



INTER ALIA

JUNE 2021

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



Discovery Dispute? Confer with Opposing Counsel

By Brian Iten, Esq., MCBA Secretary

As noted by William Gladstone, “justice delayed is justice denied.” *Gaur v. Gonzalez*, 124 Fed. Appx. 738, 743 (3d Cir. 2005). And lawyers are painfully aware that discovery disputes oftentimes account for the delay that plagues litigation. While the knee-jerk answer for the aggrieved attorney might be to file

a motion to compel, counsel should first ask if he or she is in full compliance with the Local Rules of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit before seeking court intervention. Notably, Rule 5 of the Local Rules of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, reads as follows:

- a) Certificate of Good Faith. Before filing a motion to compel or for protective order, counsel for the moving party shall confer with counsel for the opposing party in good faith effort to resolve the issues raised. When a motion is filed, a statement certifying that counsel has conferred with opposing counsel and that they have been unable to resolve the dispute shall also be filed.

Similar language appears in Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.380(a)(2). Of course, lawyers will not all agree on the meaning of “confer.” Fortunately, a federal magistrate in the Southern District of New York previously offered some guidance, which a handful of his fellow magistrates – namely in New York and Virginia – have chosen to adopt. In *Big Apple Pyrotechnics v. Sparktacular Inc.*, 2006 WL 587331, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 8, 2006), now-retired United States Magistrate Douglas F. Eaton declared that “[c]onfer” means to meet, in person or by telephone, and make a genuine effort to resolve the dispute by determining . . . (a) what the requesting party is actually seeking, (b) what the discovering party is reasonably capable of producing that is responsive to the request, and (c) what specific genuine issues, if any, cannot be resolved without judicial intervention.” Magistrate Eaton further announced that “failure to hold a good faith conference is ground for the award of attorney’s fees and other sanctions.” *Id.* Expanding on that theme, Magistrate Daniel J. Stewart recently noted that the obligation of attorneys to “actively work together to resolve discovery disputes . . . far exceeds simply sending a terse email or a sarcastic letter.” *Gorman v. Rensselaer County*, 2016 WL 6679545 (N.D.N.Y. May 18, 2016). It is the dreaded lawyer-to-lawyer email to which we now turn our attention.

While it is apparent that the use of email in the practice of law is here to stay, attorneys must be cognizant of the fact that increas-

ingly our brothers and sisters of the bar have been sanctioned for sending uncivil electronic messages to each other. *See, e.g.*, Gary L. Gassman, et al., *Defining Civility as an Attorney*, 55 Tort Trial & Ins. Prac. L.J. 557, 570 (2020). Although lawyers are trained in communicating via the written word, in reality attorneys authoring emails rarely allot the same amount of attention to compose their electronic messages that they devote to craft court filings. While easier in the moment, communicating via email is invariably part of an attorney’s tiresome, anxiety-provoking ritual of checking, sending, and replying to an inbox that never leaves one’s side, accessible via desktop computer, laptop, tablet, and smartphone. It should come as no surprise that the email author’s attention to the matter at hand is typically fragmented by the din of incessant electronic communication. And according to one study led by researchers from the University of California, Irvine, the “longer one spends on email in [a given] hour the higher one’s stress for that hour.” Cal Newport, *E-mail is Making Us Miserable*, *The New Yorker*, (Mar. 1, 2021) <<https://www.calnewport.com/blog/2021/03/01/email-is-making-us-miserable/>>.

Professor Cal Newport of Georgetown University has supplied an excellent example where the spoken word proves itself superior to email. Cal Newport, *A Modest Proposal: Eliminate Email*, *Harvard Business Review*, (Feb. 18, 2016) <<https://hbr.org/2016/02/a-modest-proposal-eliminate-email>>. In his hypothetical, Newport posits that “Alice and Bob need to work together to write a report.” *Id.* “If they use email, the process would likely unfold in an inefficient manner, as both Alice and Bob, under the Sisyphean pressure of an ever-filing inbox, keep dashing off quick responses to each other so as to temporarily clear the issue out of this psychic space.” *Id.* By comparison, if they are “forced to talk in real time,” the two are more likely to arrive at a “complete and coherent plan for how the work should best unfold in the days that follow.” *Id.* This holds true because “[h]umans are not wired to exist in a constant state of divided attention . . .” *Id.*

Sending out a snarky email and following up with a boilerplate motion to compel might, at first blush, seem like the most efficient use of your valuable time. But we all know that the practice of law – typically steeped in conflict – is inherently time-consuming and difficult. There is no need for lawyers to make it harder by bypassing common-sense, rule-driven steps to advance the cause of our respective clients. Simply put, before you fire off that motion compel to opposing counsel, back away from your keyboard, pick up your phone, and “confer.”

