



INTER ALIA

JUNE 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

“TWO, FOUR, SIX, EIGHT...”

Paul F. Grondahl, President, Manatee County Bar Association



My time as President of the Manatee County Bar Association ends with a note of thanks:

As President of our Bar Association, I was lucky enough to “lead”, i.e., dump projects on, my fellow Board Members, all of whom took on the heavy lifting with great initiative. I was very fortunate to have Alix St. Paul as President-Elect. Alix was invaluable helpful to Graceann and I throughout the year, and as President-Elect was charged with coordinating our monthly lunch speakers. This was one of our Bar’s more memorable years in that regard. Among others, we were honored to have the President of the Florida Bar, Michael Higer, and soon-to-be President of the Florida Senate, Bill Galvano, speak at our luncheons. Always planning ahead, Alix has already arranged for new Florida Bar President Michelle Suskhauer to speak next February.

Following in Alix’s footsteps as next year’s President-Elect is Charlie Telfair, who served responsibly as Treasurer. Jennifer Fowler-Hermes served as Secretary, and along with Mary Hawk headed an Essay Contest that allowed our Bar to integrate with local schools and honor three extraordinary students at our Law Day luncheon. Jennifer and Liz Moneymaker created one of this year’s most enjoyable new events, a Scavenger Hunt which raised a significant amount of money for the Veterans Drug Treatment Court. Several judges helped out that day.

As always, the efforts of Young Lawyer’s Division were extraordinary as described by Bryony Swift in her article. We were fortunate to have Bryony, President of the YLD, and Immediate Past YLD President, Jay Horne, serve on our Board of Directors this past year. Lori Dorman was entirely responsible for creation of our proudest new initiative, the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Rebecca Proctor served on our Board, including assisting with our Beach Party (along with other non-Board usual suspects, e.g., Eric Bruce, Scott Reith, James Lynch, etc.). Marisa Powers worked with Nancy Cason and the Sarasota Bar in coordinating this year’s 12th Circuit Bench Bar Conference, which was an unqualified success.

I followed in the footsteps of Immediate Past President Andrea Johnson, who during her Presidency hired and trained Graceann Frederico, our Executive Director. I was lucky to have Andrea’s leadership as a model to follow, and Graceann in her first full year has been a great blessing to our organization.

I have not mentioned the names of specific judges who have so often assisted our Association during the past year and during my time on the Board, because our entire 12th Circuit judiciary has been so involved in our luncheons, events, fundraisers, CLE, and other programs. One anecdote comes to mind: I recently contacted one of our judges by email seeking help with a particular endeavor. I came into the office the following day to find emails from three different judges offering to assist.

(Continued on Pg. 2)

ET TU BRUTE

Charles W. Telfair, IV, Esq., Treasurer



Too many times in the legal profession, we feel the infamous “stab in the back” from our comrades in law. Truth be told, my experience tells me that the members of our “Bradenton Bar” are some of the lightest offenders. I have practiced around the state for the last 27 years and the place that I have always felt the most at home in my practice is Manatee County. We have our differences and it seems as though, at times, we antagonize each other just for the sport. But, for the most part, we are collegial and truly seem to enjoy the company of our fellow Manatee County Bar members.

However, I have heard our fellow Bar members express an interest in all of us doing more than just getting along. We can and should also make a conscious effort to support each other. How?

1) Support and defend our local judiciary. Our local Judges, like all Judges, carry a heavy burden. As I read in a recent article “[A judge’s] job description includes sleepless nights, hours of intense reading, having to detach your emotions from your decisions and always being unpopular with some members of the public.” Much is expected of our judges and yet, at times, they are subjected to unwarranted attacks. When that occurs, we (the local Bar members) should step up and defend them. If we do not, who will?

