



# INTER ALIA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

## Bradenton: A New Year and New Perspective



Marisa Powers

I was born and raised in Bradenton. By the time I reached high school, I could not wait to get away from here. Back then, Bradenton was quite a different place – a lot of pastures and cows occupied this area (maybe that’s why some call it “Bradentucky”) and Desoto Square Mall was THE place to hang out with your friends. Quite a few years later – things have obviously changed. However, now that I am older (did I really just receive notice of a planning committee for my 20th high school reunion?), married and raising my daughter, Amelia, here, my perspective of Bradenton has changed as well. I love this place! We truly are lucky to live and/or practice in Bradenton. The legal community is small enough where we have the opportunity to get to know our fellow colleagues on a personal level, yet, the Bradenton area has been a source of great growth and untapped potential, allowing us all an opportunity to practice here. So, in the spirit of the New Year and having taken an opportunity to reflect on my personal and professional roots in this community, I highlight for you the top 10 (to date) things that make me smile when thinking about this place I call home:

10. You can go on a “staycation” to the beach via a short drive out to the island. My husband and I try to take a “staycation” out on the island every year. There is nothing better than waking up and going to sleep to the smells and sounds of the Gulf of Mexico.

9. The DeSoto Parade. You know it’s close to parade time when you see all those chairs lined up on the side of Manatee Avenue. I remember dancing in the parade as a Honeybear at Bayshore High School. Now, I am one of those crazy attendees screaming for beads (to give to Amelia, of course).

8. The skating rink – still going strong after all these years! Although, I do not think I could get out there and shuffle like I used to do!

7. Riverwalk – what a great place to play, exercise, or take in a concert.

6. Snooty! I saw Snooty as a little girl and now I get to take my little girl to see him – pretty cool, don’t you think?

5. The Manatee County Fair (celebrating its 100th anniversary this year) – I remember getting dropped off at the gate with my friends and buying my wristband for unlimited rides. Amelia rode her first ride with me by her side at this year’s Fair (thankfully she is still too young for the Gravitron or Himalaya). The tradition continues!

4. The Cortez Fishing Festival. Seriously, this is one of my favorite festivals of the year. Great food, art, and music all geared at supporting our local community.

3. The best local seafood. We have so many sources of fresh seafood – take advantage of this, people!

2. You get to visit the beach anytime you want! Even in the winter! I’ll take “sand” snow over real snow any day.

1. The amazing sunsets. Hands down---the best!

So, what’s your top 10? Through the hustle and bustle of everyday life, I hope you can stop, “smell the roses” (and the Gulf), get out there and take advantage of this great city!

*-Marisa Powers is an associate with the law firm of Blalock Walters, P.A. Her practice involves the litigation of businesses disputes, probate, estate and trust disputes, employment, and construction law related controversies. She is a member of the M.C.B.A. Board of Directors, current President of the Manatee Chapter of Florida Assn. for Women Lawyers and a member of the Twelfth Judicial Grievance Committee “B”. She resides in Bradenton with her husband Justin and their daughter Amelia.*



## 26 YEARS OF THANKS

Judge Peter A. Dubensky would like to thank many of the people who made his 26 years on the Circuit bench memorable and meaningful:

~His judicial colleagues including: Diana Moreland, Marc Gilner, Andy Owens, Deno Economou, Scott Brownell, Paul Logan, Tom Gallen, Bob Boylston, Stephen Dakan, Becky Titus, John Lakin and Charles Williams...

~His colleagues in Court Administration including: Walt Smith, Kim Miller, Dave Miles, Jon Schunk, Dennis Menendez, Kevin Billingsley, Judith Plescia, Nancy Smith and Tiffany Hammill...

~His colleagues in the Clerk’s Office including: Marlene Moran, Debbie Ruggiero, Rene Smith,

Yantee Hines, Erin Craft, Carol Cook, Connie Lucas, Diana Will and Amy Reiff...

