



INTER ALIA

JUNE/JULY 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

A BANNER YEAR FOR M.C.B.A. YOUNG LAWYERS!

By Sierra A. (Pino) Butler, Esq.

President, MCBA Young Lawyers Division 2015-16



During the past year I had the pleasure of leading a group of incredibly talented and motivated young lawyers in Manatee County as President of the MCBA Young Lawyers Division. Below is a short list of what our group accomplished during the 2015-2016 year:

- Cleaned up, restocked and revamped the Children's Waiting Room in the Manatee County Judicial Center (led by YLD Board member Aaron Crittenden)
- Furnished and redecorated the Children's Testimony Room in the Manatee County Judicial Center, making the space more welcoming and less intimidating to those children who use it (led by YLD Board Member Jay Horne)
- Participated in Law Day by teaching civics to 7th graders in Manatee County Schools (Liz Lutz, Trevor Quinlan, Matt Bobo, Andrea Johnson, Sierra Butler)
- Held a Professionalism Roundtable Luncheon, which provided mentoring to young lawyers practicing in Manatee County by seasoned practitioners and members of the judiciary (led by YLD Board Members Amanda Tullidge and Bryony Swift)
- Expanded the Art Creations in the Courthouse exhibit on the 5th Floor of the Manatee County Judicial Center and hosted a reception for the students and their art teachers and families which was attended by several members of the MCBA and the judiciary (led by YLD Board Members Bryony Swift and Annie Breitingner)
- Participated in Career Day by speaking to students at Braden River Middle School about the practice of law (YLD Board Members Sean Flynn and Jesse Tilden)

But if I'm being completely honest, we also encountered a humbling experience. In December, our YLD Board of Directors attempted to build a Gingerbread House to participate in the Community Youth Development's Gingerbread Festival. Without an engineer in the group, we struggled to create a base that could withstand the weight of all the icing and treats we loaded on to the structure. EPIC FAIL!

This did not break our spirit, though. Our YLD rallied and had several successful events in the spring, with our final two activities in June. The first was a Mixology Joint Social for MCBA and SCBA YLD Members and their spouses, and the second was participation in a Beach Bash to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Suncoast

– Manatee County, where MCBA members socialized with the Bigs, Littles and their families at their end of year celebration sponsored by the MCBA YLD.

Funding for a large portion of what we do is made possible by grants through our parent organization– the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division. This year we received three grants which were used to host the Professionalism Roundtable Luncheon, purchase frames to display artwork on the 5th floor of the MCJC, host a reception for Art Creations for the Courthouse, and sponsor the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Suncoast Beach Bash.

Even if you do not qualify as a young lawyer, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division is an incredible knowledge resource. This spring, Florida Bar YLD sponsored a "How to Start Your Own Law Firm" series, which is located at <http://startmyfloridalawfirm.com/>. This website takes you step by step through the process of starting your own firm, guiding you through everything from choosing a corporate structure, to what technology to use, trust accounting, and how to handle cases in different areas of law. I personally found this resource to be an invaluable starting point when I recently ventured into the practice of law as a solo practitioner.

Another area where The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division shines is helping Florida Bar members navigate constantly evolving technology. In addition to free CLE webinars, The Florida Bar's YLD website offers buyers' guides for law practice management software, courtroom technology guidance and training, social media and marketing materials and articles. You can check it out at: <http://flayld.org/technology/#Webinars>

I am excited about the momentum our MCBA YLD has gained over the course of the last year and I look forward to passing the gavel to James "Jay" Horne and the 2016-2017 Officers and Board of Directors to continue offering opportunities for our members to build relationships, participate in pro-bono and community service and grow professionally. If you are under the age of 40 or within your first 5 years practicing law, we invite you to our monthly board meetings and events throughout the year. We'd love for you to have a seat at our table this fall.

