



# INTER ALIA

MARCH/APRIL 2022

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



## Manatee County Leadership in the Florida Bar

*By Alexandria Nicodemi, Esq.,  
MCBA Director*

### Florida Bar President-Elect

Given that we are currently in election season for our next Florida Bar President-Elect, I want to take this opportunity to encourage you all to vote and to consider Scott Westheimer for President-elect of the Florida Bar. Scott has served as the 12th Judicial Circuit Representative on the Florida Bar Board of Governors since 2013 and has served the legal profession at the local, circuit and state level for nearly 20 years. If elected President, Scott Westheimer will be the first Florida Bar President to represent the 12th Judicial Circuit. You should have received your e-ballot on March 1st. If you did not receive it, please check your spam filter. You may vote online using the unique pin included with your e-ballot at [vote.escvote.com/flabar/](http://vote.escvote.com/flabar/). All ballots must be received by Election Services no later than 11:59 p.m. on Monday, March 21st.

### Our 12th Judicial Circuit Representative on the Florida Bar Board of Governors.

Jesse Butler will be replacing Scott Westheimer as our 12th Judicial Circuit Representative on the Florida Bar Board of Governors with the swearing in ceremony scheduled for June 2022. Previously, Jesse served for the past six years on the Florida Bar Board of Governors for the Young Lawyers Divisions and as Chair of the 12th Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee. He has been a member of the Manatee County Bar Association since 2010 and is an active

volunteer attorney for the Guardian ad Litem Office representing GAL in appellate matters involving dependency and termination of parental rights.

### I sat down with Jesse to ask what it means to represent Manatee County.

"I am excited to serve my community. My wife, Sierra, and I live in Manatee, and our son goes to school here. This community is so important to us, and it is an honor to serve Manatee County and the rest of the 12th Judicial Circuit on the state level."

### What is your main goal or objective as the 12th Judicial Circuit representative?

"The practice of law is changing, whether we want it to or not. I want to make sure that our members are prepared for the changes that are coming for future." From monitoring potential civil procedure rule changes currently being considered by the Florida Supreme Court, to technology developments, to education outreach, Jesse is committed to prepare Manatee County for the changes that are coming.

"With this position, I hope to bridge the gap from what is going on in our local bar to what is going on statewide." He emphasized the importance of education outreach for our local bar, keeping the Manatee and Sarasota County Bar Associations informed, but also provide feedback to the state board from our local community. "Education outreach works two ways, not only will I focus on keeping the 12th Circuit informed, but I will advocate for our community as a whole. Any issues that my community is faced with-I will provide this feedback to the State Board as well."

Jesse Butler can be contacted at [jbutler@dglawyers.com](mailto:jbutler@dglawyers.com) with any concerns or feedback you may have regarding state-bar issues.

## DEADLINE EXTENDED TO APPLY FOR ALL 26 JNC'S

### 2022 Judicial Nominating Commission Nominations to be Made

**Judicial Nominating Commissions:** Two lawyer vacancies for each of the 26 JNCs. The Florida Bar has the opportunity to nominate six lawyers for each Judicial Nominating Commission to the Governor for his appointment. Each appointee will serve a four-year term, commencing July 1, 2022. Applicants must be members of The Florida Bar engaged in the practice of law and a resident of the territorial jurisdiction served by the commission to which the member is applying. Commissioners are not eligible for state judicial office for vacancies filled by the JNC on which they sit for 2 years following completion of their term.

Applications must be submitted **no later than 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 24, 2022**. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of an application. Screening committees of the Board of Governors will review all JNC applications. The Executive Committee will then make recommendations to the Board of Governors.

Persons interested in applying for any of these vacancies [may click](#) to begin the application process and download the new application form. If you require assistance, please call Bar headquarters at (850) 561-5757 or email [kwilson@floridabar.org](mailto:kwilson@floridabar.org). Completed applications must be submitted by the March 24th deadline date.

## Highlights Of The February 2022 General Membership Luncheon

On Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022, Chief Judge Robert Morris was the guest speaker and brought with him other members of the 2nd DCA. The 2nd DCA was in town for their annual visit to hear Oral Arguments at the MCJC. In attendance with Chief Judge Morris were Judge Nelly Khouzam, Judge Susan Judge Rothstein- Youakim, and Judge John Stargel. Those in attendance were delighted with Chief Judge Morris's presentation and look forward to the 2nd DCA's visit again in 2023.

