



INTER ALIA

JUNE 2019

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alexandra St. Paul, Esq.



This is my last President's message. The year has gone by so quickly and I have very much enjoyed serving the Association as its President this year. It was really rewarding. I could not have done it without a lot of help from the Board, Committee Chairs and members, and of course, Graceann who is the best Executive Director we could have.

Our Association, which dates back to 1905, is one of the very oldest Bar Associations in the State. I am really proud of this and the fact that we continue to grow and attract new members, despite the fact that many associations are stagnant or shrinking in membership. We all tried hard this year to make our lunch meetings more fun and entertaining. We had door prizes and drawings for gift certificates. Our speakers were great. They included Congressman Greg Steube, Representative Will Robinson, Carlos Beruff, David Lawrence Jr, Bryon Stroh of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Brynne Anne Besio of the Bishop Museum, and our Florida Bar President Michelle Suskauer. Our Holiday Party at the Bradenton Country Club and our Beach Party at the Grimes' Beach House were reported by the attendees to be the best ever. Our Past Presidents' Lunch was well attended and the Scavenger Hunt was a lot of fun. And, let's not forget our very first "Vintage Attorneys Night", an idea that Kim Bald suggested and we ran with it.

As President, I had the privilege of participating in the Investiture Ceremonies for the Honorable Maria Ruhl and the Honorable Dana Moss. On behalf of our Association, I presented lovely wooden and glass decorative cases with gavels and the details of the Investitures. It turns out that our traditional gift, which has been given for many years, is a prized investiture present and is one of the nicest presented. It was so awe inspiring to be part of the ceremonies and to be present with all of our 12th Judicial Circuit Judges in attendance. They were very special ceremonies which I will always remember. We also redesigned our logo, giving it a nice update. Steve Dye spearheaded the project in collaboration with local graphic artist, Maria Massaro.

We reinstituted the President's Message, which was part of the Inter Alia when it was first established as a monthly newsletter in 1979, the year my husband, Dave Deitrich, was President of our Association. We have had more Association sponsored low cost CLEs this year and now can get free CLEs from the Florida Bar's Legal Fuel. Through our connection to Broward County's Bar Association, we have available even more low cost CLEs.

Thank you so much for your help and participation. By working together, we have made this last year a success for our Association. I look forward to seeing all of you at meetings and events in the future and feel confident of our continued growth, success and camaraderie.



June 2019 MCBA Luncheon

The MCBA is very excited to announce this month's guest speaker will be Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr.! Not only is he a judge, but he is also an author, lecturer, and our MCBA "resident historian". Judge Smith will be sharing his knowledge of the MCBA with us and we welcome you to join us.

Please RSVP by June 21st to MCBA@manateebar.com.



Heather Doyle Wins Jim Slater Award



On May 29th, 2019, as part of the Law Day Luncheon, Chief Assistant State Attorney Heather Doyle was awarded the Jim Slater Award for Professionalism by Chief Judge Charles Williams. The award is presented to the attorney who the judges of the 12th Circuit feel best personify the qualities of the late Jim Slater, former long-time Chief Assistant Public Defender. Those qualities include civility, honesty and collegiality toward the bench and to opposing counsel. Congratulations, Heather!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 26, 2019	General Membership Luncheon – Annual Meeting
June 27, 2019	YLD Diversity Event: A Visit with Judge Ruhl
September 25, 2019	General Membership Luncheon
October 30, 2019	General Membership Luncheon
December 5, 2019	MCBA Holiday Party at Bradenton County Club
January 29, 2020	General Membership Luncheon
February 26, 2020	General Membership Luncheon
March 25, 2020	General Membership Luncheon
May 20, 2020	LAW DAY Luncheon
	*Note: This is NOT the last Wednesday of the month
June 24, 2020	General Membership Luncheon

*dates are subject to change

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Twelfth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission Manatee County Court Judge Nominations

By majority vote of the 12th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission, the following nominations for the position of Manatee County Court Judge for the seat to be vacated by the retirement of the Honorable Douglas Henderson (listed in alphabetical order) have been forwarded to Governor Ron DeSantis:

1. Heather Doyle
2. James Fowler
3. Andrea Johnson
4. Paul E. Olah, Jr.
5. Stephen Mathew Whyte
6. Kristy Zinna

These nominations are the result of the Commission's deliberations on June 7, 2019 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 Nancy Cason, Chairwoman of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission at 941-365-7171 or ncason@smrl.com

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.

