



FLORIDA OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

ADVOCATING FOR QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE

A Message From the State Ombudsman



Nominations for Ombudsman of the Year

We are currently accepting nominations for Ombudsman of the Year, please reach out to your district manager for more information on how to nominate a fellow volunteer. From the district nominations, we will pick a Statewide Ombudsman of the Year to be presented at our conference in the spring.

Volunteer Spotlight

Debbie Shapiro, a volunteer Ombudsman in District 10, continues to inspire others to go above and beyond their Ombudsman duties. Debbie has boosted volunteer recruitment by writing an [Op-ed article published in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#) regarding our program. She is very active in the community and always ensures that we have a table or are speaking about LTCOP at any event that she is involved all while taking cases and completing assessments at the 15 facilities assigned to her. She is also a great mentor to the new Ombudsman.



Debbie Shapiro

Thank you, Debbie, for six years of excellent service!

Welcome Renee Harkins- LTCOP Legal Advocate



Renee Harkins

Renee earned both her teaching degree and Juris Doctor from Florida State University. She is a lifelong Florida resident. Renee taught middle and high school English prior to attending law school. She began working with the State of Florida in 2006 and has practiced administrative law for several agencies. Renee also practiced family law. Renee finds her work exciting and challenging. Helping people is her biggest career satisfaction. Renee has volunteered for the Guardian Ad Litem program and for Legal Services programs, providing pro bono services for area citizens. She and her husband Chris Roe (also an attorney) live with their son, Ian, who is in high school, and two large Labradors. Renee also has three adult children. She is excited to become a part of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and looks forward to working with you!

