



# INTER ALIA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

*By: Faith Brown, MCBA Director*

Hooray! 2020 is finally over. As we enter a new year, many of us have made our traditional New Year's Resolutions in hopes that 2021 will be a drastic improvement from last year. But where did this tradition begin?

Apparently, it was the Babylonians that started the New Year's Resolution tradition over 4,000 years ago. They were also the first to hold celebrations ringing in the New Year, which for them was in mid-March when the crops were planted. They made promises to the gods to pay their debts. They believed if they kept their word, their (pagan) gods would grant favor on them for the coming year. If not, they would fall out of the gods' good graces and suffer their wrath.

For early Christians, New Year's Day became the traditional occasion for pondering past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the new year. In 1740, an English clergyman started night services which began on New Year's Eve and concluded on New Year's Day, which included reading scriptures and singing hymns. It served as an alternative to the wild celebrations we have come to enjoy today.

Despite its religious origins, today, New Year's resolutions are a mostly secular tradition. Instead of making promises to the gods, most people make resolutions that focus solely on self-improvement. Statistically, only 8 percent of the people that make resolutions succeed in achieving their goals. But why?

"When determining a goal for the New Year, chose something that you know you will be happy that you did it. Goals should be possible, specific, and measurable," Dr. Barbara Russell, PsyD, LCSW said.

"If your goal is to be a better person," she said, "you should specify the behaviors you need to address to make you a better you."

So, as I sat and pondered what my resolution would be for 2021, I was stumped. So, I decided to inquire of others.... perhaps I could copy one of theirs.

"I do not have a resolution," Dr. Russell stated, "because I resolve to live my best life every day."

My paralegal, Kimberly, said her resolution is to live a healthier lifestyle in 2021 and return to the gym.

"I'm going to try to live life like I am under 40 instead of over 50," Attorney Paul Grondahl said.

"My resolution is not to make any because I do not know what this year is going to bring, just in case a meteor hits the earth or something..." Manatee County Bar Association Executive Director Graceann Frederico said.

"My new year's resolution is to get to my niece's wedding in New Orleans on November 13," said Attorney Alix St. Paul. "Hopefully, they will have a vaccine and we will be able to travel."

"My New Year's resolution is to understand and concentrate on what I can control and not worry about what I cannot," Attorney Phillip Schipani said.

Attorney/mediator Sharon O'Day said her New Year's resolution is "to regain my health through healthy eating, regular exercise, reduced weight and mindfulness."

"Water, water, everywhere," said Attorney Lisa Bell. "I resolve to drink more water and to go sit beside it more often."

Attorney Robert Marble says his resolution is to memorize the family court judge's requirements for the 12th Circuit.

"My New Year's resolution is not to make any New Year's resolutions," Attorney Colleen Norman stated.

Meanwhile, Attorney Natalya Evans said her goal is to get adequate sleep in 2021.

I think all of their resolutions are winners!

After much contemplation and upon hearing everyone's resolutions, I concluded my resolution is to be more present with my family in the evenings and weekends. To put down the phone and make eye contact with my children when they are speaking with me.

2020 taught everyone the lesson that the whole world can change in a split second. Time is finite. We cannot get it back. Tomorrow is never promised. So, we should live each day as if it is our last and treat others the same as though it is our last encounter. No regrets. May 2021 be an amazing year for all.





## Judge Lee Haworth Receives 2020 Judge William E. Gladstone Award

Recently, during a Family Law Workshop on Zoom, Judge Lee Haworth was honored with the 2020 Judge William E. Gladstone Award. This prestigious award, named after Circuit Judge William E. Gladstone from Miami-Dade, is presented every year to the greatest contributor to the well-being of the courts' neglected and abused children. Congratulations, Judge Haworth!

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 100 Club

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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 are:

Listed in *Inter Alia*

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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.

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## YLD News & Happenings

### YLD HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE SUCCESS... and a preview for 2021!

*By Sierra Butler, Esq., Butler Elder Law, P.A.*

*a member of Ferrari, Butler & Moneymaker, PLLC. Director, MCBA YLD*



#### Finishing 2020 strong...

**629 POUNDS!** That is how much food members of the MCBA donated to the December 18, 2020 Holiday Food Drive. Organized by the Young Lawyers Division of the MCBA and led by President Alex Nicodemi, participants donned their ugly holiday sweaters to drive by or drop off food at Motorworks outdoor beer garden. It is a critical time for the food bank operated by Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee and the donations of canned food, meat, beans, peanut butter, rice and pasta were greatly appreciated and much needed. If you did not get a chance to participate, it is not too late to make a donation using the Meals On Wheels PLUS of Manatee WISH LIST which can be used to deliver items directly from Amazon to the organization. Simply go to <https://mealsonwheelsplus.org/wish-list/> and following the instructions. One hundred percent of the food collected stays in Manatee County!

