



INTER ALIA

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

What's Happening At Our MCBA Lunches?

By *Alix St. Paul, Esq., MCBA President Elect*



As President-Elect, I am charged with finding speakers for our luncheon meetings. I am sure you are thinking, "this sounds like a lot of work...", and you would not be exactly right. We are lucky in that people actually want to come and speak to us at our lunches. I found it a little surprising when I began searching for speakers, but then I forget that we have grown over the years from a very small group to over 300 members. Actually, we get a pretty nice turn out at our luncheons and we can be a pretty good audience. An amazing help to all of us on the Board of Directors is Judge Gilbert A. Smith, Jr., who is a past President of MCBA and always ready to lend a hand and give advice to us. He provides amazing insight and gives us continuity, which all of us serving on your Board of Directors appreciates.

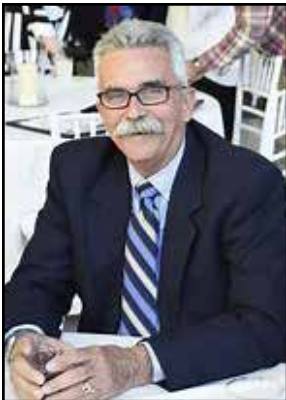
In January, Former Congressman Dan Miller took time out of his schedule to speak to us. He is a good friend; and since his voluntary retirement after 10 years in Congress, he has given his time to many valuable endeavors. Congressman Miller had a wealth of knowledge to share and we all enjoyed his insight regarding the workings of Washington, D.C.

Our current Florida Bar President, Michael Higer, is our speaker at our March 28, 2018 meeting; and the Florida Bar President-Elect, Michelle Suskauer, will speak to us at our September 26, 2018 Bar lunch. That is two Florida Bar presidents in 6 months, quite a distinction and an honor! I do not believe this has happened before in our history and we are very honored and excited to have them come to Manatee County. We will even be able to get CLE credits when Mr. Higer joins us as he agreed to give us a talk that he does around the state which is eligible for one CLE general credit hour and it's free!

Our May 30th LAW DAY keynote speaker is Senator Bill Galvano. He is the President-Elect of The Florida State Senate, and will be the first attorney from Manatee County to be President of the Senate. This is quite an honor for us to have a member of the MCBA serve in this capacity.

Our February 28th speaker is Jeff LaHurd, author of many books, including John Hamilton Gillespie: The Scot Who Saved Sarasota. Many of you may know this little known fact, but I learned that Mr. Gillespie was the first president of the MCBA and is credited with bringing the game of golf to Florida. If you like History and/or the game of Golf don't miss our next meeting! Also at this meeting, we are honored to host the 2nd DCA as our special guests. We hope to see you there.

DON'T MISS: FEBRUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – WELCOME, JEFF LAHURD!



The Downtowner.

In his book, *John Hamilton Gillespie, The Man Who Saved Sarasota*, Jeff brings Gillespie alive as a Scottish lawyer who arrived in Sarasota in 1886 to preserve what was left of a Scottish settlement, which had arrived a year earlier. Gillespie went on to develop downtown Sarasota; and, in 1902 was elected as the first Mayor of

On Wednesday, February 28, 2018, the Manatee County Bar Association welcomes Sarasota author, Jeff LaHurd who will share a story about John Hamilton Gillespie, the first President of the MCBA on May 5, 1905. Jeff has written over a dozen books and numerous articles on Florida history, primarily on Sarasota. His articles have appeared in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Style Magazine, The Sarasota Observer, SARASOTA Magazine, SRQ, Style Magazine, The Sarasota Observer, and

Sarasota where he was reelected for five more terms. Nobody in the small village of Sarasota knew what Gillespie was doing when, in May of 1886, he built a practice golf course consisting of two greens and one long fairway. This was the first golf course in Florida and the second in the United States! In 1904, while serving as Mayor, Gillespie laid out a nine-hole golf course on 110 acres east of his original course. This new course was located on present-day Main Street, east of present Links Avenue, where Gillespie practiced daily for many years.

In order to hear the rest of the story, and be part of our exciting event, you need to RSVP by email to MCBA@ManateeBar.com or by calling 941-741-4091.



Clerks Corner

News from Angelina “Angel” Colonnese, Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller



I would like to extend a thank you to the Manatee County Bar Association for affording me the opportunity for a spot in the Inter Alia to provide updates to the local Bar.