MCBA President Stephen Dye presented Judge Jacqueline Steele and Judge Melissa Gould with the customary engraved gavel plaques intended for their investitures back in the summer of 2021; however, their investitures were cancelled due to Covid 19. The MCBA Board of Directors decided to honor the two judges with the special presentation of their gifts on behalf of the membership.

Special thanks to our annual sponsors for making the event possible: NOTA Bank, Westminster Communities of Bradenton, Bar Prep Hero, SouthState Bank, Law Pay, Firkins Automotive, Lucente Associates, Barnes Walker, Lutz, Bobo & Telfair, and Porges Hamlin Knowles & Hawk.



*MCBA President Stephen Dye and Chief Judge Robert Morris*



*Judges Steele and Gould with custom gavel boxes*



*MCBA Past President Mark Nelson, MCBA Director James Lynch, Brian Trimyer, Adam Mohammadbuoy and MCBA Director Andre Perron enjoying each others company*



*MCBA Past President Charles Telfair, MCBA Past President Kim Bald, Judge Heather Doyle, 2nd DCA Judge Susan Rothstein-Youakim, 2nd DCA Chief Judge Robert Morris, MCBA Past President Alexandra St. Paul, MCBA President Stephen Dye, 2nd DCA Judge Nelly Khouzam, Judge Renee Inman, Judge Gilbert Smith Jr., Judge Charles Sniffen, Judge Jacqueline Steele, Judge Matthew Whyte, Judge Lon Arend, Judge Melissa Gould, Judge Frederick Mercurio, Judge Charles Roberts*



## YLD News & Happenings

### New YLD Members Enjoy Pizza And Tour Of The MCJC!

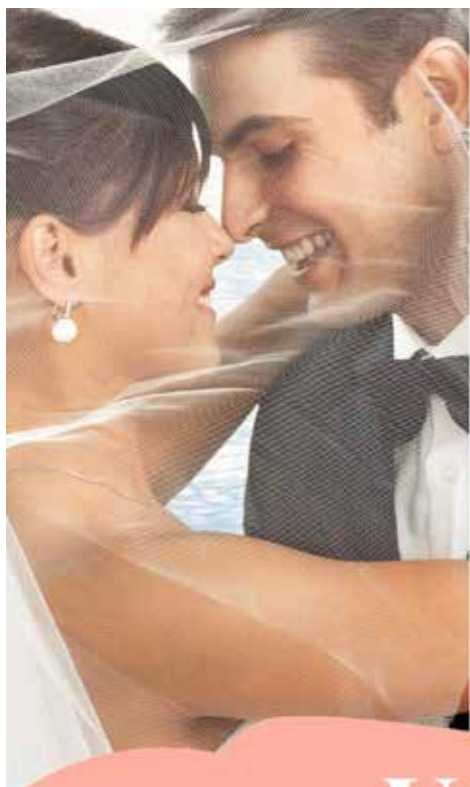
In February, the Young Lawyers Division invited new members of the YLD to attend a free pizza lunch and tour of the MCJC. Attendees enjoyed lunch and toured the MCJC getting a personalized tour of the courthouse operations by Donna Rhodes of the 12th Judicial Circuit.



### MCBA GIVES BACK – Present Donation to Southeastern Guide Dogs!

In February, the MCBA presented a check for \$830 to Southeastern Guide Dogs for donations raised during the “Gronk Football Raffle”. Leading up to the 2021 Holiday Party, the Young Lawyers Division sold tickets for a raffle for a chance to win an authentic, autographed football from Tampa Bay Bucs tight end, Rob Gronkowski. The winner of the football was Andre’ Perron and the guide dogs couldn’t be happier with the proceeds! The event was the idea of YLD President, Dustin Wagner. Many thanks to the MCBA YLD for their fantastic efforts!





# Unforgettable Wedding Experience



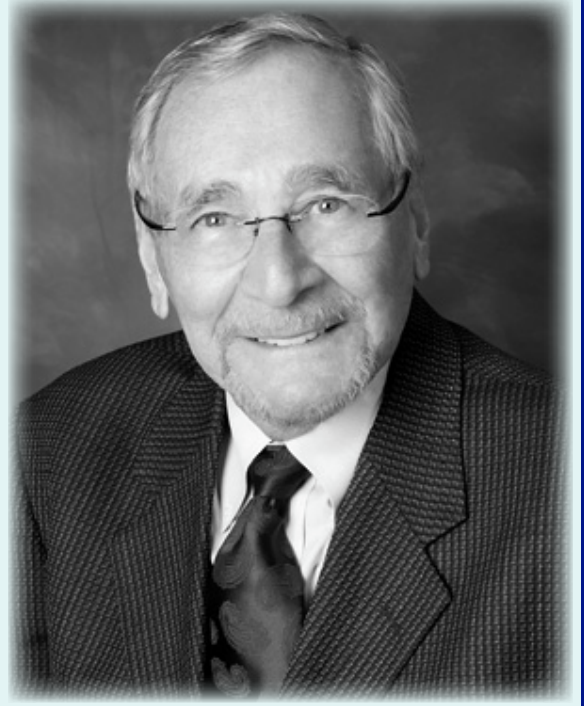
Weddings - Vow Renewals - Receptions - Rehearsal Dinners