2) Support our local Bar members. There are lots of us - 300 plus members of the Manatee County Bar and growing. Our local Bar is fantastic - I think it is one of the best run in the state. But, I also think we are missing some opportunities. With 300 plus members, our business should stay local. Too many times, in my opinion, “out-of-towners” receive choice business that could and should go to a local Bar member. I have no doubt that the “out-of-towners” are good lawyers. But, I also have no doubt that we have many lawyers in our local community who can meet or exceed the expectations of our local clientele. Given the choice, I hope we stay local and refer to our fellow Manatee Bar members.

3) Support our local Bar members (Part 2). As Lori Dorman’s excellent article last month points out, mental health is a pressing issue in the law. The legal profession, like most of life, is very tough. Reach out to fellow Bar members. Go to lunch together. Attend Bar events.

Become involved and attempt to involve those Bar members who are reluctant. And, if you sense that a person needs help, help them to the best of your ability. If you need help, please seek it. Confidential assistance is available in many places including through our local Bar and the Florida Bar.

4) Preserve our history. Last, but not least, let’s work towards preserving our history. Excellent lawyers have come and gone in our community. I am now old enough (unfortunately) to remember some legendary local lawyers that young lawyers will perhaps never know about. Let us do our best to ensure that we preserve our local legal history. It makes a great story and it deserves to be told.

(Two, Four, Six, Eight continued from Pg. 1)

Thank you to everybody mentioned and unmentioned for making the last year so special, and such a successful year for our Bar Association. And thank you for the privilege of serving as President of the Manatee County Bar Association.

Thank you to our 2017-18 annual sponsors, Fidelity Bank, Lexis Nexis, Firkins Automotive. Thank you to my wife Jennifer, an angel sent down especially for me, for her patience and support.

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Congratulations!



Kennedy Elle McDowell was born April 24, 2018.
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The MCBA regrets to learn of the passing of J. Harris Rhyne.



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MCBA Members Attend “Wellness Night” at Four Pillars



MCBA Members and guests receiving instruction from Four Pillars Owner, Cheri Christiansen

Members and guests enjoyed a night of relaxation and pampering at Four Pillars Wellness Center in Lakewood Ranch. Attendees delighted in authentic light Italian cuisine prepared by Il Conte restaurant which included lamb, bruschetta, eggplant parmesan and of course homemade pasta. Following the delightful meal, members experienced 5 wellness sessions including aromatherapy, neck and back massage, stress relief meditation, acupuncture and yoga taught by Four Pillars staff. The evening's focus was on stress relief and management and the different options available.



Barbara Frederico, Cheri Christiansen, and Karen Martell enjoying their evening

You Are Not Alone

By, Shana Rosenthal, CCH

“Beware the barrenness of a busy life.” ~Socrates

The focal point of your life is your work and case load. It takes up and makes up a huge portion of your life. Your professional life is a sort of obsession - obsessed with being productive so that you set aside almost every minute of your waking hours for some work-related activity.

You even couple meals with work; toilet breaks mean drafting reports in your head and heavy traffic signals the start of phone meetings. You see this picture and think of yourself as an efficient multi-tasker. Hopefully that's true, but no; you are a person trapped inside a “too busy” cycle.

Lawyers commonly perceive being “too busy” as a sign of great accomplishment and a successful career. Although this can be correct, being continually overworked and overwhelmed has more damaging than positive effects. Being too busy indicates stress, and our well-being can only take so much of this pressure before the stress response is triggered. Once this occurs, you are running on “survival or panic mode.”

Stress is helpful and motivating to some level, but considerable evidence shows that prolonged exposure to high levels of stress stimulates the body to release hormones called Glucocorticoids, which can damage several body systems, often permanently if not dealt with.

This realization is crucial to understanding the significance of chronic stress and your excessively busy life. When it comes down to it, know that you are not alone and it is not a weakness. It is a habit that is extremely common in your profession and can be attributed to the reason why Lawyers have one of the highest depression and suicide rates of all professions. Unfortunately, the stigma and secrecy surrounding this issue often prevents help being sought when needed.

Luckily, there is light at the end of this tunnel. There are so many ways to successfully manage stress and reverse the effects it has reeked on your mind and body. You can do so only after you notice and acknowledge that you are indeed too busy, overwhelmed and too stressed.