#### What lies ahead for 2021...

The Young Lawyers Division applied for and received a grant from The Florida Bar for an upcoming event that recognizes court appointed lawyers in Manatee County. Local, private attorneys with experience in criminal, juvenile, dependency, guardianship and mental health law volunteer their time and energy to represent the wishes of individuals they are assigned to represent. If you know of a court appointed attorney who has gone above and beyond, please send an email to [mcba@manateebar.com](mailto:mcba@manateebar.com) with the subject line "YLD Court appointed attorney recognition." Please include the attorney's name, the type of cases he or she serves as a court appointed attorney, and a brief description of why this attorney should be honored. If you are a current court appointed attorney and would like to participate in our upcoming program by sharing your experience as a court appointed attorney, please contact Sierra Butler at [sierra@butlerelderlaw.com](mailto:sierra@butlerelderlaw.com) with the subject line "YLD Court appointed attorney recognition."



### MCBA Members Receive Holiday Gift in 2020!

During the holiday season, MCBA active members received a special holiday gift! The gift included a MCBA logo tumbler, locally roasted coffee from Sao Paolo Café, and a gift certificate to Four Pillars Spa in Lakewood Ranch. Because of the Covid situation, the MCBA Board of Directors had decided to cancel the traditional holiday party, but they still wanted to give something special to their members. President Elect Steve Dye had suggested the tumbler, board members agreed, and Executive Director Graceann Frederico turned the first floor conference room into a holiday workshop, wrapping over 250 gift packages. Ribbons, bows, holiday music and treats abounded for the month of December. A few remain, so if you are one of the few members who did not make arrangements to receive your gift, please contact Graceann at [mcba@manateebar.com](mailto:mcba@manateebar.com) to receive yours. You just may need that cup to be eligible to participate in some fun this upcoming year!





STATE OF FLORIDA  
**TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
DENO G. ECONOMOU  
Circuit Judge

Dear friends,

The time has come to say good-bye. After 21 years, I am retiring at the end of this year.

I am writing to you to say, thank you. Because of you, as the years passed, I became a much better judge as well as a better person, and for that, I shall be eternally grateful to you. It is for that reason, that if there were to be any reception in the future, it should be for the purpose of recognizing and celebrating you. It is for this reason that I ask that there not be any reception for me in the future.

I wish to leave quietly, very quietly, so that on my last day, I merely turn out the lights and close the door behind me. In doing so, I shall leave with cherished memories and an indebtedness to you.

Again, I thank you. I will miss you.

Sincerely,

Deno Economou

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## **A special note from Mark D. Singer (Judge, Retired)**

For the past fifteen years, I have had the honor and privileged to serve the people of Manatee County as a county judge. During this time, my goal has always been to serve with the highest degree of professionalism, consistent with my oath of office and the Code of Judicial Conduct.

I am thankful to have been surrounded by outstanding judicial colleagues, lawyers, clerks of the court, and administrative employees of the Twelfth Circuit. It has been a pleasure to work with many of you closely, day in and day out, for many years. You have been wonderful to me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the coming years.

The people of the Twelfth Circuit are blessed to have lawyers and judges who maintain the highest standards of professionalism. The health and vitality of our society, as our founding fathers first intended, is founded upon the trust upon which the people of our country have in our judicial system. This trust is obtained, maintained, and promoted by the manner in which each and every person is treated when they appear before the judiciary.

Thank you for your trust.

*With warm regards,  
Mark D. Singer (Judge, Retired)*

## Congratulations To Judge Thomas Gallen Receiving The 2021 Manatee County Distinguished Citizen Award



On January 7, 2021, at a luncheon at the Manatee County fairgrounds, Judge Thomas M. Gallen received the 2021 Distinguished Citizen Award from the Manatee River Fair Association. Judge Gallen received this award for his many contributions to Manatee County and its citizens. He was born and raised in Tampa and graduated from Jesuit High School. Judge Gallen attended the University of Tampa for a semester before enlisting in the United States Army and serving as a paratrooper. He was recruited to join a new unit called Special Forces being formed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina which later became known as the Green Berets. While in the Army, Judge Gallen was stationed with the 10th Special Airborne Forces in Bad Tolz, Germany. He jumped over 52 times and was awarded the Senior Parachutist Badge. Upon discharge Judge Gallen graduated with his bachelor's degree in business administration from Florida State University. He then decided to study law and graduated with his juris doctorate degree from the University of Florida. In 1960, Judge Gallen began his legal career in private practice in Bradenton with Jackson Miller. After only a few years practicing law, he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1965 and then to the Florida Senate in 1972. Judge Gallen continued to

practice law at the same time he served as a legislator. He was also a member of the Manatee County Bar Association where he served as president in 1982.

