



# INTER ALIA

SEPTEMBER 2020

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

## NOTE:

The Manatee County Bar Association leadership has determined, based upon the updated CDC guidelines that all *in person* events are cancelled until further notice.

## Worth Repeating: MCBA Law Day 2000 Speech by Chesterfield Smith

*This historical moment is brought to you by  
Charles W. Telfair, IV, Esq., MCBA President*



On May 5, 2000, Chesterfield Smith, former President of the ABA (among many other accolades), brother and uncle to Gilbert Smith, Sr and Gilbert Smith Jr, respectively, spoke at a Manatee County Bar Association luncheon. His words then are still true today and worth repeating. Please enjoy...

“No matter your thoughts after seeing me today, I too truly once was a young lawyer in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit long, long, long ago in Arcadia; however, like my brother Gilbert Smith, I was never a judge, young or old. I today still love both lawyers and most judges admitting now and then to some small individual problems with each, including very, very rarely old Gilbert Smith, the judge and perhaps little more frequently, young Gilbert Smith, Jr., the lawyer. Nevertheless, most of my very good and best friends, indeed, are and long have been lawyers or judges. I continually brag about being a lawyer. I think you too should today be proud to be a lawyer even if you also are a judge. But, as lawyers or judges we must, we should, be deeply concerned about the present public image of our profession which, to put it frankly, is in many ways “not so hot.” Were we the practicing lawyers, members of the bar always so generally ill-perceived and ill-reputed?

Personally, I think not many years ago, early in my professional career, I believe that lawyers were perceived by most as consummate professionals. Lawyers were widely respected because lawyers apparently had obtained the knowledge, the

wisdom and the advocacy and counseling skills that almost everyone believed helpful to people in trouble. But, I am now convinced over the years that there has been a disturbing evolution in the perception of lawyers. Lawyers indeed have now quite often become the subject of popular disdain. Lawyers now generally are thought by many as too expensive, overpaid, unethical ego maniacs and mean-spirited. You name it, lawyers recently have been, somewhere and sometimes called it. Plainly stated, the general public’s opinion of overall lawyer professionalism has in recent years declined dramatically and the legal profession ought to be seriously concerned.

Lawyers today admittedly live and work between the proverbial rock and a hard place. The public’s thoughts about our profession are marked by profound ambivalence. I suggest that generally the public, more often than not, vilifies the legal

*(continued on page 4)*



*Gilbert Smith, Sr., Gilbert Smith Jr., and Chesterfield Smith*



*Left to right, Bill Grimes, Warren Goodrich, Chesterfield Smith, Senator Ed Price and Judge Robert Hensley*

## YLD News & Happenings

### Young Lawyers Division Announces “YLDer of the Year” Dustin Wagner!

The competition was tough, the stakes were high, but Dustin Wagner is the 2020 winner and has won the title of “MCBA YLDer of the Year”! All MCBA young lawyers were invited to compete for the title during the 2019-20 MCBA year; and, could earn points by attending and/or volunteering to assist at meetings and events, and for being an active member of the Young Lawyers Division. Despite setbacks and cancellations of events, due to Covid 19, Dustin accumulated his points by attending most, if not all, meetings, and events as he sprinted by other contestants early in the year. For his dedication to the MCBA, and the YLD, Dustin won a marketing package for his practice, as well the title, “MCBA YLDer of the Year”! The program was the brainchild of YLD Past President, Melissa Casanueva. It was so well received, that it will run again this year. Well done, Dustin Wagner!

### MCBA Young Lawyer of the Year: Dustin Wagner, Esq.



During the 2019-2020 MCBA term the YLD board tracked YLD members’ attendances at meetings, events, socials, etc. The YLD’s goal was to reward the member that had the highest participation with a YLD’er of the Year award and a spotlight article within Inter Alia. Surprisingly, yours truly has been crowned this year’s winner, and I greatly appreciate the honor. Since there are some MCBA members I have not yet come to know well; this article is just a summary of my background and how I landed in the field of criminal defense and personal injury.

First off, I love Manatee County. My dad’s side of the family came to Anna Maria Island in the late 1940’s and setup shop with Bayou Marina (now Galati’s Marina). My mom’s side of the family came to East Bradenton in the 1950’s and ran a dairy farm on Upper Manatee River Road. I had the privilege of growing up on Holmes Beach in the 1980’s, where every day, I would cast a few fishing lines before school, then walk to Anna Maria Elementary. I graduated from Manatee High School, University of Florida, and NOVA Southeastern University.

