

J. Rodman Steele Receives Spirit of Living Award

NOPE Task Force's annual Spirit of Living Award was given to Duane Morris partner, J. Rodman Steele, who has supported the organization since its inception in 2004.



Every year, NOPE Task Force recognizes through our **Spirit of Living Award** an individual who has championed our cause -- diminishing the frequency and impact of overdose death through community education, family support, and purposeful advocacy.

This year's winner is Duane Morris partner, J. Rodman Steele, of the firm's Boca Raton, Fla. office. He was presented with the award at our annual gala on March 23 in Tequesta, Fla.

Mr. Steele has been involved with NOPE since our inception in 2004 and has supported our organization by providing pro bono legal assistance and making contacts within the community.

He previously served as treasurer of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Foundation, a statewide foundation in Florida that raised money to implement the prescription drug monitoring program, which is now part of the Florida Department of Health.

He got involved with NOPE because, as he put it: "There can be nothing worse, in my opinion, than a parent losing a child and a loss to drugs is particularly heart-wrenching because there is so much room for 'what ifs.'"

Mr. Steele says NOPE's biggest accomplishments since its beginning have been: "While expansion of the NOPE program has to be considered as a great accomplishment, the real important work is not subject to recordation--how many lives are being saved by kids realizing the danger and changing their behavior."

In the next five years, he hopes NOPE can accomplish: "Further expansion of the NOPE program far and wide to the point of reaching every possible kid. Those involved can know in their hearts how valuable their efforts are."

Volunteers are crucial to our work. They help run our school presentations, advocate for our issues, and raise much-needed funds. Over the years, dozens and dozens of supporters have donated to us countless hours and resources to make our mission successful.

Mr. Steele is one of those devoted individuals. He is a seasoned lawyer who practices in all areas of intellectual property law, including patents, trademarks, trade secrets and copyright law. He has extensive trademark experience as well as extensive patent experience, particularly in the mechanical arts.

Thank you Mr. Steele. We are lucky to have you at NOPE.

Karen Perry is the executive director of NOPE Task Force.