When Judge Gallen was elected as circuit judge in 1984, he became the first judge to serve the 12th Judicial Circuit after serving in the Florida House of Representative since Judge O.K. Reaves served in 1912 and the first circuit judge to have ever previously served in the Florida Senate. He also served as Chief Judge of the circuit from 1998 through 2002 where he had responsibility for the judges and all court personnel in Manatee, Sarasota and DeSoto counties. Judge Gallen was instrumental in the approval and planning of the Manatee County Judicial Center which opened in 2008. After he retired in 2002, he continued to serve as a senior judge for over 17 years retiring again in 2018. Judge Gallen served for over 30 years as a judge of the 12th Circuit.

Throughout his life Judge Gallen has been involved in the community through his involvement with Bradenton Kiwanis Club and with many other organizations, which would not have been as successful without his involvement. He is the 2nd judge to receive this award with Judge Robert E. Hensley who received the award in 2001.

In 1956, the Manatee River Fair Association in cooperation with the Manatee County Board of Commissioners established the Distinguished Citizen Award to recognize citizens of Manatee County who had distinguished themselves by volunteering their time and making significant and meritorious contributions to Manatee County.



## Welcome Judge Kevin Richard Bruning!

*By Judge Teresa Dees*

Please join the judiciary and the Manatee County Bar Association in extending a warm welcome to Judge Kevin Richard Bruning. Judge Bruning will be joining us here, in Manatee County, in January, 2021, and will begin his judicial career serving on the family law bench.

Judge Bruning was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, and moved to Florida with his mother, father and older sister, Kadi, in 1977. He grew up in Orlando and spent a significant amount of time on Anna Maria Island. Currently, Judge Bruning calls Sarasota home. Judge Bruning is married to his wife, Nicole, and, together, they have two sons, Cooper, age 10 and Tate, age 6. Rounding out the Bruning bunch is their beloved boxer, Bailey. In addition to spending as much time as possible with his extended family, all of whom live in Florida, Judge Bruning has been very active in our community, including serving as the Chairman of the Board of the American Red Cross of Southwest Florida; a member of the Arcadia Rodeo Committee; an Eagle Scout and a Little League baseball coach. When Judge Bruning finds time for himself, he enjoys traveling, running, woodworking and gardening.

Judge Bruning received his Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the University of Florida in 1994 (Go Gators!), followed by his Master of Business Administration from Rollins College in 1996. Judge Bruning received his JD from Stetson College of Law, where he graduated, Cum Laude, in 2000. Following graduation, Judge Bruning accepted a position at the Law Firm of Williams, Parker, Harrison, Dietz and Getzen, where he became a partner in 2008. In 2011, Judge Bruning formed Bentley and Bruning, where Judge Bruning was a managing partner specializing in complex commercial litigation including real estate and business-related disputes. While in private practice, Judge Bruning served as past president of the Sarasota County Bar Association, a volunteer Guardian ad Litem, a member of the Florida Bar Grievance Committee and pro bono counsel to several local organizations.

Judge Bruning is a family man, through and through, and takes great pride in his parents' many accomplishments as well as those of his wife, children, siblings and their children. Judge Bruning proudly attributes his ambition to his father and his passion to his mother. When I asked for a short biography, to assist in writing this article, Judge Bruning provided me with an exquisite narrative of his parents, wife, children and siblings, touting each of their considerable accomplishments and exceptional character. I am not exaggerating when I say, it wasn't until the seventh paragraph of Judge Bruning's written glimpse into his world, that me moved away from touting his family's noteworthy lives (to include his in-laws and the dog) and finally gave me a few downplayed details about his impressive accomplishments and remarkable career. It is apparent Judge Bruning thinks first of others, a characteristic which will surely benefit those whom appear before him.

Welcome, Judge Bruning. We look forward to working with you.



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# New Manatee County Judges Continue To Make History

*By Judge Gilbert A. Smith, Jr.*

*January 1, 2021*

It was just three years ago when all the Manatee County judges were men. You remember those guys. The last five county judges (Judges Brown, Henderson, Farrance, Singer and Sniffen) collectively were on the bench over 100 years. Well, that all changed as they began to retire and young energetic women lawyers were elevated to the county bench one at a time. Judge Renee Inman made history when she was appointed as the first women judge to serve on the county bench since 1982. Then Judge Heather Doyle made history as the second women judge to serve on the county bench. Now with the addition of Judge Jacqueline Steele and Judge Melissa Gould, the county bench is comprised entirely of women. The judiciary and the Manatee County Bar Association welcome both Judge Steele and Judge Gould to the bench.