We have exciting news in our Recording Department. We are now accepting E-Recording via Simplifile. This should save time and streamline the recording of documents for our customers who frequently record documents

with our office.

Our office is also currently working to upgrade our website. We currently have a design that will remain user friendly. Our court records search upgrade is almost complete. Once we are closer to our new website launch we will reach out to local users of our website for a demonstration. We expect the demonstrations to take place sometime in the late summer early fall. The upgraded version will be mobile friendly and will enable easy access to electronic documents from a mobile device as needed.

I appreciate this opportunity to address my fellow MCBA members and will keep you up to date on new projects in the future!

Kirk Pinkerton Names New Partner!



Kirk Pinkerton, PA in Sarasota, recently named **Jeffrey M. Guy** as a partner at the prestigious full-service law firm.

With over seven years of experience, Guy focuses his practice in the areas of divorce and family law, personal injury and commercial litigation.

Guy received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Fairmont State Uni-

versity in West Virginia, where he received an athletic scholarship to attend and play football. After completing his undergraduate studies, he worked in the health care industry before leaving to start a business in Florida's growing construction industry in 2000.

After successfully maintaining the business for eight years, Guy attended Stetson University's College of Law and earned his Juris Doctorate with honors in May 2011.

"I've been very fortunate to work with and be around these individuals on a daily basis for the last four years," said Guy, who grew up in Sarasota and attended Riverview High School. "Not only are they good attorneys who have spent significant time in helping me to become better, but also good people who I am proud to call my friends."

Guy is a member of the Sarasota and Manatee County Bar Associations and is licensed to practice in all courts in Florida. He is also a member of the Sertoma Club of Greater Sarasota.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JANUARY 2018 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



l to r: Judge Farrance, Congressman Miller, Judge Smith, Jr., Judge Nicholas, Mrs. Miller, Alix St. Paul, Paul Grondahl



l to r: Cliff Walters and David Deitrich



*MCBA Director Rebecca Proctor
and Fidelity Bank Sponsors*

The MCBA welcomed Retired Congressman Dan Miller as its special guest at the January 2018 General Membership meeting. Congressman Miller gave his special insight pertaining to the “grid-lock” in Washington, DC and all it entails. Members were delighted to ask questions and gain valuable feedback in return. Thank you to all involved who made this event possible.



*l to r: Congressman Miller, Judge Smith, Jr.,
E.D. Graceann Frederico and MCBA President Paul Grondahl*

The Manatee County Bar Association
regrets to learn of the passing of
attorney Bill Padelford.

**MCA FAMILY SECTION EVENT:
M.C.B.A. FAMILY LAW SECTION MEETING
WEDNESDAY – MARCH 7th @ Noon
MCJC – 8th floor multi-purpose room**

Section Chair Libby McNary has scheduled a meeting of the Manatee Bar Family Law Section for Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 12:00 Noon in the 8th floor multi-purpose room at the Manatee County Judicial Center.

All interested members of the Manatee Bar and their support staff are encouraged to attend. Lunch will not be served, but feel free to bring your own!

Speakers:

~ **Q&A With The Judges:** Judge Moreland and Judge Maulucci will be our guests and will be speaking to our Section about their requirements and expectations of the Family Division. If you have specific questions you would like answered, send an email to Libby McNary at: lam@mcnarylegal.com

**Congratulations
Charles W. Telfair!**



Charles W. Telfair, IV from Lutz, Bobo & Telfair has been certified by the Supreme Court of Florida as a Circuit Court mediator. Charles is a civil litigator with over 25 years of experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants.

He has handled medical malpractice, product liability, premises liability, and motor vehicle accident cases along with many commercial litigation matters involving financial transactions, business dissolutions and construction litigation. Charles offers an hourly rate of \$350; no travel charges for Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Desoto, Charlotte, Sarasota and Lee Counties; and the first hour of preparation time for any mediation is gratis.

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Look What Our Members and Their Families Are Doing?

Touring the State Capital – with the Williams Family!



Recently, Steele Williams, Jr. and his father, member Steele Williams, Sr. attended a class trip to our State Capital. Sen. Bill Galvano was kind enough to take time out of his busy day to have a “meet and greet” with the 4th and 5th grade students from Tatum Elementary in Sarasota, Fl. and it was caught on camera for y’all to enjoy!



Sen. Bill Galvano, Steele Williams, Sr. and his son, Steele Williams, Jr.

Congratulations Valerie Bruce!