The MCBA Welcomes Our Newest Sponsor



Bar Prep Hero is a national bar review program that provides an interactive web-based platform for students and covers MBE, MEE, and MPT parts of the bar exam. The program offers a complete collection of officially licensed NCBE® questions from actual past bar examinations (every single question ever released!), allowing learners to become familiar with the exam format and, more importantly, the mindset of the examiners.

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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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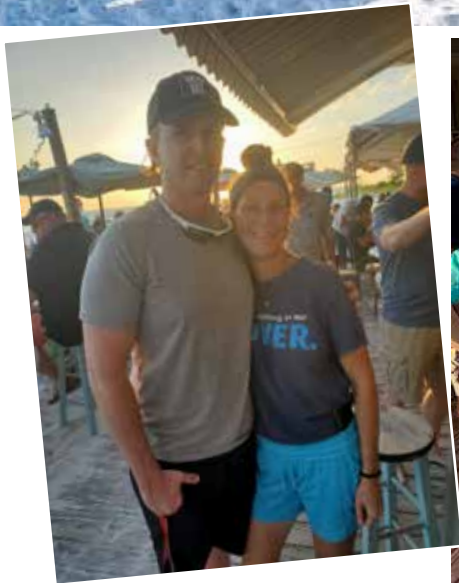
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The Manatee County Bar Association supports diversity and inclusion in our membership and welcomes lawyers of all backgrounds, ethnicities, races, religions, cultures, sexual orientations and abilities. As part of this initiative, the Manatee County 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 Young Lawyers Division Holds “Run for Fun 5K”

In May, the Young Lawyers Division hosted a 5K at the Sand Bar Restaurant on Anna Maria Island. Dustin Wagner of Lightening Law, PLLC sponsored the event where participants could walk or run the 5k on the beach, and then enjoy a refreshing beverage afterward. Lots of energy, fun, and a beautiful sunset was on hand – and plenty of laughs. Despite the wind, the runners and walkers persevered with the fastest finish of 18:30 going to Trenton Johnson, son of MCBA Past President, Andrea Johnson. The event was part of the YLD’s participation in a larger health and wellness initiative of the Florida Bar YLD, #YLDMotionGranted.



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Young Lawyers Division 2021-22 Board of Directors!

At the June 9th, 2021 annual meeting of the Young Lawyers Division, the following were elected to serve on the YLD Board of Directors:



President:
Dustin Wagner, Esq.



President Elect:
Grace Reeves, Esq.



Treasurer:
Brandon Robinson, Esq.



Secretary:
Kate Fall, Esq.



Past President:
Alexandria Nicodemi, Esq.

Directors:



Aaron Crittenden, Esq.



Sierra Butler, Esq.



Jami Worley, Esq.



Anisley Mena, Esq.



Kari Martin, Esq.



Patrick Barnes, Esq.



Luis Silva, Esq.



James "Jay" Horne,
Jr., Esq.

The newly elected Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors will be sworn in at the upcoming MCBA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 30th at Pier 22.

The Young Lawyers Division is very active within the MCBA and throughout the community. The YLD actively applies for and receives grants from the Florida Bar; and, in the past, have had the honor of winning several awards for their projects, such as the Children's Waiting Room in the Manatee County Judicial Center. The YLD host the very popular, Java with the Judges, as well as social and wellness activities. If you are a young lawyer, under 40 years of age, or may be a "young lawyer" who is new to the profession, we suggest you check out our Young Lawyers Division!

MCBA Announces Slate for 2021-22 Board of Directors

At the May, 2021 virtual General Membership Meeting, the MCBA announced its 2021-22 slate as follows:

PRESIDENT:	Stephen Dye, Esq.
PRESIDENT-ELECT:	Faith Brown, Esq.
SECRETARY:	Brian Iten, Esq.
TREASURER:	David Wilcox, Esq.
DIRECTORS:	Mary LeVine, Esq.
	James Lynch, Esq.
	Andre Perron, Esq.
	Alexandria Nicodemi, Esq.
	Aaron Crittenden, Esq.
	Stacey Maloney, Esq.

YLD PRESIDENT:	Dustin Wagner, Esq.
IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT:	Charles Telfair, IV, Esq.