Judge Steele has been serving as a Manatee County judge since July 1, 2020, after she was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis. Her appointment brought an attorney with a diversified background to the Manatee County bench. Judge Steele was born and raised in Tampa, Florida where she graduated from Chamberlain High School. She was inspired by her father and high school teacher to become a lawyer. Judge Steele began college at University of South Florida where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in English. Then she pursued her goal to become an attorney and graduated with her juris doctorate degree from Florida State University. Judge Steele began her legal career as an assistant public defender with the 13th Judicial Circuit. She then went into private practice with the firm of McConnaughay, Coonrod, Pope, Weaver, Stern P. A. After the death of Judge Steele's father, she reevaluated her priorities and felt a strong calling to give back to her community and become a judge. Besides focusing on family and work, she volunteers her time in the community, including with Impact 100 SRQ Women.



Judge Gould will begin her legal career serving as a Manatee County judge on January 4, 2021 after being elected on November 3, 2020. Her election brought also brought an attorney with a diversified background to the Manatee County bench.

Judge Gould was born in Los Angeles, California and raised in a small town in Ontario, Canada. She graduated from Widdifield Secondary School in North Bay. Judge Gould then graduated with her bachelor's degree in sociology from University of Western Ontario and her juris doctorate law degree from City University of New York School of Law. While in school she interned for a judge on the New York State Supreme Court. Later Judge Gould moved to the United Kingdom and graduated with her master of law degree from the University of Cambridge. She moved to Tampa and began her legal career practicing with the firm of Cole, Scott & Kissane handling insurance defense cases. After a year, Judge Gould moved to Michigan and taught family law, constitutional law and judicial process at Oakland University in Rochester. She also volunteered practicing pro-bono work at the University of Michigan Law School's Innocence Clinic, working on cases to help exonerate wrongly convicted prisoners.

Judge Gould became an assistant state attorney for the 12th Judicial Circuit in 2012 where she was practiced until she was elected to the bench. She prosecuted misdemeanor and felony cases before being appointed to a specialty unit handling white collar crime, felony animal abuse cases and crimes against the elderly in Manatee County. Judge Gould is involved in the community and volunteers her time with Meals on Wheels, FIBA (Florida Israel Business Accelerator), SWAT (Successful Women Aligning Together), Isolated Seniors program and Manatee Chamber of Commerce.

For over one hundred and fifteen years, all the judges who served Manatee County were men. Then, more women became lawyers and slowly were elevated to the bench. With the addition of Judges Steele and Gould, the 12th Judicial Circuit now has 17 women judges and 15 men judges. It will be interesting to see if this trend continues.



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On Tuesday, December 15, 2020, Judge Ed Nicholas gave a special presentation about his father, Dr. Sam Neel's story as a German prisoner-of-war on Christmas Eve in 1944. A large crowd, both virtually and in person, gathered to listen as Judge Nicholas told this story of courage and survival. The event was hosted by Bradenton Kiwanis, at the Manatee County Performing Arts Center, and filmed by METV.

Dr. Neel's story was retold by Tom Brokaw in his second book about the Greatest Generation, *The Greatest Generation Speaks*.

METV has uploaded the presentation and you may view it on the METV YouTube website.

## SCF Offers Online eDiscovery Course

State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF), has scheduled an online, 8-week course for legal professionals to explore the effect of electronic information on the litigation practice and the rapidly developing role of software in the areas of legal data, eDiscovery, and information governance. Students will take an in-depth look at the role of software in the litigation lifecycle from data collection and document review to production and presentation at trial. Students will explore project management principles and practices and perform exercises using various software used in the litigation support department and by litigation teams in the acquisition of data and eDiscovery processing. The software exercises will lead to the student becoming certified in eDiscovery by the National Society for Legal Technology who has partnered with the Association of Certified E-Discovery Specialists (ACEDS) in developing the course curriculum.

The online course, which begins Mar. 15 and ends May 6, is facilitated by Vilma Martinez, J.D., faculty of SCF. Tuition for the course is \$307.44 for Florida residents.

For more information about the course, contact Dr. Suzanne Bechtol at [BechtolS@SCF.edu](mailto:BechtolS@SCF.edu).

For more information about SCF's Paralegal/Legal Assisting Program, visit [www.scf.edu/ParalegalLegalAssisting](http://www.scf.edu/ParalegalLegalAssisting), email [BechtolS@SCF.edu](mailto:BechtolS@SCF.edu) or call 941-752-5359. Maps and directions are available at [scf.edu/maps](http://scf.edu/maps).

