



# INTER ALIA

JANUARY 2019

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

## New Library Dedicated And Named After Judge Lee Haworth

By Charles W. Telfair, IV, MCBA President Elect



As of October 25, 2018, there is a new addition on the 1st floor of the Judge Lynn Silvertooth Judicial Center in Sarasota, the “Judge Lee Haworth Law Library/Self-Help Center.”

Judge Williams, our current Chief Judge, commented that “No one is a better example of what a judge should do for pro se litigants than Sr. Judge Lee Haworth. Whether it is organizing efforts to find legal representation for family law litigants, veterans or attorneys to serve as guardians for children, Judge Haworth has always looked out for our fellow citizens, young and old, to make sure they can navigate themselves through often very complicated legal proceedings. It was an easy decision for us to dedicate and name our Law Library/Self Help Center after Judge Lee Haworth.”



And, Walt Smith added that “the new Judge Lee E. Haworth Self Help Center and Law Library will embody the principles of creating a level-playing field for all participants in the legal system. To have it named for such a respected jurist and someone who has been such a vocal champion for helping those who cannot afford to help themselves, provides a huge motivation to do the very best job that we can do to help the community.”

Judge Haworth? He responded with his trademark humility and humor saying “the Chief and Walt surprised me with this... I am greatly honored, humbled, amazed and still floating. This is a digital library/self help center staffed with some of our best court admin personnel. Please let lawyers without offices or on-line legal research and pro se’s know this is for their use. Mention my name and you get in for free.”

### A TRAILBLAZER IN OUR BAR

He was born and raised in our area and graduated in 1963 from Sarasota High School where his mother was a music and art teacher. Judge Haworth wanted to follow in the footsteps of his mother and become a teacher but life had other plans for him. Following high school, he attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where a professor talked him into attending law school. He did, graduating in 1970 from UT. Following law school graduation, he returned to Sarasota and went to work for the state prosecutor’s office where he became chief prosecutor in just four years. In the mid-1970s, he became the senior civil litigator for the law firm of Isphording, Payne, Korp, Muirhead, Haworth & White, an 11 person firm. While there, he was among the first group of attorneys in Florida to become a board certified civil trial lawyer. In 1989, he joined the circuit court bench.

Then came the first gulf war. During that conflict, Judge Haworth, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, was deployed to Kuwait City (an active war zone) to help repatriate prisoners of war through Saudi Arabia and back to Iraq, where they would be tried for their crimes. Subsequently, Judge Haworth co-authored the U.S. Department of Defense Report on Iraqi war crimes in Kuwait for the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Following the first gulf war, he returned to Florida and resumed a “normal” career as a Circuit Court Judge until the 2007 recession hit. He was appointed Chief Judge during the recession and almost immediately asked to trim the court system’s already skinny budget. As a result, he made the painful decision to let some higher level employees go, to spare staff near the bottom. Contemporaneously, the foreclosure case load grew almost overnight from less than 1,000 cases to over 8,000 cases. Recognizing an urgent need, Judge

Haworth re-wrote procedures to better equip our Courts to deal with the foreclosure crisis that threatened to overwhelm our court system. Ultimately, Judge Haworth’s procedures became the framework for the statewide Residential Foreclosure Mediation Program that the Florida Supreme Court enacted in 2010.

An even more sinister issue reared its head in the foster care system during Judge Haworth’s time on the bench. To cut costs, the state’s role in the foster care system was limited and turned over to private companies. The result? Kids disappeared from care; others died due to neglect. Judge Haworth was asked to join a task force to find a solution and that task force started the Family Safety Alliance, a third party watchdog for child welfare. Today, the Family Safety Alliance connects all aspects of the foster care system increasing transparency for the private companies that assumed the state’s role.

For his innovations and successes, Judge Haworth was honored as a Public Official of the Year by “Governing” in 2011. Governing is an influential publication in the State of Florida and honors individual state and local government officials for outstanding accomplishments.

I had the privilege of practicing before Judge Haworth prior to his state mandated retirement in August 2015. Those who did not practice before him missed a jurist who was well-prepared, thoughtful in his decisions and kind to all of the participants in the courtroom. For 26 years he practiced in the 12th Judicial Circuit and, in the process, left an indelible imprint on the Counties of Manatee, Sarasota and Desoto.

He attends our luncheons. If you don’t know him, introduce yourself. He is a man worth knowing. Congratulations, Judge Haworth

## President's Message



*by Alexandra St. Paul, Esq.*

May 2019 be your best year ever. I hope this new year brings great happiness, success and many reasons to celebrate.

Thank you for permitting me to be your president. You have made the last half of 2018 very special for me, and I look forward to 2019 with all of you. Let's welcome 2019 with open arms.

Many of us suffered terrible losses in 2018, and I think it is time to turn a new leaf in the chapters of our lives. May you have an incredible year filled with good times, good friends, lots of laughter, and may all of your hopes and plans come true.

Do some of the things you've always wanted to do but never made the time to do. Reconnect with old friends and take the time to pay attention to your loved ones. Smile more and remember to thank people around you who make your life easier. Don't be afraid to say, "I love you." They are the best words we have to share.



