



INTER ALIA

MARCH/APRIL 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

BENCH BAR 2018, BY MARISA J. POWERS, ESQ. Bench Bar Conference 2018 – Have You Registered?



Once again, the Manatee Bar and the Sarasota Bar have teamed up to bring the members of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit another great Bench Bar Conference! By now, you should have received information relating to this year's conference and an email informing you that registration for the conference is officially open. As in this past, this year's conference will be an invaluable opportunity to network, socialize, learn, and earn CLE credits. The breakout session include: Real Estate, Appellate, Employment/ADR, Civil Trial, Adversarial Trust and Estates/Guardianship, Guardian Ad Litem, and a Judicial Panel – definitely something for all members of our Circuit to en-

joy! As a member of this year's Bench Bar Committee, I can tell you that the members of the committee have spent countless hours brainstorming breakout session topics, reaching out to potential speakers and sponsors, and putting together a program that is sure to be an educational and fun experience for all attendees! In case you missed it, the pertinent information on this year's conference is as follows: May 4, 2018, Hyatt Regency Sarasota, 7:45a.m. – 5:00p.m. (3:00p.m. – 5:00p.m. is a networking social).

The link to register online is: <https://manateebar.com/event/12th-judicial-circuit-bench-bar/>

There are still sponsorship opportunities available, so please reach out to Graceann if you are interested. I hope to see you there!

MCBA
2018 BEACH PARTY

»»»»»»»»»» with a twist! ««««««««««

Come join your MCBA friends for a fun night of awesome food and games! Famous steak sandwiches, Oysters, Shrimp, Desserts, and more!

When: Friday, April 13th, 2018
Where: 104 30th St., Holmes Beach
(Grimes Family Beach House)
Time: 5:30 - 8:00 pm
RSVP by April 10th to: MCBA@ManateeBar.com
Bring a guest! But, we need you to RSVP to prepare.

Thank you to our Sponsors!



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: Getting to Know Mike Castro, VP, Branch Manager, Fidelity Bank



How long have you been with Fidelity Bank and what is your position?

“I am a Vice President, and Branch Manager, with Fidelity Bank. My specialty is Business Banking. I look for ways to help small businesses save money, and explore different avenues to help them increase their revenue. I have been with Fidelity Bank for 2 1/2 years, however I have been a banker in Manatee County since 1990.”

How many branches does Fidelity have in the Manatee County area? Statewide or Nationally

“We currently have 8 offices in Manatee County, and 65 offices in Florida and Georgia.”

What's the meaning of the Fidelity Mascot, the lion? Does he have a name?

“Our lion mascot is named “Courageous”. Our mission is to be Courageous Professionals. We are the Number One Community Bank with the Best Customer Service in town.”

What would you like to highlight to our members about Fidelity Bank?

“Fidelity Bank understands that our success depends on the success of the communities we serve. It is important to us to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors and our customers, that is why we are committed to use our strengths to help our customers, and those around us. We participate and sponsor many organizations in our communities. Finally, Fidelity Bank recognizes that successful small businesses help communities thrive by providing employment, economic growth, and the quality of life for the people and communities we serve. Every business has its own unique goals, strategies, and opportunities. Fidelity Bank offers Commercial Lending, Professional Lending Services, Residential Construction, and SBA Loans to help your business succeed.”

Do you really bake fresh cookies for your customers? What's your favorite flavor?

“Yes, we bake our cookies fresh every day in the branch, and my favorite is Chocolate Chip.”

What's your favorite, the dolphin or the manatee?

“The manatee, of course!”

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FEBRUARY 2018 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Pier 22 was the scene for our February 2018 General Membership Luncheon featuring the 2nd DCA, who were in town for Oral Arguments, as well as our Guest Speaker, Jeff LaHurd, author and Sarasota Historian. Mr. LaHurd gave a very fun and informative talk regarding our very first MCBA President, John Hamilton Gillespie. Gillespie, known as the “Scot Who Saved Sarasota” is believed to have brought the game of golf to Florida, and constructed Florida’s very first golf course. Local history, both known, and not so known, was presented with photos, facts, and a bit of imagination. If you missed it, please go to METV’s Youtube channel for viewing times.



*President Elect Alix St. Paul, Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr.,
President Paul Grondahl, Jeff LaHurd*



*1st DCA Judge Makar, President Elect Alix St. Paul,
2nd DCA Judge Black, 2nd DCA Judge Casanueva
and MCBA President Paul Grondahl*



Sean Flynn and Judge Sniffen



*1st DCA Judge Makar, 2nd DCA Judge Black,
and 2nd DCA Judge Casanueva*

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A Partner for the Ages

by Kennedy Legler, III

Thomas Patrick Flynn, my partner of almost 30 years, died unexpectedly on February 18th.