My first year of law school, I entered with the belief I would work as a prosecutor after graduation. As fate would have it though, I was overlooked for an internship with the Broward County State Attorney’s Office as a 1L. After hearing the news, I felt like Charlie Sheen in ‘Major League’, when someone hung red tape inside his locker (signaling he was cut from the team). As a result, I decided to work across the aisle at the Broward County Public Defender’s Office that semester, with a plan to kick butt and show the State Attorney’s Office that they had made a mistake. However, after I got a taste of the criminal justice system, I felt justice should be served on both sides of the aisle.

The following summer, I managed to get an internship with personal injury attorney, Kenneth Cooper P.A. I remember my first day of interning, waiting in the lobby, when Ken came out and asked if I was “ready to try my first case.” Thirty seconds later, a car pulled up and I was thrown into the back as we headed off to go pick a jury on a slip and fall case in Fort Lauderdale. My good luck continued as I informally sat second chair on another personal injury trial. This resulted in a \$1.9M dollar verdict for a family that had put through the ringer after 5 years of litigation. Following that trial, I realized how difficult the practice of law was going to be and the importance of my own personal resolve.

When I graduated law school, I went on to work at the Public Defender’s Office in Tampa for four years. Working as a Public Defender was one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences of my life. Eventually I was ready for a change, and was fortunate enough to return home and practice personal injury at Lutz, Bobo, and Telfair, P.A. Roger Lutz provided a solid foundation and taught me a great deal about applying common sense to the practice of law, while Charlie Telfair provided mentorship that helped me grow professionally and to strive for excellence each day. I am forever grateful for their guidance and generosity.

In February 2019, I started my own practice, Lightning Law PLLC, with a focus on criminal defense and personal injury. Although I can only dream of being half as good as the attorneys that have guided me on this journey so far, I look forward to having an impact on our community and helping those that need it the most. Go Gators!

# YLD News & Happenings

## Fall 2020: Looking Forward by Giving Back

*by Alex Nicodemi, Esq., MCBA YLD President*

Manatee YLD serves to promote social engagement, provide pro bono and educational opportunities, and participate in projects for the betterment of Manatee County community. Usually, this is in the form of social interactions, live events, and community outreach. The pandemic, of course, has shifted everything virtual. Nevertheless, the YLD remains committed and focused to serve the community and our young lawyers.

**Manatee YLD remains committed to helping non-profit organizations.** At the end of the school year, every spring, the YLD dedicates grant funds for the Big Brothers Big Sister’s beach bash. This year, the beach bash was canceled, so we redirected the funds towards providing back to school supplies for children in the program. Thank you to Board Member Aaron Crittenden, for making sure the students received an array of supplies and backpacks before the start of school.

Additionally, our 2020 Community Outreach Grant recipient is the Safe Children Coalition of Manatee County (“SCC”) whose mission is to assist youth transitioning from foster care to independent living. Instead of hosting the financial literacy course that was slated for this summer, we will be using the grant funds to purchase essential items to assist the youth at SCC for the transition to independency.

**Manatee YLD will continue to apply for grant opportunities.** While we won’t be hosting live events, we will continue to apply for and secure grant funds for future events. Our first grant application is for the Inclusion and Equality Grant. Our proposal seeks to host an event honoring court appointed attorneys that serve in Manatee County. Court appointed attorneys serve an integral component of the legal system representing the wishes and goals of the defenseless. This event hopes to serve as both an educational opportunity for those that wish to donate their time as well as to honor those who serve as a court appointed attorney. Special thanks to Board Member Sierra Butler for all her work in applying for this grant on behalf of Manatee YLD.

**Manatee YLD will continue to promote and encourage each other.** MCBA Young Lawyer of the Year Award was established in 2019 in order to promote and encourage the success of MCBA young lawyers. Winners of this award will receive a marketing package from the MCBA. Details on how to become eligible for this Award are available on the Manatee YLD Facebook Page.

The YLD looks forward to this fall as an opportunity to serve others. We are hoping that despite this year’s hardships, we can direct our resources for the benefit of our community .



### Young Lawyers Give Back – Assist Big Brothers Big Sisters!

Recently, the MCBA Young Lawyers Division assisted local Big Brothers Big Sisters with their back to school program. The YLD supported the program with a \$500 check to purchase back packs and school supplies for area students with a grant received from the Florida Bar. Students were very excited to receive their new supplies and we wish them a wonderful 2020-21 school year!





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# SEPTEMBER VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## Welcome!

**Florida Chief Justice  
Charles Canady**



Wednesday,  
September 30, 2020

Noon  
ZOOM

Registration Required!