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

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The Next Chief Judge - An Eighth Generation Floridian

By Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr.

On July 1, 2019, when Circuit Judge Kimberly Carlton Bonner takes over as Chief Judge of the 12th Judicial Circuit, she becomes the first woman in history to serve in that position. With the unanimous support of all the judges, she leads a circuit, which is now composed of as many women as men.ⁱ Judge Bonner's election as Chief Judge sets a precedent for the future of the judges in this circuit.

The road leading to a woman becoming the Chief Judge in this circuit has taken some time. The first women elected as judges in the circuit occurred on September 12, 1972 when Evelyn Gobbie was elected circuit judge and Roberta Knowles was elected Manatee County judge. (Judge Gobbie had actually served as a municipal judge for Sarasota in 1964 before Article V of the Florida Constitution was revised.) That was only three years after the 12th Judicial Circuit was split and the 20th Judicial Circuit was created.ⁱⁱ At that time, the population of the circuit was approximately 230,587 residents. There were only eight circuit judges and five county judges serving the entire circuit with Judge Gobbie and Judge Knowles being the only women. Since that time, many outstanding women have served as judges in the circuit, but only a few have thought about becoming the Chief Judge. Since the 1972 election until recently, the men serving as judges outnumbered the women.

In 2002, there were 27 judges in the 12th Judicial Circuit which included only six women judges.ⁱⁱⁱ Since that time, an overwhelming number of women were elected or appointed as judges in the circuit. Today there are 31 judges which includes 15 women judges and that composition may change again in the next few years.^{iv} There have been several historic elections in the last few years where women were elected or appointed to a position, which had been held by men for decades. The election of Judge Bonner is not just a reflection of composition of the court, but a testament to her being the best person to serve as Chief Judge. She is optimistic, professional, organized and efficient with a quiet and measured tone. And, just as important, Judge Bonner was willing to take on a position which has been challenging in the last few administrations.

When Judge Bonner takes over as Chief Judge, the estimated population of the circuit will be approximately 900,000 residents. Since this circuit covers one of the fastest growing regions in the United States, the demand on the judiciary is going to be greater than ever before. Judge Bonner will have her work cut out for her as she oversees the administration of justice in the circuit.

Judge Bonner was born in Lakeland, Florida to Thomas Mabry Carlton Jr. and Barbara Carlton. Her father served as a Sarasota County Commissioner from 1981 through 1989. Judge Bonner and her sister, Lisa grew up on the family ranch in south Sarasota where the family raised beef cattle and grew citrus. She learned ranching from an early age and when not in school, she completed her chores around the ranch and took care of her own livestock. From eight years old until she was out of high school, Judge Bonner was involved in the 4 H program, which reinforced what she learned on

the ranch and taught her management and leadership skills that she has used all her life. She also became skilled in *raising steers*.



Judge Bonner is an eighth generation Floridian; and, her ancestors were not only leaders in the formation of the State of Florida but pioneers in the agricultural industry. Arriving in Florida not long after it became a state, her ancestors settled in the Peace River Valley, before Manatee, Sarasota or DeSoto counties were created. Life was much different in those days where settlers literally lived off the land. The Seminole Indians were still living and hunting throughout the region that was abundant with wild animals. The Carlton families became successful in the cattle industry and agriculture and Judge Bonner's great-great grand-parents, Albert and Martha Carlton, were founders of the City of Wauchula. The Carlton families also became leaders in state and local government throughout Florida.



