



INTER ALIA

SUMMER 2022

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

TIP OF THE CAP: THE YLD 2021 -2022 TERM IN REVIEW

MCBA Director Dustin S. Wagner, Esq.

As the outgoing Manatee YLD President, I am grateful for the efforts of many people within the YLD that helped make the 2021-2022 term successful. The achievements of this past year only came to fruition because of the commitment from your YLD Board of Directors. So, I want to take a moment and recognize all of you, mostly in chronological order, for making this past term a homerun!

First, we arranged a back-to-school supply drive with Big Brothers Big Sisters in August. Aaron Crittenden and the kind folks at Harlee & Bald, P.A., were generous and welcomed drop-off donations of school supplies at their office. If memory serves me correct, Aaron then personally delivered the supplies to the kids before their school semester started. Also, thank you to Jami Worley, Alex Nicodemi, and everyone else that donated.

By September, we realized too much time had passed since our members last congregated. We held a shindig at the Naughty Monk Brewery. We were honored to have several Manatee County heavyweights make an appearance. Thank you all for making this a major event.

In November, we presented the Honorable Kevin Bruning with a custom robe hanger at his investiture that was held at the Sarasota County Administration Building. This was a great time and felt more like a roast as presenter, Morgan Bentley, shared fond memories of his former law partner. Thank you to Sierra Butler for the idea of ordering a custom hanger.

We also held a clothing drive in November to help Turning Points obtain adult and children's hats, coats, and gloves. Thank you to Kate Fall and Boyer & Boyer, P.A., along with Brandon Robinson and Barnes, Walker, Goethe, Perron, & Shea, PLLC. Kate, Brandon, and these law firms assisted us in collecting the clothing donations at their offices until we could pick them up for delivery. Thank you all for the support.

In December, we initiated two projects to coincide with the holidays. First, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers graciously shipped us an autograph football from future Hall of Fame tight end, Rob Gronkowski. The football was raffled off at the Holiday Party, and the proceeds were donated to the Southeastern Guide Dogs. In addition, we held a food drive at the Holiday Party for the Meals on Wheels of Manatee County. MCBA MVP, Graceann Frederico, helped coordinate both projects that evening and made sure raffle winner Andre Perron was not tackled as he exited the venue with the football.



Next, in January we presented a CLE that focused on Mental Health. This was a unique CLE hosted by incoming YLD President-Elect Patrick Barnes and his father, Michael Barnes, PhD., LAC, LPC. Dr. Barnes devoted his career to mental health and attended the CLE virtually from his office in Colorado. The CLE covered Compassion Fatigue and Trauma-Informed Legal Practice. Well done, Patrick!

In February, Kate Fall drafted and submitted a grant application to the Florida Bar YLD. The grant is to help purchase supplies for teenagers in Manatee

County that will transition from foster care to living on their own. Subsequently, on February 26th the great Luis Silva attended the Affiliate Outreach Conference in Tampa to formally present the foster care grant request to a panel. This grant will go a long way for many young adults, thank you both.

February was also the annual YLD Java with the Judges at the MCJC. Grace Reeves spearheaded this event for the us. Thank you, Grace. I heard the 2nd DCA Judges enjoyed the coffee, and no one was held in contempt.

Finally, in February we initiated a tour of the courthouse event. This was a guided tour to showcase everything MCJC has to offer, including the law library and a private attorney conference room that some practitioners do not know exists.

Fast forward to May, when we hosted an event at 3 Keys Brewing and Eatery. We provided members and guests with free beverage ticket(s) with reserved seating on the back patio. The staff and service were impressive, and we appreciate Gabe and Tom with 3 Keys for taking care of us.

