

(Speaking Opportunities, continued from page four.)



Mariano Garcia, a member of the Fifteenth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission, was a panelist at the "Road to the Bench/Road to the JNC" seminar organized by the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, and sponsored

by the F. Malcolm Cunningham Bar Association, the Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association and The Palm Beach County Bar Association's Diversity Committee. The seminar was held January 19, 2012, in West Palm Beach, Florida. On February 17, 2012, Mr. Garcia was a guest speaker at a Naturalization Ceremony held in the Federal Courthouse, West Palm Beach, Florida. Judge Kenneth Marra presided over the ceremony. Mr. Garcia gave the "Welcome to New Citizens" address to 49 immigrants from 29 countries, after they took the oath of citizenship. ♦

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Phyllis Neumeyer with granddaughter Phyllis Stewart.

Active Senior Injured by Grocery Store Carts

In May 2011, Frederic and Phyllis Neumeyer drove to the Winn Dixie store in Jensen Beach, Florida, for some grocery shopping. After shopping was completed, Mrs. Neumeyer exited through the store's west entrance, and was abruptly knocked onto the concrete floor by an employee running a string of shopping carts from the parking area into the store. Mrs. Neumeyer suffered an intertrochanteric fracture of her right hip which would require major surgery and screws to secure the fractured bones.

Prior to the incident, Mrs. Neumeyer was a spry 85-year-old who was devoted to her husband, children, and grandchildren. She was the owner and curator of her own antique collection which she had maintained since 1970. She was actively involved with the St. Lucie Chapter of the Questers, a group devoted to restoring historical buildings on Florida's Treasure Coast. Following the injury, Mrs. Neumeyer required substantial physical therapy. The quality of her life, and that of her family, suffered greatly.

According to documents, the Winn Dixie employee responsible for Mrs. Neumeyer's injuries had approached the store's exit doors with a line of carts in a manner clearly in violation of the store's policies and procedures. The Neumeys asked SDSBS attorney **Ed Ricci** to represent them in an action holding Winn Dixie liable for their employee's actions. In December 2011, the Neumeys reached a settlement for \$250,000. In response to this incident, Winn Dixie provided the employee who knocked Mrs. Neumeyer down with additional training on how to properly return shopping carts from the parking lot to the store. Unfortunately, Mrs. Neumeyer passed away in February 2012. She is survived by her husband, Frederic, son, daughter and son-in-law, and three grandchildren. ♦