WITH THANKS TO OUR ANNUAL SPONSORS:



**Registration required by September 28th.  
Check your email for registration  
instructions.**

*Worth Repeating, continued from page 1)*

profession. Indeed lawyers are hated by many, that is until, one of those doing the hating badly needs a lawyer's help. When that need arises today, typically and unfortunately that potential client still may then seek out what they themselves perceive to be the meanest, the toughest, the nastiest lawyer that can be found. Not a lawyer whom that client person understands to be a master of the law, but one who that client person thinks may get for his or her client just exactly what he or she wants. It thus is somewhat ironic and quirky that society, as a whole, holds many lawyers generally in contempt and disdain, but at the same time many individuals in that society want to be represented only by a lawyer whom that potential client believes is a "pit bull", the best "hired gun" around.

I hate to say it but almost every person retaining a lawyer now wants very, very badly to succeed in court, even at society's expense. The truth is, people usually hate only the lawyer who is an advocate for the opposing cause they generally then perceive that particular lawyer as cruel, heartless, cutthroat, unethical and dishonest. At the same time they most often like or grow to like the lawyer representing them, unfortunately for the same selfish and personal reasons. In fairness this is not a new development. Some lawyers long have been properly an object of substantial public disdain -- which surely flows in large measure from our traditional adversarial legal system.

Americans generally now say that in the legal profession nice people finish last. A lot of people understandably do say that. But they are wrong. Most often in my half century experience, nice, good, civil, ethical, professional and noble lawyers finish first. The true fact, the reality is there are scads of very nice men and women who today are very successful lawyers. Arguably, and I, myself believe it, the lawyer who is more benevolent, kinder, gentler invariably is a great and successful lawyer. I submit to you that doing good professionally is much more important than doing well financially and that the two are not mutually exclusive.

As an obvious result of the professional degeneration in reputation, lawyers have now actually begun seeking ways to change that perception. As I see it, nothing could be better for the legal profession than for lawyers to regain the respected position in America they once - long ago - occupied. Indeed, rather than denying this lawyer image problem, I suggest that lawyers must face it head on. It is not something novel to suggest that perception is reality.

If the public perceives lawyers generally in a negative manner, that is a reality lawyers can begin effectively to change that perception. There is no ready cure for our troubles but perhaps no new cure is needed. Perhaps all that is needed has been available all along, lawyers just have failed to use it. This task of changing the perception can best be undertaken with a common understanding of the individual lawyer's clients as compared with all of the individuals who are not that lawyer's clients. Unfortunately, the present perception of lawyers comes primarily from those individuals who have over the years dealt closely with lawyers either as clients or as opposition. The public expects integrity, honesty and ethically, among members of the legal profession and they most often get it and so perceive, from the lawyer they choose to represent them. But unfortunately, more than a few of those who've had close dealings with lawyers who represent them do

also find some of those lawyers to be lacking in these areas. How much of the blame for those opinions rests with lawyers?

We certainly have among us a not insignificant few who have lied, stolen or sacrificed integrity on the altar of greed and every such instance is a blot on our profession that we should condemn. Yet we also have an obligation, too often overlooked, to speak of the good we do collectively and singly and the merits of a justice system which is envied throughout the world. We have a great deal of which we should be proud and which we should promote.

I suggest that the collective drubbing we now get as a profession is in the main undeserved, but I also recognize that perceptions cannot be changed overnight. One thing is for sure, lawyers must not forget or ignore that they control their own professional behavior and that they conduct their own law practices.

Attorneys are in a unique position to advocate the pursuit of truth and justice despite a societal element that perhaps too frequently has become driven by greed and revenge. But to do so, lawyers must seize this opportunity when seeking to change the profession's current public perception by recognizing the present as an opportunity to resurrect the lawyer as counselor, to focus on fairness and civility instead of vindictiveness to advocate settlement over obligatory litigation to readily demonstrate a willingness to say "no" to clients whose cases run counter to the steadfast principles of ethics and professionalism. The legal profession has a responsibility to set the tone in its relationships with the public but particularly with the client.

Lawyers must seek out creative alternative options which would best serve the interests of justice even though doing so may reduce that lawyer's income. Perhaps most importantly lawyers must become willing to "draw the line" - separating the pursuit of justice from client greed and vindictiveness. Above all lawyers must do their part in educating this primary public -- the clients on the differences between the two. I believe that a lawyer should, must picture himself or herself always as a respected and independent professional.

A person of integrity who has established professional standards for deciding what she or he always will do and will not do as a lawyer. We as lawyers must continue, as we traditionally have to affirm that a person will be recognized as a good lawyer only if that person is also an ethical professional. Tomorrow's dominant question from the client may well continue to be, "is it legal?" but the answer too rarely given to that question must be these noble yet wholly professional words from the lawyer: "this is what you ought to do, not because it is required or legal, but because it is right and proper."