## The MCBA Welcomes

**BRYON STROH, PIRATES  
SR. VP BUSINESS AFFAIRS &  
GENERAL COUNSEL**

Wed, January 30th, 2019  
General Membership Meeting  
Pier 22  
Noon

RSVP NOW:  
[MCBA@ManateeBar.com](mailto:MCBA@ManateeBar.com)

## William C. Robinson, Jr., State Representative District 71

*By Alexandra St. Paul, Esq., MCBA President*

We are proud to have Will Robinson, a longstanding and active member of our bar association, as the newly elected Representative of our District 71. Will was born and raised in Manatee County, where he attended Manatee High School and served as the student body class president. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame and received his J. D. from Stetson University College of law.

Will has deep roots in Manatee County. His grandparents moved to Florida from Pikeville, Kentucky in 1948 due to his grandmother's health issues. They selected Bradenton over Sarasota because Manatee had a good water system and Sarasota relied on well water, which aggravated his grandmother's health problems. It is really interesting to see the impact decisions like this can have going forward. His family then went on to start Robby's Sporting Goods, which became a major employer in Manatee County, and was later sold to Champs Sports. Will's family members have long been philanthropic and given back to the community for many years. However, Will is the first member of his family to enter politics.

In getting to know Will, I realize that he will represent us extremely well. He has been very active in our bar association, was President of YLD and worked diligently for the association. As a member of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, he chaired the Legislative Affairs Committee and is on the Board of Directors. His community involvement is impressive and shows his dedication to his community, including being a graduate of both Leadership Manatee and



Leadership Florida. His Resume lists so many other boards and charities that they are too numerous to detail in this article.

Will began his legal career at Grimes, Goebel, et al, the day before September 11, 2001, and like all of us practicing law on September 11, was stunned and will always remember that fateful day. He was hired at the firm by Senator Bill Galvano, an early mentor and longtime friend. Will also considers our former Congressman, Dan Miller, who he has known all of his life, as another mentor and friend. Will is now a Principal at Blalock Walters, P. A. where he practices Real Estate Law. We have had a number of association members in the State House

of Representatives over the years, but Will is the only one certified by the Florida Bar in an area of practice, his being Real Estate Law. In his spare time, Will is an avid Runner. He has completed two Boston Marathons, which means he successfully ran 26.2 miles each time. Even more impressive, he has completed two Ironman races, which includes the marathon race, a 112 mile bicycle race and a 2.4 mile swim. The swim is first, followed by the bike ride and concluding with the marathon. As a person who has run two marathons, I am in awe of Will for his discipline in undertaking these physical endurance events. More importantly, I think his dedication to Manatee County and his disciplined approach to life and work will be a great asset to all of us when he represents our interests in the State Legislature.

# CONGRATULATIONS!



## Congratulations, Matt Plummer!

Congratulations, Matt Plummer!

Recently, Matthew R. Plummer was elected as the new managing partner of Blalock Walters. Plummer has been an integral member of the firm's leadership over the years, and in his new role Plummer will continue to promote the firm's efforts to deliver exceptional client service and representation.

In addition to serving as managing partner, Plummer will continue to lead the firm's real estate, banking, finance, land use and local government law practice groups. Plummer joined Blalock Walters in 2008 and has served in various leadership roles within the firm including: principal, practice group leader, board director, and mentor to associate attorneys. Plummer has been instrumental in the firm's growth and looks to build on the firm's expanding practice areas.

Plummer, is AV Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell; a member of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law section of The Florida Bar; a Leadership Manatee graduate, past advisory council member of Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium, past board member of the Sarasota and Manatee County Risk Management Association, and current member of the National, Florida and Sarasota/Manatee Realtor Associations.

The Manatee County Bar Association supports diversity and inclusion in our membership and welcomes lawyers of all backgrounds, ethnicities, races, religions, cultures, sexual orientations and abilities. As part of this initiative, the Manatee County Bar Association has created the Diversity and Inclusion Committee (DAIC) and fully supports its mission to increase the diversity of our membership and the local legal community.

**COMING SOON!**  
**Online CLE Classes!**  
**Stay tuned to your News You Can Use**  
**weekly E-blasts!**

## Congratulations, Congressman Greg Stuebe!

The Manatee County Bar Association Wishes  
to Congratulate Our Native Son, Greg Stuebe,  
On His Recent Election to the United States Congress!

By, Stephen Dye, Esq., MCBA Treasurer

On Nov 8th, 2018, Greg was elected to the 17th Congressional District of Florida for the 116th United States Congress. Greg will represent a very large district that covers all of Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee counties, as well as parts of Sarasota, Lee, and Polk counties.



Greg's political career began in 2010 with his election to the Florida House of Representatives where he served for 6 years and then on to the Florida Senate in 2016 where he served for 2 years as the Chairman of the Florida Senate Judiciary Committee and the Vice-Chairman of the Florida Senate Banking and Insurance Committee.

Greg earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Florida, and was named to the University of Florida's Hall of Fame. During law school, Greg was moved by the events of September 11th and enlisted in the U.S. Army prior to graduating law school, graduated early and then reported to basic training 30 days after taking the bar exam. In the Army, Greg spent over a year as a commissioned Airborne Infantry Officer, and three years in the U.S. Army JAG Corps, as a Captain serving as the Chief of Detainee Operations with the 25th Infantry Division in Operation Iraqi Freedom for Multi-National Division North 2006-2007.

