



# INTER ALIA

MARCH/APRIL 2023

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



## “Z Words” and Their Place in The Florida Rules of Professional Conduct

By Aaron Crittenden, MCBA President Elect

Within the Preamble of Chapter 4 of the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Comment to Rule 4-1.3 (concerning diligence), the words zeal, zealous, and zealously are used to describe the way a lawyer advocates and pursues justice for clients. These “Z words,” and their inclusion in our governing rules, were at the center of discussion for a Subcommittee of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section (“RPPTL”) Professionalism & Ethics Committee. The Subcommittee was formed in April 2022 to determine whether these Z words should be removed and replaced as there are instances where attorneys have relied on these terms to shield and/or exculpate the use of unprofessional behavior.

In reaching their recommendation, the Subcommittee chose four areas of research and review, including the definition and etymology of the Z words, the history of these terms within the Florida Bar Rules of Professional Conduct, the interpretation of the Z words by Courts as shown in Florida case law, and whether Z words are included in other state jurisdiction rules of professional conduct.

The Subcommittee determined that “the contemporary, plain language use of and reference to the Z-terms are often associated with negative extremist behavior and character. Use of the Z-terms in the Florida Bar Professional Rules of Conduct has a parallel negative course as well. The Subcommittee determined these findings to be manifested in a significant body of Florida case law, with cases as recent as 2022, wherein there are several examples of attempts to justify unprofessional behavior. The Subcommittee concluded that the Z-terms in the Rules causes confusion and encourages or otherwise shields unprofessional behavior. Other state jurisdictions that have examined and removed the Z-terms from their professional rules of conduct consistently cite similar negative opinions regarding the Z-terms.”<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the Subcommittee recommended, and the Professionalism and Ethics Committee of the RPPTL Section unanimously voted, that the Z words should be removed from The Florida Bar Rules of Professional Conduct, Chapter 4 Preamble, and Rule 4-1.3 Comment and replaced with proposed language drafted by the Subcommittee.

In support of their recommendation, the Subcommittee cited to a plethora of Florida case law, including *The Florida Bar v.*

*Buckle*, 771 SO. 2d 1131 (Fla. 2000) in which the Court held that a lawyer’s obligation of zealous representation should not and cannot be transformed into a vehicle intent upon harassment and intimidation. Moreover, the Court found that “we must never permit a cloak of purported zealous advocacy to conceal unethical behavior.” *Id.*

The Subcommittee’s proposed language, in part, is as follows (strikethrough for removed language, underline for added language):

Chapter 4. Preamble - As an advocate, a lawyer ~~zealously~~ zealously asserts the client’s position with commitment and dedication to the interest of the client under the rules of the adversary system.

~~Zealous~~ Commitment and dedication in advocacy is are not inconsistent with justice.

Comment to Rule 4-1.3 Diligence – A lawyer must also act with commitment and dedication to the interests of the client ~~and with zeal in advocacy upon the client’s behalf.~~

These proposed changes were read to the RPPTL Executive Council for informational purposes and are set to be voted on for approval at the next Board of Governors meeting in May. For more information, I encourage our members to read the Florida Bar Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section Professionalism & Ethics Committee Whitepaper: Subcommittee, Review of Words “Zealously”, “Zealous” and “Zeal” in the Florida Bar Rules of Professional Conduct Preamble to Chapter 4 and Comment to Rule 4-1.3, January 18, 2023 as well as the June 08, 2022 Florida Bar News article, “Do “Z” Words Belong in Bar Rules?” by Jim Ash, Senior Editor.

<sup>1</sup>The Florida Bar Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section Professionalism & Ethics Committee Whitepaper: Subcommittee, Review of Words “Zealously”, “Zealous” and “Zeal” in the Florida Bar Rules of Professional Conduct Preamble to Chapter 4 and Comment to Rule 4-1.3, January 18, 2023.

# Representing the Traumatized Client



Patrick Barnes, Esq.  
MCBA YLD President Elect



Michael Barnes  
Ph.D., LAC, LPC

Does this sound familiar? You have a client that never calls you back, does not do what you ask, is constantly on edge when speaking with you, insists on controlling the conversation, and second guesses everything you say.