## Remembering Stanley Swartz, Esq., Past President of the MCBA

Stanley R. Swartz was born April 17, 1935 in Lowell, Massachusetts. He graduated from Northeastern University and was a proud military officer. During the 1950's, Stanley moved to Sarasota, FL where he owned and operated local bakeries in the area. During the 1960s, he could be found racing his car "Flour Power" at Desoto Speedway which included a drag strip that he owned and operated with his friend, Gene Tharpe. Stanley entered Mercer Law School at the age of 46 and was admitted into the Florida Bar in 1986. Stanley became a well-respected lawyer and mediator within the community and was honored with the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award in 1999. Stanley was the President of the MCBA during the 1997-1998 year. Stanley passed on January 25, 2022 and is survived by his son, Foster; his wife of 24 years, Susan Hartmann Swartz (separated) and a large extended family.



## *A Toast to Remember Layon F. Robinson, II*

On Thursday, February 17th, 2022, friends, family, and colleagues gathered to toast the memory of Layon F. Robinson, II and celebrate the renaming of the Law Library in his honor. Attendees enjoyed an evening of Mediterranean cuisine catered by Kefi Streetside Café' at Connect Bradenton and reflected on the many accomplishments and fond memories of Layon. MCBA President Stephen Dye and MCBA Diversity & Inclusion Chairman Alvin Brown read a Resolution to signify the renaming of the library to the Layon F. Robinson, II Law Library. On display, was a collage of memorabilia of Layon which the MCBA had created into a custom frame to be permanently displayed within the library. The event was funded in part by a grant made possible by the Florida Bar.



*MCBA Diversity & Inclusion Chariman Alvin Brown, MCBA President Elect Faith Brown, and MCBA President Stephen Dye present Resolution and custom artwork*



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aperron@barneswalker.com



Kristina Snyderman, Esq.  
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*Julianne Hambrick*  
*Music*



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## Welcome New Members

### Danielle L S Fullam, Esq.

University of Connecticut  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2021  
Firm: Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc.  
Area of Practice: Immigration & Nationality

### J. Edward Richards, Esq.

Mercer University  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2010  
Firm: Holland Law Group, PA  
Area(s) of Practice: Civil Litigation, Debtor & Creditor

## Searching for Will for Henry Lee Smalls, Jr.

Last Known Address: 416 – 23rd Avenue W.,  
Bradenton, FL 34205  
DOB: August 24, 1951  
DOD: December 27, 2021

If you have any information, please contact:  
Charma Smalls at 1-727-324-7331  
or mzsmalls@gmail.com

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 17, 2022	Beach Party Committee Meeting
March 30, 2022	MCBA General Membership Luncheon
April 6, 2022	MCBA BOD Meeting
April 13, 2022	MCBA YLD BOD Meeting
April 15, 2022	Good Friday - Clerk CLOSED
April 29, 2022	MCBA Spring Beach Party Social
May 4, 2022	MCBA BOD Meeting
May 11, 2022	MCBA YLD BOD Meeting
May 25, 2022	LAW DAY Luncheon
May 30, 2022	Memorial Day - Clerk CLOSED
June 1, 2022	MCBA BOD Meeting
June 8, 2022	MCBA YLD BOD Meeting
June 29, 2022	Annual Luncheon Meeting

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

## THE FLORIDA BAR BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO MAKE MAY APPOINTMENTS

The Florida Bar Board of Governors is seeking applicants for the following vacancies to be filled during the May 20, 2022. Lawyer applicants must be members of The Florida Bar and in good standing.

**ABA House of Delegates:** Two lawyers (one under 36 delegate) to serve two-year terms commencing August 2022, at the conclusion of the ABA Annual Meeting. Applicants must also be ABA members.