Prior to being elected to Congress, Greg formed his own law firm, Legal Strategies & Consulting, P.L. where he advised, consulted and litigated on behalf of a wide array of clients while serving in the Florida Senate.

Greg's family has been in Florida spanning 5 generations. Greg now lives in Sarasota with his wife, Jennifer, his son, Ethan and their 5 rescue dogs; Luke, Leia, Obi-Wan, Chance and Matty.

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## YLD News & Happenings

### *Two Truths and a Lie: The Young Lawyer's Edition*

By Grace M. Reeves, Esq., YLD Treasurer



For those unfamiliar with the game of Two Truths and a Lie, it is a popular icebreaker in which one generally shares three statements and the participants must guess which one of the three statements is the lie. Granted, applying this game to the legal world is unconventional. However, it is important to show the non-legal world that we can take this game, have some fun, and through the game's application, learn two truths and a lie about being a Young Lawyer.

A "Young Lawyer" is defined by the Young Lawyers Division of The Florida Bar as being a lawyer in good standing under the age of 36 or a new Florida Bar member for the first 5 years of practice. According to the Florida Bar, there are over 26,000 young lawyers in Florida. Although the statements below are clearly marked as the two truths and the lie, the reader should determine if the below assessment is correct in their own practice.

1. LIE: Young lawyers can efficiently practice law on their own without the help of others.

Although being a young lawyer can often present many challenges, both legal and personal, many lawyer's competitive nature can often hinder them in asking for help or assistance in practicing law. Whether a young lawyer works in a large firm, small firm, or is a solo practitioner, it is important to put into place a support network that can help grow one's practice and personal development. When in doubt, young attorneys should not be afraid to ask for help.

2. TRUTH: There are many resources available to young lawyers.

There are many resources available to assist young lawyers with not only the law, but also with the mental aspect of practicing law. The Lawyers Advising Lawyers program by The Florida Bar is a great resource to ask an experienced lawyer that difficult question you may not want to ask your boss or just simply do not know where to start. The website is [www.lawyersadvisinglawyers.com](http://www.lawyersadvisinglawyers.com). Wanting to start your own law firm? Check out [www.startmyfloridalawfirm.com](http://www.startmyfloridalawfirm.com) which provides ten (10) steps to starting a law firm. Another good resource is LegalFuel: The Practice Resource Center of the Florida Bar, which can be found at [www.legalfuel.com](http://www.legalfuel.com). Their website explains that they "connects Florida Bar members with strategic tools designed to help you fuel your law practice with increased efficiencies & profitability." A great resource for mental health can be found at [www.americanbar.org/groups/lawyer\\_assistance/resources/lawyer\\_wellness](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/lawyer_assistance/resources/lawyer_wellness), which is from the American Bar Association's website. This link contains over 50 articles on mental health topics.

3. TRUTH: Young lawyers should get involved in the legal community.

Whether you are a newly licensed attorney or one who just moved to the area, there are many ways to become involved in the legal community of Manatee County. If you are receiving this Inter Alia Newsletter, you are most likely already a member of the Manatee County Bar Association (MCBA). However, are you utilizing your membership? Have you been to one of the monthly membership luncheons? The monthly meetings are a great way to meet the different types of attorneys here in Manatee County. In addition, the MCBA offers four section meetings by practice areas, such as Family Law, Solo/Small Firm, Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation, and Probate/Guardianship. Want to give back to the community? Try volunteering with a Pro Bono organization, such as Legal Aid of Manasota or Gulf Coast Legal Services. For networking activities, the Manatee County Bar Association, Manatee Florida Association for Woman Lawyers, and the Young Lawyers Division host many social functions throughout the year. Once again, there are many opportunities to get involved in the legal community of Manatee County.

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**Scott Brownell**  
[scott@brownellmediation.com](mailto:scott@brownellmediation.com)  
 941.447.3701

## YLD News & Happenings

# WORK HARD PLAY HARD

MCBA & YLD JOINT EVENT

Paintball at Hi-Tec Paintball Park

just past I75, State Rd. 64, Bradenton

Put the briefcases down and come paintballing with your colleagues.

Space is limited. RSVP by January 18th. RSVP's are guaranteed eyewear and a paintball gun. Vests or protective clothing will NOT be provided by the park, so you must bring your own protective gear if you plan on playing. Long sleeve shirts and jeans are recommended.

Bring your own food and drinks to keep in a cooler.

Please fill out a release form provided by the park in advance and bring it with you on the day of to expedite play. The form can be found at:

<http://www.hi-tecpaintball.com/releaseform.htm>

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**RSVP by Jan 18th:  
MCBA@ManteeBar.com**

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Event Date:

**01.26.19**

9 am - noonish

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### Mediation Services



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# Welcome Bryan Stroh!

The MCBA welcomes Pittsburgh Pirates Organization, Bryan Stroh  
General Membership Luncheon, Wednesday, January 30th, Noon



Bryan Stroh, Senior Vice President, Business Affairs & General Counsel, has been with the Pirates since 2011. He earned his law degree in 2002 from the University of Virginia and undergraduate degree from Princeton in 1998.