## MCBA Probate & Guardianship Section Holds Virtual Meet & Greet with Judge Diana Moreland

On January 12, 2021, the Probate & Guardianship Section of the MCBA hosted a *Meet & Greet* with Judge Diana Moreland. Over 40 attendees gathered to meet with Judge Moreland as she discussed expectations, updates, and changes to the court. Members asked questions, shared information, and received valuable insight for the year ahead. The event was so well received, that the MCBA is working with Judge Moreland to plan another, perhaps with CLE credit, in the Spring. If you missed it, please check your email, and your weekly News You Can Use enews for your link to view the event.

Keep checking your weekly News You Can Use for more events like this – another great benefit just for being an MCBA member!

ONLINE CLE SEMINAR





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*during the pandemic and beyond*

Join us for this special interactive online seminar, where we will analyze obstacles women lawyers face when seeking leadership positions. Dean Rosenbury will discuss the causes of underrepresentation and how the pandemic has exacerbated those practices and created new barriers. She will propose structural and individual strategies for overcoming these obstacles.

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**12:00-1:00 PM**

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# MCBA Virtual General Membership Meeting



Wednesday, January 27, 2021

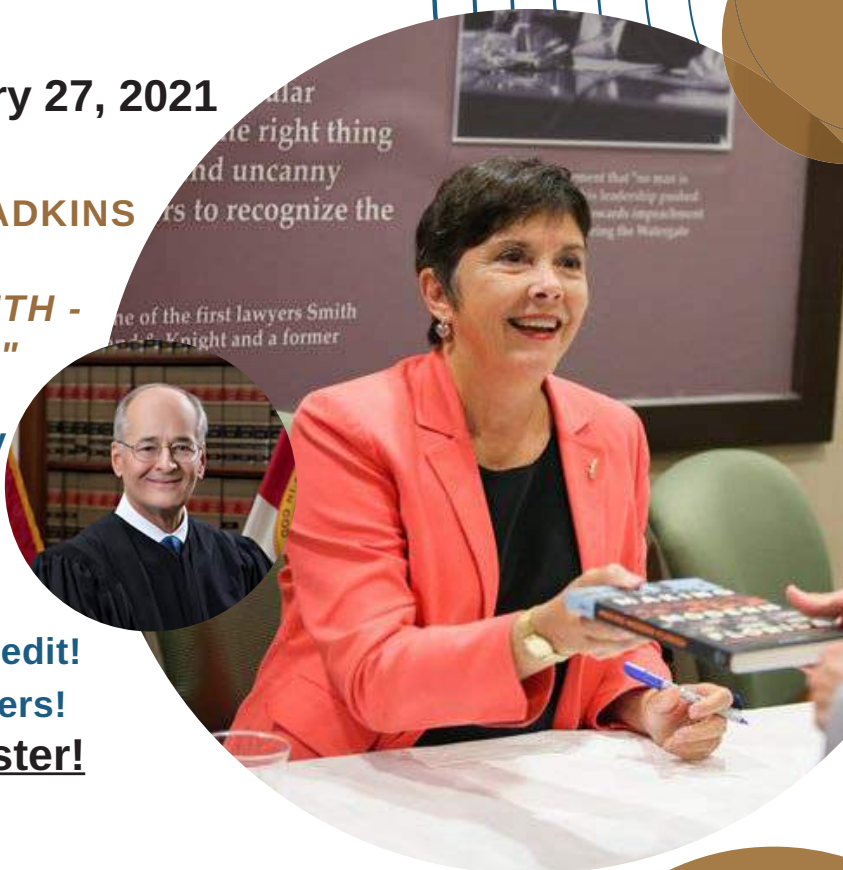
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## **Phone Numbers for the Manatee County Judicial Center**

The main number for the MCJC is 749-3600. At the prompt, you can enter the extensions below.

