

**2021
Feminist of the Year
Maria Sachs**

Maria Sachs is recognized as the 2021 Feminist of the Year. She was elected a Palm Beach County commissioner in 2020 after serving many years in the Florida Legislature as a Representative of the 86th district and the Florida Senate 30th and 34th District.. She has previously worked with our chapter to protect the rights of incarcerated women in Palm Beach County.

Born in Michigan, she moved to Florida and attended the University of Miami Law School. Upon graduation, she was offered a position with the newly appointed State Attorney, Janet Reno. Maria specialized in representing victims against violent crimes. She created the Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Inc.

Maria is founder of Women for Excellence, a professional women's organization with over 150 members. She was also the past president of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, Broward chapter.



**2020
Feminist of the Year
Melissa McKinlay**

Melissa McKinlay is recognized as the 2020 Feminist of the Year. Because of COVID-19, the awards luncheon was cancelled. Presently she serves as a Palm Beach County Commissioner. She has spent over twenty years advocating on behalf of women, children and families as a legislative aide to the Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs office, and as a volunteer for members of Congress and U.S. Senate.

Melissa grew up in a family that discussed politics and policy on a daily basis-especially on issues surrounding mental health and social justice. She earned her degree from Florida State University with dual majors in Political Science and Sociology.

Her proudest accomplishments were being on the team that developed the Butterfly House, Palm Beach County's first sexual assault response service center and successfully promoting a legislative bill aimed at eliminating human trafficking.

Susan B. Anthony
*Feminist of the Year
Awards*