**Florida Lawyers Assistance, Inc. Board of Directors:** Three lawyers and two non-lawyers to serve three-year terms commencing July 1, 2022. This 15-member Board assists the legal community in securing counseling and treatment for emotional and chemical dependency problems for lawyers.

**Florida Legal Services, Inc. Board of Directors:** One lawyer to serve a three-year term commencing July 1, 2022. This 15-member board provides judicial advocacy through co-counseling with local program attorneys and volunteer pro bono attorneys and provides legislative and administrative advocacy on policies impacting the legal rights of the poor, as well as providing civil legal assistance to indigent persons who would not otherwise have the means to obtain a lawyer.

**Florida Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Association Board of Governors:** One lawyer to serve a two-year term commencing July 1, 2022. This is a nine-member board of governors that develops a means of obtaining loss and expense experience in medical malpractice issues.

Persons interested in applying for these vacancies may click 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 email to [specialapptapp@floridabar.org](mailto:specialapptapp@floridabar.org) **no later than the close of business on Thursday, April 14, 2022.** 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.

**Looking for Job Opportunities?**  
**Check out our Job Openings page on**  
**our website at [www.manateebar.com](http://www.manateebar.com)**



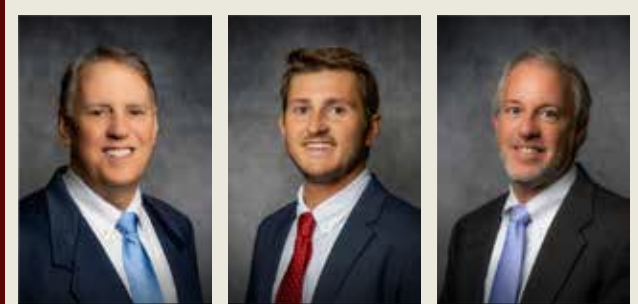
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## Report and Recommendations of the Workgroup on Improved Resolution of Civil Cases

The Judicial Management Council's Workgroup on Improved Resolution of Civil Cases (Workgroup) has submitted to the Florida Supreme Court a report recommending amendments to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, the Florida Small Claims Rules, and the Florida Rules for Certified and Court-Appointed Mediators. These recommendations are significant and are now open for comment by Florida lawyers. Please read the details below.

The Workgroup's proposed amendments would require civil trial judges to engage actively in case management, would promote adherence to the timetable set in initial case management orders, would promote professionalism among practitioners, and would require case reporting by the chief judges of each circuit. The Court invites the judicial conferences, members of the judiciary generally, as well as rules committees and other interested persons to comment on the proposed amendments, which are reproduced in full online along with the Workgroup's report at <https://www.floridasupremecourt.org>

**All comments must be filed with the Court on or before March 31, 2022**, with a certificate of service verifying that a copy has been served on the Workgroup Chair, Chief Judge Robert Morris, Second District Court of Appeal, P.O. Box 327, Lakeland, FL 33802, and on the OSCA Staff Liaison to the Workgroup, Tina White, 500 South Duval Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, [whitet@flcourts.org](mailto:whitet@flcourts.org), as well as a separate request for oral argument if the person filing the comment wishes to participate in oral argument, which may be scheduled in this case.

The Workgroup Chair has until April 21, 2022, to file a response to any comments filed with the Court.

Any comments, if filed by an attorney in good standing with The Florida Bar, must be electronically filed via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal (Portal) in accordance with In re Electronic Filing in the Supreme Court of Florida via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal, Fla. Admin. Order No. AOSC13-7 (Feb. 18, 2013). If filed by a nonlawyer or a lawyer not licensed to practice in Florida, the comment may be, but is not required to be, filed via the Portal. Any person unable to submit a comment electronically must mail or hand-deliver the originally signed comment to the Florida Supreme Court, Office of the Clerk, 500 South Duval Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399; no additional copies are required or will be accepted.

### Suggestions, Comments, and Questions for the "MCBA/CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT LIAISON COMMITTEE"

If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions regarding procedures at the clerk's office, the MCBA/Clerk Liaison Committee would like to hear them! Please email them to Dustin Wagner, Esq., at [dw@llrep.com](mailto:dw@llrep.com).

## The Law Firm of Legler, Murphy & Battaglia, LLP, welcomes its newest attorney, Kelli A. Martinez

Kelli was born and raised in Bradenton, Florida. She received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Central Florida and worked as a litigation paralegal for several years prior to attending law school. Kelli earned her Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law in 2019.