Many thanks to outgoing board members, Alexandra St. Paul, Esq. (Past President) Greg Hago-pian, Esq. (a Past President) and Rebecca Proctor, Esq. RSVP now to attend the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at MCBA@manateebar.com. Our special guest speaker is Emily Lekahal, Esq, Legal Counsel for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers!



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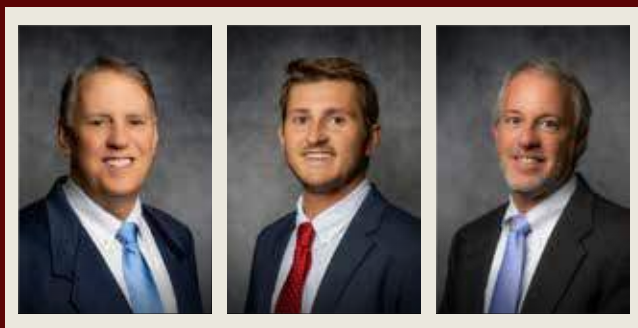
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Welcome New Members

Cynthia Evers, Esq.

Nova Southeastern University, 1991

Year Admitted to the Florida Bar, 1991

Ms. Evers is the Chief Assistant State Attorney at the State Attorney's Office, PO Box 1000, Bradenton, FL 34206.

Area(s) of Practice: Criminal Prosecution

Cory A. Stewart, Esq.

Penn State Law School, 2019

Year Admitted to the Florida Bar, 2020

Mr. Stewart is an associate attorney with Mackey Law Group, PA, 1402 3rd Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205.

Area(s) of Practice: Civil Litigation

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for **Eric Raymond Garson**
D/O/B 4/29/49

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BE SEEN

Gone are the days of hanging your sign and clients would appear. Our members are seen by others on our website, social media, and at both membership-wide and community events!

CLE COURSES

We offer numerous CLE courses throughout the year - many are FREE for our members! No need to travel, and incur an extra expense, when you can be on your way to fulfilling your CLE requirements with us!

NETWORKING

Build your law practice network by attending our luncheons, events, meetings, and socials. Your lunches at our General Membership Meetings are included in your dues!

ONLINE DIRECTORY LISTING

Your membership includes a basic listing in our searchable online directory. The public can find you when they search our online directory for a local attorney!

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Our judges often can be found teaching or participating in our CLEs, and attending our various events!

REFERRALS & MENTORING

MCBA attorneys are known for their professional manner and willingness to assist other attorneys with referrals and mentoring!

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!

All this and more is included in your MCBA dues! At only \$225 annually, it's still the best deal around!

Visit our website at www.manateebar.com or email our office at mcba@manateebar.com

Welcome Emily Lekahal, Legal Counsel of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers

The MCBA is honored to welcome Emily Lekahal to our Annual Meeting! Born and raised in Denver, Colorado – Emily Lekahal studied Broadcast Journalism at Colorado State University. Her law school search took her to Minneapolis where she received her Law Degree from the University of Minnesota. While in law school – she spent two and a half years interning in the legal department for the Minnesota Vikings. The connections she made in Minnesota – brought her to Daytona Beach, Florida right after graduation – where she served as Corporate Counsel for the Ladies Professional Golf Association. In 2019 she transitioned back to the NFL and is now Legal Counsel for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. She is one of two attorneys for the company and handles all commercial transactions and risk management for the team as well as oversees litigation, employment matters, and security compliance.

Want to meet Emily, and learn more about her daily life working for a Super Bowl team? RSVP by June 25th, 2021 to Graceann at MCBA@ManateeBar.com. Guests may attend, with an MCBA member, for \$30.



June 2021 Annual Meeting



Join us as we welcome
Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Legal Counsel
Emily Lekahal, Esq.



Learn about the Bucs 2020 Super Bowl season, be part of the election of officers and more!

Wednesday, June 30th, 2021

12 Noon Pier 22

Luncheon is **Free** for MCBA Members
\$30 for guests attending with a member

WITH THANKS TO OUR ANNUAL SPONSORS:



To Register: Email Graceann at
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DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 17, 2021	Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
June 17, 2021	Judge Farrance Retirement Party
June 30, 2021	Annual Meeting: General Membership Meeting – Elections & Tampa Bay Buccaneers Legal Counsel
July 1, 2021	DUES ARE DUE
July 1-July 11, 2021	MCBA Office is CLOSED
August 4, 2021	MCBA Board of Directors Planning Meeting
August 11, 2021	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Planning Meeting

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



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- Elective share and surviving spouse rights
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- 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
Past Director and Secretary of the Manatee County Bar Association



Kevin M. Colver, 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
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Law Day 2021 Celebrated the Local Men & Women of Law Enforcement!