You may recognize from the list below some common behaviors that signal your “busyness” is out of hand:

1. Always looking for something:

Searching for car keys, phone, wallet, jewelry, eyeglasses, and documents is part of your daily routine. Things seem to be misplaced or lost often.

Cortisol, the hormone released when you are stressed, damages the brain over time and can lead to memory problems. When you are stressed, thoughts are scattered, and this lack of focus is the reason you lose track of things. Your mind is not as sharp as it could be which means your productivity could be higher than it is.

2. Inappropriate anger:

Stress make you irritable, unhappy, and aggressive. You often get angry over the smallest mistakes of others and get irritated by just about anything.

When stressed, your mind is so weighed down that you are unable to rationally and calmly process situations and information. Hence, you have less and less patience for errors and indiscretions.

In addition, stress often causes insomnia of varying degrees. Not getting enough sleep can cause a reduction of the neurotransmitter Serotonin, which helps to keep you calm during stressful situations.

3. Waking up every single day feeling tired:

Do you wake up in the morning feeling as if you have not had a single hour of sleep, feeling drained and exhausted?

Morning fatigue is one of the unquestionable signs that you are overworked, overstretched, and overwhelmed. The feeling of overpowering tiredness after waking up indicates that you have not rested well during the night. Your over stimulated mind just won't shut down.

4. Frequent headaches:

Do you get headaches once or more a week? Do you feel tightness in your head that often extends to the back of your neck?

These types of headaches are caused by tension and are among the most common indications of chronic stress. One of the body's response to stress is muscular contraction; when exposure to stress is sustained, muscles spasm, resulting in pain or discomfort. Spasm of the muscles in the upper back, neck, and scalp area results in tension headaches.

(Continued on Pg. 16)

Twelfth Circuit Local Professionalism Panel

The Twelfth Circuit established its Local Professionalism Panel ("LPP") on April 10, 2014. The purpose of the LPP is to accept, screen, and resolve complaints alleging that attorneys have engaged in unprofessional conduct in the practice of law. Complaints may be filed by fellow attorneys, members of the judiciary, clients, and members of the public.

Due to the expiration of some LPP members' terms of service, as well as plans to expand the number of persons serving on the LPP, the Twelfth Circuit is seeking attorneys in Manatee, Sarasota County (north and south), and Desoto County who are interested in serving on the LPP. The time commitment varies with the number of complaints received and assigned to subpanels for investigation. Interested attorneys may find more information about the LPP in the current Administrative Order 2015-12.2, available on the Circuit's website.

If you are interested in serving, please email Magistrate Bailey's assistant, Donna Martin, at dmartin@jud12.flcourts.org with your contact information.

It's Time to Renew Your MCBA Membership!

It's that time of year again, time to renew your membership dues for the 2018-19 year! The renewal form is enclosed in this issue of Inter Alia. Please complete it in its entirety and return it to the MCBA at PO Box 796, Bradenton, FL 34206. Dues are remaining at \$225 and must be paid by July 30th. Dues postmarked after July 30th, will incur a \$25 late fee. If you choose to pay via credit card, please follow the directions on the form or call the MCBA office at (941) 741-4091.

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FAWL SWEARS IN 2018-19 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



FAWL 2018-19 Board of Directors

Clerk Angelina Colonnese swore in the new FAWL Board of Directors on June 8th. New Boardmembers are: Dana Laganella Gerling (President), Grace Reeves (Vice President), Lisa Moore (Secretary), Liz MoneyMaker (Treasurer), Alyssa Sells Nohren, Joy Leggett Murphy, Alex Nicodemi, Holly Keith, Judge Susan Maulucci and Past-President Terri Cromley. Also, at the luncheon, as her last act as President, Terri Cromley presented Meals on Wheels with \$8,400 raised from fundraising efforts, including the Meals on Waves event. Way to go, ladies!