Her sister, Lisa was a State Representative and then a State Senator serving Sarasota and Manatee counties from 1994 through 2008.^{vi}

Judge Bonner graduated from Cardinal Mooney High School with an interest in history. She graduated with a bachelor degree in history from Stetson University before graduating with a master's degree in history from University of West Florida. Judge Bonner then graduated with her juris doctorate degree from Pepperdine University College of Law.

Judge Bonner began her legal career serving as an assistant state attorney for the 12th Judicial Circuit. After two years, she went in

to private practice perfecting her trial skills with the law firm of Dickinson & Gibbons. After three years, Judge Bonner moved to Washington, D. C. to serve as a staff attorney for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She returned to Sarasota after a few years and became in-house counsel with Allstate Insurance Company. Judge Bonner now had experience as a trial lawyer in both criminal and civil cases, serving as an in-house counsel, handling regulatory law for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and acting as a corporate counsel for an insurance underwriter.

In 2002, Governor Jeb Bush appointed Judge Bonner as Sarasota County Judge and she excelled at that position, being re-elected for two terms without any opposition. She served as an instructor at the Conference of County Judges and ultimately became the president of the conference. After Judge Rick DeFuria retired, on July 11, 2013, Governor Rick Scott appointed Judge Bonner as circuit judge of the 12th Judicial Circuit.^{vii} She has excelled at that position and while serving as a judge, graduated with a master of law degree from the University of Nevada. Judge Bonner also serves as an instructor at the Conference of Circuit Court Judges and as chair of the judicial education committee.

Being a Florida native, Judge Bonner appreciates the outdoors and wildlife in the Florida. Like her ancestors, she lives on a ranch and is in the cattle industry. Judge Bonner is married to Tom and they are raising their daughter, Katie on the family ranch. Besides being a mom, wife, rancher and judge, Judge Bonner has many interests and passions, including being involved in 4 H with Katie who raises and trains rescued dogs instead of steers. Judge Bonner now raises two goats named Wyatt and Virgil Earp. She is also active with the Daughters of the American Revolution, which encourages young adults to become good citizens. Finally, Judge Bonner finds time to write books for children and other short stories. She has also written and published one novel with more to come.

Judge Bonner's journey to becoming Chief Judge has been inevitable if not exciting, since she will serving the same community where she was raised.^{viii} The 12th Judicial Circuit has had outstanding Chief Judges in its past starting with Judge Robert Hensley in 1970. All of them have managed the circuit differently and faced difficult issues, but all have been dedicated to the proper and efficient administration of justice. It will be exciting for all of us to watch Chief Judge Bonner lead the circuit into the future.

ⁱ February 8, 2019 at the Anna Maria Oyster Bar

ⁱⁱ Chapter 69-220, House Bill No. 653, Laws of Florida, General Laws, 1969, Volume 1, Part One, Resolutions, Memorials & Chapter 1 – 405, Regular Session 1969, June 6, 1969, June 29, 1969, page 872.

ⁱⁱⁱ 12th Judicial Circuit Bar Associations 2002 Membership Directory and Resource Guide

^{iv} <http://www.jud12.flcourts.org/>

^v When Governor Rick Scott appointed Judge Renee Inman on November 27, 2017, as Manatee County Judge, it was the first time a woman had served on the Manatee County Court since 1984. Even more historic was when Governor Scott appointed Judge Danielle Brewer on October 20, 2016 as the DeSoto County Judge. That appointment was the first time in history a woman was appointed or elected as a judge in DeSoto County.

^{vi} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lisa_Carlton

^{vii} Staff Report, Sarasota Herald Tribune, "Scott Appoints Judge Kimberly Bonner to 12th Circuit: July 11, 2013, page 1.

^{viii} Interview, Kimberly Carlton Bonner, October 2, 2014

FAMILY SECTION HOLDS CLE

In May, the Family Section held a CLE entitled: The Intersection of Technology, Domestic Violence and Family Law at the MCJC. The room was filled to capacity as attendees enjoyed a very informative presentation by Steven Bradley of Family Wizard Software and Ana Taitt of Family Law Software. Both software companies sponsored the luncheon and attendees received 2.5 CLE Credits. This Lunch & Learn CLE is part of a series of CLEs that were organized by Judge Diana Moreland, Judge Susan Maulucci, and Section Chair Faith Brown. We look forward to another series. Stay tuned!