Before you identify this client as “difficult,” dreading each phone call or interaction with them, consider whether the traumatic event that brought the client to you is affecting their behavior.

Every lawyer has likely interacted with a traumatized client more often than they think, especially in legal fields prone to cases stemming from traumatic events like a car crash, domestic abuse, sexual assault, or military service. Clients also may be dealing with traumatic events from their past that they have not completely resolved, or worse yet, a compounding of prior trauma with the events that brought them to your office.

Identifying symptoms of trauma in a client is crucial for your relationship with your client, but also to protect the mental health of the lawyer and their staff. The following are a few common symptoms attorneys may regularly see in their clients.

The first is memory alteration.<sup>1</sup> Based on the biology of how the brain recalls a traumatic event, memories are not stored as a linear story, but instead in fragments. Over the course of time, as the person tells the story multiple times, new insights will emerge and the story will change. This can pose a huge challenge when a client is required to testify at different stages of the legal proceedings. Clients’ face attacks for a story that changes and get called an inaccurate historian, causing issues for the case. Instead of writing off the case, consider using a mental health expert to explain to opposing counsel or to a jury how the brain stores traumatic memory.

Next is behavior avoidance.<sup>2</sup> Lawyers often ask, “Why did this person hire a lawyer if they’re not going to do what I ask?” Lawyers must understand that traumatized clients will avoid activities, people, and places associated with the trauma they sustained. Avoidance behavior explains many of the issues lawyers run into with “difficult” clients such as clients not returning phone calls, not turning in discovery answers on time, or being less than thrilled to attend events related to the case. They’re trying to avoid re-traumatization!

The last symptoms is an exaggerated startle response, agitation, hyperarousal and reactivity.<sup>3</sup> Some clients appear to constantly be on edge, angry, or quick to argue or question your decision

<sup>1</sup> Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders: DSM-5, CBS Publishers & Distributors, Pvt. Ltd., 2017

<sup>2</sup> Id.

<sup>3</sup> Id.

making, in an effort to deal with the trauma they experienced and to prevent future traumas, clients will be hypervigilant, and the more aware of this an attorney (and their staff) can be, the more the attorney can alter the way they interact and react to the client. A little forethought can make a huge impact on client comfort.

A term that is being used across the United States, and beyond, is “trauma-informed legal practice.” This term has evolved from other helping professions, education, medical, and dental practices. It stems from the growing awareness that any client can seek assistance in your practice, and the likelihood of that individual having experienced a trauma is beyond chance. It supposes that legal practitioners should assume that new clients have experienced trauma of some kind and will have a high likelihood of being overwhelmed by the legal process.

From this perspective, attorneys no longer change their procedures for carrying out a case for a traumatized client. They define a set of trauma-informed practices that are appropriate for all clients, and that meet the specific needs of those clients experiencing significant trauma related symptoms (see above).

When developing new “Trauma-Informed Procedures” it is important to remember that a law firm can be unfamiliar territory for all clients. It can be especially unfamiliar for a client who is attempting to regulate their emotions after dealing with a trauma. Further, they’re coming to discuss a difficult situation they’ve experienced. Prior to interacting with the client, whether by phone or in person, attorneys should stay present and mindful of the client’s situation during the conversation. Be aware that hypervigilance is a defense mechanism the client uses because of an impaired sense of safety.<sup>4</sup>

This sounds simple, but if a hypervigilant client has called for the third time this week and the attorney is juggling multiple responsibilities, mindfulness can quickly go out the window. For that reason, ensure you have enough time to communicate with the client fully and thoroughly. Stay patient in knowing you need to walk the client through the process. The more comfortable they are with you, the more effective your representation will be.

In preparing the client for adversarial events in the case, such as a deposition or a defense medical examination, plan to prepare the client thoroughly. Set the scene of the event: Who will be there? How long will it last? What will it entail? What type of questions will be asked? And what should they do if they feel themselves becoming anxious or angry. The more prepared you can make a client, hopefully, the more comfortable they will be during the event.