While at Stetson, Kelli worked as an intern at both the 12th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office, and the Department of Children and Families. Kelli also served as Magister of the Cardozo Inn of Phi Delta Phi International Legal Honor Society, competed as a member of Stetson's nationally recognized Trial Team, and completed a summer advocacy program at Oxford University in Oxford, England. She earned the High-Grade Award in Trial Advocacy and Legal Research & Writing, a Certificate of Concentration in Advocacy, and completed Stetson's Leadership Development Program.

Kelli previously worked at one of the Country's largest injury law firms as a litigation attorney. As an injury lawyer, Kelli is dedicated to providing her clients with personalized service, aggressive representation, and quality results, and continues that mission through her work at Legler, Murphy & Battaglia, LLP.

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# IT'S TIME FOR THE *Spring Beach* PARTY!



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5:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

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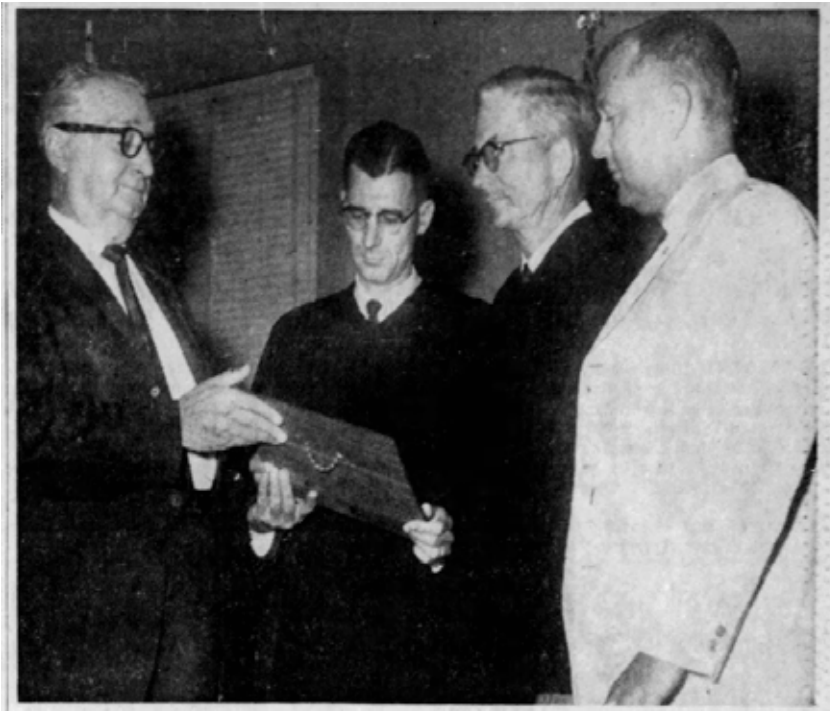
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**NATIONAL AWARD**—Bradenton—Dewey Dye Sr., dean of the Manatee County Bar Association, presents resident Circuit Court Judges Robert Hensley and Robert Willis with a plaque the local association won for being the most outstanding small bar association in the country. George Harrison, president of the Manatee County Bar Association, looks on.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The MCBA received national recognition by the American Bar Association in 1963? On August 12, 1963, the MCBA received the American Bar Association's Award of Merit for the service the association provided to the citizens of Manatee County via it's Legal Forum. The Legal Forum was recognized for "providing the public with important legal advice on a variety of subjects".

Photo courtesy of Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr.

# Invitation

## ❖ INVESTITURE CEREMONY ❖

Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court

*The Honorable Melissa A. Gould*  
&  
*The Honorable Jacqueline S. Steele*

*Four o'clock*  
FRIDAY

*May*  
**13**

*Reception*  
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## DID YOU VOTE FOR OUR NEXT FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENT?

This is your chance to make history and elect a Florida Bar President who is from our circuit! Our very own member, Scott Westheimer is running and we need you to make sure you vote!

You should have received your e-ballot on March 1st. If you did not receive it, please check your spam filter. You may vote online using the unique pin included with your e-ballot at [VOTE](#). If you do not receive your e-ballot or misplace it, you can go [here](#) to obtain your PIN number. All ballots must be received by Election Services no later than 11:59 p.m. on Monday, March 21st. language.

VOTING MARCH 1 - 21, 2022



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### Searching for Will for Adelle C. Bullis

Last Known Address: 6410 21st Ave. W.,  
Freedom Village  
Bradenton, FL 34209  
DOB: August 5, 1924  
DOD: January 11, 2022

Ms. Bullis was a former RN in Manatee County. If you have any information, please contact:  
Raymond L. Godwin, 178 S. Smith Ave, Inverness, FL 34453 or call/text 1-321-213-0197.