As current events throughout the world show, a legalistic society which ignores all values other than law is a society which ultimately will wither away and disappear. No state can long survive if its people assume that conduct not forbidden by law is acceptable conduct and a lawyer must never make that assumption. Law necessarily should set minimum standards but not the loftier goals. Law can be only the bottom but it must not be the ceiling. Thus, lawyers in advising their clients must continue always to consider the essential role both of the law and of morals and ethics. Generally, lawyers have, in my experience, done so and; in my opinion, it is essential that they never cease to do so. Lawyers must give, when advising their clients, more attention to the essential role of ethics and morality aspiring for even higher standards than those minimum

*(continued on next page)*

imposed by law. Indeed, the rule of law itself envisions internal moral checks within each client as a necessary compliment to the external restrictions of statutes and judge made rules.

The dominant question for lawyers in counseling their clients should always be: "is it right?" Being legally permissible is not sufficient if the contemplated action is not the right thing to do. If lawyers do counsel their clients to do right, as they traditionally have, lawyers and their clients will continue to do well both financially and in all other aspects of our society. In truth, human relations is the real practice of law and no real lawyer can practice our calling impersonally.

A good lawyer must know how to work with those to be served and always the practice of law is, must be, and always will be a human profession. The most frightening measure of what the legal profession has, in my own professional lifetime, lost in its consultation with clients is that people don't even remember the trust that society not too long ago placed in the legal profession.

I remember. That's what fifty years ago made me proud to be a lawyer and that trust must be restored.

This much is certain, real improvement in the enhancement of the lawyer's image and the merger of perception and reality rests squarely with the way the lawyer represents his or her clients in her or his relationships within the community, in the manner in which the lawyer interacts with her or his colleagues, and in how the lawyer chooses to conduct his or her practice. If lawyers are to live up to their historic, grandiloquent and noble rhetoric their deeds must require ever better standards from themselves and from their clients. Law cannot, should not, must not be alone a business, a money-making experience.

Lawyers are not consultants or accountants or advisors. They are "officers of the court". Whatever legal task those lawyers perform and wherever they do it it's the only way. It must be the right way. Lawyers always must, under all circumstances, consciously think of themselves as "officers of the court." In my judgment to be a lawyer is a very fine thing - all of which pleases me greatly after many years of making a very good living, doing something I always have enjoyed. I hope that all of you or most of you, will years from now feel the same way.

Thank you." - Chesterfield Smith, 2000, MCBA Law Day Luncheon



## Register Now to Attend our September Virtual General Membership Meeting!



### *Welcome Chief Justice Charles T. Canady!*

Chief Justice Charles T. Canady was born in Lakeland, Florida, in 1954. He is married to Jennifer Houghton Canady, and they have two children. He received his B.A. from Haverford College in 1976 and his J.D. from the Yale Law School in 1979.

Chief Justice Canady practiced law with the firm of Holland and Knight in Lakeland from 1979 through 1982. He practiced with the firm of Lane, Trohn, et al., from 1983 through 1992.

From November 1984 to November 1990, Chief Justice Canady served three terms in the Florida House of Representatives, and from January 1993 to January 2001, he served four terms in the United States House of Representatives. Throughout his service in Congress, Chief Justice Canady was a member of the House Judiciary Committee. For three terms, from January 1995 to January 2001, Chief Justice Canady was the Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution.

Upon leaving Congress, Chief Justice Canady became General Counsel to Governor Jeb Bush. He was appointed by Governor Bush to the Second District Court of Appeal for a term beginning November 20, 2002.

On August 28, 2008, Chief Justice Canady was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Governor Charlie Crist and took office on September 8, 2008. He served as Florida's 54th Chief Justice from July 2010 through June 2012. He was elected by his colleagues to serve as Chief Justice for a second time starting July 1, 2018, and a third time starting July 1, 2020.

Registration is required to attend this meeting. Check your weekly News You Can Use, email and Inter Alia for registration information.



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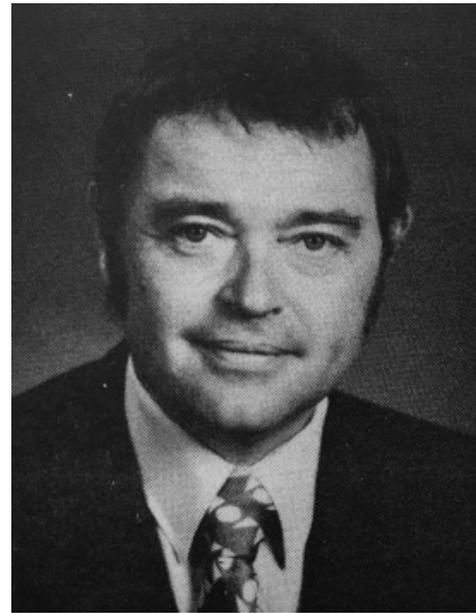

This is a last call for dues renewals for the 2020-21 MCBA year, which began on July 1st.