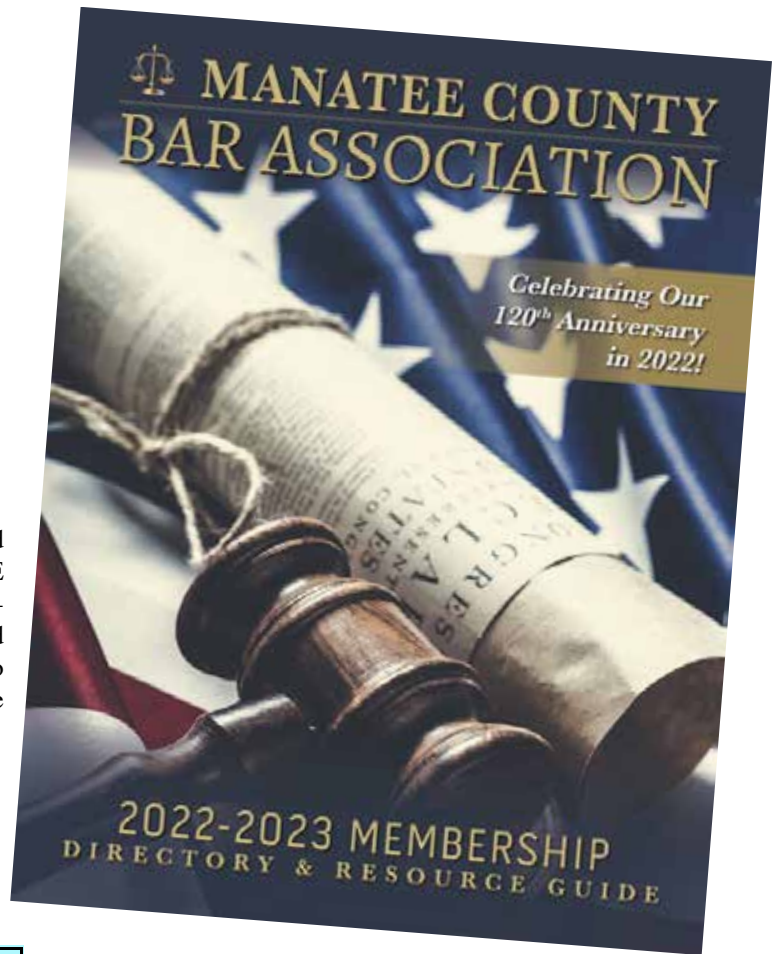
In June, we held our annual Art at the Courthouse event. This event usually features artwork from local school children. However, this year we collaborated with Westminister Communities and Point Pleasant, to make this our first Elder Art at the Courthouse event. The unveiling event was nice way to honor these our elders who may have been neglected during this pandemic. Thank you to Steve Dye and many others for helping coordinate this event.

Finally, big thank you to Jami Worley for managing all the YLD social media, you will be missed moving forward. Stay tuned for our next event, an all-inclusive evening with the Tampa Bay Rowdies, August 6th on the Corner Kick section. My apologies if anyone or event was not recognized. There is always next year! DW



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Time is running out to place your ad in the upcoming printed 2022-23 MCBA MEMBER DIRECTORY & RESOURCE GUIDE. The publisher’s deadline is approaching. Advertising in the Inter Alia is separate from being in the printed directory – they are not interchangeable. If you would like to find out more, please inquire with the publisher, David Berube at cgb@cablshgentile.com



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MCBA Member Scott Westheimer, Esq. Sworn In as Florida Bar President Elect

At the June 24th Florida Bar Annual Convention in a Orlando, Scott Westheimer, Esq. was sworn in as Florida Bar President Elect. Westheimer has served as the 12th Judicial Circuit Board of Governors Representative since 2013 and on several other boards and committees. Scott Westheimer joined Sypret Meshad as an associate in 1996. He became a partner in 2000 and is the first Florida Bar President Elect from the 12th Judicial Circuit. Congratulations, Scott! Special thanks to MCBA member, Michael Sasso, for providing the photos.



Scott Westheimer being sworn in with his family



Scott Westheimer, Esq. and Michael Sasso, Esq.

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**In Memory of
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Michael Murphy
1974-2022**

Hale Law regrets to report the passing of Attorney Michael Murphy. After 19 years as an attorney, Michael served the clients of Hale Law for a year and in that time, he

had a great impact on many clients' lives and was truly a part of the Hale Law family. Michael started his career at Hale Law as a Litigation Attorney, however, because of his meritorious contributions and commitment, his wealth of legal knowledge, experience, and generous and altruistic spirit, we posthumously name him a Partner at Hale Law. This title was well earned, and we wish it could have been bestowed under different circumstances. He will be missed by our team, both professionally and personally.