The MCBA is proud to share the news that Valerie Bruce, daughter of Eric and Lisbeth Bruce, received a grade of “100” for her drawing, of which she is submitting in an art competition. Photo of the drawing is being shared with you, our members! Also being shared, a photo of Valerie experiencing snow for the first time while attending SCAD in Savannah, Georgia. Enjoy!

HAVE YOU PICKED UP YOUR COPY OF THE 2017-18 DIRECTORY!

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YLD News & Happenings

Introducing Book-It Legal: The Innovative Legal Startup That May Forever Change the Student Clerkship

By: Sierra Butler, esq. & Clayton P. Jackson

Named by the ABA as the number-one legal startup in the country for 2018, Book-It Legal is singlehandedly changing the way law students and attorneys across the country view the student clerkship.

What is Book-It Legal?

1. Clayton Jackson is a 2L at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. A special thanks to Jack West (CEO of Book-It Legal) and Dan Tidwell (CTO of Book-It Legal) for sitting down with me for an interview.



1. See Robert Ambrogi, *Announcing The Winners of The 2018 ABA TECHSHOW Startup Alley Competition*, Above the Law (Dec. 18, 2017, 6:31 PM), <https://abovethelaw.com/2017/12/announcing-the-winners-of-the-2018-aba-techshow-startup-alley-competition/>.

In a nutshell, Book-It Legal is the Uber of law student clerkships. Book-It's platform allows top law students to bid on paid legal projects posted by licensed attorneys from across the country. Book-It gives law students the flexibility to bid on the projects they want — and to work at their own pace.

Traditionally, top law students seek to work for large firms as summer associates following their 2L year. These positions are highly coveted: they pay well, and sometimes even lead to full-time employment upon graduation. But this system has also been the status quo for decades — even as technology empowers firms to streamline many of the outdated and time-consuming processes that were required to keep the lights on. Now enter Jack West, CEO of Book-It Legal, who wants to throw a wrench in what he views as an antiquated system in desperate need of innovation.

Mr. West's own experience as both a law student and a young associate ultimately inspired the idea behind Book-It Legal. "Book-It definitely came out of my experience as a law student trying to get my foot in the door somewhere. But it also came out of my experience practicing in a firm in Birmingham where we had clerks for around six or eight weeks each summer. Once they went back to school, all of that work fell back on the young associates — including me. I thought that it would have been really nice to be able to get a sharp law student working on that kind of project whenever it was needed," said Mr. West.

Mr. West calls his innovative idea the "microclerkship." Whatever you call it, Book-It Legal is starting to pick up steam as law students and practitioners from around the country take notice of its innovative platform.

Clayton Jackson, a 2L at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and co-author of this article, has been using Book-It-Legal for six months. "Book-It Legal has provided me with a unique way to supplement my income — something I am sure law students across the country can appreciate. But more importantly, Book-It Legal has provided me the opportunity to work on several different paid research and writing projects. From



writing blog posts to drafting substantive research memoranda, the sheer range of projects available on Book-It Legal is remarkable.

As a small firm practitioner, I am continuously looking for ways to increase productivity and keep overhead low without sacrificing the services provided to my clients. In December 2017, I came across Book-It Legal and decided to give it a try. I've posted substantive legal research and writing projects, marketing projects, and this opportunity to co-author an article for my local bar association. The experience has been fantastic. The students whom I selected to work on my projects produced top notch work in a timely manner. Having access to these students and their work product is something I could not have obtained on my own.

How does Book-It Legal's platform work?

It's simple. First, you create a free account online at bookitlegal.com. From there, you simply post your project by providing a brief description of the work, the price, and the estimated hours you think it will take to complete the work. Next, the project will go live, and top law students from around the country will bid for it — at which point you can select the right candidate for the job.

Once the project is approved, Book-It Legal holds the price of the project in escrow pending successful completion of the project. Once the student has uploaded their work product, you then have the chance to evaluate their work using a 5-star rating system. After you accept the work product and rate the student's efforts, the student gets paid through either an electronic check (ACH) or through Venmo (a popular electronic payment application).

Mr. West wanted to ensure that both creating an account and posting projects were entirely free.

"All an attorney needs to do to use Book-It Legal is to create an account, which is free. Whenever they need to get a hand from a law student, whether it's research, blog posts or reviewing documents — all they have to do is post a project, which is also free. It's only at the point — in which they actually engage a student to start working on a project — does the attorney have to pay," said Mr. West.