As announced, the MCBA sent out numerous reminders for members to renew their dues; announcements were made in the weekly e-blasts, personal emails, and Inter Alia. The MCBA Board of Directors had announced that this year, due to Covid 19, they would not consider dues delinquent until September 15th, 2020, granting a 10 week extension.

Active members will continue to receive their FREE listing on the MCBA online directory, be a featured member on the MCBA website, as well as receive admission to virtual meetings and in-person events (once they are re-established).

We hope to see you at this month's virtual General Membership meeting, when Florida Chief Justice Canady will be our special guest. See the flyer in this issue of Inter Alia.

Questions about your dues? Contact Graceann Frederico, Executive Director, at [MCBA@ManateeBar.com](mailto:MCBA@ManateeBar.com)



*Remembering  
Richard W. Carter, Esq.*

*By Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr.*

On July 18, 2020, the Manatee County Bar Association lost one of its longtime members, Richard Wayne Carter. After he graduated with his juris doctorate degree from University of Akron School of Law in Akron, Ohio, he moved to Bradenton Beach, Florida in 1971. Richard opened a law office on Gulf Drive and practiced there for his entire career. He also became the Bradenton Beach City Judge. Later Richard became the city attorney for Bradenton Beach and held that position for many years.

In addition to being a devoted husband to wife, Gale and father to daughters, Amanda and Phaedra, Richard was involved in the community. He belonged to Manatee Masonic Lodge #31 for most of his life. He also served as a deacon at Roser Church for many years and was also an advocate for animal welfare and affordable housing. Richard also served as president of the Manatee County Housing Authority for many years.

Along with Gale, he was active in many organizations on Anna Maria Island and regularly volunteered at public schools in the 50 years they lived in Bradenton Beach. Richard regularly cooked for events at Anna Maria Elementary School, Bayshore High School, the Island Chamber of Commerce and the Manatee County Democratic Party. He was passionate about ballroom dancing and his beloved cats.

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## Does Your Firm Qualify to Receive the Distinction? Open Enrollment for the MCBA 100 Club!

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. To become a member of the “100 Club”, every attorney in your firm must be a member of the MCBA. Firms with 100% attorney participation will be:

*Listed in Inter Alia  
Listed on the MCBA Website  
Sent a special “100 Club” badge to be used in their  
marketing materials*

The MCBA’s “100 Club” is open to renewal each year, as it does not automatically renew due to changes in firm rosters from year to year. Firms must renew each year to participate. Firms must have two or more attorneys to be eligible.

To become a member of the “100 Club” for the 2020-21 year, please submit your request via email to Executive Director, Graceann Frederico at [MCBA@ManateeBar.com](mailto:MCBA@ManateeBar.com) **no later than, October 31, 2020**. Include a listing of all attorneys in your firm. Once the names are verified as active members of the MCBA, and approved, your firm will be added to the MCBA 2020-21 “100 Club” listings and sent the official badge.

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## *Welcome New Members*

**ALVIN K. BROWN, ESQ.**

Stetson University, 1997  
Year admitted to the Florida Bar, 1998  
Mr. Brown is the owner of Alvin K. Brown, PA, at 1001 3rd Ave. W., Ste. 275, Bradenton, FL 34205. Area(s) of practice: Cybersecurity & Data Protection, National Security Law, and Criminal Defense

**REBECCA A. BUKY, ESQ.**

University of Florida  
Year admitted to the Florida Bar, 2003  
Ms. Buky is an attorney with Najmy Thompson, PL, 1401 8th Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205. Area(s) of practice: Probate, Estate and Guardianship, Family Law, and Real Property.

**MICHELE A. EBONE, ESQ.**

Stetson University, 2017  
Year admitted to the Florida Bar, 2017  
Ms. Ebone is an associate attorney with Hamilton, Price & Marshall, PA, 2400 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205. Area(s) of practice: Construction Law, Insurance.

**ROBERTO M. GARCIA, ESQ.**

Northeastern School of Law  
Year admitted to the Florida Bar, 2019  
Mr. Garcia is an attorney with Najmy Thompson, PL, 1401 8th Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205. Area(s) of practice: Real Estate

**STACEY MALONEY, ESQ.**

Stetson University  
Year admitted to the Florida Bar, 2020  
Ms. Maloney is the owner of The Law Office of Stacey Maloney, PLLC, 435 12th St. W., Bradenton, FL 34205. Area(s) of practice: Estate Planning, Bankruptcy, and Real Estate.