Representing clients who elicit trauma symptoms can be draining. In an effort to avoid burnout, which can prevent a reasonable attorney from practicing patience and empathy, attorneys and their staff need to practice self-care. Compassion Fatigue is the name given to a lawyer’s growing exhaustion and disillusionment, during times of burnout and client related stress. For more information on Compassion Fatigue in the legal profession, please see our *Inter Alia* article from November/December, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Kimble MO, Fleming K, Bennion KA. Contributors to hypervigilance in a military and civilian sample. J Interpers Violence. 2013;28(8):1672-92. doi:10.1177/0886260512468319

## Welcome New Members

### Jeff Canup, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2006  
Firm: Hope Family Services, Inc.  
Area(s) of Practice: Family Law

### Adam B. Cooke, Esq.

University of Miami  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2003  
Firm: Fowler, White, Burnett, PA  
Area(s) of Practice: Admiralty & Maritime Law,  
Civil Litigation, Litigation

### David J. DelFiandra, Esq.

Duquesne Law School  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2018  
Firm: Leech Tishman  
Area(s) of Practice: Wills, Trusts & Estates,  
Estate Planning, Probate & Trust Litigation

### Rachel L. Harman, Esq.

University of Florida  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2020  
Firm: Najmy Thompson, PL  
Area(s) of Practice: Commercial Litigation,  
Consumer Law, Family Law

### Stephen R. Josephik, Esq.

University of Florida  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2018  
Firm: Grimes Galvano

### E. Rose Kasweck, Esq.

University of Florida  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2013  
Firm: Hale Law  
Area(s) of Practice: Personal Injury,  
Medical Malpractice, Insurance

### Neil T. Lyons, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2011  
Firm: Luhrs Goldberg, LLC  
Area(s) of Practice: Guardianship, Wills,  
Trusts & Estates, Estate Planning

### Michelangelo Mortellaro, Esq.

Florida International University  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2007  
Firm: Mortellaro Law  
Area(s) of Practice: Elder Law, Estate Planning,  
Probate & Trust Litigation

### Julie Ann Podolsky, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2015  
Firm: Hope Family Services  
Area(s) of Practice: Family Law

### Elyssa Harvey Tenenblatt, Esq.

WMU Thomas Cooley  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2015  
Firm: Holland Law Group  
Area(s) of Practice: Bankruptcy

## MCBA & YLD DONATE TO CAPTAINS FOR CLEAN WATER!



MCBA President Elect Aaron Crittenden, YLD Director Kari Martin, Captains for Clean Water Representative Morgan Denofa and YLD President Grace Reeves

Recently, the MCBA Young Lawyers Division presented Captains for Clean Water with a donation to support its hurricane relief efforts in southwest Florida. The funds were raised during the association's annual Holiday Party when raffle tickets were sold. Way to go, YLD and all who participated.

## Mediation | Arbitration



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## DANA J. WATTS

BOARD CERTIFIED CIVIL TRIAL LAWYER  
CERTIFIED CIRCUIT COURT MEDIATOR

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Dana.Watts@uswdlaw.com

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**MCBA**

**2023 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY IS HERE!  
Members Receive ONE Complimentary Copy!**

Pick up dates at the MCBA office inside the MCJC  
on Wed. March 15th or Tuesday, March 21st, from 11 am - 3 pm

Attendees at the February General Membership Luncheon received their copies of the new, 2023 MCBA Membership Directory & Resource Guide! The newest guide was received with great excitement and enthusiasm. The guide is complimentary for all MCBA members and can be picked up at the MCBA office on the following days:

**Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 11 am – 3 pm**

And

**Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 11 am – 3 pm**

Please make your arrangements to stop by or send your courier!  
Email Graceann Frederico with any questions at: [mcba@manateebar.com](mailto:mcba@manateebar.com)

MANATEE F.A.W.L.

