

## Refuge House Honors Stearns Weaver Miller with Community Advocate of the Year Award

**TALLAHASSEE, FL** — February 26, 2025 — Stearns Weaver Miller announced that [Refuge House](#) has presented the Community Advocate of the Year award to the firm. Refuge House provides direct services to domestic abuse and sexual assault survivors, and community education, in all eight counties of the Big Bend Area of North Florida. The annual award is given to a business, organization, or individual that helps raise awareness about Refuge House through their network, platform, or sphere of influence. The firm was recognized during Refuge House’s annual fundraiser, Mardi Gras Ball, hosted at the Tallahassee Garden Club on February 21, 2025.

At the 2024 Tallahassee Chamber Annual Community Conference, the firm chose to highlight Refuge House and its impact in the community during the Closing Session Breakfast. With over 550 attendees, the conference brings together many elements of the business community, from home-based entrepreneurs to key business and political leaders, to discuss issues affecting the region.

Since 2021, Shareholder [Elizabeth Desloge Ellis](#) has served as President for the Refuge House Board of Directors. Liz works with staff to develop the strategic goals of the organization including coordinating community outreach events, developing new programs for survivors, securing funds for the organization and providing other pro bono legal services. Under her leadership, Refuge House created Mardi Gras Ball, which raises thousands of dollars each year. Liz has been instrumental in making Refuge House more visible within the Tallahassee community. She authored an article in the Tallahassee Democrat, “[Refuge House sees mounting cases of domestic violence, needs support](#)” to educate the community on the services that Refuge House provides and how to help those in need.

### About Stearns Weaver Miller

Stearns Weaver Miller is a Florida-based law firm with more than 150 attorneys and offices in Miami, Coral Gables, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Tallahassee. For nearly 50 years, our multidisciplinary team of attorneys and professionals have worked collaboratively to help our clients understand and resolve complex legal issues and disputes. For more information, visit [stearnsweaver.com](#).

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