**SARA W. MAPES, ESQ.**

Stetson University  
Year admitted to the Florida Bar, 2014  
Ms. Mapes is an attorney with Hamilton, Price & Marshall, PA, 2400 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205. Area(s) of practice: Civil Litigation, Construction Litigation, and Insurance Defense.

**COREY R. PARKER, ESQ.**

University of Florida  
Year admitted to the Florida Bar, 2017  
Mr. Parker is an attorney with Najmy Thompson, 1401 8th Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205. Area(s) of practice: Real Estate.

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.



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# DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 9, 2020	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
September 9, 2020	Florida Bar Virtual Town Hall with TFB President
September 17, 2020	Diversity & Inclusion Committee Virtual Meeting
September 21, 2020	12th Judicial Circuit Civil virtual CLE
September 30, 2020	General Membership Meeting
October 7, 2020	Board of Directors Meeting
October 14, 2020	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
October 15, 2020	Diversity & Inclusion Committee Virtual Meeting
October 28, 2020	General Membership Meeting
November 4, 2020	Board of Directors Meeting
November 11, 2020	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
November 19, 2020	Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
December 2, 2020	Board of Directors Meeting
December 9, 2020	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
December 11, 2020	MCBA Holiday Party: BCC
December 17, 2020	Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
January 6, 2021	Board of Directors Meeting
January 13, 2021	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
January 14, 2021	Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
January 27, 2021	General Membership Meeting
February 3, 2021	Board of Directors Meeting
February 10, 2021	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
February 18, 2021	Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
February 24, 2021	General Membership Meeting
March 3, 2021	Board of Directors Meeting
March 10, 2021	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
March 18, 2021	Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
March 31, 2021	General Membership Meeting
April 7, 2021	Board of Directors Meeting
April 14, 2021	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
April 15, 2021	Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
May 5, 2021	Board of Directors Meeting
May 12, 2021	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
May 20, 2021	Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
May 26, 2021	LAW DAY General Membership Meeting
June 2, 2021	Board of Directors Meeting
June 9, 2021	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
June 17, 2021	Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
June 30, 2021	Annual Meeting: General Membership Meeting

\*dates are subject to change – check your weekly News You Can Use email for updates

## Probate/Trust Admin./Business Transactional Attorney

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The firm's attorneys practicing in the area of Wills, Trusts and Estates are currently accepting referrals and new clients in the following areas:

- Estate planning
- Probate and trust administration and litigation
- Elective share and surviving spouse rights
- Homestead issues
- Probate and trust related appeals
- Elder Law
- Guardianship administration and litigation
- Public benefits and Medicaid planning
- Veteran's benefits



**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  
Past President, Manatee County Bar Association



**Lawrence W. Thomas, Esq.**

Admitted to the Florida Bar in 1985  
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**Kevin M. Collver, Esq.**

Admitted to the Florida Bar in 1997  
Member, Manatee County Bar Association  
LL.M., Taxation, Univ. of Florida



**M. Brandon Robinson, Esq.**

Admitted to the Florida Bar in 2015  
United States Dept. of Veteran's Affairs Accredited Attorney  
Combat Veteran, United States Marine Corps  
Director, Manatee County Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division

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# 12th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT CIVIL VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

There will be a Circuit Civil Virtual Town Hall on Sept 21, 2020 from Noon-1:30 p.m.

The webinar will have a focus on Alternative Dispute Resolution options and use of Special Masters.

CLE credit has been applied for. Registration required at this link: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_qz9nzEXnT52w7uT1NqT\\_zg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qz9nzEXnT52w7uT1NqT_zg)

## ***Thank You, Chief Judge Kimberly Bonner!***

A special thank you to Chief Judge Kimberly Bonner for taking time out of her busy schedule to meet with our members during our virtual August General Membership meeting. Over 60 viewers attended the meeting and enjoyed learning about Judge Bonner’s eight generations of family in Florida, as well as personal stories, and even a court update. If you missed the meeting, not to worry! You can view it on our MCBA YouTube channel at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKIU7y\\_bTh4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKIU7y_bTh4)



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## Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission Vacancy

**Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission:** There is a vacancy for one attorney to serve a six-year term beginning on Jan. 1, 2021, and expiring Dec. 31, 2026.

The 15-member JQC is authorized under Article V, Section 12, Florida Constitution, to investigate complaints against judges whose conduct demonstrates a present unfitness to hold office and recommends disciplinary action to the Supreme Court. No member of the commission, except a judge, shall be eligible for state judicial office while acting as a member of the commission and for a period of two years thereafter. No member of the commission shall hold office in a political party or participate in any campaign for judicial office or hold public office; provided that a judge may campaign for judicial office and hold that office.

