



Tony Karrat. Courtesy photo

NEWS

## Legal Giant Anthony J. Karrat Takes His Final Bow: 'Heart and Commitment'

"In any program I feel there needs to be some movement and change," Karrat said. "It's time we bring in new people with unique ideas and different approaches."

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News

Jasmine Floyd [↗](#)

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### What You Need to Know

- Executive Director Anthony J. "Tony" Karrat in the Legal Aid Service of Broward County (LAS) has retired.
- Karrat's organization provides different services to help support the community.
- Karrat message to law students and attorneys, is to always remain focused and be prepared for anything.

Anthony J. "Tony" Karrat, executive director of Legal Aid Service of Broward County, has retired.

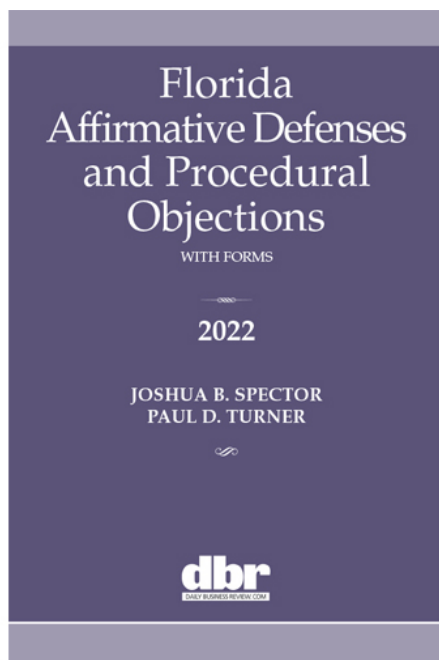
For the past 46 years, Karrat has served at the helm of the organization, overseeing all programs for Broward and Collier Counties.

In honor of his departure and Karrat's contributions to the community, Legal Aid established the Anthony J. Karrat Endowment Fund to memorialize Karrat's legacy, and to ensure his work to serve the community will live on in the future.

This endowment will be utilized to support "impact advocacy," which is advocacy that not only addresses an individual's legal problems but also seeks to address the root cause of these issues, the press release stated.

"In any program I feel there needs to be some movement and change. It's time we bring in new people with unique ideas and different approaches. So, I think it's time I move on and spend time with my family," Karrat said. "I'm very close to the program and the people who are here. If they need me to help, I'm always willing to step in."

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In 1975, Karrat joined Legal Aid as a branch office supervising attorney. He became executive director in 1976. Under Karrat's leadership, Legal Aid has grown from a three-attorney office to a regional law firm of 73 attorneys with a budget of \$12 million.



19th Annual For the Public Good Gala fundraiser. Courtesy photo

Karrat's organization provides services to help support the community.

"We've helped with environmental issues in areas where there has been contamination in the community. We've helped with getting testing and getting people medical care if needed. We've set up programs for the elderly and the LGBTQ community," Karrat said. "We've helped thousands of children every year who are in foster care, and try to get them into a situation where they are back with their families or they are in an adoptive place. ... We're always evolving. The times change and so do the needs of

the people in the community. ... We try to change with those things and help."

Karrat expressed his gratitude to the staff at Legal Aid.

“The people who work here are the real heroes. They’re the ones that make everything we do successful. They are the ones who should be highlighted, praised and given thanks because of how hard they work to make life better for the people,” Karrat said.

According to the press release, in 1981 Karrat and the leaders of the Broward Bar Association created the Broward Lawyers Care.

Since Broward Lawyers Care began 4,240 lawyers have participated, assisting about 18,500 clients and families over 36 years.

Thanks to Karrat’s longevity, reputation and knowledge over his 50-year career, Legal Aid has adapted its services to meet the needs of the community around him.

“This is not a program here to make money. The staff that works here is here because they are dedicated and committed to this type of service,” Karrat said. “They have the heart and commitment to help people who are in need. That’s why our program is so successful. It’s because the people who work here have dedicated themselves to do this type of work, and they do it so well.”

A message Karrat has to law students and attorneys, is to always remain focused and be prepared for anything.

“There are always gonna be bumps in the road. But as long as you deal with what happens and continue your focus on what your priority is in terms of clients and your community, I believe you will always be able to reach your goal,” he said. “Don’t let the hurdles stop you and make you reconsider what you should be doing.”

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