Bryan is responsible for all of the club's legal affairs, including negotiating vendor and customer agreements, protecting the club's intellectual property, counseling the club on employment and labor issues, and managing all outside litigation. Bryan

also handles the club's player contract negotiations and salary arbitration cases and contributes to a variety of other matters within the club's baseball operations department. He has negotiated many major league contracts for Pirate players such as Andrew McCutchen's six year, \$51.5 million contract extension signed in March, 2012, Starling Marte's six year, \$31 million extension signed in March, 2014, and Ivan Nova's three year, \$26 million dollar free agent contract signed in December, 2016.



More broadly, Bryan also manages a number of long-term strategic initiatives, such as the Club's interactions with its landlord, the Sports and Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, as well the Club's real estate and development efforts at and around PNC Park, and on the North Shore.

In his role, Bryan also oversees and provides strategic leadership for the Business Affairs department, which includes the Human Resources and Business Analytics teams.

Prior to joining the Pirates, Bryan spent nine years at Katten Muchin Rosenman, LLP's Chicago office as a Partner in the litigation department. Bryan litigated a wide variety of commercial litigation matters in state and federal trial courts and handled multiple appeals in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Bryan also concentrated his practice on sports law, First Amendment and publisher issues, internal investigations, and white collar criminal defense. In particular, Bryan represented a number of baseball clubs, including the Chicago White Sox, Cleveland Indians, and Oakland Athletics, as well as teams in other sports, such as the Chicago Bulls of the NBA, and the Chicago Fire and Philadelphia Union of MLS. PERSONAL: Bryan Frederick Stroh...Born on 11/19/75 in Thousand Oaks, CA...Resides in downtown Pittsburgh with his wife Sarah, a speech therapist... Earned his law degree from the University of Virginia in 2002...Earned his undergraduate degree cum laude from Princeton in 1998, where he majored in Politics...Was also a pitcher and four-year letter-winner on Princeton's baseball team, where he once pitched against Pirate RHP Jason Grilli...Was named to the New Jersey College All-Star Team and First Team Academic All-Ivy League his senior year... Was Little League teammates with former Pirate Jack Wilson.

Seating is limited and you must RSVP to: [MCBA@ManateeBar.com](mailto:MCBA@ManateeBar.com) by January 25th!

*General Membership Luncheon sponsored by:*



## MEMBERS OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION CONTINUE TO MAKE HISTORY

By Hon. Gilbert Smith, Jr.



Since the Manatee County Bar Association was formed, it has had many members who have served in the Florida legislature. O. K. Reaves (House of Representatives - 1911-1912), G. O. Lea (House of Representatives 1931 & 1936), Wallace Tervin (House of Representatives - 1923 & 1927 and Senate - 1935 - 1937), Dewey Dye (Senate -1939 - 1941), J. Ben H. Fugua ( House of Representatives - 1937, 1939 & 1941), William Ray (House of Representatives - 1937, 1939 & 1945 and Senate 1947 - 1949), George A. Lane - House of Representatives - 1941 - 1943), William G. Grimes (House of Representatives - 1955 - 1957), F. Onell Rogells (Senate - 1951- 1954), Robert Knowles (House of Representatives - 1959 - 1963), Jerome Pratt (House of Representatives - 1966 - 1970), John Harlee (House of Representatives - 1970 - 1974), Ralph H. Haben, Jr. (House of Representatives - 1973 - 1982), Thomas Gallen (House of Representatives - 1966 - 1972 and Senate - 1972 - 1978). From 1982 until 1999, the MCBA was not represented in the legislature. Then in 2002, a young attorney, William S. Galvano was elected and served in



the Florida House of Representatives for 8 years before being elected in 2012 to the Florida Senate, where he will serve as president in 2019 and 2020. Another young attorney, W. Gregory Steube was elected in 2010 to the Florida House of Representative before being elected to the Florida Senate in 2016 and then in 2018 to the United States House of Representatives. In 2018, another young attorney, William C. Robinson Jr. was elected to the Florida House of Representatives. For the first time in history, the MCBA has three members who are legislators at the same time; one in the Florida



Senate, one in the Florida House of Representatives and one in the United States House of Representatives. Greg Steube is the first member of the MCBA to serve in Congress. Bill Galvano, is the first member of the MCBA to serve as President of the Florida Senate. In addition to serving the public in these important positions, all of these lawyers are involved in the community, support the MCBA and continue to practice law. The MCBA is proud to have these outstanding lawyers as members.



## SAVE THE DATE!

Join the Suncoast Chapter of the  
Paralegal Association of Florida, Inc.  
for a half-day seminar

**Saturday, February 9, 2019**

8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
at SCF Lakewood Ranch

*Seating is limited, so join the fun and be  
one of the first 60 people to sign up to:*

***“Be a CSI for a Day and Help Determine  
if Goldilocks Was Guilty of Eating Baby  
Bear’s Porridge”***



### SPEAKERS:

Chief Judge Charles E. Williams  
Judge Stephen Walker  
State Attorney Ed Brodsky  
Lt. Cunningham, Manatee County  
Sheriff’s Office

For more information regarding the seminar or  
sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

Malora Shaw, Seminar Chair;  
[mshaw941@hotmail.com](mailto:mshaw941@hotmail.com); 941-920-4913.

## IN MEMORIUM: GEOFFREY K. NICHOLS



1960—2018

Geoff parted this life on November 4, 2018, at the age of 58. But wonderful memories of him will live on.