Persons interested in applying for this vacancy may [click here](#) to download the Application for Special Appointment or should call Bar headquarters at (850) 561-5757, to obtain the application form. Completed applications must be received by the Executive Director, The Florida Bar, 651 East Jefferson St, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-2300 or submitted via e-mail to [specialapptapp@floridabar.org](mailto:specialapptapp@floridabar.org) no later than the close of business on Friday, Oct. 9, 2020. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of the required application. The Board of Governors will review all applications and may request telephone or personal interviews.



Left to right, upper row are Theodore Bryant (EVP/General Counsel) and Donna Ross (Associate General Counsel). Left to right, lower row and seated are Jonathan Weis (Paralegal) and Bridget Kelly (Executive Assistant).

## Theodore “Ted” G. Bryant Wins \$100 Amazon Gift Card

Congratulations to MCBA member, Theodore “Ted” G. Bryant, CLO of SUNZ Insurance! He won the \$100 Amazon gift card when he entered our “dues renewals” drawing this year. MCBA board members drew his name at their August meeting. Ted and his team were so excited, they sent us a pic and a great email expressing how this made their day so much better!

# Points of Pride

**44** SSES students named National Merit Scholar finalists since 2005

**18** State championships won by Falcons sports teams.

**\$7.1 MILLION** Merit-based aid offered by colleges to graduates of the class of 2019

**700** total enrollment Pre-K3 through grade 12

**55%** Faculty with master's/ doctorate degrees

**20+** Different nationalities represented in our student body

**AP<sup>®</sup>**  
**18** Advanced Placement classes offered

**13** Universities ranked among the 25 most selective by U.S. News and World Report that SSES grads have matriculated to since 2013

**9:1** Student/Teacher ratio

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## BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO MAKE DECEMBER APPOINTMENTS

**Florida Realtor-Attorney Joint Committee:** Five lawyers, one from each state appellate district, are needed to serve two-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2021. The Florida Bar president receives the recommendations of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section for consideration. The committee membership includes 11 lawyers appointed by The Florida Bar and 11 realtors appointed by the Florida Association of Realtors. The committee promotes cordial relations between realtors and attorneys and presents educational seminars.

**Florida Rural Legal Services:** One attorney is needed to serve a three-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2021, on its 20-member Board of Directors. Other appointing organizations are the NBA, Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter, ACLU, voluntary bar associations and various other eligible client and community organizations. The mission of Florida Rural Legal Services is to empower low income individuals, groups and communities by providing them with access to justice through legal advice, representation, and advocacy.

**Eleventh Circuit Judicial Conference:** One delegate is needed to represent the Southern District of Florida to serve a four-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2021. The biennial conference consists of educational opportunities and meetings (by state) on matters of mutual concern. The Bar's three delegates contribute to planning and organizing an event during the conference in every odd numbered year.

Persons interested in applying for these vacancies may click [here](#) to download the Application for Special Appointment or should call Bar headquarters at (850) 561-5757, to obtain the application form. Completed applications must be received by the Executive Director, The Florida Bar, 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-2300 or submitted via e-mail to [specialapptapp@floridabar.org](mailto:specialapptapp@floridabar.org) no later than the close of business on Friday, Oct. 23, 2020. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of the required application. The Board of Governors will review all applications and may request telephone or personal interviews.

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The Twelfth Judicial Circuit FCPC presents:  
**Fifteenth Annual Family Law Conference**  
*"Keeping Up with the Joneses: A Family in Disaster"*



***Joining 12th Circuit Judiciary are Leading Family Law Professionals:***



Anthony Phillips, C.P.A.,  
A.B.V., C.F.F.



Christine Profito, Psy.D



Colleen Norman, Esq.



Deborah O. Day, Psy.D



Faith Brown, Esq.



Philip Schipani, Esq.



Sharon O'Day, Esq.



Stephanie Roth, M.A., L.M.H.C.



