Chief Judge \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Courthouse

\_\_\_\_, Florida

Dear Chief Judge \_\_\_\_:

I’d like to take the opportunity to introduce you to the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of ABOTA – the American Board of Trial Advocates. You may have met one of our members at your investiture. We’re a national organization, members of which are split equally between plaintiff and defense attorneys in civil actions. ABOTA seeks to elevate the standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession, preserve the right to jury trial in civil actions, advocate for the independence of the judiciary and help educate our teachers and students about our legal system.

We pride ourselves on service to the bench and the community and in this regard, we have a program we’d like to share with you that would provide a substantial benefit to our community.

As the Court knows, all tort settlements in which a minor receives more than $15,000.00 must be approved by the Court. Routinely, private attorneys charge hundreds to thousands of dollars for review of these settlements. For the last 15 years, Miami’s ABOTA Chapter members have provided this service for free.

FLABOTA, the collection of all Florida chapters, wants to expand this program statewide. We would like to create a computerized list of attorneys, maintained by the Administrative Office of the Court or other entity, who agree to review minor’s settlements requiring Court approval. When a minor’s settlement comes before the Court, the Court would appoint a name from the computerized list. That member would evaluate the proposed settlement and report to the Court on its reasonableness. It would be done on a pro bono basis by attorneys who deal routinely with the issues involved. Last year, the Miami Chapter completed over 150 reviews at no cost to any of the parties involved. We urge Your Honor to consider implementing this system in the \_\_\_\_ Circuit. Our chapter would be most pleased to help start this program. Ms. Maria Harris of Miami-Dade’s Administrative Office of the Court generously has offered to explain the operation of Miami-Dade’s system if the Court would like to contact her. Her direct telephone number is 305.349.7172.

We really want to be of service. If we may be of assistance, please contact us. Thank you for the opportunity to address you.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

President, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter