



# INTER ALIA

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

## Bench/Bar is Back! Mark Your Calendars!

*By James Lynch, MCBA Director*

Attention fellow MCBA members: The Planning Committee for the 12th Judicial Circuit Bench/Bar Conference is pleased to announce the return of the Bench/Bar Conference on May 5, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota. The Committee asks all MCBA members to place a hold on their calendar now as invites will follow in the coming months.

The Conference will feature approximately 10 morning breakout sessions with panel speakers that should appeal to a wide variety of practicing attorneys. Among the breakout session topics being considered are: changes and proposed changes to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, case management in the 12th Circuit, current developments in estate/trust/guardianship law, technology and social media as evidence, use of Offers of Judgment/Proposals for Settlement, cyber security and your law firm, the potential expansion of collaborative law into litigation, updates on the law pertaining to attorney's fees, and how to avoid law practice burnout. The afternoon session will feature a distinguished panel of judges providing their "View from the Bench." The sessions will be eligible for CLE credits including ethics and certification credits.



Additionally, the Conference will provide attorneys the opportunity to interact with each other and our esteemed judges in a more informal setting including over breakfast and lunch, which are provided and included in the Conference registration fee. There will also be a networking social at the Hyatt for all Conference attendees following the afternoon session. The Bench/Bar Conference is the perfect occasion to catch up with old friends and meet new ones, reminisce over "war stories," and get an update on the current legal and judicial

landscape.

The last 12th Circuit Bench/Bar Conference was held on May 4, 2018 and was a "sell out" attended by 300+ attorneys from the approximately 1500 attorneys in our circuit. After the difficulties of the last few years, the Planning Committee for the Bench/Bar Conference looks forward to similar success in 2023. Should you have any questions about the Bench/Bar Conference or if you are interested in some excellent sponsorship opportunities, please email the MCBA at [mcba@manateebar.com](mailto:mcba@manateebar.com). I hope to see you there!

## News from Angel Colonnese, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller:

Beginning November 9, 2022, access to circuit civil (CA), county civil (CC), and small claims (SC) cases for Manatee Clerk's Public Records Hub general subscribers will change pursuant to Administrative Order No. AOSC22-7. Currently, certain documents are only viewable on demand. On November 9, 2022, these cases will be accessible without requesting review by the Clerk first.



## Family Section Holds CLE

The Family Section CLE held its first CLE of the season, "Injunction Proceedings in Unified Family Court" taught by Judge Teresa Dees on Thursday, November 3rd, 2022. Over 20 attendees enjoyed lunch from Chicken Salad Chick as they were updated by Judge Dees regarding the topic at hand. Dustin Hay, Family Section Chair, generously sponsored the event.



## Can You Give A Little “Jingle” to Help Our YLD’s Hurricane Relief Efforts?

This year, at the MCBA Holiday Party, the YLD will be selling raffle tickets to raise money for hurricane relief efforts for our neighbors to the south. Captains For Clean Water is our charity of choice this holiday season. We have some very fun prizes, so please bring a little extra “jingle” to purchase your raffle tickets – all for a great cause!

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## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- November 11**                      **Veterans Day – Office/Clerk Closed**
- November 17, 2022**        **Real Property Section Happy Hour at Central Café**
- November 24 & 25, 2022**    **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS – OFFICE/CLERK CLOSED**
- December 2, 2022**            **Holiday Party at Heritage Harbour Golf Club**
- December 7, 2022**            **Board of Directors Meeting – MCJC**
- December 14, 2022**         **YLD BOD Meeting on ZOOM**
- December 26, 2022**         **CHRISTMAS DAY OBSERVED – OFFICE/CLERK CLOSED**

*\*Dates are subject to change*

**WILL SEARCH**

**Diane Zika Copess**  
 DOB: January 2, 1954  
 DOD: October 15, 2022  
 Spouse: Jack Copess (deceased)

**Last Known Address:**  
**4013 51st Place W., Bradenton, FL 34210**

**Please contact with any information:**  
**Cheryl Price**  
**cprice1948@cox.net**  
**352-514-2356**

## Welcome New Members

### Lindsey Hahn, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2022  
 Firm: Blucher Law Group, PLLC  
 Area(s) of Practice: Eminent Domain, Real Estate/Land Development, Real Estate

### Stephen R. Jones, Esq.

Widener School of Law  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, N/A  
 Firm: Morgan & Morgan  
 Area(s) of Practice: Personal Injury, Toxic Torts, Medical Malpractice  
 Membership: Associate Member

### Bryan T. Lawlor, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law  
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2022  
 Firm: State Attorney’s Office  
 Area(s) of Practice: Criminal, Government

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## MCBA Honors Vets with Special Guest Commander Bradley Smith (Ret) at October Luncheon

You could have heard a pin drop as Commander Bradley Smith (Ret) spoke of his military service and life lessons learned as a POW during the Viet Nam War. Smith, a pilot, was shot down during a mission and found himself behind enemy lines and held as a Prisoner of War for appx. 7 years. With steadfast certainty, strength and yet humble demeanor, Commander Smith recounted the days, events, circumstances, and soldiers (both enemy and brothers) he encountered. The experience left his body maimed and in pain; however, it did not break his spirit of hope, strength, and courage. The MCBA salutes Commander Bradley Smith and all veterans who have served our great country throughout our nation's history. Special thanks to METV for filming this once in a lifetime event, and Renée Medina County Veterans Services Division Manager, for leading the Pledge of Allegiance. If you would like to watch the presentation, please visit the METV YouTube site.



*President Faith Brown calling the meeting to order*



*Ray Bellamy sharing the Thanksgiving Food Drive with members*



*MCBA Director Brian Iten, Past President Andrea Johnson, Past President Stephen Dye, MCBA Director Aaron Crittenden, Past President Charles Telfair, Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr., MCBA Director Robert Farrance, Judge Edward Nicholas, MCBA Director James Lynch. Front Row: Renée Medina, County Veterans Services Division Manager, Commander Bradley & Kirsten Smith, MCBA President Faith Brown*

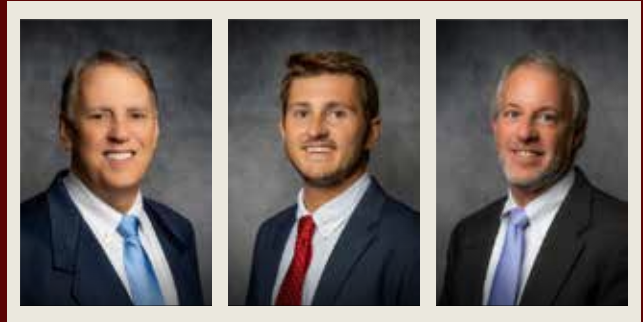
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# Real Property Section Networking Happy Hour

Let's **PLAN** for 2023!  
Bring your ideas! Meet with  
Lisa Moore, Section Chair

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When: November 17, 2022 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Where: Central Cafe, Bradenton

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## **Have you gotten your JCID Card? You only have until November 30th**

If you haven't, please know you will have a longer security screening experience. To avoid it, and expedite your entry, get your card.

How?

For more information, please visit the 12th Judicial Circuit website [here](#).



## **Family Law Attorney Position- Bradenton**

Gulfcoast Legal Services, a nonprofit civil legal aid provider, is seeking a full-time staff attorney to join our team. We are looking to fill one position in the family law unit to serve Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Occasional travel to our Pinellas County offices may be necessary.

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- Prior experience as an attorney a plus, with preference for prior family law experience. Law school clinical experience and/or internship will be considered.
- Fluency in Spanish is strongly preferred.

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St. Petersburg Yacht Club  
(11 Central Avenue)  
5:30-7:30 PM**

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[https://stetsonlaw.formstack.com/forms/sba\\_student\\_alumni\\_mixer\\_2022](https://stetsonlaw.formstack.com/forms/sba_student_alumni_mixer_2022)



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- 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. Collver, Esq.**

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



**M. Brandon Robinson, Esq.**

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\* New Members must not have been a member of the MCBA within the last 3 years.

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If you are interested in advertising in the *Inter Alia*, please contact Graceann Frederico at (941) 741-4091 or at [MCBA@ManateeBar.com](mailto:MCBA@ManateeBar.com)



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Copy deadline is the 1st of the month. Payment is expected at time of publication. Checks may be made payable to MCBA, P.O. Box 796, Bradenton, FL 34206.

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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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