Past President Terri Cromley and representatives from Meals on Wheels

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YLD News & Happenings

YLD 2017-2018 Recap

Bryony G. Swift, Esq., YLD President



This past year I had the honor to serve as the president of the Young Lawyers' Division of the Manatee County Bar Association ("YLD"). While the YLD bylaws contain a carefully word-smithed six-part Article outlining the manifold purposes of the YLD, I have it on good authority that the purpose of the YLD organization is: to prepare the leaders of tomorrow for leadership by getting them out into the community doing

good. *S. Revell*, 1 So.3d 1 (Sue 2015). It was an absolute privilege to serve Manatee County with the hardworking and talented members of the YLD doing good for our community. Below is a short list of what our group accomplished during the 2017-2018 year:

In the fall, we hosted a Java with the Judges reception where we were able to thank retiring Judge Dunnigan, not only for her years of service, but also for her commitment to mentoring young lawyers. The autumn Java was hosted by Sierra Butler and James Lynch, and sponsored by Butler Elder Law. Next, we hosted a haunted Winery Tour in October coordinated by Amanda Tullidge and me, where YLD members networked and tasted organic fruit wines, then we toured the haunted grounds seeking paranormal activity. Honorable mention to Alex Stewart of the Dye Harrison firm for his apropos Ghostbusters T-shirt! In November the YLD hosted a Yappy Hour with our doggies, coordinated by Dustin Wagner and sponsored by Lutz, Bobo & Telfair, P.A. Then in December, we volunteered our time at the Big Brothers Big Sisters Holiday Carnival, arranged by Aaron Crittenden.

Meanwhile, we were busy preparing numerous grant applications. Funding for a large portion of what we do is made possible by grants through our parent organization - The Young Lawyers Division of the Florida Bar. This year we applied for and received five grants, more than ever before!

In January of each year, the Young Lawyers Division of the Florida Bar hosts an Affiliate Outreach Conference, and each affiliate sends two representatives to present their grant proposal to the Board of Governors for the YLD. The Affiliate Outreach Conference is an incredible opportunity to network with leaders from across the state and learn about new initiatives of the Young Lawyers Division of the Florida Bar. At the 2018 conference the YLD Board of Governors presented their new Legal Accelerator Search Engine, and their Technology Roadshow, which is a travelling technology CLE program created to meet the Bar's new technology CLE requirements. (Please, save the date of 10/17/18 to fulfill your technology CLE requirements when the technology roadshow will present in Manatee County!)

This year Melissa Casanueva and I represented the Manatee YLD at the Affiliate Outreach Conference where we requested grant funding to add a lactation room to our Judicial Center. We were also awarded the Public Service Project of the Year for the previous year's grant. The Young Lawyers Division of the Florida Bar presents three affiliate awards at the conference: Large Affiliate

of the Year; Small Affiliate of the Year; and Affiliate Public Service Project of the Year. It was a great honor to be recognized for our Stock Up For College with Take Stock in Children grant project and we hope the recognition will inspire other YLD affiliate chapters to replicate our Take Stock in Children program.

In March of this year, the YLD hosted a second Java with the Judges, coordinated by Grace Reeves and sponsored by Legler, Flynn, Murphy & Battaglia. We always have a great turnout at this event where young lawyers are able to get to know our judges. Next the YLD assisted the MCBA in planning its first Scavenger Hunt, which took teams on a scenic tour of downtown Bradenton and raised \$1,200.00 for Manatee County Veterans Treatment Court. YLD member Trevor Quinlan assisted the MCBA again this year in planning its Annual Beach Bash, which is always a blast!

Then, in late April, the YLD hosted a Diversity Trivia event in partnership with the Fred G. Minnis Sr. Bar of Pinellas County, hosted by Sierra Butler, with assists from Jesse Butler, Charis Campbell and me. The Diversity Trivia event was an enormous undertaking which ended up being a huge hit! The Butlers collected, and/or created approximately a hundred diversity-themed trivia questions. Sierra created 6 rounds of increasingly difficult diversity-themed trivia, so attorneys from the MCBA, the YLD, and the Minnis Bar could match-wits and mingle. The YLD was thrilled to completely fill the venue, and to have two candidates for the state House of Representatives in attendance! Thank you to everyone who contributed diversity-themed trivia questions. Diversity Trivia was sponsored by grant funds from the Young Lawyers Division of the Florida Bar, by U.S. Legal Support and Book IT Legal, and a contribution from Gonnello SEO.