Most recently, Geoff served as an Assistant County Attorney for a little more than three and one-half years. He was a litigator who represented the County in personal injury cases, code enforcement matters, real estate disputes, animal law, and foreclosures.

Early in his adult life, Geoff was a United States Marine, a restaurant entrepreneur, and a master scuba diver.

Geoff graduated from the University of Central Florida in 1988, majoring in business administration, and from the University of Memphis School of Law in 1998. He practiced law in the private sector for 16 years before joining the County Attorney’s Office.

Geoff left an indelible impression on me and a lasting impact on his co-workers. Geoff never hesitated to help a colleague or serve as a mentor for younger lawyers. He was respectful (owing in part, I am sure, to his military service) and diligent, but always up for a good laugh.

I knew Geoff well enough to conclude that he never met a stranger. His story-telling and affability were well-known; his laughter contagious.

He leaves behind his wife Jennifer and beautiful daughters Beatrice and Natalie.

Geoff’s was a life well-lived. He will not be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

*Mitchell O. Palmer  
County Attorney  
Manatee County Government  
November 2018*

## Proposed Substitute Counsel Rule Takes Another Step Forward

*Reprinted with permission from The Florida Bar News*

A procedural rule that in many instances would require an attorney standing in for another attorney at a hearing or court proceeding to file a written appearance notice with that court is advancing in the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee.

The committee passed on first reading amendments to Rule of Judicial Administration 2.505, which governs how attorneys get in and out of cases.

Quote Committee member Michael Sasso, who chaired the subcommittee working on the rule, noted the committee had submitted a much more complex rule to the Supreme Court that defined lead attorneys, other attorneys in the case, stand-in counsel, limited-scope counsel, and how attorneys could enter or leave cases. But the court rejected that as too complicated.

So now, he said, the committee is working on a simpler version that specifies how an attorney may appear in a proceeding. That includes by filing the first pleading or document in a case, filing a notice of appearance, having the court order the substitution of a counsel, and filing a notice of limited appearance as allowed in some family law and probate cases.

Perhaps the most notable distinctions are the rule provides that attorneys from the same agency, corporation, or firm as the replaced attorney can appear by filing a notice of substitution. Attorneys who are not from the same agency, corporation, or firm, referred to as "stand-in counsel" must file a notice they are a stand-in attorney or announce on the record they are appearing as stand-in counsel.

The rule also specified how attorneys may terminate their participation in a case including as a substitute, stand-in, or limited appearance attorney.

"There's a whole issue of people coming into a courtroom and talking and it not being a court of record, and nobody knew who they were, and was there actually authority to be there," said Amy Borman, general counsel for the 15th Judicial Circuit and a member of the subcommittee.

In addition, clerks will only provide electronic case records to attorneys of record in that case, so clerks need to know who those attorneys are as well as who has made an appearance in a case for the case records, she said. There also are questions about whether motions filed by temporary attorneys are valid or actions they take are binding.

"The new rule basically says the following: If you're from the same firm or the same agency, you don't need to do a notice of appearance because you're from the same firm. If it's a court of record, there's someone from the clerk's office who wrote down who you are, you don't have to file a notice, and we're calling it a stand-in counsel. It will allow you to be able to come into court," Borman said. "This will only hit if you are not from the same agency or firm or corporation and it is not a court of record. Then stand-in counsel needs to file something because the court needs to know who you are so when someone tries to vacate the order saying the attorney didn't have the authority, you can say, 'No, I know who it [the attorney] was.'"

Borman said the revised rule is easier than the previously proposed amendments, especially for attorneys who made frequent substitutions, such as in traffic court. Some traffic courts have recording clerks and some don't. In the former case, attorneys only have to announce their appearance as stand-in counsel and in the latter they have to file a simple notice.

In response to a question, Sandy Solomon, another subcommittee member, said the proposed rule specifies that stand-in counsels do not have access to electronic court records maintained by clerks. He also said the subcommittee considered several comments that it would be onerous to stand-in attorneys to print out, sign, and submit a notice of appearance but rejected that because of the need for complete court records.

"That's just what the cost is," Solomon said.

Mike Debski, liaison to RJAC from the Small Claims Rules Committee, said the small claims rules specify that an appearance is made just by showing up in court. He noted the requirement to file a notice of appearance conflicts with that small claims rule.

Committee member Marynelle Hardee, former attorney for the Alachua County Clerk of Court, recalled an instance where a busy traffic court attorney died suddenly.

"He had not filed notices of appearance. It was a mess trying to figure out which were his cases and which weren't," she said.

The committee voted 32-2 to approve the revamped rules on first reading and will consider them, with any minor technical tweaks, for final approval at its January meeting. The committee had approved an earlier version on first reading, but Sasso said enough changes were made after review by other procedural rule committees that another first reading was necessary.

If finally approved in January, the amendments will be reviewed by the Bar Board of Governors and then submitted to the Supreme Court.

Note from the MCBA: Our member, Michael Sasso has been working on this for the past 4-5 years as a member of the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee of the Florida Bar, the past two as Chair of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on revision of Rule 2.505 of the Rules of Judicial Administration. For more information, please contact Michael Sasso at: 941-545-5342.