But what happens when a student submits substandard work product?

According to Mr. West, this situation is extremely rare. In fact, of the almost 100 successful projects that Book-It has handled, only two involved situations where the attorney wasn't completely satisfied. "We've only had two instances where an attorney wasn't fully satisfied," said Mr. West. "In both of those situations we offered to fully refund the attorney's money."

What's next for Book-It Legal?

In little over a year, Book-It Legal has grown from virtually unknown to the number one legal startup in the country. Currently, Book-It Legal's platform reaches law students at 20 different law schools, the bulk of which are located in the Southeast. On the

(continued on Pg.7)

YLD Unveils Newest Member Benefit – Legal Accelerator Website

by Jesse Butler, Esq.



At the annual Affiliate Outreach Conference this month, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division (“YLD”) launched its new “Legal Accelerator” website. The Legal Accelerator can best be described as a “virtual mentor” that serves as a one-stop hub for obtaining advice on a variety of common issues encountered by young lawyers. This new website is housed behind The Florida Bar member portal and can only be accessed by licensed Florida attorneys.

One of the primary roles of the YLD is to assist its members in the transition from law school to law practice. Over the past several years, the YLD has focused its efforts on providing resources to help new attorneys operate in today’s ever changing and challenging legal marketplace. In doing so, the YLD has created substantial content for its members including how-to videos, webinars, basic CLEs, blog posts, and more.

The Legal Accelerator aggregates all of this previously existing content into one location. In addition to the existing content, the YLD has filmed approximately 1,000 mentoring videos covering approximately 500 topic areas. These videos, which continue to be created, have been filmed by over 100 experienced Florida practitioners, including Judges. This new website is the vision of current YLD President Zack Zuroweste. “This is the first website of its

kind and will revolutionize the way in which young lawyers receive answers to a variety of questions. We want the Legal Accelerator to be the first-stop on every young lawyer’s path to solving an issue they may be facing,” said Zuroweste.

Similar to Google, the Legal Accelerator is easily searchable and organized in a user-friendly manner allowing lawyers to efficiently and effectively find answers to their questions. The content located on the Legal Accelerator is divided into five (5) main categories: 1) Professional Development; 2) Ethics & Professionalism; 3) Substantive Legal Questions; 4) The Florida Bar; and 5) Health & Wellness. Additionally, the content is labeled with multiple “clickable” descriptive tags for even easier searchability across the website.

Santo DiGangi and Andrew Pickett led the effort to create the new website as the current chairs of the Legal Accelerator Committee. “This revolutionary project could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of many people,” said DiGangi. “We hope that our members will utilize this cutting edge resource and benefit from the outstanding content it provides.”

The YLD plans to continue to add additional videos and content to the website throughout this year. The Legal Accelerator can be accessed through The Florida Bar member portal located at www.floridabar.org.

(Introducing Book-It Legal continued)

attorney side, Book-It Legal currently has member attorneys in 15 different states. And as these numbers continue to grow, Jack West and the rest of his team continue to look for unique ways to make the platform even more useful to both law students and attorneys.

Simply put, the “microclerkship” is advantageous for everyone involved. For law students, they get the unique opportunity to work on paid short-term legal projects — gaining much needed income and invaluable work experience. For attorneys, they get the short-term help they so desperately need from a host qualified law students at a price of their choosing. That seems like a win-win to us.

Sierra A. Butler is a principal and shareholder at Butler Elder Law, P.A., a member of Ferrari, Butler, & Moneymaker, PLLC where she concentrates her practice on Elder, Estate, and Special Needs Law. Sierra serves as a Director for the Manatee County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and Membership Chair of the Manatee American Inn of Court. She is also a member of the Penick (Elder Law) Inn of Court, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and Cheers for Charity, a women’s giving circle committed to supporting local charities.

YLD Event!

Come and enjoy your morning cup of java and a bite to eat with our Judiciary and support staff!

Java with the Judges

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- Elective share;
- Rights of surviving spouse;
- Public benefits and Medicaid planning;
- Veteran's benefits;
- Guardianship.



Jeffrey S. Goethe, Esq.

- Admitted to the Florida Bar in 1990
- Florida Bar Board-Certified in Wills, Trusts & Estates
- Fellow, American College of Trust and Estate Counsel
- AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Current member and past chair of the Florida Probate Rules Committee
- The Florida Bar's EPTL Section Executive Council, Homestead Committee Co-Chair, Bar Journal Co-Chair
- Past Director and President of the Manatee County Bar Association



Lawrence W. Thomas, Esq.