I was thinking that if Tom was preparing this article about me, he would agonize over its content and spend hours writing draft after draft. Why? Because Tom would have wanted his words to be “just right”. And that is how Tom had lived his life. He wanted everything to be “just right” for his family, his friends, his clients, his church, his many charitable organizations and just about everything he touched in life.



attend all court proceedings together and meet with all clients together. This dual representation lasted for several years, until business picked up.

A business marriage is just like any other marriage, in which the partners have their ups and downs. Although Tom and I disagreed on some issues, we agreed more often than not, and persevered through our disagreements. We both liked to joke that our partnership lasted longer than many marital relationships.

Tom and I met in law school in Ohio, and we both practiced law in different firms in Dayton, Ohio, for about 10 years. One cold and dark day in November, we met for lunch and talk led to giving serious consideration to relocating to the State of Florida. Tom’s mother and father, as well as my mother and father, lived in Florida at the time. We approached our respective families, and at first, both were hesitant and dumfounded, but later grew to the idea.

Tom and I eventually signed a letter of intent to purchase a law firm in Naples, but the deal fell through. Despite this setback, we made the move to Bradenton. In February, 1989, we moved to Manatee County and opened our law firm and began our almost 30 year journey.

Ed Murphy and Alyson Battaglia, whom had been with us for several years, eventually joined us as partners, and the journey continued.

Throughout the years, we have been fortunate to have an excellent support staff. Laurie has been with us since the beginning; Sue has been with us 25 years; Kelly has been with us 20 years; and Chris recently celebrated her 10th anniversary. Tom was instrumental in generating this type of loyalty from our wonderful employees, and Tom did everything he could to make sure everything at the office was “just right”.

Just days before Tom died, we had discussed how truly blessed we have been to choose Bradenton as our home, and our time together practicing law had been “quite a ride”.

I will miss my partner and best friend, as I continue my journey, but I will always keep in mind what Tom taught me: Try to do everything you can to make everything “just right”.

In the beginning, we had few clients, and Tom and I would

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THE FLORIDA BAR BOARD OF GOVERNORS SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO BE FILLED IN MAY

The Florida Bar Board of Governors makes several special appointments each year. The Board is currently seeking applicants for the following vacancies to be filled during its May 20, 2018, meeting.

American Bar Association House of Delegates: Two lawyers (one under-36 delegate) to serve two-year terms commencing August 2018, at the conclusion of the ABA Annual Meeting. Applicants must also be ABA members.

Florida Legal Services, Inc. Board of Directors: Five lawyers to serve two-year terms commencing July 1, 2018. This is a 21-member board that provides judicial advocacy through co-counseling with local program attorneys and volunteer pro bono attorneys and provides legislative and administrative advocacy on policies impacting the legal rights of the poor, as well as providing civil legal assistance to indigent persons who would not otherwise have the means to obtain a lawyer.

Florida Lawyers Assistance, Inc. Board of Directors: Five lawyers to serve three-year terms commencing July 1, 2018. This 15-member Board assists the legal community in securing counseling and treatment for emotional and chemical dependency problems for lawyers.

Florida Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Association Board of Governors: One lawyer to serve a two-year term commencing July 1, 2018. This is a nine-member board of governors that develops a means of obtaining loss and expense experience in medical malpractice issues.

Persons interested in applying for these vacancies may visit the Florida Bar website at: www.floridabar.org or should call Bar headquarters at (850) 561-5757, to obtain the application form. Completed applications must be received by the Executive Director, The Florida Bar, 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-2300 **no later than the close of business on Monday, April 9, 2018.** Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of the required application. The Board of Governors will review all applications and may request telephone or personal interviews.

Solo Small Firm Section Social Hour



The Solo Small Firm Section met for a Social Hour at Three Keys Brewing. Members were treated to food and beverages by our sponsor, Steele T. Williams, PA. and had a fun evening of networking, games,, and yes.....BINGO!!!!

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MCBA Scavenger Hunt

“Definitely Bluffing” Wins MCBA Scavenger Hunt

On Friday, March 16, 2018, the Manatee County Bar Association held a scavenger hunt to benefit the Veterans Treatment Court in Manatee County. Six teams participated in a two hour tour of downtown Bradenton. The quest began at 4:00 pm at the Courthouse Square gazebo, where sealed envelopes were distributed to each team leader.