Valerie Fisher, M.A.,  
LMHC, NCC, CCMHC

An interactive virtual conference presented by a multi-disciplinary panel including leading legal, mental health, and forensic accounting professionals. Presentations will include 2020 Family Case Law Review, the Annual Judge's Panel, and a panel to guide participants through discussion and problem solving using a complex fact pattern for a family in disaster. *Attendance is open to family law professionals, including but not limited to, judiciary, attorneys, mediators, mental health professionals and financial specialists, who work in both litigation and collaborative family law matters.* **Do not miss this opportunity to hear directly from the Twelfth Circuit Court Judges, Magistrates, Hearing Officers, and court staff. FCPC has applied for CLEs, CMEs, CEs.**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2020 - 9:30 A.M - 5:00 P.M.**  
**VIRTUALLY OFFERED VIA ZOOM**

To Register Go Online to: <https://conta.cc/3gvKRm12>

The Florida Psychological Association is approved by Florida Department of Health, Board of Psychology and Board of School Psychology to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Florida Psychological Association is approved by the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling as a provider of continuing education. FPA maintains responsibility for this program and its contents." "Florida Psychological Association is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Florida Psychological Association maintains responsibility for this program and its content."



The 12th Judicial Court FCPC presents:  
Fifteenth Annual Family Law Conference

# Keeping Up with the Joneses: A Family in Disaster



**When:** Friday, October 16, 2020

**Time:** 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Where:** Live-stream on Zoom (break-out rooms)

- 9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Log on - time to address any IT issues  
 9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Welcome: Honorable Judge Maria Ruhl, FCPC Judicial Liaison & Valerie Fisher, FCPC President  
 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. *Cases, Statutes, and Rules Update 2020* - Sharon O'Day, Esq., Anthony Phillips, CPA, ABV, CFF, and Valerie Fisher, MA, LMHC, NCC, CCMHC  
 12:00 p.m.-12:30 p.m. Lunch & FCPC Meeting  
 12:30 p.m.- 2:30 p.m. *Bringing P.E.A.C.E. to the Jones: Analysis of dysfunctional dynamics in a family going through divorce*  
 Anthony Phillips, CPA, ABV, CFF, Christine Profito, Psy.D., Colleen Norman, Esq., Deborah O. Day, Psy.D., Faith Brown, Esq., Philip Schipani, Esq., Sharon O'Day, Esq., Stephanie Roth, MA, LMHC, Valerie Fisher, MA, LMHC, NCC, CCMHC  
 2:40 p.m. - 3:40 p.m. *The Jones' still need P.E.A.C.E.: Post dissolution dysfunction and reaching a final resolution*  
 3:50 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. **Judge's Panel:** Review of the Jones case, moderated by Stephanie Roth, MA, LMHC  
 4:50 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. Wrap-Up / Closing / Acknowledgements

***This conference will not be recorded. To receive credit for attendance you must sign in on time and continuously live stream until the end, complete evaluations and return them within 8 hours.***

**TO REGISTER ONLINE:** <https://conta.cc/3gvKRm1>

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Firm:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Profession:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Options:**

- **Membership Renewal:**  Early-bird 8/05-8/25: \$145  8/26- 9/15: \$165  9/16 - 10/07: \$195  
(2020 Members renewing for 2021: Price includes Membership fee, Conference attendance, CLEs, CMEs, CE's)
- **New Membership Applicant\*:**  Early-bird 8/05-8/25: \$145  8/26-9/15: \$165  9/16-10/07: \$195
- **The CE fee is included. License#:** \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*CE's for School Psychologists, Psychologists, LCSW, LMFT & LMHC
- **Support Staff:**  Early-bird 8/05 -8/25: \$110  8/26 - 9/15: \$130  9/16-10/07: \$149. (Includes 2020 FCPC Membership (per By-Laws), Conference Attendance, CLEs, CMEs and CE's)
- **Judiciary & Court Admin/Staff:**  No Fee
- **Support Staff, Non-Profits & Government Agencies:**  \$50 Conference Attendance Only
- **FPA\*\* Members:**  \$95 Conference Attendance Only  \$115 Conference Attendance & FCPC Membership  
(15% reduction for \*\* Florida Psychological Association sustaining members)

*\*Registration & Membership is open only to professionals practicing in the areas of Law, Mental Health & Finance and qualified for membership in FCPC as per the By-Laws. Return form & check payable to FCPC to:* Chris Wailand at 330 S. Pineapple Ave, Suite #106, Sarasota, FL 34236. Payment must be postmarked by discount period to be honored. Cancellation policy: Refund due to emergency only (membership and processing fees deducted; balance refunded). Inquiries: Call Shaun Hoyle at (941) 807-0836 or email: [Circuit12FCPC@Outlook.com](mailto:Circuit12FCPC@Outlook.com)

The FCPC is applying for CLEs, CEUs and CMEs for this event. The Florida Psychological Association is approved by Florida Department of Health, Board of Psychology and Board of School Psychology to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Florida Psychological Association is approved by the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling as a provider of continuing education. FPA maintains responsibility for this program and its contents." "Florida Psychological Association is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Florida Psychological Association maintains responsibility for this program and its content."

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