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK:**  
<https://www.Facebook.com/ManateeCountyBarAssn/>

## 5 Things You Didn't Know About Me:

### The Honorable Robert A. Farrance

In chronological order:

1. I was born in Cleveland, Ohio and named after Robert Alan Pinkerton, the detective agency with whom my grandfather was Chief Investigator. An artist rendering of a train robber submitted as evidence at the subsequent trial, along with the original business card of Pinkerton, is framed and hangs in my office.

2. My great grandfather, Joseph Pugmire, was commissioned by General William Booth to establish the Salvation Army in the United States in Kansas City in the 1870's. His son, Colonel Ernest Pugmire, subsequently became Commissioner for the entire U.S. Salvation Army, and was Time Magazine's cover Man of the Year in 1949. I have the issue framed in my house, and have been a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board of Manatee County for over twenty years.

3. While playing tennis for the College of Wooster against Kent State on May 4, 1970, the match was interrupted by gunfire on a hill about a quarter mile away with members of the Ohio National Guard firing on students protesting the U.S. bombings in Cambodia. We eventually finished the match, but Neil Young didn't include the results in his song about that day in Ohio.

4. While attending Emory Law School, a few of us went to the Braves/Dodgers baseball game on April 8, 1974, and witnessed Hank Aaron hit his 715th home run, breaking the all-time record of Babe Ruth. Contrary to urban legend, I'm not one of the two guys that came out of the stands and ran the bases during his home run trot.

5. As an attorney, while discussing Nick Bollettieri's third divorce proceedings in his house on Longboat Key in 1979, he suddenly began dancing to Herb Alpert's "Rise", and started clapping his hands and barking instructions about his dream to start the first international tennis academy. Accordingly, we incorporated the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy, purchased property, got zoning, and today Nick is still going strong at 87 teaching tennis daily at what has become the IMG Sports Academy located on over 500 acres and featuring nine sports, a school, a hotel and research facilities.



### Gregory S. Hagopian, Esq., MCBA Director and Past President



- 1) Born and raised in Boston...still a huge Patriots fan;
- 2) Worked as a professional bartender through college;
- 3) Been a high school football official here locally for past 20 years;
- 4) Enjoy casual 5K and 10K runs in spare-time; and
- 5) Continuously striving to lower my golf handicap, without much success.

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## *Welcome New Members*

**Starcee Brown, Esq.**

Florida State University, BS, 2012  
 University of Central Florida, MS, 2013  
 Stetson University College of Law, 2016  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2016  
 Ms. Brown is an attorney with Castro & Brown, PA,  
 811 Manatee Avenue W., Bradenton, FL 34205.

**Theodore G. Bryant, Esq.**

Seattle Pacific University, BA, 1993  
 University of the Pacific, 1996  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 1996  
 Mr. Bryant is Executive Vice President of SUNZ Holdings,  
 LLC, 1301 6th Avenue W., Bradenton, FL 34205.

**Christopher Kubacki, Esq.**

Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, 2011  
 Southern University Law Center, 2016  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2017  
 Mr. Kubacki is an associate attorney with Barnes Walker  
 Goethe Hoonhout Perron & Shea, LLC, 3119 Manatee  
 Avenue W., Bradenton, FL 34205.

**Kari Martin, Esq.**

Florida State University, BS, 2006  
 Florida Coastal School of Law, 2009  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2011  
 Ms. Martin is an attorney with Najmy Thompson, PL,  
 1401 8th Avenue W. Bradenton, FL 34205.

**Jason M. Miller, Esq.**

Chicago Kent College of Law  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2003  
 Mr. Miller is an attorney with Najmy Thompson, 1401  
 8th Avenue W., Bradenton, FL 34205.

**Daniel Murphy, Esq.**

University of South Florida, 2009  
 Western Michigan University Cooley Law School, 2015  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2015  
 Mr. Murphy is an associate attorney with Shapiro,  
 Goldman, Babboni, Fernandez & Walsh, 5291 Office  
 Park Blvd., Bradenton, FL 34203.

**William C. Price, IV, Esq.**

Florida State University, BS, 2013  
 Florida State University 2017  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2017  
 Mr. Price is an associate attorney at the Law Office  
 of William C. Price, III, PA, 522 12th Street W.,  
 Bradenton, FL 34205.

**Kelly Roberts, Esq.**

University of Arizona, BA, 2004  
 University of Miami School of Law, 2010  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2010  
 Ms. Roberts is an attorney at Berlin Patten Ebling, PLLC,  
 3700 S. Tamiami Trail, Ste. 200, Sarasota, FL 34239.

**Nancy Roden, Esq.**

University of Phoenix, BS, 2007  
 Western Michigan Thomas M. Cooley, 2017  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2017  
 Ms. Roden is a staff attorney with Gulfcoast Legal Services,  
 1112 Manatee Avenue E., 2nd floor, Bradenton, FL 34208.

**Donna Ross, Esq.**

University of Buffalo, 1996  
 Thomas M. Cooley, 2000  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2000  
 Ms. Ross is an Associate General Counsel with SUNZ  
 Holdings, LLC, 1301 6th Avenue We., Bradenton, FL 34205.

**Matthew Staggs, Esq.**

University of Florida, BA, 2015  
 Penn State Law, 2018  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar: 2018  
 Mr. Staggs is an associate attorney at Blalock Walters, PA,  
 802 11th Street W., Bradenton, FL 34205.