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Calendar availability and full bio at  
[floridamediators.org/RobertHoyle](http://floridamediators.org/RobertHoyle)



#### 34 YEARS EXPERIENCE

- Harvard College B.A., 1975
- Capital University Law School, J.D., Cum Laude, 1986
- Harvard Law School Mediation Training Program
- Chairman, Florida Bar Alternative Dispute Resolution Section 2015-2016
- Chairman, Florida Bar Council of Sections 2018-2019
- Certified Circuit Civil Mediator
- Certified County Civil Mediator



## MCBA MEMBERS OUT & ABOUT



Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr. and MCBA Past President Jack Hawkins with County Fair-goers



Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr. and Judge Matt Whyte smiling for the camera at the Bradenton Kiwanis exhibit

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- 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  
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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## Judge Debra Johnes Riva Announces Retirement

Circuit Judge Debra Johnes Riva has announced her retirement effective July 2, 2022, after serving 15 years on the Twelfth Judicial Circuit bench. She was elected in 2007 and went on to serve (unopposed) two additional terms. Because Judge Riva will be retiring before the end of her third term, the governor has convened the circuit's Judicial Nominating Commission to appoint a successor to complete her term. Judge Riva received her bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida and her juris doctor degree from Nova Southeastern University. Prior to her election to the circuit court, she worked for 15 years as an assistant state attorney the Twelfth Circuit prosecuting felonies, serving as division chief and then prosecuting homicide cases.



Judge Riva has been assigned to the Circuit Juvenile division in Sarasota County since 2021. In addition to presiding over dependency and delinquency hearings, she presides over Sarasota County's Early Childhood Court, a specialty court that focuses on at-risk families with infants. Between 2008-2020 she was assigned to family and felony divisions in both Manatee and Sarasota counties.

In 2012 she served as the administrative judge for the circuit's Unified Family Court and as chair of the Family Law Advisory Group. In 2019 she served as the administrative judge for Sarasota County. She currently serves as the chair of the Criminal Court Steering Committee and her term expires June 30, 2022. The Florida Supreme Court administrative order establishing the Steering Committee explains the group is tasked with helping "facilitate the fair, effective, and efficient delivery of justice, without bias or prejudice, through the use of consistent criminal court practices, procedures, and forms statewide." These administrative duties are in addition to her assigned caseload.

Between 2013-2014 Judge Riva served as president of The Judge John M. Scheb American Inn of Court, a professional organization of judges, lawyers, legal educators and law students that promotes legal advocacy, fosters a greater understanding of the legal system and provides members with opportunities for professional development. She is a member of The Florida Bar, the Sarasota County Bar Association, the Civil League of Sarasota, and is a former Board of Directors member for Girl's Incorporated.

Judge Riva took a role in educating others, including her robed colleagues. She taught law classes as an adjunct professor at Manatee Community College (n/k/a State College of Florida); lectured statewide on issues regarding the prosecution of sex crimes and homicides; and served as the department chair and faculty instructor for a mandatory course for all judges presiding over cases where the State seeks the death penalty, as well as vice-chair of the Education Committee for the Circuit Judicial Conference, and faculty instructor with the Florida Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (FLAFCC).

She is active in her community, having officiated Sarasota County Government's annual Valentine's Day wedding vow renewal ceremony, "Say I Do, Again", six times and recently said it's one of her favorite things she gets to do as a judge.

In her resignation letter to Governor DeSantis, Judge Riva said, "It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve the people of Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto [c]ounties since my election to the bench in 2007."

Judge Riva plans to travel and enjoy spending more time with her husband, Vince Riva, who retired four years ago after working at the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office for 34 years.

### **JOB POSTING**

**BOOKKEEPER / OFFICE MANAGER** - Porges Hamlin Knowles & Hawk, P.A. seeks a Bookkeeper / Office Manager to join our team in downtown Bradenton. The role requires a detail oriented individual capable of working independently. The Bookkeeper / Office Manager provides support to our team of Attorneys, including accounts payable/receivable, general ledger, bank reconciliation, payroll, and some human resources work including time-off records and profit sharing distributions. Please email resume to Bryony Swift at BGS@phkhlaw.com.