	<b><u>Ext.</u></b>	<b><u>Direct #</u></b>	<b><u>Fax #</u></b>
<b><u>Circuit Judges/JA's</u></b>			
Judge Bonner / Marilu Griner (chief)			
Judge Arend / Nancy Bigness (felony)	7037	749-3637	749-3687
Judge Bruning/ Carla Neal (family)	7021	749-3621	749-3682
Judge Dees / Tasha Shipman (family)	7023	749-3623	Contact JA
Judge Maulucci / Tess Luli (juvenile)	7019	749-3619	749-3681
Judge Mercurio / Karen Yost (felony)	7025	749-3625	749-3671
Judge Moreland / Vicki Mechanic (P&G)	7017	749-3617	749-3680
Judge Nicholas / Marianne Makar (civil)	7033	749-3633	749-3685
Judge Roberts/ Anita Brass (Problem Solving)			
Judge Smith / Donna McCammond (juvenile)	7031	749-3631	749-3684
Judge Sniffen / Ruth Taylor (civil)	7035	749-3635	Contact JA
Judge Whyte/Kelly Zoellner (felony)	7011	749-3611	Contact JA
<b><u>County Judges / JA's</u></b>			
Judge Doyle / Debbie Trusz (criminal/civil)	7007	749-3607	Contact JA
Judge Gould / Lori Jakanski (criminal/civil)	7001	749-3601	749-3674
Judge Inman / Laurie McClure (criminal/civil)	7005	749-3605	749-3676
Judge Steele/ Petrina Lanza (criminal/civil)	7009	749-3609	749-3678
<b><u>Magistrates &amp; Hearing Officers</u></b>			
Magistrate David Caskey / Kelley Hightower	7050	749-3650	749-3690
Hearing Officer Charles Denton / Debbie Grund	7046	749-3646	749-3688
Magistrate Paul Hudson / Nicole Cabrera	7048	749-3648	749-3689
<b><u>Court Administration</u></b>			
Kim Miller – Trial Court Administrator	7111	749-3657	749-3692
Tiffany Hammill- Chief Deputy Court Administrator	7110	749-3656	749-3692
Monica Ausborn – Court Operations Manager	7098	none	749-3692
Heather Blanton – HR Manager	1791	none	749-3692
Jackie Sotomayor – Administrative Services Mgr.	7103	none	749-3692
Donna Rhodes- Public Information Officer	7105	none	749-3692
Nancy Smith - Administrative Assistant	7101	none	749-3692
IT Help Desk - Jon Schunk & Chris Schrieber	7115	749-3658	749-3692
(JACS Questions/Presentation Carts)			
Citizen Dispute Settlement Program (Susan Gardner)	7120	749-3660	749-3692
Court Counsel Assistant – Charis Hild	7029	749-3629	749-3683
Dispute Resolution Manager - Michelle Smith	7102	none	749-3691
Family Mediation Assistant - Margaret Pardi	7054	749-3654	749-3691
Family Mediator - Sandi Victor	7055	none	749-3691
Digital Court Recording Lead - Mariana Hernandez	7109	none	749-3692
Drug Court Director - Alfred James	7074	none	749-3698
Drug Court Assistant Director - June Mallett	7070	749-3670	749-3698
Drug Court Lab	7072	none	749-3698
Drug Court Case Managers			
o Monica Baker-Brown (senior)	7082	none	749-3698
o Deena Smith	1790	none	749-3698
Family Case Manager - Melissa Kieffer	7052	none	749-3697
Floater JA – Vacant	7003	749-3603	Contact JA
Guardianship Monitor – Carmen Ruiz	7071	none	749-3692
Interpreting Coordinator – Geraldine Moulton	7196	749-3659	749-3692
Official Court Reporter Manager - Sarah Martin	7125	749-3661	749-3693
Probate Coordinator – Roberta Ebher	7981	none	749-3692



### **Availability of Bankruptcy Judgeship Positions in the Middle District of Florida at Orlando and Jacksonville**

The United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit seeks applications from all highly qualified candidates for a fourteen-year appointment as United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida. The Court is seeking applications for two positions, one in Orlando\* and one in Jacksonville. The basic jurisdiction of a bankruptcy judge is specified in Title 28, United States Code and explained in Title 11, United States Code, as well as in 98 Stat. 344, Pub. L. 98 353, Title I, §120.

To be qualified for appointment an applicant must –

- (a) Be a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of at least one state, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and a member in good standing of every other bar of which the applicant is a member.
- (b) (1) Possess, and have a reputation for, integrity and good character; (2) possess, and have demonstrated, a commitment to equal justice under the law; (3) possess, and have demonstrated, outstanding legal ability and competence; (4) indicate by demeanor, character, and personality that the applicant would exhibit judicial temperament if appointed; and (5) be of sound physical and mental health sufficient to perform the essential duties of the office.
- (c) Not be related by blood or marriage to (1) a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit; (2) a member of the Judicial Council of the Eleventh Circuit; or (3) a judge of the district court to be served, within the degrees specified in section 458 of Title 28, United States Code, at the time of the initial appointment.
- (d) Have been engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least five years. The Judicial Council may consider other suitable legal experience as a substitute for the active practice of law.

The selection process will be confidential and competitive. The current annual salary is \$199,088. Persons shall be considered without regard to race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, pregnancy, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, or disability. The individual selected must comply with the financial disclosure requirements pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, Pub. L. No. 95-521, 92 Stat. 1824 (1978) (codified as amended at 5 U.S.C. app. §§ 101-111).

