



## NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT

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### ***Legendary Boxer and Domestic Violence Survivor Endorses Deborah Barra for State Attorney for Orange & Osceola Counties***

*Christy Martin, the most famous female boxer in the world, is now fighting for Chief Assistant State Attorney, Deborah Barra, to be State Attorney.*

**ORLANDO, FLA. – Tuesday, February 11, 2020** – Christy Martin, a world champion boxer who broke barriers for female athletes and who has appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated, announced today that she is endorsing Deborah Barra in her run to be the next State Attorney.

Martin met Barra approximately 10 years ago in a conference room at the State Attorney's Office. Martin was recovering from being stabbed and shot by her husband and boxing manager, Jim Martin. Barra was part of the prosecution team that successfully convicted Martin for attempted murder, sent him to prison for 25 years, and obtained justice for Christy.

"I have personally seen Deborah work. In our meetings prior to the trial she was compassionate and kind but when she got into the courtroom it was a different story. She was fierce. She didn't let Jim's witnesses get away with lying. She's a fighter and I obviously like that," Martin said. "I remember telling her at the end of the trial that it was clear she had eaten her Wheaties."

Martin now owns and operates her own boxing promotion company called "Christy Martin Promotions" and has become a strong voice for domestic violence survivors through a nonprofit organization called, "Christy's Champs," a charity that helps domestic violence survivors and their children.

"Christy is not a victim of anything. She's a survivor. I had the privilege to be a small part of helping her get up after she was knocked down. She took her life back and is doing amazing

things for women around the country,” Barra said. “Her endorsement of me is extremely meaningful.”

Barra has also been endorsed by former State Attorney Lawson Lamar, former Supreme Court Justice James Perry, Ruth’s List which supports women candidates and Victory Fund which supports openly gay candidates.

Barra who was raised in Orlando, has been a prosecutor for 17 years. During her time, Barra has completed more than 100 trials, prosecuting virtually every type of offense, but specializing in prosecuting sexual offenders and predators. In addition to her extensive trial work, Barra has held leadership/management positions under three elected State Attorneys, all of whom had vastly different leadership styles.

In her current role as Chief Assistant State Attorney, Barra supervises over 165 assistant state attorneys and manages the day-to-day operations of the office.

Barra is responsible for reviewing all cases involving the use of deadly force by members of law enforcement. As a result, Barra conducted a six-month review of the events that occurred during the Pulse Nightclub mass shooting.

Barra has been selected as one of two prosecutors in the state of Florida to teach prosecutors how to best prosecute sex offenders. She has also been an instructor in various legal classes at the Police Academy for over 10 years.

**Professional Background Information:**

- *Personally convicted 43 child molesters/rapists including three serial rapists.*
- *Obtained Florida’s first life sentence for a defendant charged with human trafficking.*

Barra’s leadership roles include:

- Chief Assistant State Attorney (*Ayala Administration*)
- Trial Unit Director (*Ashton Administration*)
- Homicide prosecutor (*Ashton Administration*)
- Section Leader of the Special Victims Unit (*Ashton Administration*)
- Chief of the Sex Crimes Unit (*Lamar Administration*)

Political Advertisement Paid for and Approved by Deborah Barra, Democrat, for State Attorney of the Ninth Judicial Circuit

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