*Spa & Wellness Day*

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FRIDAY 31 MARCH	2023	AT HALF PAST NOON
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Please RSVP by 22 MARCH TO [fawlmanatee@gmail.com](mailto:fawlmanatee@gmail.com) that you plan to attend Lunch and Yoga and submit payment in the amount of \$35.00 as follows: <https://secure.affinipay.com/pages/manateefawl/payments>

\*Reserve your 60 MINUTE MASSAGE FOR \$100. Reservations are first come first serve and may be made by 22 March by contacting ALLIE @ (941)518-2710 or AllisonSpiegelLMT@gmail.com. Payment will be made directly with Allie.

## *Judge Charles Williams Honored at Path to Unity Event*



On January 26, 2023, Judge Charles Williams served as the master of ceremonies at the Path To Unity luncheon at Michael's On East in Sarasota. At the end of the luncheon, the Sarasota Bar Association's Council for Diversity and Inclusion surprised Judge Williams by formally recognizing his work as a trailblazer and supporter of diversity throughout the law. Charlie Ann Syprett, past chair of the Florida Bar's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, presented Judge Williams with his portrait which will be hung in the Judge Lynn N. Silvertooth Judicial Center in Sarasota. Pictured are: Fred G. Minnis Bar Association President Karmika Rubin, Judge Charles Williams, Karimu Hill-Harvey, Forest Sutton, Nerriza Miyamoto, and Judge Michael Nelson.

### **12th Circuit FAMILY COURT Town Hall**

There will be a 12th Circuit Family Court Town Hall meeting on ZOOM!  
Judges Moreland and Dees will be updating attendees on various topics  
such as division changes, court updates, interpreter cases, GALS training, Q&A and more!

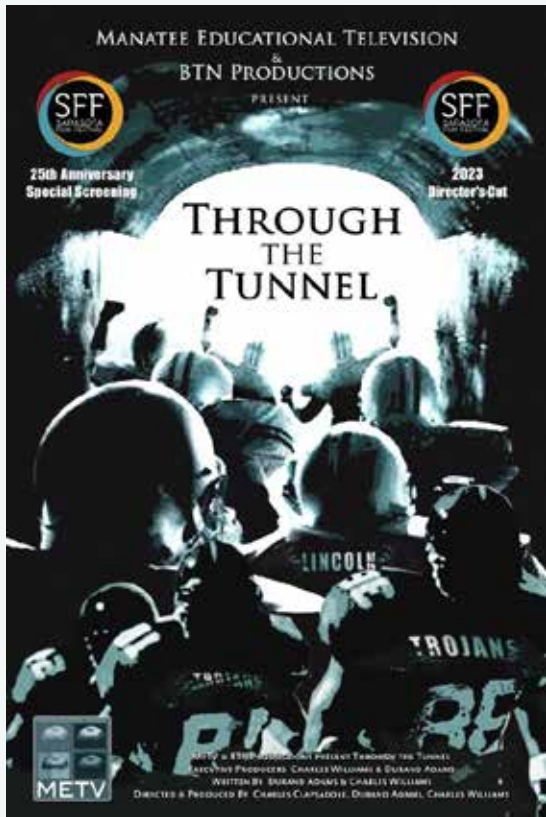
**Family Town Hall**  
**March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 12:00 pm via ZOOM**  
**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/98429624530?pwd=TFZGeTNLa08xYUN4SVJETWo2OXBkdz09>

**Meeting ID: 984 2962 4530 • Passcode: 460200**



## “Through the Tunnel” at Sarasota Film Festival!



Manatee Educational Television (METV) is proud to announce that the Sarasota Film Festival has selected METV’s documentary *Through the Tunnel* to be part of this year’s festival as part of a special event. At this time the screening of *Through the Tunnel*, produced and directed by Judge Charles Williams, Judge Durand Adams (Ret.) and Charles Clapsaddle of METV is scheduled for Saturday, April 1st at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium. The SFF is still working on the time, but it will be either a 4pm or 6pm start time. Tickets go on sale Tuesday, March 14th and are available from the SFF website, [www.sarasotafilmfestival.com](http://www.sarasotafilmfestival.com).