The hunt was divided into four parts: Courthouse Square, Old Main Street, Moving away from Old Main Street, and the Riverwalk/Pier area. Participants learned about Manatee County history, ate cookies donated by Sponsor Sugar Cubed, visited some of the area’s fine pubs, took photos, collected items, and had a good time. Along the way, they had to find our special guests, Judge Dunnigan and Judge Haworth.

The hunt concluded at Caddy’s where nourishment and a beautiful view of the sunset awaited, compliments of sponsor Paul F. Grondahl, P.A. Before points were awarded for Best Team Costume (Definitely Bluffing) and Best Team Name (Dye Harrison’s Team called the Dye Hards), two teams (Definitely Bluffing and the A-Team) were tied. However, after receiving 5 points for Best Team Costume, Definitely Bluffing triumphed and its members were awarded prizes provided by Sponsor Jennifer Fowler-Hermes, Esq., of Williams Parker. Team Definitely Bluffing included Dana and Rod Gerling, Rochelle and Graham Parsons, and Matt Whyte. Junior team members (the “kids”) included Grace and Lilly Gerling, and Paulina Whyte.

At the end of the day, entries and donations raised over \$1,200 for the Veterans Treatment Court. Many thanks to all those that were part of making the event a success!



Definitely Bluffing Win



Definitely Bluffing Selfie





Scavenger Hunt



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MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON WITH FLORIDA BAR
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1.0 CLE CREDIT WILL BE AVAILABLE – FREE!!!

Registration is now open for you to attend our March 28th General Membership Luncheon, when our special guest speaker will be Florida Bar President, Michael Higer. A FREE CLE General Credit will be available to those members who register. Please RSVP to MCBA@ManateeBar.com. CLE has been applied for.

The Inter Alia is a great way to advertise your services to fellow members! It's inexpensive and gets results. Please contact Graceann at MCBA@ManateeBar.com for more information.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
NOMINATIONS ARE DUE
MARCH 31, 2018!**

Don't Delay, send in your nomination today!

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The Manatee County YLD & the Fred G Minnis, Sr. Bar invite you to:

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FRED G. MINNIS, SR. BAR ASSOCIATION

Thursday, April 19

Networking at 5:45 Trivia at 6:15
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YLD News & Happenings

Highlights from Java with the Judges – March 1, 2018

The 9th floor of the MCJC was home to the YLD “Java with the Judges”, early in the morning on March 1st, 2018. Guests enjoyed a delightful breakfast, including donuts from Turner Donuts, as well as wonderful conversation. Thank you to Legler, Flynn, Murphy & Battaglia for being our event sponsor!



Brian Sebaaly, Holly Keith, Marianne Makar and Judge Smith, Jr.



Judge Iten, Judge Arend, and MCBA Director Lori Dorman



Judge Henderson and MCBA Director Jay Horne



Judge Sniffen and MCBA President Elect Alix St. Paul



Judge Dees and Dustin Wagner



Jesse Butler, YLD President Elect Aaron Crittenden and Dustin Wagner

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Family Law & Immigration Attorney Positions

Gulfcoast Legal Services, a nonprofit civil legal aid provider, is seeking two full-time staff attorneys to join our team. We are looking to fill one position in the family law unit (to serve Manatee and Sarasota Counties) and one position in our immigration law unit (to serve Pinellas County).

The staff attorney positions involve a high degree of professionalism, advocacy, compassion, independence, and personal initiative. The successful candidate will provide a full range of high quality legal services to individual clients and to client groups, including representation in circuit court and administrative proceedings. The positions each report to an experienced managing attorney.

Demonstrated Abilities

- Ability to work on various community projects with different partnering agencies.
- Ability to work independently and with attention to detail on all case matters.
- Ability to deal professionally, courteously, and efficiently with people and clients in crisis.
- Ability to maintain client confidentiality and work independently providing representation to clients in public interest law areas of family law and immigration law.

Education/Experience Requirements

- A commitment to the provision of high-quality legal services to the poor.
- Juris Doctorate degree from ABA-accredited law school.
- Florida Bar membership and eligibility to practice law in the State of Florida.
- Prior experience as an attorney a plus, with preference for prior family law or immigration law experience. Law school clinical experience and/or internship will be considered.
- Fluency in Spanish is strongly preferred.