Sierra A. (Pino) Butler is the sole shareholder of Butler Elder Law, P.A. an elder, special needs and estate planning law firm serving Manatee and Sarasota counties. Sierra is the 2015--2016 President of the Young Lawyers Division of the Manatee County Bar Association, 2014-2016 Secretary of the Manatee Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, 2016-2017 Membership Chair of the Manatee American Inn of Court, and a member of the Thomas E. Penick (Elder Law) Inn of Court.

Well Deserved!



Jeffrey S. Goethe, immediate past president of the Manatee Bar and partner in Barnes Walker, Goethe, Hoonhout, Perron, & Shea, PLLC was presented with the **John Arthur Jones Annual Service Award** by **The Florida Bar's Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section (RPPTL)** at their annual convention in Orlando in early June. The award is named after a former

RPPTL Section chair, one of Holland & Knight's founders, and the "Father of Probate Law," who passed away in 2014. The annual service award recognizes Goethe's countless hours of dedicated and outstanding service to the section on its initiatives and projects in the 2015-2016 year.

Organized in 1954, the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section provides a forum for discussion on legal issues in the areas of real property, probate, wills/estates and trust law. The Section also assists in developing real property, probate and trust law, and serves the public and The Florida Bar in interpreting and carrying out the public and professional needs and objectives in the fields of real property, probate and trust law.

MESSAGE from the COURT ADMINISTRATOR MCJC ATTORNEY BUSINESS CENTER

As a reminder to all members, the Attorney Business Center located on the 6th Floor of the judicial center is only to be used by lawyers who are doing business in the judicial center. There are PC's with internet access and MS Word, a fax machine and a scanner. If you are in court and need something last minute, this is your place to go. However, this room is not to be used to meet with your clients, and it is not to be used by legal assistants, paralegals or investigators – it is for licensed attorneys only.

In 2012, at the request of local criminal defense attorneys, the Manatee County Sheriff's Office installed a telephone in the Attorney Business Center which has direct-dial access to the jail pods. This phone is only to be used by attorneys to call clients housed at the jail. Attorneys are reminded that their staff, friends and/or family members of defendants are not permitted to use this phone and are not permitted to be in the Attorney Business Center. It has been noticed by MSO at the jail that non-lawyers have been calling into the jail pods from this line, and we have been asked to protect the integrity of this direct connection or we will lose it. Instructions for using this telephone are available in the Attorney Business Center.

As a result of numerous non-lawyers found using the Attorney Business Center we have changed the combination of the door lock. Before giving out the combination to requestors, it is our policy to verify that the requestor is a member of The Florida Bar. Attorneys may contact The Manatee County Bar office (741.4091) or Court Administration (749.3655) for the new code.

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LAW DAY 2016

In their 7th year as sponsor of the MCBA Law Day Luncheon, our good friends from **BMO Harris Bank** are surrounded by members of the Law Day Committee...pictured L to R: Sean Flynn, BMO Harris' V.P. and Retail Banking Manager Jennifer Zavadil, Nancy See and Alisa Westberry, MCBA President-elect Andrea Johnson, Steele Williams, Judge Susan Maulucci and Scott Rieth. Not pictured: BMO Harris Bank Jaime Varela, Judge Gilbert Smith and Paul Grondahl.

-Save the Date-
Wednesday – September 28, 2016
11:45 am at Pier 22

2016 marks the 53rd anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court *Gideon v. Wainwright* decision. In recognition, the MCBA will be most honored to host Bruce R. Jacob as keynote speaker for our September meeting. Mr. Jacob is Dean Emeritus and Professor of Law at Stetson University College of Law. In the early 1960's, he was the Assistant Attorney General of Florida who represented the State before the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Gideon v. Wainwright* case. It was Mr. Jacob who argued that Clarence Gideon, an indigent, poorly educated man charged with a felony, had no right to be provided with counsel by the State of Florida. Although he lost the case, the Court held that it was consistent with the Constitution to require state courts to appoint attorneys for defendants who could not afford to retain counsel on their own.

Manatee Bar members should make plans to attend and hear his personal historical perspective of this legendary case.