## February General Membership Luncheon Was "OUT OF THIS WORLD"!

The association welcomed Christopher Stott of Lonestar Data Holdings, Inc. at it’s February Luncheon. Stott gave a stellar presentation regarding the new frontier of “Space Law” and the understanding of the topic as the nations of the world expand into outer space. Stott touched on mining, regulations, permits, admiralty law, Space Force and much more! The Second DCA was also in attendance and Judge Daniel Sleet updated attendees regarding the new courthouse and upcoming changes. The 2<sup>nd</sup> DCA was in town to hear Oral Arguments at the Manatee County Judicial Center.

Space Law - Perhaps Star Trek and The Jetsons were somewhat prophetic? We shall see!



*Christopher Stott giving Space Law presentation*



*Space Law Graphic*



*Christopher Stott, 2<sup>nd</sup> DCA Judge Suzanne Labrit, 2<sup>nd</sup> DCA Judge Susan Rothstein Youakim, MCBA President Faith Brown, and MCBA Past President Stephen Dye*

## THERE ARE NEW AMENDED JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS!

To view them, visit the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit website at:  
<https://www.jud12.flcourts.org/Portals/0/AdminOrders/Section04/2023-1.4.pdf?ver=w62bLtdW-rZ48YZRL7tLRw%3d%3d>



## Manatee Clerk of Court Announces 2023 Operation Green Light Event dates to Help Customers Save on Fees to Reinstate Driver Licenses

**March 1, 2023**

The Office of Angelina “Angel” Colonnese, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller for Manatee County is hosting its annual Operation Green Light event for two Saturdays in March. This in person event will take place on Saturday, March 11, 2023 and Saturday, March 25, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Since 2016, beginning with Driver License Reinstatement Days, the Clerk’s office has helped hundreds of customers become eligible for driver license reinstatement.

“Operation Green Light is not just about getting your license back, it’s about taking control of your future,” said Angel Colonnese, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller for Manatee County. “With a valid driver’s license, you have more time, more freedom, and more opportunity. Which is why we are proud to host this event every year. I encourage people to take advantage of this event to get back on the road again.”

### Event Details

This upcoming event is an opportunity for Manatee County customers with suspended driver licenses to pay overdue court obligations, including traffic tickets, while saving up to 30 percent in collection agency fees.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)’s FLOW bus will be on-site offering license reinstatement assistance.

### What Customers Need to Know

For customers interested in setting up a payment plan, pursuant to F.S. 28.246 a down payment of up to \$100 is required, in addition to a \$25 charge to establish a payment plan, plus any clearance fees.

Only customers who did not participate in the 2022 Operation Green Light event are eligible to participate this year.

Customers need to bring with them their driver license and case numbers, if they have it, and cash or a credit card for payment. A 3.5% non-refundable processing fee will be added to each credit card transaction.

This is a walk-in event and appointments are not required.

Call the Clerk’s Traffic department at (941) 741-4060 or the Financial Recovery department at (941) 741-4067 for event questions.

## YLD HOSTS JAVA WITH THE JUDGES 2023

In February, the Young Lawyers Division hosted its annual Java with the Judges event at the MCJC!

Over 50 attendees stopped by to enjoy a cup of Joe with visiting members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> DCA and members of our local judiciary. Special thanks to Grace Reeves, YLD President whose firm, Herman & Wells underwrote the event.

## Vintage Attorneys Celebrate!

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, aka Groundhogs Day, the vintage attorneys of the MCBA gathered together for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship! Over 50 attendees, over the age of...you guessed it...50 years old, gathered at Kiwanis Hall. DJ James Lynch was on deck spinning tunes and scrolled slides of memories that he, Executive Director Graceann Frederico, and Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr. gathered for the event. Stories were told, lots of laughs were had, and friends reconnected. All in all, a fantastic evening! Special thanks to Kim Bald, committee chair of the event and the Vintage Attorney Committee for all of their hard work in planning the event. Also, special thanks to the following sponsoring firms:

Harlee & Bald, P.A.