~His colleagues who worked as court counsel including: Julie Ross, Joanna Smith, Becky Hunt, Laura Hale, Rene Inman and David Caskey...

~His colleagues who work as judicial assistants including: Cathy Reed, Vicki Shawvan, Donna McCammond, Cindy Chin, Jennifer Peters, Mary Beth Calhoun and Gail Elliott...

~The hundreds of lawyers who worked tirelessly and professionally for their clients...

~And *most importantly*...the person who worked with him for 25 years, first as his criminal law clerk and then as his judicial assistant, and who has become one of his dearest friends...**LISA FRITZ.**

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**CALENDAR of EVENTS****February 24 – General Membership Luncheon Meeting**

11:45 am – Pier 22

Speaker: Angel Colonesso – Clerk of Court

**February 27 – 12th Circuit High School Mock Trial Competition**

8:30 am – Judge Lynn N. Silvertooth Judicial Center in Sarasota

**March 26 – MCBA Night Pittsburgh Pirates v. Tampa Bay Rays**

6:05 pm – McKechnie Field

**March 30 – General Membership Luncheon Meeting & CLE Seminar**

11:45 am – Pier 22

Speaker: Rep. Greg Steube, Florida House of Representatives District 73

CLE Seminar immediately following meeting

*“What NOT to do when you get THAT phone call...”*

*Criminal Law 101 for the Non-Criminal Defense Attorney”*

Luncheon from 11:45 am – 1:00 pm

CLE from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

2.0 hours CLE (will be applied for)

**April 9 – To Kill A Mockingbird**

Manatee Bar Night at the Riverfront Theatre. Save the date!

## *Can't We All Get Along, Here? (Not always.)*



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## Solo Small Firm Section Gathering



*Sharon O'Day, Peggy Schurfranz and Steele Williams were among those who attended a recent networking gathering for MCBA Solo & Small Firm Section members at the Central Cafe.*

*Section Chair Steele Williams is scheduling another Section meeting this spring, which will held during the lunch hour. Look for an announcement.*

## Reception Planned for Retiring Judge Altenbernd on February 25

After more than 27 years of service to the Florida judiciary, Judge Chris Altenbernd is retiring in March 2016. Judge Altenbernd's accomplishments as judge of the Second District Court of Appeal over the past 27 years have been immeasurable. From his service and leadership as Chief Judge for many years to his commitment to excellence in resolving the pressing issues before the Court, Judge Altenbernd brought respect and admiration to the Second District. He has been widely acknowledged and respected as a judicial leader by both his peers and the Bar. Given his impact on the local legal community, the Hillsborough County Bar Association and Hillsborough County Bar Foundation are planning a special celebration to honor Judge Altenbernd's achievements and to wish him well in his retirement. This free event will be on February 25, 2016 from 5:30-7:30 pm, at the Chester Ferguson Law Center in downtown Tampa. Register to attend the event: [www.eventbrite.com/e/reception-for-retiring-judge-chris-altenbernd-tickets-19997592337](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/reception-for-retiring-judge-chris-altenbernd-tickets-19997592337)

## Judge Parker Sends His Thanks

It is with pleasure that I pass this note along to each of you....

~Sue Revell

Dear Sue,

Please extend a great thank you on my behalf to all the members of the Manatee Bar Association for the gifts given in my name to the Arcadia Rodeo Building Fund.

Jim Parker



## MCBA Night at McKechnie Field Pittsburgh Pirates v. Tampa Bay Rays

**Saturday – March 26, 2016 • 6:05 pm**


Tickets: \$17 per person (pre-purchase only)

See ticket order form on page 10 in this issue


Yes, it is that time once again when our thoughts turn from this chilly winter weather to the "Boys of Summer", or, in our case, "Spring." A block of tickets has been reserved just for the MCBA, so grab your family and friends and take them out to the ball game.