Later that month a few members of the YLD met at the Children's Waiting Room for a room-refresh. You may not know, the YLD created and maintains a waiting room for children on the third floor of the courthouse. The YLD has stocked the room with books and toys for children attending family court. YLD members cleaned the room, removed the damaged books and replaced them with new books. Look for new toys coming soon!

Speaking of YLD-sponsored rooms in the Judicial Center, in May we unveiled the new grant-funded lactation room mentioned above, which is now: The New Parent Nursing Center on the fifth floor. I would like to thank Karl Breitingner and Nicholas Casanueva for making an appearance at the unveiling ceremony with their lawyer-moms, and welcome Finn Quinlan born only a few days before the lactation room unveiling ceremony in early May! The room was completed by Melissa Casanueva and myself, with input from many local lawyer-moms, and with a reception coordinated by Melissa. Also in May, we held our annual Art Creations for the Courthouse reception where we recognize the student artists whose artwork decorates the fifth floor alcove of the Judicial Center. Each year members of the YLD select and display artwork created by talented local students of all ages in partnership with Manatee County

(Continued on next page)

YLD News & Happenings

"ART CREATIONS IN THE COURTHOUSE 2018"



Several MCBA members, Judges, and teachers came out to celebrate local students as their art went on display at the Manatee County Judicial Center. Guests were treated to refreshments as they perused the artwork and interacted with the student artists and their families.

(YLD 2017/2018 continued}

Schools. Then we recognize those student-artists, their families, and their art teachers at a reception. The featured artists and their families are truly moved to see their creations gracing the walls of our beautiful courthouse, which makes this the feel-good event of the year. This was my fourth and final year coordinating Art Creations as I hand the event to Grace Reeves next year. Thank you to Grace for helping me hang the artwork and to curriculum specialist Julie Herbert for bringing us so many beautiful pieces of art!

In June we volunteered our time at the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Manatee barbeque, arranged by Aaron Crittenden, and we will close out the year, as we always do, with a joint social with the Sarasota YLD. The two YLD groups will attend a LeBarge Sunset Cruise on June 21, 2018, coordinated by Dustin Wagner and sponsored by US Legal Support and Carr, Riggs & Ingram.

The YLD also received grant funds for our annual Professionalism Roundtable Luncheon which grant was prepared by Dan Van Etten. We were also awarded a wellness grant to fund a kayaking adventure, but subtropical storm Alberto had other plans that weekend. Thanks to Jay Horne for preparing and submitting the wellness grant. Look for these and other exciting events coming this fall!

I am excited about the significant growth the YLD has experienced this year. Many new members have joined us, so our board meetings consistently pack-the-house. Our YLD is growing because we have fun, we laugh and build relationships while we plan creative and original programs. We are known at the state level for our original grant proposals, our innovative programming and our meaningful contributions to our community. I look forward to passing the gavel to Aaron Crittenden and the 2018-2019 Officers and Board of Directors and I am excited to see what they have in store for the YLD. If you are under the age of 40 or within your first 5 years practicing law, you are invited to attend a board meeting and YLD events throughout the year. Find us on Facebook at Manatee County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division. Come into the community to do some good with the YLD!

Bryony G. Swift is an associate attorney with the law firm of Porges, Hamlin, Knowles & Hawk P.A. where she practices Association Law, Real Property Litigation and Business Litigation.



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Welcome New Members

OMAIRA P. DAUTA

Florida Atlantic University, BA, 2005
 Florida A&M University, School of Law, 2014
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar: 2015

Ms. Dauta is an Associate at Churchill & Wells, PLLC, 2719 First Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713, Tel: 727-914-7281.