- Admitted to the Florida Bar in 1985
- Past Director and Secretary of the Manatee County Bar Association
- Practice areas include wills, trusts, estates, guardianship and elder law



M. Brandon Robinson, Esq.

- Admitted to the Florida Bar in 2015
- United States Department of Veterans Affairs Accredited Attorney
- Executive Board Member, Thomas F. French, Jr. Elder Law Inn of Counsel
- Combat Veteran, United States Marine Corps
- Practice areas include wills, trusts, estates, guardianship, elder law, and veteran's benefits

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Welcome New Members

LORA L. HOWELL

Indiana University, BA, 1994

Florida State University College of Law, JD, 2005

Year Admitted to The Florida Bar: 2007

Ms. Howell is an Attorney with Betras, Kopp & Harshman, LLC, 6320 Venture Drive, Ste. 104, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202, Tel: 1-800-457-2889

ALISON BREITER

USF, BA, 2011

Western Michigan University – Thomas Cooley, 2015

Year Admitted to The Florida Bar: 2017

Ms. Breiter is an Associate Attorney with Mackey Law Group, 1402 Third Ave. West, Bradenton, FL 34205, Telephone: 941-746-6225



MCBA 100% Club Members!

The MCBA is proud to have such wonderful members! The “100% Club” is a special recognition within the MCBA reflecting our members’ commitment to the advancement of the legal profession while enhancing the community. The MCBA is proud to announce the following, who have 100% membership in the MCBA, as members of the “100% Club” for the 2017-18 year:

Law Office of Andrea M. Johnson, P.A.

Tilden & Prohidney, P.L.

Porges, Hamlin, Knowles & Hawk, P.A.

Law Office of Matthew Z. Martell, P.A.

Lisa Bell, PA

David P. Johnson, Esq.

Proctor Elder Law, PA

Mackey Law Group, P.A.

Gerling Law Group, Chrt'd.

Legler, Flynn, Murphy & Battaglia

Edward B. Sobel, PA

Donna Irvin Sobel, PA

Law Office of Mark A. Nelson, PA

Lisa Gonzalez Moore, Esq.

Baker, Paul & Dorman

Kallins Little Delgado

Larry R. Chulock, PA

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 28, 2018 | ORAL ARGUMENTS, 2nd DCA, MCJC, 9:30 am |
| February 28, 2018 | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, PIER 22, NOON |
| March 1, 2018 | Young Lawyers Division: Java with the Judges, MCJC, 9th floor, 7:45 am |
| March 7, 2018 | MCBA Family Law Section, MCJC, 8th floor Multi-Purpose Room |
| March 16, 2018 | MCBA SCAVENGER HUNT, more details coming |
| March 28, 2018 | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, PIER 22, NOON |
| April, 2018 | <u>NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING</u> |
| April 13, 2018 | SPRING SOCIAL - BEACH PARTY – Caya Casa, Holmes Beach |
| May 30, 2018 | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, PIER 22, NOON: <u>LAW DAY PROGRAM</u> |
| June 27, 2018 | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, PIER 22, NOON |

MCBA SECTION CHAIRS:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Family Law: | Libby McNary |
| Solo/Small Firm: | Steele Williams |
| Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation: | Bob Hoyle |
| Probate/Guardianship: | Ben Hunter |

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Congratulations County Court Judge Reneé L. Inman!



Judge Moreland swearing in Judge Inman



President Paul Grondahl presenting on behalf of MCBA



Terri Cromley, FAWL President presenting on behalf of FAWL - Manatee



Floral Display presented on behalf of the MCBA membership



12th Judicial Circuit Judges in Attendance

It was standing room only on February 9, 2018, when Judge Reneé L. Inman was sworn into office in the Historic Courtroom at the Manatee County Courthouse. Judge Inman is the first woman appointed to this position in Manatee County, and the MCBA is very proud of this achievement.



Cliff Walters Honored with Inaugural Robert P. Bartz Award for Outstanding Leadership by the Manatee Chamber of Commerce!