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Congratulations To Michael Sasso!

Recently, MCBA Member, Michael P. Sasso was reappointed to The Florida Bar's Rules of Judicial Administration Committee by Florida Bar President Elect, John Stewart. He will serve his second, three- year term. Previously, Michael served for four years as a representative to the RJAC, from the Family Law Rules Committee, where he was vice-chair. Congratulations on this honor!

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Qualified applicants will be contacted for in-person interviews.

Hurricane Season began June 1st!



Do you have a plan?

MCBA Announces 2019-20 Slate

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Stephen R. Dye, Esq., President Elect

David W. Wilcox, Esq., Treasurer

Brian Iten, Esq., Secretary

Andre' R. Perron, Esq. Director

Rebecca J. Proctor, Esq., Director

Lori M. Dorman, Esq., Director

Gregory S. Hagopian, Esq., Director

Christine L. Allamanno, Esq., Director

Melissa R. Casanueva, Esq., YLD President

Alexandra D. St. Paul, Esq., Past President

LAW DAY CELEBRATION 2019

On May 29th, 2019, the MCBA once again celebrated LAW DAY and what a time we had! We were honored to have both Congressman Greg Steube and Representative Will Robinson as our guest speakers. In our MCBA history, we have had several members of this Association who have served in the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives. However, this is the first year we have THREE members serving in office: Congressman Greg Steube, State Representative Will Robinson and Florida Senate President Bill Galvano. Several community leaders gathered to hear from our honored guest speakers.

The event was highlighted with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sheriff Rick Wells and the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard. Judge Gilbert Smith, and other members of the SAR, were in full uniform and a colorful addition to Law Day in their period costumes.

Judge Charles Williams awarded the Jim Slater Award of Professionalism to Chief Assistant State Attorney Heather Doyle.

Both Congressman Steube and Representative Robinson spoke on the highlights of their "freshman year" in their respective offices. Amidst the discussion regarding goals and legislation, both gave refreshing insight and a "behind the scenes" peak at what it is like to work in high-profile governmental positions.

At this event, Ana Perelygina, daughter-in-law of Charles Telfair, of Lutz, Bobo & Telfair, was on hand to taking professional photos while Jennifer Kistler of Boyer & Boyer attended to "tweet" the event out on social media as it happened.

METV taped the event and it can be viewed on METV's YOUTUBE channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cylBmnSRlsc>

Sponsors of LAW DAY include: Fidelity Bank, CenterState Bank, LawPay, Gettel Automotive, Firkins Automotive, Lucente & Associates and Barnes Walker Law Firm.







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RSVP BY
JUNE 21ST

WHEN: Thurs., June 27th
WHERE: Connect Bradenton
TIME: Noon - 1 pm
COST: FREE for YLD Members, \$25 non-YLD members

Join us as we hear from Judge Maria Ruhl, our very first Hispanic and bilingual judge as she discusses the importance of diversity in the Florida judicial system, all while enjoying Venezuelan cuisine. Seating is limited to 20 persons, so RSVP now!

RSVP to: MCBA@ManateeBar.com

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2019-20 DUES RENEWAL
MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Manatee County Bar Association **Annual Dues** for current and new members are **\$225.00*** for the year (July 1st through June 30th). This notice is payable upon receipt. ***Renewals postmarked or paid after July 30, 2019 are subject to a \$25 late fee.*** Please return this completed form with check payable to:

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List 3 primary areas of practice (use attached list to make your selections)

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Federal Court Admissions: _____

Law School: _____ **Year Admitted to The Florida Bar:** _____

Languages Spoken, other than English: _____

Other State(s) Admitted to Practice Law: _____

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.....**COMMITTEE and SECTION PREFERENCE**.....