KATHERINE M. FALL

Arkansas State University, BA 2001, and MA 2002
 University of Arkansas, JD 2006
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar: 2018

Ms. Fall is an Associate with Boyer & Boyer, PA, 46 N. Washington Blvd, Ste. 21, Sarasota, FL 34236, Tel: 941-365-2304

AMY FARRINGTON

University of Florida, BA, 1996
 University of West Florida, M.SA
 University of Florida, JD, 1999

Year Admitted to The Florida Bar: 1999

Ms. Farrington is a Director at USF - Sarasota Manatee, 8350 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243, Tel: 941-359-4414

PAUL J. KARASICK

Cornell University, BA, 2006
 William & Mary Law School, JD, 2009
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2009

Mr. Karasick is a Senior Attorney with Florida Department of Children & Families, Children's Legal Services - 12th Circuit, PO Box 20995, Bradenton, FL 34204, Tel: 941-374-1569

WANDA PISTELLA

Florida International University, BA, 1988
 University of Florida, JD, 1992
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar: 1992

Ms. Pistella is a Partner at Leech Tishman Fuscaldolo & Lampl, 8470 Enterprise Circle, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202, Tel: 941-877-1830

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

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Larry R. Chulock, PA

Lancaster & Eure

Dye, Harrison, Kirkland, Petruff, Pratt & St. Paul

Manatee County Attorney's Office

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MCBA SECTION CHAIRS:

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

RSVP NOW FOR June 27

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

Have you emailed your RSVP for our Annual Meeting on June 27th, at noon, at Pier 22? At this meeting, we will be swearing in our 2018-19 Board of Directors, as well as announcing our Community Service Award winners.

Don't miss out!

Please RSVP now to:

MCBA@ManateeBar.com

DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 21, 2018	YLD LeBarge Cruise – Joint with Sarasota YLD
June 27, 2018	General Membership Luncheon, Pier 22, Noon, Annual Meeting
October 17, 2018	Technology Roadshow – more details coming
December 7, 2018	Holiday Party at Bradenton Country Club, more details coming

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAW DAY 2018

SEPARATION OF POWERS



The MCBA celebrated Law Day on May 30th at its May General Membership Luncheon. Over 120 guests gathered at Pier 22, to celebrate the “Separation of Powers” doctrine and learned how those powers operate at the Florida State Capitol by State Senator William Galvano, soon to be President of the Florida Senate. Senator Galvano presented first-hand examples of how the Judicial Legislative and Executive branches interact with each-other, while limiting over-reaching powers, and preventing abuses of power. Judge Lee Haworth, (retired), of the Twelfth Judicial District spoke regarding the judiciary and its importance.

Another highlight of the event was the announcement of the winners of the MCBA Law Day Essay Contest. Seventh grade students attending public, private, or home school in Manatee County, Florida were invited to submit essays on “Separation of Powers: Framework for Freedom,” the theme for Law Day 2018. Receiving first place was Matthew Iacobelli of Nolan Middle School. In second place was Amber Polis and in third place was Grace Pino, both of St. Joseph Catholic School. The contest was judged without knowledge of the students’ identities or school affiliation, and scoring was based on originality and interpretation of the Law Day 2018 theme. The winner and the first and second runners-up received Kindle tablets donated by Jennifer Fowler-Hermes, of Williams Parker. Judges of the essay contest included retired Circuit Court Judge Janette Dunnigan, an adjunct professor at Thomas Cooley Law School in Tampa; Mary R. Hawk, a principal and partner with the law firm of Porges, Hamlin, Knowles & Hawk, P.A. in Bradenton; and Jamie Serino, Executive Director of Take Stock in Children of Manatee County.



The Law Day celebration also included the MCBA awarding Charles Clapsaddle, of METV with a Special Certificate of Appreciation for his support of the MCBA and quality community programming.

Attendees were excited for the chance to win a BOSE wireless speaker donated by LawPay, and member Matt LaPointe was delighted to find he was the winner of the prize. Speakers Judge Haworth, and Senator Galvano, were also surprised when they opened their “thank you” gifts: Stetson hats!