MCBA Member Cliff Walters received the inaugural Robert P. Bartz Award for Outstanding Leadership at the Manatee Chamber of Commerce's 55th Annual Dinner on January 31, 2018. Created to recognize and inspire community leaders, The Bartz Award celebrates the legacy of the late Bob Bartz, who was president of the Manatee Chamber for almost 35 years until his passing in early 2017. Cliff Walters was honored with the Bartz Award and recognized by friends and colleagues as a leader, role model, mentor, professional, and compassionate family man. Congratulations Cliff!

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In Memorium:

John P. Harllee, III

Manatee County, the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, and the Florida Bar continue to mourn the loss of John P. Harllee, III, who passed away on December 5, 2017. John was a true trial attorney with a great legal mind. He was prepared, professional, and always up to the challenges the law provided. He was the attorney that other attorneys reached out to for sage advice and was always willing to listen and help.

John held Martindale-Hubbell's AV preeminent rating for more than 35 years. He was listed as one of Florida Trend Magazine's Florida Legal Elite, a Florida Super Lawyer for business litigation, and one of the Best Attorneys in Florida as published by Best Lawyers and the Wall Street Journal. He was recently honored in June by the Florida Bar for his 50-year membership.

John was a lifelong resident of Manatee County, a community he loved and appreciated, and a decorated athlete at Palmetto High School. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University, where he was the placekicker for the football team. John's 1961 "kick," which is often repeated, denied the University of Florida a win and ended Florida's winning streak.

John obtained his law degree from the University of Florida.



After starting his practice with a small trial firm in Jacksonville, he moved back to his hometown and practiced with the Harllee Porges law firm, establishing himself as one of the finest trial attorneys in this circuit, as well as a leader in the community and the state. John served as a State Representative in the Florida Legislature, where he was a member of the Finance and Taxation Committee. He received the Judge Robert J. Boylston Award for Outstanding Contributions to Legal Excellence, Civility, and Professionalism in 1997 and was named one of the Lawyers and Legends by Manasota Legal Aid in 2013. John went back to his roots in 2001 and established Harllee & Bald, a small trial firm that is located in the building which housed the teen center, a place John enjoyed in high school.

John loved the water and fishing. It was not unusual to see him out on his boat, Sea Cab, whether it be to fish or just enjoy the water and the Florida sunshine.

John's warmth, great sense of humor, and wonderful smile gave all such joy. He is so very missed by his family, by his Harllee & Bald family, by our legal community, and by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

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*Executive Director Graceann Frederico and President Paul Grondahl taking time to catch a "selfie".
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Judge Gilbert Smith, Sr. Jury Assembly Room Dedication

On Friday, February 16, 2018, the 12th Judicial Circuit, State of Florida, honored Circuit Judge Gilbert A. Smith, Sr. with the dedication of the Circuit Judge Gilbert A. Smith, Sr. Jury Assembly Room located on the 2nd floor of the Manatee County Judicial Center. Judge Smith served as a Circuit Judge of the 12th Judicial Circuit from 1971 to 1998 in Manatee, Sarasota and DeSoto counties and as Chief Judge for eight years.

He was born on May 10, 1923 and raised in Arcadia, Florida. After graduating from DeSoto High School in 1942, Judge Smith enlisted in the United States Navy and served on LST # 6 in the Atlantic Theatres – supporting invasions in North Africa, Italy, France and Great Britain, including “D-Day”. In early 1945, he served on a small seaplane tender ship in the Pacific Theatre in preparation for the invasion of Japan. After being honorably discharged in 1947, Judge Smith attended the University of Florida where he graduated with his J.D. in 1951.

He began his career as a trial attorney with the Florida State Road Department where he tried an Eminent Domain case in every county in the state. During the 1950’s, there were no interstates in the State of Florida, when Judge Smith brought Eminent Domain cases in all of the subject counties to create the Florida Turnpike. In recollection of one particular trial in Labelle, Florida, Judge Smith recalled the presiding Judge recessing for lunch at noon and inviting all jurors, lawyers, their clients and all witnesses to follow him across the courtyard to have lunch on picnic tables. The delicious meal (including swamp cabbage and frog legs) were prepared by the Sheriff’s wife and served by the inmates. In 1960, Judge Smith and his family moved to Bradenton and he began practicing law with his law school classmate, George Harrison before joining the law firm of Dye & Dye. On September 21, 1971, Governor Rubin Askew appointed him as the new Circuit Judge after Judge Robert Willis retired. During his twenty years on the bench, Judge Smith served as Chief Judge for eight years. After his retirement in 1991, he continued to serve as a Senior Judge until 1998. After retiring to Due West, South Carolina, at the age of 79, he served as Municipal Judge for six years for \$1.00 a year.