Lutz, Bobo & Telfair, P.A.

Najmy Thompson, PL

Dye, Harrison, Kirkland, Petruff & Pratt, PLLC

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Blalock Walters, P.A.

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# JOB POSTINGS:

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2400 Manatee Avenue West  
 Bradenton, FL 34205  
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Bradenton based law firm is seeking a full-time Legal Assistant with a minimum 5 years' experience in Civil Litigation focusing on Construction Defect and Premises Liability. Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills, organizational skills, and proficiency in Word, Adobe, Outlook, and Case Management Software. Salary is commensurate with experience and benefits are provided. Please email resume to [belinda@hamiltonpricelaw.com](mailto:belinda@hamiltonpricelaw.com).

## Persson, Cohen, Mooney, Fernandez & Jackson, P.A.

Persson, Cohen, Mooney, Fernandez & Jackson, P.A., a local government law firm located in Lakewood Ranch and Venice, seeks an attorney to join its expanding local government practice. The ideal candidate will have a demonstrated interest in local government law, strong oral and written communication skills, a willingness to engage in regional travel (Southwest Florida) and attend public evening meetings, and some litigation experience. Applicants must be members of the Florida Bar. This position provides an excellent opportunity for professional growth. Although the position will be based in the Venice office, the firm provides a family-friendly, flexible work environment. Competitive salary and benefits provided. More information about the firm can be found at [www.flgovlaw.com](http://www.flgovlaw.com). Please submit a letter of interest and resume to [mkiepert@flgovlaw.com](mailto:mkiepert@flgovlaw.com).

## Legal Assistant/Paralegal

Self-starting, detail-oriented individual with strong communication, organizational and MS Word & Excel skills needed for law office as an assistant for business litigators. Paralegal certification preferred. Experience with the Rules of Civil Procedure, document and file management, case intake, attorney time entry, and fee billing desired. Salary commensurate with experience. Email resumes to Cyndi Coey at [Barnes Walker, Goethe, Perron, Shea & Robinson, PLLC, ccoey@barneswalker.com](mailto:Barnes Walker, Goethe, Perron, Shea & Robinson, PLLC, ccoey@barneswalker.com).

## Social Security Disability/Workers' Compensation Attorney Wanted

AV Rated law firm seeks associate position. Candidate does not need prior experience, we will train. You must live in the Sarasota/Bradenton area or be willing to relocate. You will also be expected to network by attending community and legal events. Please, submit resume to [ccarlson@carlsonmeissner.com](mailto:ccarlson@carlsonmeissner.com)

# MCBA MEMBERS OUT & ABOUT!



MCBA Director Brian Iten and Judge Gilbert Smith at Merit Badge Day at Camp Flying Eagle on February 4, 2023. Despite the cold and windy weather, Brian and Judge Smith gave instruction on the Law Merit Badge. Also instructing were Sheriff Rick Wells and Representative Tommy Gregory.



Recently, MCBA Members Steele Williams and Florida Bar President Elect Scott Westheimer were seen at "A Supreme Evening 2023" at the FSU Dunlap Champions Club in Tallahassee, Florida. Pictured are: MCBA Past President Steele Williams, The Florida Bar President Elect Scott Westheimer and Granville E. Petrie, who was admitted into the Bar in 1972.






# March 2023 Membership Luncheon

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

**APPROVED FOR 1 TECH CLE CREDIT**

**Wednesday, March 29, 2023**  
**Manatee Performing Arts Center- Kiwanis Hall**  
**11:45 Lunch, Noon Meeting Start**



### Steven 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. It was there, that Steven led many group discussions and trainings on proper investigative techniques and working together for offender accountability. Now as part of the Our Family Wizard professional team, Steven further promotes the empowerment and healthy communication between separated and divorced parents via technology. 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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 Bradenton, FL 34209