As a trial lawyer for 20 years, Michael achieved victory in numerous cases in and out of court relating to motor vehicle negligence and premises liability, among others. He received a 2021 AV Preeminent Rating by Martindale-Hubbell, an honor only approximately 10% of attorneys have been awarded. He was selected to be a member of The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Attorneys, and Michael was certified as a life member of both the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum. Membership to those Forums is limited to attorneys who have won million and multi-million dollar verdicts, awards, and settlements. Fewer than 1% of U.S. lawyers are member. Michael was also a proud member of The Florida Bar, Florida Justice Association, The American Association of Justice, Manasota Trial Lawyers Board, Sarasota County Bar Association, and the distinguished Manatee American Inn of Court.

Michael graduated from Manatee High School in 1993 and was part of the 1992 State Championship football team. He proudly graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree, and he received his Juris Doctorate in 2001 from the Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center.

Michael was a loving and giving person and will be truly missed by his family, friends, colleagues, clients, and the legal community. He is survived by his beloved mother, sister, brothers, nephews, and nieces.



**WILL SEARCH
Edward W. Hoffman**

Last Known Address:

1913 10th Ave West, Bradenton, FL 34205

Date of Birth: August 22, 1947

Date of Death: June 4, 2022

**Ed moved to the Bradenton area in 1993,
his will could have been prepared anytime
between 1993 and now.**

If you have any information, please contact

Christina Hoffman 937-564-2267

Christinahoffman19@yahoo.com

or Jeremy Hoffman 937-417-8886

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- 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. Coliver, 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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DATES TO REMEMBER:

- July 26 – 28, 2022 **DIRECTORY/POSTER PHOTOS**
- August 2, 2022 **DIRECTORY PHOTO HARDSHIP APPTS**
POSTPONED TO AUGUST 17th
- August 3, 2022 **MCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS PLANNING MEETING**
- August 9, 2022 **TECH SUMMER SCHOOL – Free CLE**
- August 10, 2022 **YLD BOD PLANNING MEETING**
- September 5, 2022 **Labor Day**
- September 7, 2022 **MCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
- September 14, 2022 **YLD BOD MEETING**
- September 20, 2022 **Law Tech Partners/NOTA by M&T CLE**
- September 28, 2022 **MCBA MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON**

**Dates are subject to change*

Manatee County Bar Members **OUT & ABOUT**



Newly elected as our association’s President Elect, Aaron Crittenden was spotted enjoying the beauty of Montana with his family! Rest up now, Aaron! You’ve got a busy year ahead of you!

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- 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

NEW Manatee Bar Art Exhibit “Reflections” Opens at the MCJC!

In late June, the 5th floor of the MCJC was abuzz with artists, MCBA members, friends, and family as we celebrated the opening of the permanent exhibit “Reflections”. The exhibit was part of an ongoing effort, spearheaded by the Young Lawyers Division, to highlight artwork from artists from the community. “Reflections” includes pieces created by the residents of Westminster Communities of Bradenton and were added to the “Art in the Courthouse” gallery. The extension of the exhibit was made possible by a grant from The Florida Bar. When in the MCJC, stop by the 5th floor and delight in the artwork!





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New MAKEUP DATE: Wednesday, August 17th
11 am - 1 pm, appts every 5 minutes

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This is a FREE service!
Additional photo options for your use, packages, etc. will be offered





The MCBA is producing a printed 2022-23 Membership Directory & Resource Guide as well as the anniversary poster for the MCJC. Photos are being shot by photographer Manny Cruz and are completely FREE for active members who want to be included in the project. To maintain quality and consistency, absolutely NO OTHER PHOTOS will be used in the printed resource guide or poster.

Appointments are available Tuesday, July 26th – 28th from 10 am – 3 pm. An alternative date, for those with a hardship, will be held on Wednesday, August 17th from 11 – 1 pm. Click on the flyer for more information. Book your appointment now!

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New Board of Director and a Visit from Senator Jim Boyd!