As a Circuit Judge, he believed that the courts existed to help people, with or without legal representation. Judge Smith always believed that serving on a jury was an important duty to be fulfilled by qualified citizens who wanted to serve their community and



The Unveiling of the Judge Gilbert Smith, Sr. Jury Assembly Room

state. Throughout his life and especially as a Circuit Judge, Judge Smith was known for his sense of humor. Tom Tryon, Opinion Editor of the *Sarasota Herald Tribune* appropriately described Judge Smith’s laugh as a “loud, contagious, rat-a-tat sound that would echo through the courthouse or hunting camp”.

Friends, family and colleagues gathered to honor

Judge Smith, Sr.’s, legacy with Chief Judge Charles E. Williams officiating. Special speakers included the Honorable Paul E. Logan, Manatee Sheriff Rick Wells, County Commissioner Priscilla Trace, Clerk of the Circuit Court Angelina Colonnese, Sr. Judge Stephen I. Dakan and Lamar Matthews Esq. Bradenton Boy Scout Troop 22 kindly provided the Presentation of the Colors.

If you would like to view the program in its entirety, please visit METV’s official Youtube channel.



Chief Judge Charles Williams



Sr. Judge Stephen I. Dakan and David Deitrich, Esq.



Judge Erika Quartermaine and Lamar Matthews, Esq.



Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr. Anne Flynn, Esq. and Sean Flynn, Esq.



ED Graceann Frederico and Scott Westheimer, Esq.



Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr. and Chief Judge Charles Williams



Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr.



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Steve Heintz and David Becker are in the less than 1% of Florida lawyers that are board certified by the Florida Bar. Less than 1/2 of 1% are board certified by the National Board. Steve is certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.




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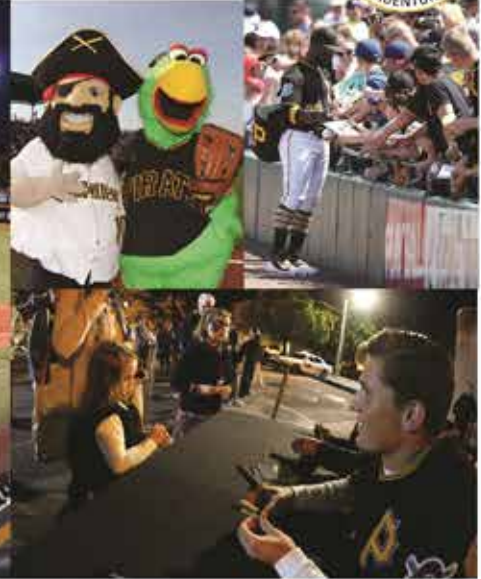
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MCBA Scavenger Hunt

To Benefit the Manatee County Veterans' Drug Court

Friday, March 16, 2018, 4 p.m.

Start: Check in at 4 p.m. sharp at the gazebo in front of the Manatee County court house.

Finish: Caddy's at the Pointe, 801 Riverside Dr. E, Bradenton by 6:15 p.m.

Cost: Teams of 3-5 adults - \$125.00

Individuals (team will be assigned) - \$25.00

Children - \$10.00 each.

Additional contributions are appreciated.

Checks should be made payable to Sarasota Community Foundation-Drug Court Fund (Please be sure to write Manatee Veterans Drug Court on the memo line).

****Start thinking about your teams now, as there will be points awarded for Best Team Name, and Best Team Costume. If you don't want to dress up, you can get your points another way.**

Please direct Scavenger Hunt Inquiries to: MCBA@manateebar.com

To register for the MCBA SCAVENGER HUNT, remit the following, along with your check(s), to the following address: MCBA, PO Box 796, Bradenton, FL 34206

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Please note: All communications from the MCBA regarding the event will be directed to the team representative.

There will be no refunds, however substitutions are permitted.

Team Members: If you will have children along, please provide their names, and for those children under the age of 16, provide their age.

1: _____

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5: _____



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Date: Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: Bradenton Area Convention Center

Cost: Free

This annual seminar is presented as a public service to help educate elected and appointed officials, local government staff, and others. This informative seminar is moderated by County Attorney Mitchell O. Palmer, with presentations on the Sunshine Law, Public Records, and Ethics by various Assistant County Attorneys.

Click the link below to register. Seating is limited and early registration is encouraged.



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