### **JOB POSTING: LITIGATION ASSOCIATE**

Dickinson & Gibbons, P.A. seeks litigation associate with minimum 2-3 years of experience for its Sarasota office; focus on general civil and tort litigation, including employment. Must have experience with depositions, motion practice, expert discovery, trial support; excellent oral, writing and research skills. Founded in 1937, Dickinson & Gibbons ([www.dglawyers.com](http://www.dglawyers.com)) is one of the oldest, most prestigious firms in the area. The firm is "AV" rated and is a member of ALFA International, a global network of 150 firms. Send letter of interest and C.V. to [careers@dglawyers.com](mailto:careers@dglawyers.com). No recruiters or phone calls please.

## **JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION, TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT NOTICE OF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE VACANCY**

The Twelfth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Committee announces a vacancy in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court due to the resignation of The Honorable Debra Johnes Riva. Accordingly, the Judicial Nominating Commission seeks applications for nomination from all persons who meet the eligibility requirements set forth in the Florida Constitution.

Applicants must be able to fulfill the Constitutional qualifications before assuming the office of Circuit Court Judge, which require the person to be a member in good standing of The Florida Bar for the preceding five (5) years, a resident of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, and a registered voter in the State of Florida.

The application form for the judgeship may be downloaded from the Office of the Governor's website at [www.flgov.com](http://www.flgov.com) by following the "Judicial" link to the 2021 Judicial Appointment Application. All applicants must submit the following: a .pdf version of the complete unredacted application with attachments, including the executed FDLE form, and a color photograph in .jpg or .gif format; and a .pdf version of a redacted copy of the application excluding all exempt information pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. The .pdf files should be titled in the name of the applicant (Doe.John.pdf) and labeled "redacted" or "original" as applicable.

Applications must be delivered by email to Bonnie Lee A. Polk, Chair, at [bpolk@williamsparker.com](mailto:bpolk@williamsparker.com) no later than **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.** A list of members of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission is also available on the Office of the Governor's website at [www.flgov.com](http://www.flgov.com). Questions should be directed to Bonnie Lee A. Polk, Chair, Twelfth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission at 941-552-5548 or [bpolk@williamsparker.com](mailto:bpolk@williamsparker.com).

### **NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given that the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission will convene via a Zoom meeting on **March 28, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.** that may last until 12:00 p.m., for the purpose of reviewing and deliberating regarding the judicial applications received by the Commission as a result of the vacancy created by the resignation of the Hon. Debra Johnes Riva.

Notice is also hereby given that the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission will convene on the following dates and times for the interview and continued deliberation process:

March 31, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. – completion

**April 1, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. – completion (only if necessary)**

The meetings listed above will take place at the Criminal Justice Center, 2071 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL, 6th floor conference room. The list of candidates to be interviewed shall be published at a later date.

Said convening of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission is for the purpose of selecting and submitting to Gov. Ron DeSantis the names of highly qualified individuals for consideration and appointment for the position of a Circuit Court Judge in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit.

If you would like to obtain Zoom attendance instructions or if you require additional information, please contact Bonnie Lee Polk, Chair, at 941-552-5548.

Deliberations will be conducted in closed session. All interviews are open to the public.

## Welcome 2nd DCA To Java With The Judges!

On February 23rd, early risers gathered at the MCJC to welcome the 2nd DCA for "Java with the Judges"! The tradition continued this year with a delightful continental breakfast and coffee provided by Kefi Streetside Café. Also, a special appearance of Turner Donuts was seen, but vanished quickly....you have to be quick! Special thanks to the Young Lawyers Division who organized the event again this year.



*MCBA President Stephen Dye, YLD President Elect Grace Reeves, MCBA Past President Alix St. Paul and YLD Treasurer Brandon Robinson*



*YLD Treasurer Brandon Robinson, YLD Board of Governors Rep. Jesse Butler, Edward Richards, Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr., 2nd DCA Judge Nelly Khouzam, and YLD Past President Melissa Casanueva*



*Past President Andrea Johnson and MCBA Secretary Brian Iten*



*Jason and Eleni, owners of Kefi Streetside Café*



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## PHKH Appoints Bryony G. Swift, Esq., as Principal and Hires New Associate Attorney



The Bradenton law firm of Porges, Hamlin, Knowles & Hawk, P.A. (PHKH) has promoted Bryony G. Swift, Esq., to principal and shareholder, effective immediately. In addition, the firm recently hired Micaela (Mia) Cleall, Esq., as an associate attorney.

Swift has been with PHKH since 2013. She joined the firm after earning her Juris Doctorate and a Certificate of Advocacy from Stetson University College of Law. Swift was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2014 and specializes in condominium and homeowners' association law, real property litigation, civil and business law and litigation, landlord/tenant law and related matters.