Please indicate your interest for the 2019-20 Bar Association year:

SECTIONS: Practice sections offer continuing legal education programs and events focused on relevant topics. Section involvement provides lawyers with a forum to enhance their substantive practice skills, and to interact with others practicing similar areas of law. Please indicate your interest in any of the Sections listed below:

_____ Family Law

_____ Real Property

_____ Probate, Estate, Guardianship

_____ Solo/Small Firm

_____ Young Lawyers (40 yrs. & younger)

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

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

.....

COMMITTEES: Please indicate your choice(s) below.

_____ **Membership:** To include recruitment/retention of members and beneficial services for members.

_____ **Youth Related Education:** To include activities relating to civics education, classroom speaker's bureau and youth education programs.

_____ **Events:** To include the planning and preparations for social activities throughout the year, to include Law Day, Spring Beach Party and Holiday Party in December.

_____ **PR/Communications:** Solicits and reviews monthly articles for the Inter Alia, press releases, etc.

_____ **Community Service:** To include the coordination of the annual Community Service recognition awards and participation in local community service projects.

_____ **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

___ Yes ___ No Are you interested in Pro Bono volunteer opportunities?

___ Yes ___ No Are you a Young Lawyer (40 yrs. or less -or- 5 yrs. or less in practice)?

****Please complete all pages****

Disclosure: Association dues, except as noted below, may be deductible as professional or business expenses, to the extent allowable by law. Dues and other contributions to local, state or national associations are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income purposes.

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Antitrust and Trade Regulation	Government and Administrative	Sustainable International Development
Appellate Practice	Government and Public Policy	Tax
Arbitration	Government Contracts	Technology and Science
Asian and Comparative	Guardianship	Toxic Torts
Asset Forfeiture	Health	Trademark
Aviation	Health Administration	Transportation
Banking	Immigration and Nationality	Trial
Bankruptcy	Indigenous and Native American Law	Trusts and Estates
Biotechnology and Genomics	Insurance	Urban Affairs/Urban Studies
Business	Intellectual Property	Wills, Trusts and Estates
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Civil Trial	International Business	
Commercial Litigation	International Economic	
Communications	International Environmental	
Condominium and Planned Development	International Legal Studies	
Constitutional	International Litigation and Arbitration	
Construction	International Taxation	
Consumer	Internet	
Contracts	Juvenile	
Copyright	Labor and Employment	
Corporate	Legal Malpractice	
Criminal	Litigation/Trial Advocacy/Advocacy	
Criminal Appellate	Media	
Debtor and Creditor	Mediation	
Dispute Resolution	Medical Malpractice	
Education	Mergers and Acquisitions	
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Energy, Environment/Natural Resources	Patent	
Entertainment, Arts and Sports	Personal Injury	
Environmental and Land Use	Probate and Trust Litigation	
Equal Opportunities	Product Liability	
Estate Planning	Professional Liability	
Family	Public Finance and Bonds	

Florida Bar and Federal Court Admissions Listings:

Florida Bar Certifications:	Federal Court Admissions:
Admiralty & Maritime Law	US Court of Appeal for the Eleventh Circuit
Arbitrator	US District Court Middle District of Florida
State & Federal Gov't & Admin Practice	US District Court Northern District of Florida
Adoption Law	US District Court Southern District of Florida
Appellate Practice	Florida Middle District Bankruptcy Court
Antitrust & Trade Regulation Law	Florida Southern District Bankruptcy Court
Aviation Law	Florida Northern District Bankruptcy Court
Business Bankruptcy	United States Supreme Court
Business Litigation	US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
Circuit Civil Mediator	US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
Civil Mediator	US Court of Federal Claims
Civil Trial Mediator	US Court of International Trade
Criminal Appellate	US Tax Court
City, County & Local Government Law	
Construction Law	
Condominium & Planned Dev. Law	
Criminal Trial	
Civil Trial	
Elder Law	
Education Law	
Family Mediator	
FL. Regional Architect	
FL. Supreme Court Certified Mediator	
FL. Supreme Court Certified Civil Mediator	
Marital & Family Law	
Health Law	
International Law	
Immigration & Nationality	
Intellectual Property Law	
Juvenile Law	
Labor & Employment Law	
Marital & Family Law	
Real Estate	
Tax Law	
Wills, Trusts & Estates	
Workers' Compensation	