Gulfcoast Legal Services is an equal opportunity employer. Salary starts at \$46,000/year, depending on experience. We offer competitive wages and a generous benefits package. Staff Attorneys may also qualify for the Loan Repayment Assistance Program through the Florida Bar Foundation.

Interested applicants can send their resume to: Tara Meyer

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Welcome New Members

CODY IBASFALEAN

University of South Florida – Sarasota Manatee, 2013
 Stetson Law, JD, 2016
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar: 2016
 Mr. Ibasfalean is a Staff Attorney with Gulf Coast Legal Services, Inc., and can be reached at (941) 720-0931

HOLLY C. KEITH

New College of Florida, BA, 2007
 University of Miami School of Law, 2014
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar: 2014
 Ms. Keith is an Associate Attorney with Lancaster & Eure, P.O. Drawer 4257, Sarasota, FL 34230, and can be reached at (941) 365-7575

DARLENE RAGOONANAN

Rutgers University, BA, 1992
 Stetson Law, MBA, 2002
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar: 2003
 Ms. Ragoonanan is the Misd/Juvenile Division Chief of the State Attorney’s Office – 12th Judicial Circuit, PO Box 1000, Bradenton, FL, 34206 and can be reached at (941)747-3077



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, Chrted.
- 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
- Lancaster & Eure
- Dye, Harrison, Kirkland, Petruff, Pratt & St. Paul
- Manatee County Attorney’s Office

MCBA SECTION CHAIRS:

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- March 28, 2018 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, PIER 22, NOON – TFB President, Michael Higer
- April, 2018 NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- April 13, 2018 SPRING SOCIAL - BEACH PARTY – Caya Casa, Holmes Beach
- April 19, 2018 YLD DIVERSITY TRIVIA NIGHT – with Minnis, Sr. BAR – Hangar Lounge, St. Pete,
- May 4, 2018 Bench Bar 2018 – Hyatt Sarasota
- May 30, 2018 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, PIER 22, NOON: LAW DAY PROGRAM
- June 27, 2018 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, PIER 22, NOON

HAVE YOU PICKED UP YOUR COPY OF THE 2017-18 DIRECTORY!
Email the MCBA Office at MCBA@ManateeBar.com and we will have a copy ready for you.
Please give 48 hour notice.
Thank you.



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CIRCUIT COURT
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

MIGUEL M. de la O

CIRCUIT JUDGE

DADE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
73 WEST FLAGLER STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33130

MEMORANDUM

TO: Voluntary Bar Associations
Local Judicial Campaign Practices Committees

FROM: Judge Miguel de la O, Chair
Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee

DATE: March 9, 2018

SUBJECT: Judicial Campaign Conduct Forums

On behalf of the Supreme Court of Florida and the Court's Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, I invite you to participate in any of ten judicial campaign conduct forums scheduled throughout the state in early May. Offered in concert with the state's trial court chief judges and The Florida Bar Board of Governors, all forums will take place Thursday and Friday, May 10th and May 11th, beginning at 1:00 PM. A schedule, along with other materials, may be accessed online at http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/pub_info/documents.shtml#Judicial.

The forums will focus on requirements imposed upon judicial candidates by Canon 7 of Florida's Code of Judicial Conduct and the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. Presenters will emphasize the importance of integrity and professionalism among all candidates for judicial office and the consequent impact of campaign misconduct on public trust and confidence in the judicial system. Particular emphasis will be given the seriousness with which the Court views any abuse of the elections process.

We are encouraging you and others to take part in these forums so we may more effectively communicate through broad participation the importance of complying with the high standards critical to the integrity of judicial elections.

We hope you will plan to participate in a forum scheduled in your area.