~ Note: Reservations for this luncheon meeting will be requested ~

Beach Party History Appreciation

Time sure does fly when you are having fun. Our sincere thanks to the Grimes Family for the use of their fabulous beach house for 21 years of Manatee Bar Beach Parties! Like the house? It is available for weekly and seasonal rental through Mike Norman Realty.



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Mock Trial Coach Needed

Manatee High School seeks a Mock Trial coach for the 2016-17 school year. Interested Bar members should contact MHS Social Studies teacher Sarah Boler at bolers@manateeschools.net or at sarahlynnbolergmail.com, or by phone 941-704-5324.

Members and friends of the Manatee Bar
 are cordially invited to an

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 has joined the firm.

Mr. Battaglia practices in the areas of Real Estate,
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 The Florida Bar, the Manatee County Bar Association,
 and the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association.

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Welcome New Members

ITA M. NEYMOTIN – J.D. (2002), Capital University Law School. Admitted to The Florida Bar in 2002. Ms. Neymotin is Regional Counsel with the Office of Criminal Conflict & Civil Regional Counsel, Second District Court of Appeal.

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Fort Myers, FL 33901

Ph. 239-963-8119

ineymotin@flrc2.org

J. MATT BOBO – B.S. - Legal Studies, Florida Gulf Coast University (2011); J.D., Emory University School of Law (2014). Admitted to The Florida Bar in 2014. Mr. Bobo is an associate with Lutz, Bobo & Telfair, P.A. and practices in the areas of Civil Litigation, Landlord/Tenant and Mobile Home Law.

2 N. Tamiami Trail, Ste. 500

Sarasota, FL 34236

Ph. 941-951-1800

mbobo@lutzbobobob.com

Oops, We Stand Corrected

In the last issue of Inter Alia, YLD member Bryony Swift's law firm was incorrectly named. She is an associate with **Porges, Hamlin, Knowles & Hawk, P.A.**

Lakin Robinson Kane Kurpiers, PA announces the opening of their Law Firm and ADR Services

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| -Consumer Protection Cases | -Employment, Labor Law Disputes |
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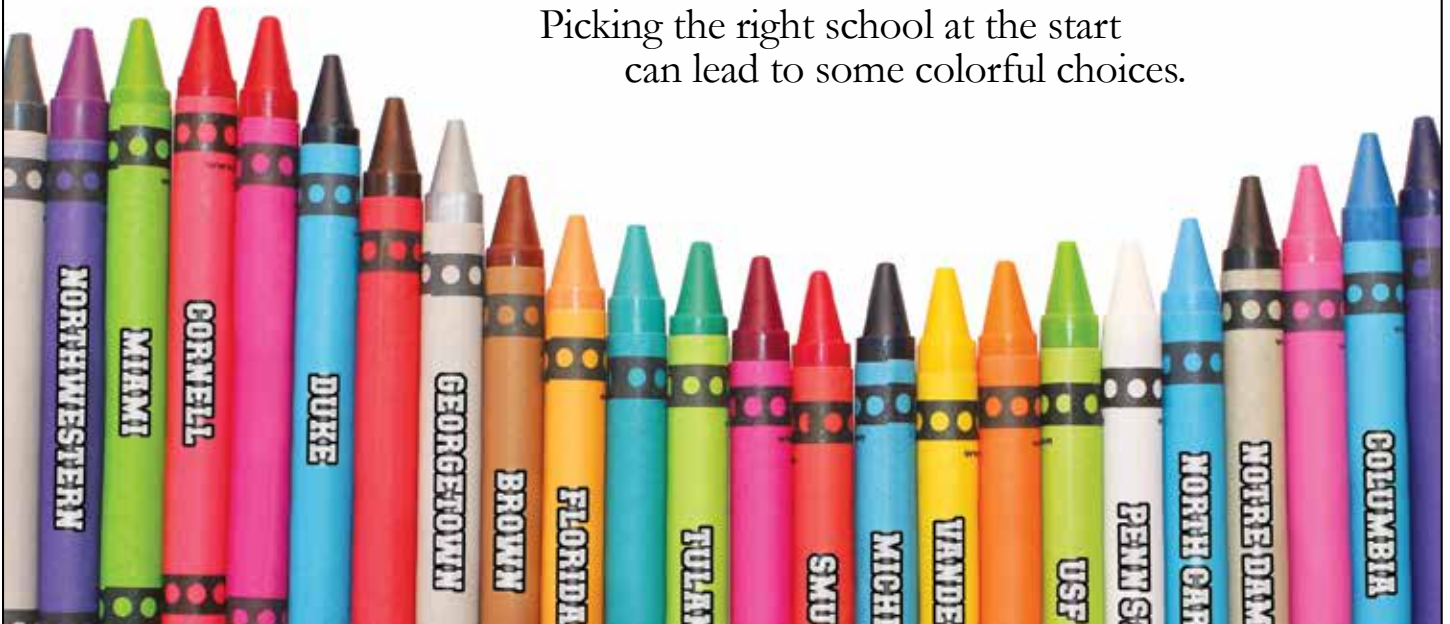
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*Seated L-R: Lisa Fritz, Gail Elliott, Cathy Reed, Petrina Lanza
 Standing L-R: Donna McCammond, Kelly Zoellner, Ruth Taylor, Cindy Chin,
 Marianne Makar, Vicki Shawvan, Carla Neal, Tess Luli, Sue Wilfong, Debbie Trusz*

