



DICK J. BATCHELOR  
MICHAEL J. MURPHY  
DUSTIN A. WATKINS

## **Domestic Violence / Child Abuse Commission**

Another passion of mine is assisting victims of domestic violence. Because of that passion, for a number of years I have co-chaired and continue to co-chair the Domestic Violence/Child Abuse Commission – a group that makes recommendations to improve services to victims of abuse and to reduce the number of cases of domestic violence and child abuse.

As a commission, we recognized the extraordinary number of domestic violence cases and related homicides in Central Florida. Together, we decided that Orange County needed domestic violence courts to hear the growing number of cases we were seeing and, with my help, we successfully advocated for the creation of four domestic violence courts in the 9th Judicial Circuit. Once the domestic violence courts were in place, we began to see a reduction in the extraordinary backlog of cases in both the civil and criminal courts, allowing these cases to be heard sooner and with greater specialized attention.

In addition to co-chairing the DV/CA Commission, I also serve on the Advisory Board of Harbor House of Central Florida, a domestic violence shelter for abused women and children, and Court Watch, an advocacy group that monitors the courts on behalf of domestic violence victims. Statewide, I continue to be involved as a board member with Florida Children's First, a statewide child advocacy group focusing on the needs of children in foster care, and I continue to do pro-bono lobbying, locally and in Tallahassee, to secure funding for these groups and other programs that deal with domestic violence and child abuse.

**– Dick Batchelor**

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Dick J. Batchelor, Michael J. Murphy, and Dustin A. Watkins prepared this case. DBMG cases are developed solely as the basis for marketing. Cases are not intended to serve as endorsements, sources of primary data, or illustrations of effective or ineffective management.

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