**James Westervelt, Esq.**

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, BA, 2000  
 Stetson University College of Law, 2004  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2006  
 Mr. Westervelt is an attorney at The Law Office of  
 James P. Westervelt, 4707 140th Avenue N., Ste. 215,  
 Clearwater, FL 33762.

**Elizabeth “Betsy” Young, Esq.**

Florida State University, BS, 1996  
 Florida State University College of Law, 1999  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 1999  
 Ms. Young is a partner with The Young Law Group,  
 2801 Fruitville Road, Ste. 220, Sarasota, FL 34237.

## **MCBA 2018-19**

### **SECTION CHAIRS:**

Solo/Small Firm Section:	Steele Williams, Chair
Probate Section:	Rebecca Proctor, Chair
Real Property Section:	Joe Battaglia, Chair
Family Section:	Faith Brown, Chair

# *Holiday Cheer, Ugly Sweaters, and Fun!*

What a wonderful time the attendees had at the 2018 Holiday Party held on December 7th, 2018 at the Bradenton County Club. Plenty of food, drink and holiday cheer was enjoyed as party-goers listened to music spun by our very own, "DJ Lynch". We were excited to see so many participants in our Ugly Sweater Contest, where the winner, Omaira Dauta, won a Gift Certificate to O'Bricks! The MCBA collected \$800 in donations for the AVID Program at SUGG Middle School by selling raffle tickets! Lucky winner, Ed Sobel, won two tickets (primo seats) to an upcoming Tampa Bay Lightning Game (thank you to our anonymous donor who shall remain nameless).

Thank you to all those who made the party a huge success – we couldn't have done it without you.



# *Holiday Cheer, Ugly Sweaters, and Fun!*



*(more photos on page 16)*

# *Holiday Cheer, Ugly Sweaters, and Fun!*





**SCAVENGER HUNT!**  
**Benefiting the Manatee County**  
**Veterans' Drug Court**  
 Hosted by MCBA, YLD and Manatee FAWL

Friday, March 15, 2019

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 8, 2019

**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 The Community Foundation of Sarasota County (Please be sure to write Manatee Veterans Treatment Court on the memo line).**

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

Team representative or individual seeking a team: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (\*\*Points will be awarded for Best Team Name, and Best Team Costume.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note: All communications from the MCBA regarding the event will be directed to the team representative via email, telephone call, or during the event VIA TEXT.*

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: \_\_\_\_\_

4: \_\_\_\_\_

2: \_\_\_\_\_

5: \_\_\_\_\_

3: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tampa Bay**

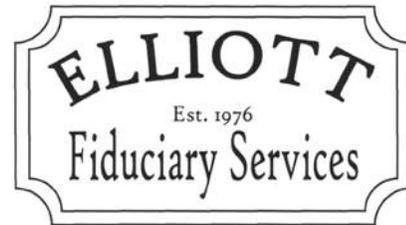


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**Robert M. Elliott**  
Certified Master Guardian  
robb@elliottfiduciary.com

**Lauren E. Ramirez**  
Certified National Guardian  
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**Matthew Elliott, Esq.**  
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Embracing Our Differences, The SCBA Diversity & Inclusion Committee,  
The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee & The Boxser Diversity Initiative present

# “LETTERS FROM ANNE AND MARTIN”

Written, produced and directed by the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect

Combining the iconic voices of Anne Frank and Martin Luther King, Jr., this compelling production evokes the timeless message of hope for peace and a more united world.

Discussion led by Hon. Charles E. Williams to follow the performance

**Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 7:00PM**

VIP Reception: 5:30PM

at **TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM** 1050 S. Tuttle Ave. Sarasota

**General Admission-\$30 | VIP-\$100 | Students-\$10**



### Tickets and Sponsorship Information:

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### Honorary Chairs:

Terri Vitale, Sydney Sforzo  
and Chip Gaylor, Esq.

*Letters from Anne and Martin*  
Graphic designed by: Mave Cappar  
12th Grade, Out of Door Academy



Diversity and  
Inclusion  
Committee



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OF SARASOTA-MANATEE



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# DATES TO REMEMBER:

- January 17, 2019 Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
- January 26, 2019 Paintball at Hi-Tec Paintball Park
- January 26, 2019 Diversity Committee Event: Life on the Edge of Poverty
  
- January 30, 2019 General Membership Luncheon
- February 5, 2019 Diversity Committee Event: Letters from Anne & Martin
  
- February 14, 2019 Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
- February 21, 2019 Diversity Committee Event: THE BOXSER DIVERSITY INITIATIVE
  
- February 27, 2019 Java with the Judges
- February 27, 2019 General Membership Luncheon
- March 1, 2019 Diversity Committee Event: EMBRACING DR. SEUSS' DIFFERENCES DAY
  
- March 5, 2019 Past Presidents Luncheon
- March 12, 2019 Family Section CLE – Details to Come
- March 14, 2019 Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
- March 15, 2019 MCBA Scavenger Hunt
- March 27, 2019 General Membership Luncheon
- April 11, 2019 Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
- May 9, 2019 Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
- May 17, 2019 BEACH PARTY SOCIAL – Details to Come
  
- May 29, 2019 General Membership Luncheon - LAW DAY
  
- June 26, 2019 General Membership Luncheon – Annual Meeting

\*dates are subject to change



## Family Law Section CLE

In December, Judges Moreland and Maulucci joined with Matt Whyte and the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office to present: How to Keep Access to Online Records and Avoid Having Special Interrogatories Rejected. The Multipurpose Room at the MCJC was filled for this informative Lunch and Learn event. The MCBA received such tremendous feedback, that we are planning another CLE in March – stay tuned!