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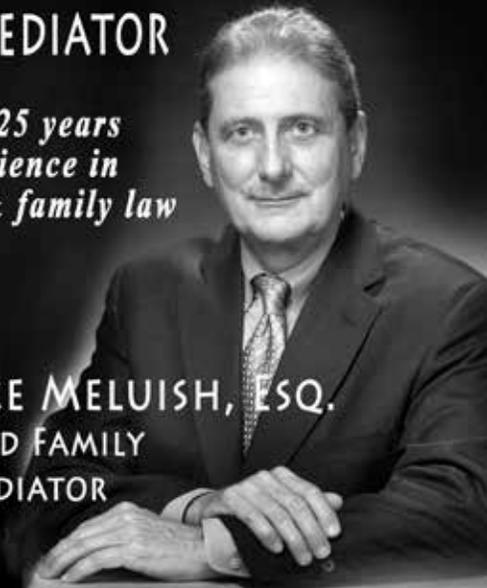
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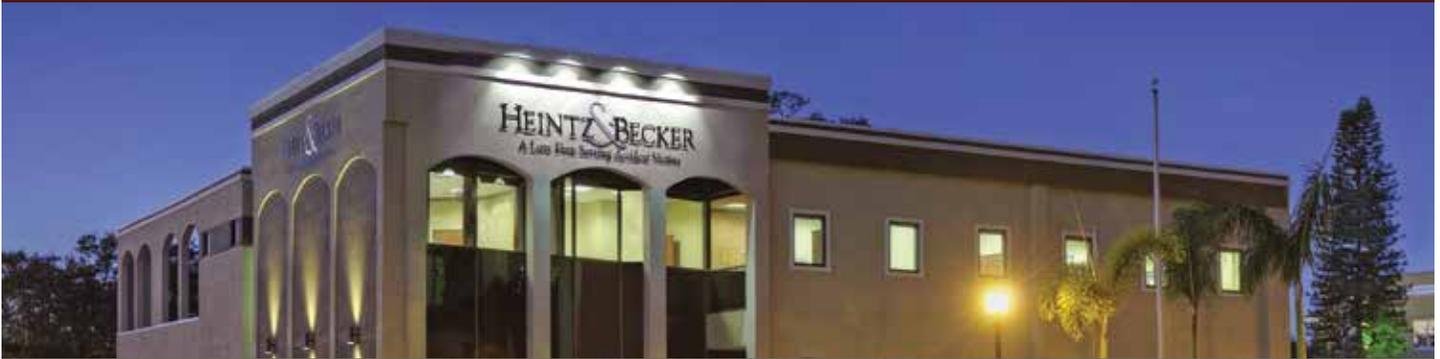


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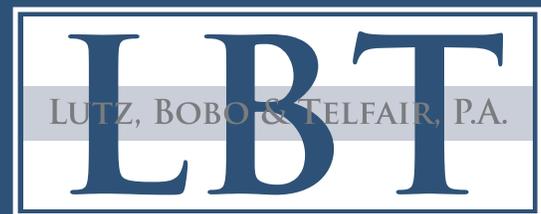
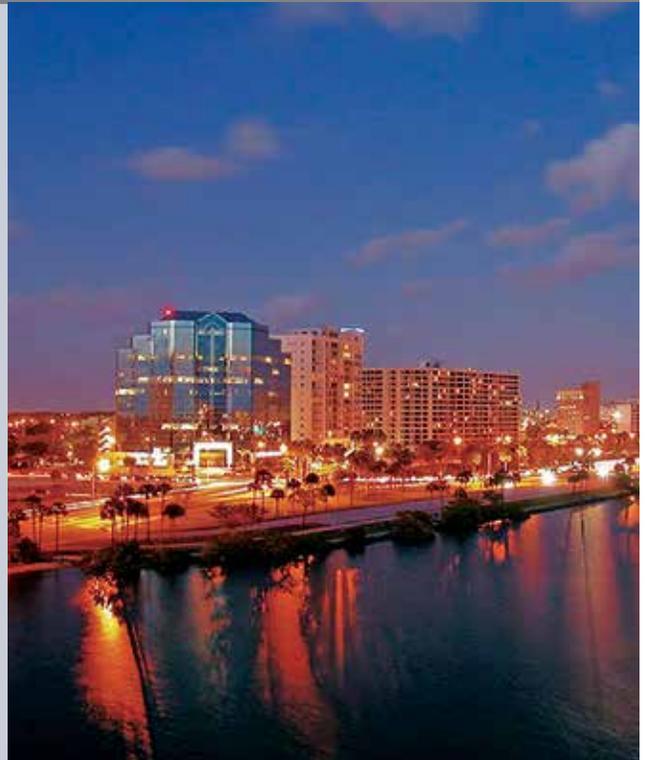


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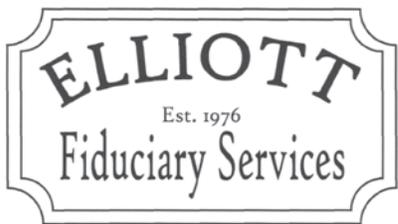
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Tuesday, April 10th from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Registration begins at 9:00 am

Lunch will be provided

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Approved for 3.5 General CLE

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Name: _____ FL Bar #: _____

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Registration:

- I **currently** have a pro bono case with Legal Aid of Manasota **Fees waived**
- I **agree** to take a pro bono case with Legal Aid of Manasota **Fees waived**

Please register by April 5th.