It is Saturday night, March 26 and the Pirates will take on the Tampa Bay Rays. We ordered seats in the outfield again for those of you who like to be near the tiki bar. We have attached a form for your ordering convenience. Get your orders in early as they are on a first come, first serve basis, but the Pirates will release more seats to us if we fill the order fast. The deadline is March 11, but don't wait that long. See you at the game!





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## *MCBA Holiday Party*

Members of the Bench and Bar and friends from the **Vita Vining Hermann Denton Group at Morgan Stanley** celebrated the 2015 holiday season in style at the annual MCBA Holiday Party. Held on a warm winter evening at ArtCenter Manatee, guests mingled about the galleries and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres catered by enRich Bistro. A good time was had by all.



*Jason Reid, Scott McKay, Dr. Bruce Dorman, Crystal Golm, Laurie Blanton, Lori Dorman and Terri Cromley*



*Coleman & Tracy Pratt, Patrick Kane and Dave Miner*



*Nikhil Joshi, Lisa Moore, Lori Hultman, Marisa Powers, Fred Moore, Jennifer Hermes-Fowler, Anne Chapman, Matt & Karen Martell*



*Angel Colonesso, Clerk of Court and Anita Smith*



*Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr., Steele Williams, Jim Knowles, Joy Leggett-Murphy and Ryan Denton with Morgan Stanley*





*James Lynch, Sierra Pino, Mark Rubio and Rich Morris with Morgan Stanley*



*Chuck Johnson, Mickey Palmer, Eloise & Bill Lisch*



*Members of the MCBA Board of Directors expressed appreciation to the Vita Vining Hermann Denton Group at Morgan Stanley for their sponsorship of the event: L to R - Ryan Denton with Morgan Stanley, Anne Douglass, Andrea Johnson, Jennifer Hermes-Fowler, Rich Morris with Morgan Stanley, Marisa Powers, Lori Dorman and Sierra Pino.*



*Jim Dye, Mark Nelson and Mark Barnebey*



*Anne Chapman, Jennifer Hermes-Fowler, Nikhil Joshi and Lori Hultman*

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**Jennifer Cowan**, with the Bradenton office of Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A., has been appointed City Attorney of the City of Treasure Island, an island community located in Pinellas County, Florida. Ms. Cowan is Board Certified by The Florida Bar in City, County and Local Government Law and holds a Martindale Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rating. Her practice focuses on local government, public pension, land use, and litigation. Ms. Cowan serves as general counsel to several special districts and represents many local governments as special counsel.

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Bradenton, FL 34205  
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Liz@dinelaw.com

**Sean Flynn, Esq.**

Esposito Law Group  
537 - 10 Street W.  
Bradenton, FL 34205  
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The Law Offices of Kevin T. Wells, P.A. is pleased to announce that **Paul E. Olah, Jr., Esq.** has been named a partner in the firm. The new firm name will be Law Offices of Wells | Olah, P.A.

