know the importance of a good mentor and I have wanted to increase diversity in the Florida Bar by helping students succeed in law school and find a job.”

A champion of diversity, Kozyak and his wife, Barbara Silverman, founded and oversee the [Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation](#), a non-profit organization that promotes awareness in the legal community and the need to increase diversity and inclusion in the legal profession by



providing minority law students with mentors. The Foundation's annual picnic, which celebrated its 11th year in 2014, attracts more than 3,500 attorneys, judges and law students from schools across Florida, and plays a major role in providing minority law school students with mentorship opportunities. For more than a decade, Kozyak has personally matched more than 900 black students in Florida with judges and lawyers to serve as their mentors.

Additionally, Kozyak has been instrumental in minority mentoring at the University of Miami School of Law and St. Thomas School of Law, both of which have programs named in his honor. He has been widely recognized for his work as a recipient of the ABA Litigation Section's Diversity Award; the Florida Bar's Henry Latimer Diversity Award; the Supreme Court Chief Justice's Law Firm Commendation; the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award; The G. Kirk Haas Humanitarian Award, Florida Bar's highest award for humanitarianism; and the ABA's Spirit of Excellence Award.

A nationally-recognized bankruptcy lawyer, Kozyak has represented business owners, lenders, creditors' committees and major creditors. He has also been appointed a trustee and receiver in cases throughout the country, and has a particular expertise in real estate, regularly working with special servicers of mortgage-backed securitizations in bankruptcies. Kozyak is a Fellow in both the American College of Bankruptcy and the American College of Trial Lawyers, and currently serves as chairman of the National Parkinson Foundation.

About Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton

Founded in 1983, Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton is recognized for its extensive experience representing clients for more than 30 years in complex commercial litigation, bankruptcy matters and healthcare business litigation in Florida and throughout the United States. The firm integrates a boutique approach to serving its clients, with a particular focus on attention to detail and ensuring that its legal strategies are aligned with client goals. Members of the firm have tried significant high-profile cases, including those involving fraud schemes, class actions, bankruptcy and receiverships and other litigation matters. For more information about the firm, visit www.kttlaw.com.

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