If you are interested in applying, please submit an original unbound completed application to James P. Gerstenlauer, Circuit Executive, 56 Forsyth Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Application forms are available on the Court's Website at [www.ca11.uscourts.gov](http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov). Applications must be submitted only by potential nominees to the Circuit Executive's Office and must be received by **1 February 2021**. Submission of a completed application will be considered verification of willingness to serve if selected. Emailed and faxed copies of applications will not be accepted. **Please include a cover letter indicating whether you wish to be considered for both open positions or for only one position.** If you wish to be considered for both positions, only one application is necessary.

\* This is a new judgeship in the Middle District of Florida. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 152(b)(1), the Eleventh Circuit Judicial Council has recommended to the Judicial Conference of the United States (JCUS) that the official duty station for this judgeship be set as Orlando, Florida. However, a final decision by the JCUS is not expected before March 2021.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 21, 2021	Date Change
January 27, 2021	Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting General Membership Meeting
February 2, 2021	Diversity & Inclusion CLE Event
February 3, 2021	Board of Directors Meeting
February 5, 2021	Member Appreciation Outdoor Barbeque
February 10, 2021	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
February 18, 2021	Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
February 19, 2021	Diversity & Inclusion CLE Event
February 23, 2021	Diversity & Inclusion Town Hall Event
February 24, 2021	General Membership Meeting
February 25, 2021	Mediation CLE
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
April 16, 2021	Spring Social at the Beach!
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



## Welcome New Members

### CHRISTOPHER BOLDUC, ESQ.

Stetson University  
Year Admitted to the Florida Bar, 2013  
Mr. Bolduc is an attorney with Athanason & Bolduc, 9707 Braden Run, Bradenton, FL 34202. Area(s) of practice: Personal Injury, Family and Civil Litigation.



### MICHAEL PICHE', ESQ.

University of Florida, 2020  
Year Admitted to the Florida Bar, 2020  
Mr. Piche' is an attorney with Grimes, Hawkins, Gladfelter and Galvano, P.L., 1023 Manatee Ave. W. Bradenton, FL 34205. Area(s) of practice: Construction Law, Real Estate/Land Development, and Litigation/Trial Advocacy.



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## MCBA Inspiration!

# SCF Paralegal Program Graduate Overcomes Obstacles to Meet Goal

*By Whitney C. Glaser, Esq.*

When Patricia “Patti” Hogancamp graduated from the State College of Florida (SCF) in December 2020, it was an achievement deserving of special recognition. Patti overcame many barriers, including significant financial and physical limitations, in her continuing pursuit of education. Through the years, she has never let any obstacle stop her from pursuing her dream of earning an associate’s degree in Legal Assisting/Paralegal Studies. Not even COVID-19 limitations stopped her from crossing the finish line, albeit in a van during the “drive though graduation ceremony.”

Prior to enrolling at SCF, Patti served our country as a nurse in the U.S. Air Force from 1985 through 1990. Afterward she worked as an LPN. She had always been interested in the law and decided to return to school to become trained to work as a paralegal. She faced financial and time constraints to balance work and school, in addition to being a non-traditional student in terms of age. None of this discouraged her or slowed her down.

In 1997, Patti enrolled at SCF. She took one course at a time, having to pay for each without any financial assistance. Patti decided to become a paralegal, with her ultimate goal of being able to be of assistance to attorneys and clients.

I first met Patti during the Spring 2013 semester when I had the pleasure of teaching her in the General Law course. As a student in the SCF program, Patti stood out for her interest in the subject matter, participation in class, and dedication to not only earning an A in the course, but more importantly, mastering the subject matter. We spoke often about how she could parlay her medical background with a paralegal education to work for a law firm handling personal injury and medical malpractice cases. Nurse paralegals are a vital asset to both plaintiff and defense firms that deal in reviewing and understanding medical records and terminology. I had no doubt that she was on track to become a successful paralegal.

However, later that year her mother had a heart attack. Patti delayed her education for a semester to take care of her. The next year, just as she was ready to return to SCF, Patti suffered a stroke which left her wheelchair bound and with difficulty writing and speaking. She spent the next few years recovering from her stroke. Her fierce determination to earn her degree kept her focused during that difficult time.

In the Fall 2018 semester, despite requiring a wheelchair and having difficulty writing and speaking, Patti returned to SCF with the goal of completing her education. I was excited to have her as a

student in the Civil Litigation I course that semester. She required assistance from a note taker, but otherwise persevered and excelled in the course. She participated in class discussions and asked questions despite the constant struggle with being understood by both me and her fellow students. Patti simply never gave up. She earned an A in the course and returned in Spring 2019 for Civil Litigation II, where she also earned an A. And let me be clear, she was graded based on the quality of her work, both written documents, quizzes, and other assignments. While it might have been tempting to grade her work

more leniently, I never considered it. Patti does not want to be treated any differently and her work speaks for itself – she mastered the material and skills.