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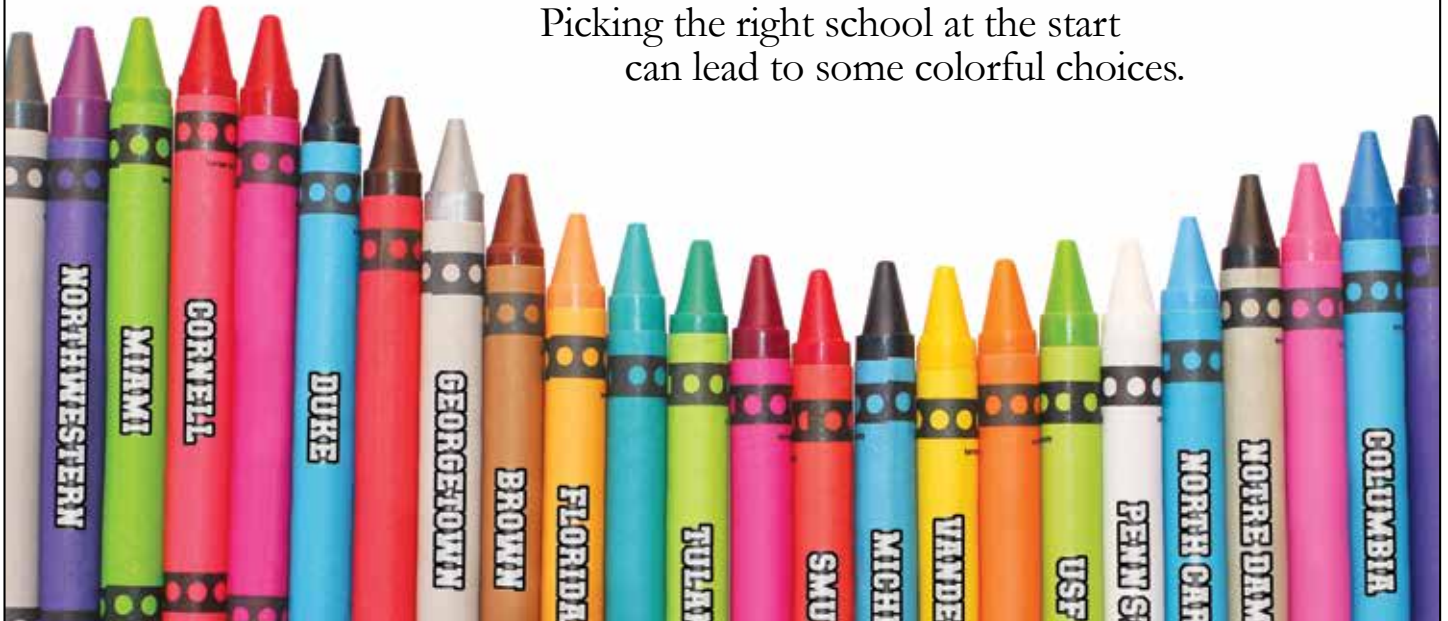
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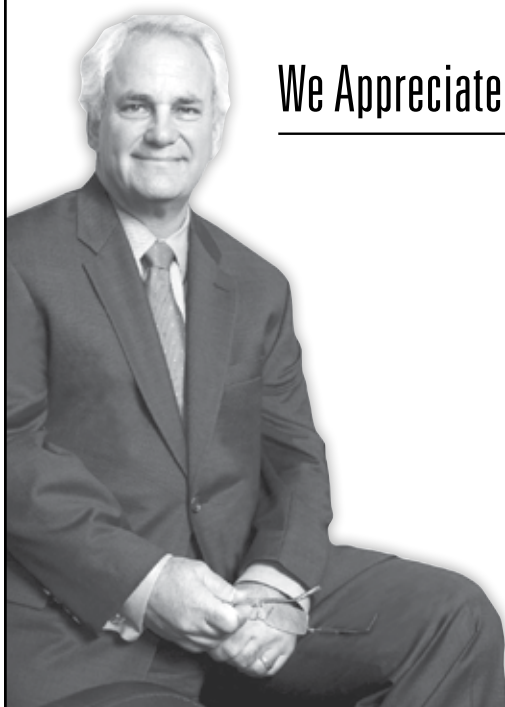
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# Join us for MCBA Night!

**SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH**

at



vs.



**Gates Open ~ 4:00pm**



**First Pitch ~ 6:05pm**

## COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW TO ORDER YOUR TICKETS

Group special is for pre-purchase only. **Deadline to order is March 11th.**

**TICKETS ARE JUST \$17 PER PERSON.**

**Seats are Left Field Bleachers along the Outfield Boardwalk.**

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# of Tickets	TOTAL COST

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- ☐ **Credit Card** (Visa/MC/Discover/Amex ~ Fax, Email or Mail)  
☐ **Cash/Check Enclosed:** (Mail to or Drop at Pirate City)  
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**DEADLINE TO ORDER: March 11**

After your order has been processed in our ticket system, **an order confirmation will be sent to the e-mail listed.** Tickets will be placed in Will Call at the McKechnie Field Box Office.

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