Florida Bar and Federal Court Admissions Listings:

Florida Bar Certifications:	Federal Court Admissions:
Admiralty & Maritime Law	US Court of Appeal for the Eleventh Circuit
Arbitrator	US District Court Middle District of Florida
State & Federal Gov't & Admin Practice	US District Court Northern District of Florida
Adoption Law	US District Court Southern District of Florida
Appellate Practice	Florida Middle District Bankruptcy Court
Antitrust & Trade Regulation Law	Florida Southern District Bankruptcy Court
Aviation Law	Florida Northern District Bankruptcy Court
Business Bankruptcy	United States Supreme Court
Business Litigation	US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
Circuit Civil Mediator	US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
Civil Mediator	US Court of Federal Claims
Civil Trial Mediator	US Court of International Trade
Criminal Appellate	US Tax Court
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Construction Law	
Condominium & Planned Dev. Law	
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Civil Trial	
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Education Law	
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Juvenile Law	
Labor & Employment Law	
Marital & Family Law	
Real Estate	
Tax Law	
Wills, Trusts & Estates	
Workers' Compensation	

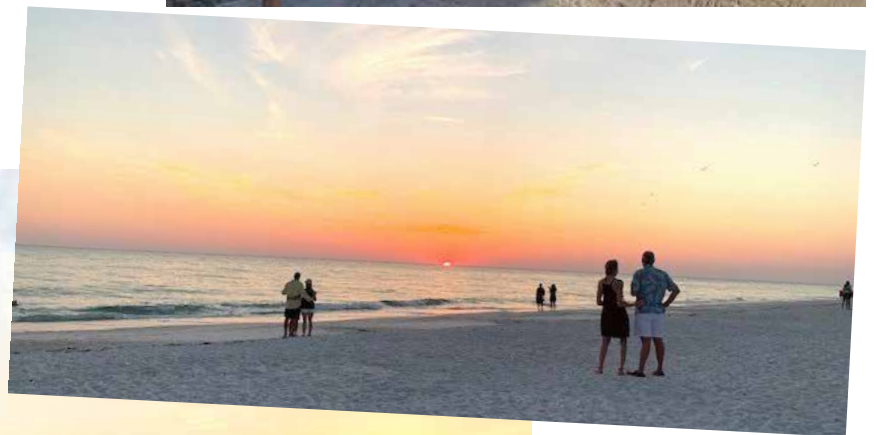
BEACH PARTY 2019

Another Beach Party has come and gone and if you missed it.....well, you missed a fantastic event!

The Grimes family beach house, "Caya Casa" was host once again to appx. 45 party goers. Festive fair of oysters, shrimp, barbeque from PigOut, ChickFila suggests, our very own steak sandwiches and ice cream from the Carlson Meissner Ice Cream truck were just a sampling of what was available at this year's event. Lively libations, and craft beer sponsored by Gold Coast Eagle were on tap as DJ Lynch once again spun the tunes as party goers watched a beautiful sunset over the Gulf of Mexico. It was here, that one was heard saying, "Wow, others save up to make a trip here and we get to enjoy this as a Bar member!" So true!

The feedback is, this was the best one yet and plans are already under way to do it again next year. Special thanks to the Law Day Committee, from those who grocery shopped, to grilled, to picked up food, to dragged in lots of ice, to took out trash, to cleaned up the beach, to washed dishes, to set up tables and chairs, to made sure the taps were working.....you get the idea! And, again, thank you to our sponsors and the Grimes family for donating their lovely beach house.





IF IT INVOLVES FOOD



*If an event involves food,
we need you to RSVP!*

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