Patti never missed a class during those two semesters, even though she had to navigate public transportation from the ALF where she resides in Sarasota to the SCF campus in Bradenton. Each trip to campus required taking a bus from her home to the airport and then a second bus to campus. The return trip also required changing buses. Most impressive was that not only

was she never absent, but she was never late to class.

One of the final courses that the paralegal students complete was an internship. With her mobility and verbal communication issues, it was a challenge to find a placement for Patti. Fortunately for me, I had opened my own law office and was able to have Patti work from home and assist me with pleadings and other documents. She also prepared numerous Power Points for textbooks that we use in the Paralegal Program.

During my 13 years of teaching in the SCF Legal Assisting/Paralegal Studies program I have never met a more dedicated and determined student. I was able to talk with her while she waited in line to graduate and she shared how proud she was of meeting her goal and that she most enjoyed being with the other graduates and sharing in the excitement of graduate day.

Patti now uses a speech-generating device that helps her communicate. She hopes to secure a part-time position with a local law firm to assist in any way possible. If any attorneys or law firms can use a dedicated paralegal to draft legal documents, correspondence, medical chronologies or other documents, please contact me at [whitney@whitneyglaserlaw.com](mailto:whitney@whitneyglaserlaw.com)

Members: Do you have an article you would like to share? Contact Graceann Frederico at [mcba@manateebar.com](mailto:mcba@manateebar.com) to submit yours for consideration.







## MCBA Veterans History Project Needs You!

We have received such a tremendous positive response to our Salute to MCBA Veterans slide show that we would like to continue the project.

The MCBA is collecting information and photos of current and former members who have served in the military. We would like to have photos of veterans in uniform, if possible, however it is not necessary. You are invited to join us in collecting this information and any photos. We appreciate those of you who have furnished information and photos but there are many others throughout MCBA's history who we would like to recognize in the future. If you are a veteran and have not already provided this information, please send to Graceann by email at [MCBA@Manateebar.com](mailto:MCBA@Manateebar.com), mail or in person. Thanks for your help.

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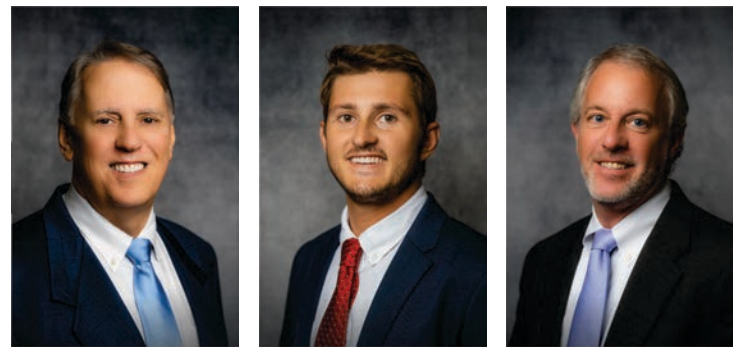
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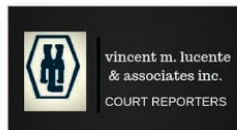
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**Jeffrey S. Goethe, Esq.**

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LL.M., Taxation, Univ. of Florida


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## Salute to MCBA Veterans

In November, the MCBA celebrated its veterans of past and present with a special virtual event. US Congressman Greg Steube, and retired police officer, Steve Frederico, spoke of their military service overseas in Iraq and Beirut, Lebanon. A special presentation with photos of our special veterans was shared and uploaded to our website at [www.manateebar.com](http://www.manateebar.com). Special thanks to Sonny's Barbeque for the gift certificates that were given to all members who participated in the video presentation.



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## News from the MCBA Diversity & Inclusion Committee:

The MCBA Diversity and Inclusion Committee, in partnership with the Council for Diversity and Inclusion of the Sarasota County Bar has a series of wonderful programs and CLEs coming up in February as part of Black History Month.

Our first CLE will be noon on February 2, 2021, is **Between Brown v. Board of Education and Integration: Black and White Education 1954-1970**. This program features retired Judge Durand Adams, Sarasota Commissioner Willie Charles Shaw, retired NFL Raider, Henry Lawrence and ABC 7 WWSB journalist, Renee Gilmore.

On February 19, 2021, at noon, we're presenting **Finding Angola – Manatee's First Black Settlement**. This CLE tells the history of the Angola community along the banks of the Manatee River. From about 1812 to 1821, more than 700 escaped slaves and their descendants called this area their home. Vickie Oldham, Uzi Baram, Ph.D. and Rosalyn Howard, Ph.D., will share the fascinating story about how this community was discovered and what happened to these people.

Then on February 23, 2021, there will be a joint Town Hall program, talking about education, segregation, and the experience of students since integration.

Details for these programs to follow.



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