"I am honored to become a principal at PHKH, to be recognized by my colleagues for my hard work and dedication to my clients. It has been a privilege to work alongside the principals at PHKH over the past several years, to have earned their trust and respect. I look forward to many more years of service to this community as a principal with the firm," Swift said.

"Bryony is a gifted attorney, and we are delighted to have her as a principal and shareholder in the firm. Her experience representing clients in complex cases is well respected and furthers our firm's ability to serve the community," says Mary R. Hawk, Esq., firm principal of Porges, Hamlin, Knowles & Hawk, P.A. "We are also pleased to welcome Mia to the firm and look forward to her future growth with PHKH."

Cleall joined the firm as an associate attorney in December 2021. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Management from Auburn University and a Juris Doctorate from Barry University School of Law and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2021. She previously held internships at the Lee County Circuit Clerk's Office, Gulfcoast Legal Services and Harrison & Kirkland PA. She will assist all attorneys at PHKH in various practice areas, with specialization in real estate transactions, real property law, estate planning and probate.

Located in downtown Bradenton, Porges, Hamlin, Knowles, & Hawk, P.A. serves a roster of local, regional and national clients throughout Central and Southwest Florida. Principal partners are Gregory Porges, Curtis D. Hamlin, Timothy A. Knowles, Mary R. Hawk, Jason M. DePaola and Bryony G. Swift. The firm celebrated its 50th anniversary in April 2020.



### WILL SEARCH FOR FELIX SANTOS, JR.

Date of Birth: November 15, 1950

Date of Death: February 20, 2022

Last Known Street Address: 11413 56th Street Circle  
East, Parrish, FL

Mr. Santos was a US Army Military Veteran, Retired  
NYPD, and FEMA Government Employee. Any infor-  
mation is appreciated. Please contact:

Justine Santos (Daughter)

(516) 242-9416

2765 Harvard Place, Baldwin, NY 11510

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The Manatee County Bar Association offers a wide range of benefits and resources to its members. We've been serving the Manatee County legal community since 1902!

<h3 style="text-align: center;">BE SEEN</h3> <p>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!</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">CLE COURSES</h3> <p>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!</p>
<h3 style="text-align: center;">NETWORKING</h3> <p>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!</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">ONLINE DIRECTORY LISTING</h3> <p>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!</p>
<h3 style="text-align: center;">INTERACT WITH YOUR JUDGES</h3> <p>Our judges often can be found teaching or participating in our CLEs, and attending our various events!</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">REFERRALS &amp; MENTORING</h3> <p>MCBA attorneys are known for their professional manner and willingness to assist other attorneys with referrals and mentoring!</p>

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**Legal Assistant/Receptionist** – Bradenton based law firm seeks Legal Assistant/Receptionist for its Sarasota office. Candidates should be responsible and have a professional appearance, outgoing and friendly personality for greeting visitors and delivering exceptional client and customer service. Must be comfortable working in a busy professional environment. This entails answering calls and fielding them, accordingly, addressing visitor questions and needs, and providing an overall welcoming environment. This oftentimes includes performing ad hoc administrative duties as needed. The interested candidate should be well organized and comfortable multi-tasking. Valid Florida Notary preferred. Please send resume to: [resume@blalockwalters.com](mailto:resume@blalockwalters.com)

**Paralegal/Legal Assistant** - Bradenton based law firm seeks Paralegal/Legal Assistant for its Sarasota office. The candidate will support the Real Estate and Finance Practice Group in a fast-paced, team-oriented environment. Must have 2+ years of real estate experience in a law firm setting or a title company. Should preferably have extraordinary attention to detail, excellent oral and written communication skills, and keen proofreading abilities. Should have strong MS Office skills and be highly skilled at document editing, providing administrative support, preparing closing documents and other clerical tasks. Must also be able to independently prioritize and manage multiple tasks while satisfactorily meeting deadlines and desired outcomes. Professional presentation and demeanor are required. Valid Florida Notary Required. Please send resume to: [resume@blalockwalters.com](mailto:resume@blalockwalters.com)



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*Inter Alia*, the newsletter of the Manatee County Bar Association, is published 8 months annually and is circulated electronically to local attorneys, judges and law office staff. Issues are later posted to the association website: [www.manateebar.com](http://www.manateebar.com). Rates show are for one issue. Discounts apply to multiple issues on a prepaid basis. Ads should be submitted as high resolution pdf files. Deadline for submission: First of the month.

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