*Lt. Jeremy Bertolino and
K9 Deputy Vinnie*



Law enforcement personnel receiving proclamations



*Panel taking questions: Spcl Agent Baugher,
Judge Charles Roberts and Sheriff Rick Wells*



Delicious dessert display



*Sheriff Rick Wells speaking to the
membership and guests*



*President Elect Steve
Dye and Bagpiper, MCSO
Deputy Nate Boggs*



*Former Manatee County
Sheriff Brad Steube and
wife, Debbie Steube*

On May 26th, 2021, Sheriff Rick Wells addressed the membership at the MCBA Annual Law Day Luncheon, held at the Manatee Performing Arts Center, Kiwanis Hall. Sheriff Wells gave valuable insight regarding the Sheriff's Office, and its operations throughout a pandemic year. The celebration began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Manatee County Explorer Post 6, Deputy James Fazio, Explorer Captain Jackson Dugmore, Explorer Lieutenant Jasmine Pena, and Explorer Sergeant Cleide Velasquez.

Several area law enforcement organizations were represented, and received special proclamations, by President Elect Steve Dye, in recognition of the labor and sacrifice of law enforcement personnel. Receiving proclamations were: Special Agent Konstantinos "Dino" Balos, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Special Agent Tom Baugher, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Chief Melanie Bevan, Bradenton Police Department; Lt. George McCorkle, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission; Special Agent Greg Monk, Resident Agent in Charge, Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Chief William Tokajer, Holmes Beach Police Department; Chief George Turner, Longboat Key Police Department; Chief Scott Tyler, Palmetto Police Department; and, Manatee County Sheriff Rick Wells. K9 Officer "Vinnie", attending with K9 Deputy, Lt. Jeremy Bertolino, received special recognition and received delicious "Pupperoni" treats and a new Kong toy.

MCBA Secretary, Brian Iten, organized a discussion panel, which answered questions submitted by the MCBA membership. On the panel were Sheriff Rick Wells, Special Agent Tom Baugher of the FBI, and Judge Charles Roberts, of the 12th Judicial Circuit. Manatee County Sheriff's Deputy Nate Boggs made a special appearance when President Elect Dye called for a moment of silence, in remembrance of fallen law enforcement officers. Deputy Boggs played the old hymn, Amazing Grace, as attendees reflected on such sacrifices.

Attendees were surprised with gourmet donuts, and surrounded by a patriotic theme of red, white, and blue. Member, and Past President Jeff Goethe, was the winner of a pair of Apple Ear Buds, donated by annual sponsor, LAW PAY. CLE credit was granted for the event. The event can be viewed on the association YouTube channel. If you were unable to attend, but would like to view the event, please contact Graceann at MCBA@ManateeBar.com to receive the YouTube link.

Special thanks to our annual sponsors, Westminster Communities of Bradenton, CenterState Bank, Law Pay, Firkins Automotive, and Lucente & Associates.



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2021-22 DUES RENEWAL
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Manatee County Bar Association **Annual Dues** for current members are **\$225.00*** for the year (July 1st through June 30th). This notice is payable upon receipt. Please return this completed form with check payable to:

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Note: Renewals may also be paid online at www.manateebar.com

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2. _____

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Please indicate your interest for the 2021-22 Bar Association year:

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_____ Probate, Estate, Guardianship	_____ Solo/Small Firm
_____ Young Lawyers (40 yrs. & younger)	

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_____ **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