The MCBA Law Day celebration was complete with custom centerpieces designed by the Law Day Committee, and celebratory themed cupcakes for all to enjoy. Special thanks to the Law Day Committee, annual sponsors, LawPay and Firkins Automotive, and Law Firm sponsor Barnes, Walker, Goethe, Walker, Hoonhout, Perron, & Shea, PLLC.

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAW DAY 2018



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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.





On May 14, 2018, MCBA members Sierra Bulter, Jesse Butler, Jennifer Fowler-Hermes, and Faith Brown traveled to Washington, DC with members of the SCBA, to be sworn in as members of the Bar of the United States Supreme Court. Following the swearing in ceremony they had the honor of meeting Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg.



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(You are not alone continued from Pg. 3)

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- Estate planning;
- Probate and trust administration;
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- Homestead issues
- Elder Law
- 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 RPPTL 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
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Twelfth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission

Sarasota County Court Judge Nominations

The following nominations for the position of County Court Judge for the seat to be vacated by the retirement of the Honorable Judy Goldman, have been forwarded to Governor Rick Scott:

Mary Ann Floyd
James Fowler
Dana Moss
Paul Olah

These nominations are the result of the Commission's deliberations on June 19, 2018 following interviews with some of the applicants. The Commission thanks all of those who participated in the nomination process. Input from the community by way of reference, recommendation, or general information about the applicant is vital to the process, and is appreciated by the Commission.

For Further information please contact A. James Rolfes, Chairman of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission at 941-552-4602 or [jrolfes\(a\)dglawyers.com](mailto:jrolfes(a)dglawyers.com).

The Chair wishes to thank the following members of the Judicial Nominating Committee for their hard work and dedication: Bonnie Polk, Carly Lambert, Hunter Norton, Nancy Cason, Pat Neal, Ron Filipkowski, Varinia VanNess, and Will Robinson.

MCBA Announces 2018-19

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Please return this completed form with check payable to:

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- _____ Family Law
- _____ Probate, Estate, Guardianship
- _____ Young Lawyers (40 yrs. & younger)
- _____ Real Property/Business Law
- _____ Solo/Small Firms
- _____ Alternative Dispute Resolution

_____ I would like to be involved on the planning committee of my Section.

_____ I would be willing to lead the following Section: _____

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COMMITTEES: Please indicate your choice(s) below.

- _____ **Membership:** To include recruitment/retention of members and beneficial services for members.
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- _____ **PR/Communications:** Solicits and reviews monthly articles for the Inter Alia, press releases, etc.
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- _____ **Heritage Committee:** Collects and preserves the history of the MCBA
- _____ **ByLaws Committee:** Reviews and creates proposed revisions as needed
- _____ **Technology Committee:** All things social media, photography, taping, editing, etc.
- _____ **Diversity Committee:** Promotes and encourages diversity

****Please complete both sides****

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SMCALA INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR NEW & IMPROVED SALARY & BENEFITS SURVEY

The Sarasota-Manatee Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators is providing your firm with the opportunity to participate in the New and Improved **2018 Salary and Benefits Survey**. The survey will provide statistical information pertaining to salary levels and law firm benefits for staff and associate positions in the Sarasota, Bradenton and Venice areas. The Chapter is soliciting information from all law firms in our local area to provide as much data as possible. **PARTICIPATION IS CRUCIAL!** A copy of the survey with the compiled data and statistical analysis will be available for each participating firm in October, 2018. In plenty of time to provide you with this powerful resource to help with your end-of-year decisions and your 2019 budget.

ALL DATA WILL BE SUBMITTED TO AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCHER TO BE USED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF COMPILING THE AGGREGATE REPORT. THE DATA SUBMITTED TO THE RESEARCHER WILL BE DESTROYED UPON COMPLETION OF THE REPORT.

Please submit the registration no later than August 1, 2018.

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/y7x8v3s6> to register.

WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE

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Please contact a member of the Salary & Benefits Survey Committee if you would like to receive more information about this opportunity.

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