Manatee Judicial Assistants recently gathered to celebrate the career of **CATHY REED** on her retirement after 34 ½ years of loyalty and service to the 12th Circuit Court and the people of Manatee County.

Picking the right school at the start
 can lead to some colorful choices.



7th GRADE CIVICS EDUCATION PROJECT - THE M.C.B.A. DELIVERED!

By Charlie Telfair - Civics Project Chairman



*Andrea Johnson at
Lincoln Middle School
with Mrs. Sailes-Houston,
7th grade Civics teacher*

average of 25-30 students in each class period, the total number of Manatee County 7th grade students reached was between 2,800 and roughly 3,500. WOW.

The 19 volunteer attorneys who visited schools included Sierra Pino Butler, Fred Moore, Bill Clague, Adria Jensen, Connie Mederos-Jacobs, Elizabeth Lutz, Lisa Moore, Lisa Bell, David Wieland, Trevor Quinlan, Rebecca Proctor, Matt Bobo, Pam D'Agostino, Judge Brownell, Bob Hoyle, Andrea Johnson, Jonathan Whitney, Greg Hagopian and Christine Allamanno.

13 "reserves", i.e. those who volunteered but were not needed included Carl Reynolds and his two associates Bowen Summer and Jason Hottman, Steele Williams, Paul Grondahl, Lori Dorman, Alix St. Paul, Jim Dye, Rob Eschenfelder, Geoff Nichols, Art Cohen, Carmen Rojas-Rafter and Judge Moreland.

A special thanks to the following individuals who spent all day visiting and speaking in multiple classrooms: Elizabeth Lutz; Connie Mederos-Jacobs, Lisa Bell, Pam D'Agostino, Christine Allamanno and last but not least Greg Hagopian who spoke to a total of 17 classrooms.

Finally – thanks to Steele Williams who provided the canned presentation for the project – it was a big success and many 7th graders are now vigorously asserting their 4th amendment rights to parents and teachers (and hopefully to a lesser extent the police).

The 2016 7th grade Civics Education Project was a big success – all of the feedback from teachers and students was very positive – too many e-mails and thank you notes were received to acknowledge everyone. In 2014, our first year of the program, we reached 6 schools, 38 classrooms and 900 7th graders. Last year, in 2015, we reached 7 schools and although I don't have definitive numbers, the program was definitely taking hold.