Judge Maulucci, Faith Brown, Esq., MCBA Family Section Chair and Matt Whyte, Esq.

## IF IT INVOLVES FOOD



After a 2.5-million-dollar renovation  
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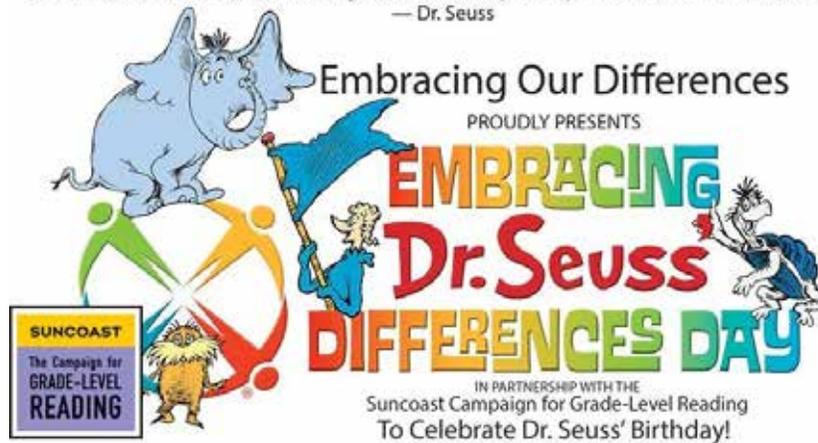
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— Dr. Seuss



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Dr. Seuss epitomizes a love of children and learning. His use of rhyme makes an effective tool for teaching young children the basic skills needed to be successful in an ever changing world.

When we celebrate Dr. Seuss and reading, we send a clear message to our children that reading is fun and important.

***The deadline to volunteer Monday, February 11, 2019.***

We need volunteers who are willing to travel to elementary schools and spend approximately one hour reading to students throughout Sarasota and Manatee counties.

For more details, please visit:

**[EmbracingOurDifferences.org/Seuss](http://EmbracingOurDifferences.org/Seuss)**

Or contact Brenna at **(941) 404-5710** or **[Brenna@EmbracingOurDifferences.org](mailto:Brenna@EmbracingOurDifferences.org)**



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- 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
- United States Department of Veteran's Affairs Accredited Attorney
- Executive Board Member, Thomas E. Penick, Jr. Elder Law Inn of Court
- Combat Veteran, United States Marine Corps
- Practice areas include wills, trusts, estates, guardianship, elder law, and veteran's benefits

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**MCBA TREASURER**



# HAVE YOU SENT YOUR RSVP FOR THE January 30, 2019 General Membership Luncheon at Pier 22?



**The MCBA Welcomes**

**BRYON STROH, PIRATES SR. VP BUSINESS AFFAIRS & GENERAL COUNSEL**

Wed, January 30th, 2019  
General Membership Meeting  
Pier 22  
Noon

RSVP NOW:  
[MCBA@ManateeBar.com](mailto:MCBA@ManateeBar.com)

**RSVP is required to be guaranteed lunch.  
RSVP to [MCBA@ManateeBar.com](mailto:MCBA@ManateeBar.com).**



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**Family Court Professional Collaborative Presents:  
*Family Law Boot Camp – Part II – Beyond the Basics***



**Presenters:** Honorable Judges' Donna P. Berlin and Peter R. Ramsberger, Hearing Officer/Magistrate Laura Hale, Court Operations Manager, Monica Ausborn, Court Administrator Walter Smith, and Attorneys: Elizabeth Loeffler, Deborah J. Blue, Carmen R. Gillett, Phillip J. Schipani, and R. Lynette Mancuso.

This conference will focus on Honing the Skills of the Family Law Practitioner. The morning presentations will include the Sarasota County Judiciary with special guest, Judge Peter R. Ramsberger from the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit on the issues of parentage, addressing the complex issues related to establishment & disestablishment of paternity. Then, Magistrate Laura Hale will present on issues of Child Support and Department Of Revenue, followed by a presentation by the Court Operations Manager Monica Ausborn and Court Administrator Walter Smith on the new Self-Help Center. Lunch will include resources concerning Special Needs children. The afternoon program will consist of presentations by Elizabeth Loeffler, Esquire and Deborah J. Blue, Esquire on Cross-Examining Expert Witnesses, Carmen R. Gillett, Esquire on Domestication of Foreign Judgements, and Phillip Schipani, Esquire on Handling Cases Involving Special Needs Children. The day will conclude with Lynette Mancuso, Esquire presenting on Creating a Top Notch Practice Without Spending a Dime. The FCPC is applying for CLEs and CMEs for this event.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019 - 9:00 A.M - 5:00 P.M.  
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# MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

## PROFESSIONALISM • FELLOWSHIP • SERVICE

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**P.O. Box 796**  
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