

The Delray Democrat

December Democratic Club of Delray Beach Meeting Recap¹

Michael K. Cantwell

Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell was the featured speaker at the December meeting of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach. She's the first Ecuadorian American elected to Congress and we believe she'll become the first elected to the U.S. Senate. Click [here](#) to watch her, and I think you'll agree.

In Congress, Debbie chaired the women's Hispanic Caucus, she is "a proud Latina for choice, and I will not allow politicians like Rick Scott to be making decisions for my daughters, to take away the same rights I've had coming to this incredible country."

Scott has three advantages – he's White, he's male, and he's rich. But as Debbie pointed out:

He's never run in a presidential election, he's never run by more than a percentage point, he was only able to beat Senator Bill Nelson by putting in \$64 million of his own money and only won by ten thousand votes, he's never run against the millions of women that are going to come out to protect their rights when we have that abortion ballot initiative in November 2024, and he's never had to confront a woman like myself, a Latina that knows exactly how to communicate with my community down in South Florida and with Floridians all over the state.

Scott is vulnerable. He may be the most odious and disliked member of the senate, despite the strong competition from Josh "Watch Him Run" Hawley and "Cancun Ted" Cruz. Even Mitch McConnell can't stand him.

And if Scott thinks that having presided over a company that entered into what was then the largest settlement for healthcare fraud in U.S. history, his attempt to "sunset" Medicare makes it an issue now. The man whose company defrauded Medicare now wants to take away your Medicare.

Debbie is feisty and dynamic but thoughtful and poised. She won't let Scott get in her face, and she'll get in his.



¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), January 2024, page 5.

Daniel Eisenger, Chief Assistant to Palm Beach County Public Defender Carey Haughwout

Among those who came to hear Debbie was Daniel Eisenger, who has worked at the Palm Beach County Public Defender's Office for virtually the entirety of his 20-year career as an attorney. He is currently Chief Assistant to Carey Haughwout, our beloved Public Defender, who is retiring next year. As Dan is running to succeed Carey, I asked him to say a few words.

It's not the first time Dan has spoken to our Club. Back in November 2019, he and Jessica Younts (then Vice President of the Federal Rights Restoration Coalition), briefed us on the joint effort of the FRRC and the offices of Palm Beach County Public Defender, State Attorney, and Clerk to prevent Republicans from eviscerating Amendment 4.

In 2018, Amendment 4 was passed by 64.6% of Florida voters. It provided a path for persons who had been disenfranchised due to a prior felony conviction to automatically recover their voting rights upon completion of their sentences. For those interested, a video of that is available [here](#).

Republicans tacked on a provision that required these "Returning Citizens" to first pay the court costs involved in their original trials, an amount the State was unable to determine. The workaround adopted by Palm Beach County offices was to take the court costs out of the sentencing paperwork. In this fashion, they were able to restore the voting rights of some 500-600 Returning Citizens. Dan headed up the effort at the Public Defender's Office.

Dan told us he tried everything from death penalty cases to misdemeanors, but what makes him "so happy to be there is working with our young lawyers . . . who just want to do good, they want to help the underserved, they want to help the less fortunate, and I've been really proud to work with them." That's what it's all about.