Mail registration form to:

Legal Aid of Manasota, 1900 Main Street, #302, Sarasota, FL 34236

Email registration form to: pamelaf@legalaidofmanasota.org

Online registration also available at <https://tinyurl.com/SHOPPCLE>

2018 bench bar conference

12th Judicial Circuit
Friday, May 4, 2018 • Hyatt Regency Sarasota
(CLE credit pending approval)



RAISING THE BAR



MORNING SCHEDULE



7:45 - 9:00 am

Registration & Breakfast

9:00 - 9:15 am

Welcome and Opening Remarks

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 (choose one)

9:30 - 10:30 am

A

THE QUICKSAND OF *JOHNSON V. DAVIS*

Speaker: Morgan Bentley, Esq.

B

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION— ARBITRATIONS

Panelists:

Charles Dorsey, Esq., VP of AAA Employment Law Arbitration Sector
John Chapman, Esq.
William Christopher, Esq.

C

GUARDIAN AD LITEM

Panelists:

Judge Donna Padar Berlin
Judge Lee E. Haworth
Judge Stephen M. Walker

D

CHANGES IN THE DEATH PENALTY AFTER *HURST*

Speaker: Second DCA Judge Anthony Black

10:15 - 10:30 am - NETWORKING BREAK

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 (choose one)

10:45 - 11:45 am

A

VOIR DIRE

Panelists:

Steve Lavelly, Esq.
Judge Brian A. Iten
Judge David L. Denkin

B

UNDUE INFLUENCE—HOW TO RECOGNIZE, PREVENT, AND PROVE IT

Panelists: TBA

C

EXTRAORDINARY WRITS

Panelists:

Second DCA Judge Darryl Casanueva
Second DCA Judge Susan Rothstein-Youakim

12:00 noon - 1:30 pm - LUNCH
(please see side 2 for afternoon schedule)

We thank our presenting sponsor:



JUDGES' SESSION

1:30 - 2:45 pm

(Ethics credit pending approval)

Perspectives from the Bench

A panel discussion regarding courtroom procedure, protocol, etiquette, ethical issues, general observations and comments from the judicial side of the Bench

Q&A to follow

Panelists: Judge Hunter W. Carroll, Judge David L. Denkin, Judge Diana L. Moreland, Judge Edward Nicholas, Judge Charles E. Williams, Magistrate Deborah Bailey, Magistrate Rebecca Hunt

CLOSING REMARKS & RAFFLE DRAWINGS

2:50 pm

NETWORKING SOCIAL

3:00 - 5:00 pm

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2018 Bench Bar Conference**

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Mail this registration form with payment to:

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Early Bird Registration Deadline - April 13, 2018

Register now and you will be entered into a drawing to win free admission to the Conference (refunds processed after event)

Standard Registration Deadline - April 27, 2018

- SCBA/MCBA Members\$130.00
- Non-members.....\$160.00
- Government.....\$100.00
- JudicialComplimentary

PLEASE INDICATE WHICH BREAKOUT SESSIONS YOU ARE ATTENDING:

Breakout Session 1 9:30 am to 10:30 am (select one)

- The Quicksand of *Johnson v. Davis*
- Alternative Dispute Resolution—Arbitrations
- Guardian Ad Litem
- Changes in the Death Penalty after *Hurst*

Breakout Session 2 10:45 am to 11:45 am (select one)

- Voir Dire
- Undue Influence
- Extraordinary Writs

Judges' Session (Ethics credit) 1:30-2:45 pm

- I will attend
- I will not attend

Networking Social 3:00-5:00 pm

- I will attend
- I will not attend

To pay by credit card, please go to our secure website to register:
www.sarasotabar.com or call us at 941-861-8180

.....
CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

All cancellation requests must be emailed to scba@sarasotabar.com. Cancellations received on or before April 13 receive a full refund less a \$25 processing fee. Cancellations received April 14 through April 27 receive 50% refund of the total registration fee. Cancellations received after April 27 are 100% non-refundable.

____ Please check here if you have a disability that may require special attention or services. To ensure availability of appropriate accommodations, attach a general description of your needs. We will contact you for further coordination.

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If you are interested in advertising in the *Inter Alia*, (circulation 385), please contact Graceann Frederico at (941) 741-4091 or at MCBA@ManateeBar.com

Copy deadline is approximately the 10th of the month. Payment is expected at time of publication. Checks may be made payable to MCBA, P.O. Box 796, Bradenton, FL 34206.

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