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

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Copyright	International Business	Transportation
Corporate	International Economic	Trial
Criminal	International Environmental	Trusts and Estates
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Debtor and Creditor	International Litigation and Arbitration	Wills, Trusts and Estates
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Antitrust & Trade Regulation Law	
Appellate Practice	Florida Middle District Bankruptcy Court
	Florida Southern District Bankruptcy Court
Aviation Law	Florida Northern District Bankruptcy Court
	United States Supreme Court
Business Litigation	US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
City, County & Local Government Law	US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
Civil Trial	US Court of Federal Claims
Condominium & Planned Dev. Law	US Court of International Trade
Construction Law	US Tax Court
Criminal Appellate	
Criminal Trial	
Education Law	
Elder Law	
Health Law	
Immigration & Nationality	
Intellectual Property Law	
International Law	
International Litigation & Arbitration	
Juvenile Law	
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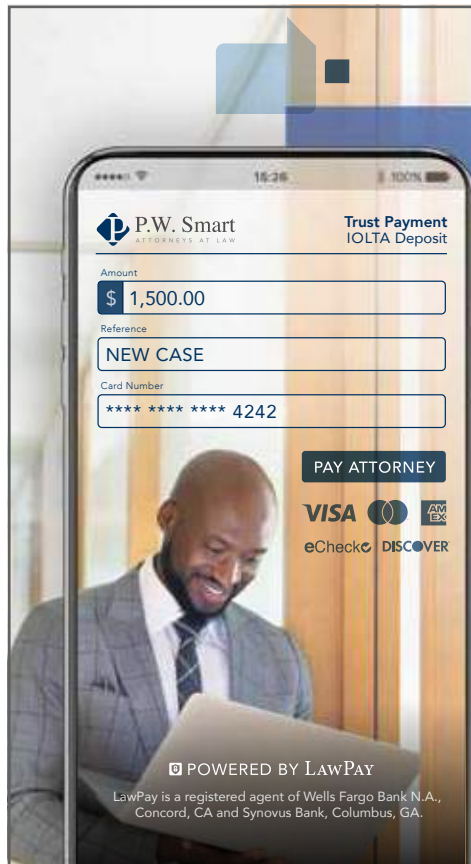
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News from the Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, Angelina “Angel” Colonnese, Esq.:

The 2020 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on employers across the globe, with government operations and the legal community not unscathed. With the onset of the pandemic last March, employers had to make critical decisions to protect the health of their employees, clients and customers, and follow the plethora of federal, state and local regulations and guidelines. The Clerk's office continued operations with a team of essential members as in-person customer service was minimized late March/early April 2020 by the Florida Supreme Court. Our staff was reduced to an essential team allowing for “mission critical” services only, as designated by the Court. Telephones continued to be answered, electronic and paper filings/cases were docketed, and payments were taken over the telephone. Our lobby remained open – utilizing the Violence Protection Office for injunctions, Baker Acts, and emergency family law issues, and to allow access to the drop box and payment kiosk for traffic and child support payments. The remainder of our staff was placed on administrative leave.



During the spring of 2020, revenues declined and statewide clerks were encouraged to freeze hiring of attrition positions. During the summer of 2020 our budget was cut by nearly \$1 million for the remaining three months of the fiscal year, requiring our office to furlough and lay-off employees. In total, we lost 26 team members to furloughs/lay-offs and attrition. In October we had the ability to fill some attrition positions under FY20/21 budget – although being able to actually fill all of those positions has been a challenge, as there is a shortage of people seeking employment. Between filling positions and training, we are experiencing delays with the docketing workload. We have adjusted hours and added overtime to keep most docketing within 3-5 days of filing. As we move forward we are hopeful that the budget for Clerks statewide will improve and the number of people seeking employment will rise. This will allow us to gain back the positions that we lost.

Under the Florida Supreme Court plan, our circuit is currently in Phase 2 which allows for limited in-person court proceedings. Limited court proceedings continue to be held in person while the majority of civil/family cases are being held via Zoom hearings. Our Jury office is summoning jurors weekly for appearance most days of the week. This process allows for social distancing and scheduling of criminal and/or civil trials. As of the end of April, twenty-five criminal trials have been held since October 2020 and four civil trials have been held since January 2021.

Our office will continue to monitor Supreme Court and Local Administrative Orders as they are released and adjust our operations accordingly. We look forward to the courts move to Phase 3, hopefully in the near future, and the normalization of court proceedings.

Information from Chief Judge Kimberly Bonner Regarding Administrative Order AOSC21-17



Chief Justice Canady recently issued an administrative order AOSC21-17 that eliminates all requirements for social distancing and face coverings as of June 21. This new order also vacates most of his prior COVID-related administrative orders. Suspension of rules of procedure and judicial administration that would otherwise prohibit remote court proceedings remains in effect, although we do not know for how long. For those who wish to wear a face covering, they are permitted to do so and we will continue to make them available. Our COVID administrative orders will be rescinded as of June 21st.