This year we reached every middle school in the Manatee County School District (10); 112 of the 113 possible class periods available; with an av-



*Greg Hagopian at Haile Middle
School*



2016 SLATER AWARD Presented to Chris M. Pratt

The 2016 Jim Slater Award for Professionalism was presented to attorney Chris Pratt. The award, which was presented at the MCBA Law Day Luncheon by Judge Peter Dubensky (Ret.) on behalf of the Judges of the 12th Judicial Circuit Court, honors an attorney who specializes in the practice of criminal law who exemplifies the qualities that made Slater one of the most respected attorneys in the Circuit. Those qualities include proficiency as a lawyer/advocate, a demonstrated concern for the client, sensitivity to the ethical issues confronting the criminal defense lawyer, courtesy to opposing counsel, victims, defendants, witnesses and candor to the Court.

Past recipients include: Elliot Metcalfe, Adam Tebrugge, Jim Dirmann, Bruce Lee, Liane McCurry, Carolyn Schlemmer, Peter Belmont, Brian Iten and Brett McIntosh.

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IN MEMORIAM EDWARD J. LOPACKI

Attorney **EDWARD J. LOPACKI** passed away on May 21, 2016. Admitted to The Florida Bar in 1981 and established in Bradenton the same year, Mr. Lopacki practiced locally in the areas of elder law, wills, trusts & estates and social security with a focus on accommodations for persons with disabilities. He was the recipient of the Pro Bono Super Star Award by Legal Aid of Manasota.

The Manatee County Bar Association extends condolences to his family.

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- Capital University Law School, J.D., cum laude, 1986
- Harvard Law School Mediation Program

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



It's not always that there are good guys and bad. Sometimes good guys can disagree. When that happens, you can head to court or for governmental, environmental, land use and other complex litigation and administrative matters you can call the Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. Mediation and Special Master Services Group.

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FAMILY COURT PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATIVE CALMING THE TREACHEROUS WATERS OF DIVORCE

DATE: Friday, October 7, 2016
TIME: 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. , Lunch & Snacks included
PLACE: Polo Grill, 10670 Boardwalk Loop, Lakewood Ranch

8:00—8:30 Registration & Check-in
8:30—8:40 Welcome
8:40-10:10 Case Law as it applies to psychological aspects of families (Sharon O'Day , Esq.)
10:10-10:20 Coffee Break
10:20-11:50 Steering Clear from the Negative Impacts of Litigation on Children & Their Families
(Joryn Jenkins, Esq. & Garin Douglas Vick, Psy.D)
11:50—12:20 Buffet Lunch & FCPC Meeting
12:20-1:20 Keeping Families Afloat: The Financial Disaster of Divorce Litigation & How to
Avoid It (Paul Grondahl, Esq. & Brian Pope, MBA CDFP)
1:20-3:00 Navigating the Hazardous Journey of Divorce: Integrating Social Science, Social
Policy, & the Law (Debra K. Carter, PhD & Christine A. Profito, PsyD)
3:00-3:10 Coffee Break
3:10-4:30 Continuation of Navigating the Hazardous Journey of Divorce
4:30—5:30 Judicial Panel: Meet the Family Judges and Magistrates

Name: _____ **Firm:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Profession: _____ **Phone:** (____) _____

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The FCPC Membership & Registration price will allow you to renew or enroll in a new membership for 2017 and join us for the conference. Registration & Membership is open only to professionals practicing in the areas of Law, Mental Health & Finance and qualified for membership in FCPC as per By-Laws.

Return to: Christa Schinzel, Faith Z. Lodder, P.A., 1001 Third Ave West, Suite 375, Bradenton, FL 34205

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Inquiries: Faith Lodder, Esq. / Christa Schinzel, christa@lodderfamilylaw.com or call (941) 953-2825

Eight (8) continuing education credit hours have been applied for lawyers, C.P.A.'s, and mental health professionals. Certificates will be provided at the close of the training. This training is co-sponsored with The Center For Human Potential of America, Inc. The Center for Human Potential of American, Inc. is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Center for Human Potential of America, Inc. maintains responsibility for this program and its contents.

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