On June 29th, 2022, the association held its Annual Meeting at Kiwanis Hall at the Manatee Performing Arts Center. Senator James Boyd was the special speaker who gave an update regarding the State of Florida. The new MCBA Board of Directors and YLD Board of Directors were sworn in by the Hon. Gilbert Smith, Jr. Congratulations to the new boards:



MCBA Director Hon. Robert Farrance, Hon. Gilbert Smith, Jr., MCBA Imm. Past President Stephen Dye, Ray Bellamy, Senator James Boyd, MCBA President Faith Brown, MCBA Director Brian Iten, MCBA Treasurer David Wilcox

MCBA Board of Directors Slate for 2022-23

- Faith Brown, Esq., President
- Aaron Crittenden, Esq., President Elect
- David W. Wilcox, Esq., Treasurer
- Brian Iten, Esq., Secretary
- Stephen R. Dye, Esq., Imm. Past President
- Andre' R. Perron, Esq. Director
- Alexandria Nicodemi, Esq., Director
- James Lynch, Esq., Director
- Robert Farrance, Esq., Director
- Dustin Wagner, Esq., Director
- Dan Van Etten, Esq., Director
- Grace Reeves, Esq., YLD President

MCBA Young Lawyers Division for 2022-23

- Grace Reeves, Esq., President
- Patrick Barnes, Esq., President Elect
- Brooks Fusselman, Esq., Treasurer
- Luis Silva, Esq., Secretary
- Imm. Past President: Dustin Wagner Esq.
- Jay Horne, Esq., Director
- Alexandria Nicodemi, Esq., Director
- Kari Martin, Esq., Director
- Aaron Crittenden, Esq., Director



Senator James Boyd, Ray Bellamy and Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr.



YLD Imm. Past President Dustin Wagner and MCBA Imm. Past President Stephen Dye

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YLD Imm. Past President Dustin Wagner and YLD President Grace Reeves



MCBA Imm. Past President Stephen Dye and President Faith Brown

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JOB POSTING

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Welcome New Members

Jovanna Bailey, Esq.

University of Florida
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2021
Firm: Najmy Thompson, P.L.
Area(s) of Practice: Estate Planning, Tax, Trusts & Estates

R. Matthew Elliott, Esq.

Florida State University College of Law
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2005
Firm: R. Matthew Elliott, Esq.
Area(s) of Practice: Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts & Estates, Elder Law

Abigail H. Galati, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2022
Firm: Barnes, Walker, Goethe, Perron & Shea, P.L.L.C.
Area(s) of Practice: Business Litigation, Real Property, Real Estate

Spencer B. Heintz, Esq.

Barry Law
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2022
Firm: Heintz Law
Area(s) of Practice: Personal Injury

Ana P. Reyes, Esq.

Western Michigan Cooley Law School
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2022
Firm: Mackey Law Group, P.A.
Area(s) of Practice: Commercial Litigation, Family Law

Brett Sarason, Esq.

Chicago-Kent College of Law
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2002
Firm: Najmy Thompson, P.L.
Area(s) of Practice: Condo/Planned Development, Civil Litigation

Mitun Mitra, Esq.

University of Miami
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2016
Firm: Manatee County Attorney's Office
Area(s) of Practice: City/County/Local Government, Civil Litigation, Real Estate

HISTORY CORNER

Attorney dreams of camp for ill children

While hospitalized, Eddie Mulock was touched by the children with a variety of ills.



Mulock

ELLEN MOSES

Herald Senior Writer

Two years ago Bradenton attorney Eddie Mulock was a patient at Shands Hospital in Gainesville where he underwent a life-saving heart transplant.

While he was there, Mulock was touched by the children he saw who so bravely endured a variety of ills. It was then he began to think about ways to make life more enjoyable for children like those who were undergoing chemotherapy and other medical procedures.

From those first mental musings grew the Foundation for Dreams, a not-for-profit organization Mulock formed after his recovery. The goal of the foundation is to raise money to create a wilderness camp where children suffering from disease and illness can enjoy the great outdoors.

"There are plenty of these kids out there who could benefit from some simple fun that their parents can't always provide," foundation director Cindy Cablish said. "We want this to be something special for them."

Now the camp is on the verge of becoming a reality. Mulock, Cablish and director of development Joleen Roskamp spent the past year developing budgets and program plans for the camp.

Cablish visited several existing camps for children with special needs and built a network of connections with children's groups, which could ultimately benefit from the endeavor.

Foremost on the foundation's list of goals for the coming year is location of a suitable site for the camp. Founders want at least 20 usable acres in eastern Manatee County surrounded by woods or wetlands. They hope someone will step forward to donate property.

Next comes the daunting task of raising the \$400,000 needed to get the camp up and running. The foundation also is looking for a major corporate sponsor.

Mulock said the camp will be re-

gional, serving children from at least 10 counties. Those suffering from cancer, cerebral palsy, or faced with other physical or mental challenges will be among those

invited to participate in camp activities.