We are still permitted and encouraged to conduct hearings remotely as may be appropriate and convenient for the parties. Judges may continue to use remote proceedings as they have been doing unless and until procedural rule reinstatements prohibit them. Because our hearings are often scheduled several weeks or even months in advance, there are many cases previously set to occur after June 21st that are scheduled to be heard using remote technology. I have instructed the judges to ensure that their division information on hearings post June 21st is consistent and up to date. Our website and JACS will also provide current information on scheduling for each division so that parties know how their hearings will be conducted. We anticipate that there will be some transition time before we are 100% in person because many parties have been noticed to appear remotely and we do not want to create more confusion by simply assuming they will appear in person based on news reports. Many judges will be issuing amended trial orders or notices for cases scheduled later in 2021 and many divisions will keep using zoom for certain proceedings that the Bar members and their clients have found efficient and convenient. There are several procedural rule changes currently under consideration by the supreme court, and I do expect that some rules will be permanently amended to allow for greater use of technology in many divisions of court.

I also want to remind those attorneys who practice in the criminal division that it will not be possible to “flip the switch” seamlessly on June 21 and proceed in person as we did pre-COVID. There are a few reasons for this, which vary from county to county, and include personnel issues, limited jail video feeds, and jail quarantine procedures that are still in effect. As we transition back to in person court events, this is will mean a gradual reduction in the number of available jail video feeds. Please do not assume a last minute request for an add on for inmate transport or for a jail feed can be honored. These first few weeks will almost certainly bring some confusion and frustration, but as we have over the last fifteen months, we will get through it.

A year ago it seemed like an easy enough proposition that we'd simply reopen and continue as normal after what we hoped would be a short interruption. Now that things have been scheduled months in advance using zoom, and after we have completely pivoted to a process that we now must un-assemble, it won't be quite as easy as simply reopening.

On behalf of all of the judges and staff of the 12th Circuit, I want to thank our bar members and their clients for their patience, courtesy and collaboration during the last year. We are truly blessed to work in the best circuit in the state. Without your willingness to embrace new technology and work together to get cases resolved, we could never have kept our doors open, virtually or otherwise. We owe all of you a huge debt of gratitude.

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Calling all members! As we plan our 2021-22 year, we would like to know who is interested in chairing a committee or section for the upcoming MCBA year. Some committees are more active than others, but all play a part in making our association as vibrant as it is. Please complete the information below and return to Graceann Frederico, Executive Director, **by July 15, 2021**. Thank you for your interest!

"I am interested in Chairing the following committee (please check the appropriate box)"

Sections:

- ☐ Family Law
- ☐ Probate, Estate, Guardianship
- ☐ Real Property
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Committees:

- ☐ Membership: To include recruitment/retention of members and beneficial services for members.
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- ☐ PR/Communications: Creates press releases/social media posts, and good PR material for the MCBA.
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- ☐ Heritage Committee: Collects and preserves the history of the MCBA.
- ☐ By-Laws Committee: Reviews and creates proposed revisions as needed.
- ☐ Technology Committee: Photography, taping, editing, etc.
- ☐ Diversity Committee: Promotes and encourages diversity within the MCBA.

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Twelfth Judicial Circuit Family Court Professional Coalition

The Sixteenth Annual Family Law Conference - *"As Time Goes by: Divorce in the Golden Years"*

Friday October 1, 2021

This year's Family Court Professional Coalition (FCPC) conference will focus on addressing the issues that arise when assisting older couples through the divorce process. From assessing competency to providing accommodations and alternatives to resolution of these cases, we will consider all aspects of what is referred to as the Gray Divorce. Experts will provide insight on addressing Prenuptial Agreements, Special Needs and other Trust issues, and ethical concerns for all professionals when assisting persons with diminished capacity. The U.S. population is aging, and it is important that we all have the knowledge we need to assist in cases of older clients going through a divorce. In addition, we will have our annual case law review and Judicial Panel including our Circuit Twelve Family Judges and Magistrates to discuss updates locally and statewide. This is the preeminent local continuing education training for professionals working in the family court system. We hope to see you there. The FCPC is applying for CLEs, CEUs and CMEs for this event.

What Is Family Court Professional Coalition?

The Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court Family Court Professional Coalition (formerly Family Court Professional Collaborative) was first founded in 2000 by Dr. Debra Carter and Judge Scott Brownell as a grass roots organization to provide a forum for communication, collaboration, and education and innovation among the professionals in the 12th Judicial Circuit. Our mission is to "Use the multidisciplinary resources of the legal, accounting and mental health professions to research, develop, and propose innovative programs and procedures which will facilitate the peaceful disposition of volatile legal issues enhance the reliability of in-court expert testimony, and minimize the trauma of litigation on the family." Interested in joining or additional information about the conference? Email: Circuit12FCPC@outlook.com.

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