They named the camp SWAMP Critters, to evoke a special southern, Florida feel. SWAMP took on new meaning and now stands for "Special Wishes And Magical Play."

Mulock and Cablish envision the camp evolving in three phases.

They hope the camp will begin accepting children for day activities and afternoon therapy programs by summer 1998.

The day programs would operate Tuesdays through Saturdays year-round. Later, the camp would add weekend camp sessions for children with chronic or debilitating illness.

"If we ask people for help, we want them to see a facility that is used all the time," Cablish said.

The camp would offer a range of traditional camp activities plus a variety of therapy programs involving animals, including an equestrian riding therapy program.

Cablish said many existing community organizations stepped forward to offer assistance in providing services and programs at the camp.

"The response from the community has just been overwhelming," Cablish said. "We see this as a facility where all these groups and agencies can connect."

On Oct. 8 the foundation will host the first of many fund-raisers planned for the coming year. That evening the foundation will host a \$100 a plate cigar and wine-tasting at the Sandbar restaurant in Anna Maria.

In the meantime, Mulock keeps a steady eye on his dream:

"My dream is to go out there and just see these little kids riding a horse or sitting around a campfire and really enjoying themselves," he said.

For more information about the Foundation for Dreams contact Cablish at 748-2104.

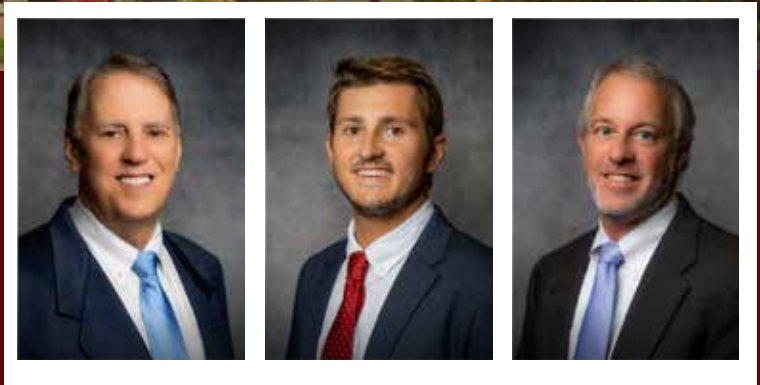
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**July
12**

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and tools and tips to communicate, failure to respond and missed deadlines are the leading malpractice claims that plague today's lawyers. Learn how the most powerful email and information managers can help you better organize emails, contacts, calendars, and tasks. [Register for this session HERE](#)

**August
09**

Essential PDF Skills for Legal Professionals

No law firm should be fully operating in the digital world without a good understanding of Adobe Acrobat. With more and more of our colleagues, courts, and clients expecting PDF output, understanding how Adobe Acrobat works along with all the features it has to offer, is the key to mastering digitizing your documents to PDF. (While this session will be conducted in Adobe Acrobat DC, most of the features and tips discussed apply equally to other Acrobat versions and other professional PDF tools and services.) [Register for this session HERE](#)

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September Membership Luncheon

As our dependency and use of technology increases, we rely on electronic devices to complete many daily activities. Steven Bradley will explore the risks and benefits of technology in our workplace and daily lives. Attendees will learn safety planning and evidence collection strategies for phone technology, location apps, social media, and more.

Wednesday, September 28, 2022
Manatee Performing Arts Center- Kiwanis Hall

11:45 Lunch, Noon Meeting Start



Stephen Bradley

With an extensive law enforcement career focusing on investigating crimes against persons, specializing in sex crimes, child abuse, domestic violence, and crimes against the elderly, Steven Bradley was recruited by the FBI to start a taskforce that would investigate technology and cyber related crimes. After graduating the FBI Academy with honors, he began combating many types of technology crimes including child pornography, cyberstalking, financial exploitation, and apprehending child predators. Later in his career, Steve began working with State Coalitions, and local domestic violence/sexual assault centers on bridging the gaps between law enforcement and community partners to better support survivors and victims.

Steven is nationally recognized as an expert on law enforcement's response to intimate partner violence, abuse of the elderly, and stalking/cyberstalking. As an International Trainer for 25 years, Steven is known for his real world practical education and has provided training throughout the globe on many related topics.

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