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

- 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



- 1-Mar-23..... MCBA BOD Meeting
- 8-Mar-23..... MCBA YLD Meeting
- 14-Mar-23 .....Free Online TECH CLE
- 20-Mar-23 ..... 12th Circuit Town Hall
- 22-Mar-23 ..... 12th Circuit Litigator /Mediator Forum
- 24-Mar-23 .....Investiture of Guy Flowers
- 29-Mar-23 .....MCBA Membership Luncheon
- 5-Apr-23 ..... MCBA BOD Meeting
- 7-Apr-23 ..... Good Friday Clerk/Office Closed
- 12-Apr-23 ..... MCBA YLD BOD Meeting
- 14-Apr-23 .....Attorney Ad Litem Seminar CLE
- 3-May-23 ..... MCBA BOD Meeting
- 5-May-23 ..... 12th BENCH BAR Conference
- 10-May-23 ..... MCBA YLD BOD Meeting
- 12-May-23 ..... MCBA Annual Beach Party Social
- 29-May-23 .....Memorial Day Clerk Closed
- 31-May-23 ..... Law Day Luncheon
- 7-June 2023 ..... MCBA BOD Meeting
- 14-Jun-23 ..... MCBA YLD BOD Meeting
- 19-Jun-23 .....Juneteenth – Clerk Closed
- 28-Jun-23 .....MCBA Annual Meeting Luncheon

THANK YOU!

### ANNUAL SPONSORS OF THE MCBA!

We appreciate our sponsors!

# SAVE THE DATE!

## MCBA BEACH PARTY

Friday, May 12th, 2023  
 5:30 - til  
 More Details to Come!

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

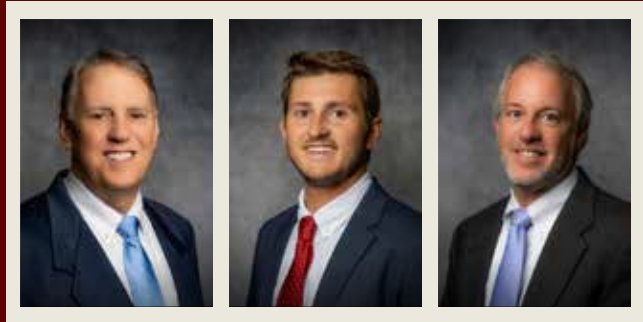
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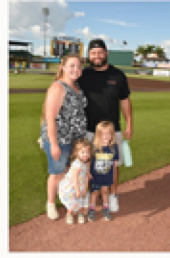


All of the awards above that our firm has attained are non-tested. Board certification is significantly more difficult to achieve than any of the above.

Steven Heintz is in the less than 1% of Florida lawyers that are board certified by the Florida Bar. Less than 1/2 of 1% are board certified by the National Board. Steve is certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy







## MCBA YOUNG LAWYERS NIGHT!

Thursday, April 20th, 2023  
6:30 Start | 5:30 Gates Open

The Marauders are excited to host the Young Lawyers Division of the Manatee County Bar Association on April 20th, 2023, as the Bradenton Marauders take on the Daytona Tortugas at 6:30 PM at LECOM Park.

### FREE for MCBA YLD MEMBERS ONLY!

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- Fellow, American College of Trust and Estate Counsel
- Past President, Manatee County Bar Association
- Member, The Florida Bar Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration Committee
- J.D., The University of Tennessee College of Law




**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
- Judge, Manatee County Teen Court
- JD, Stetson University College of Law



**Kevin M. Colver, Esq.**

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- Member, Manatee County Bar Association
- LL.M., Taxation, University of Florida



**Brooks R. Fusselman, Esq.**

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 Webinar providing tips and trends for lawyers growing their practice with information on how law practices can focus on client experience and utilizing digital technologies to set themselves up for success.

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Note: Event is being held on ZOOM. Register to receive the Zoom link prior to the event.


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**About The Presenter:**  
 Sarah Allen is the Partner Account Manager at Ruby, the US-based live virtual receptionist and chat specialist company that creates meaningful human connections to help small businesses grow. Ruby delivers personalized client service to help lawyers book new clients and strengthen existing client relationships. Sarah works with 50+ Bar Associations, as well as other industry organizations & thought leaders, to help law firms grow their practices.

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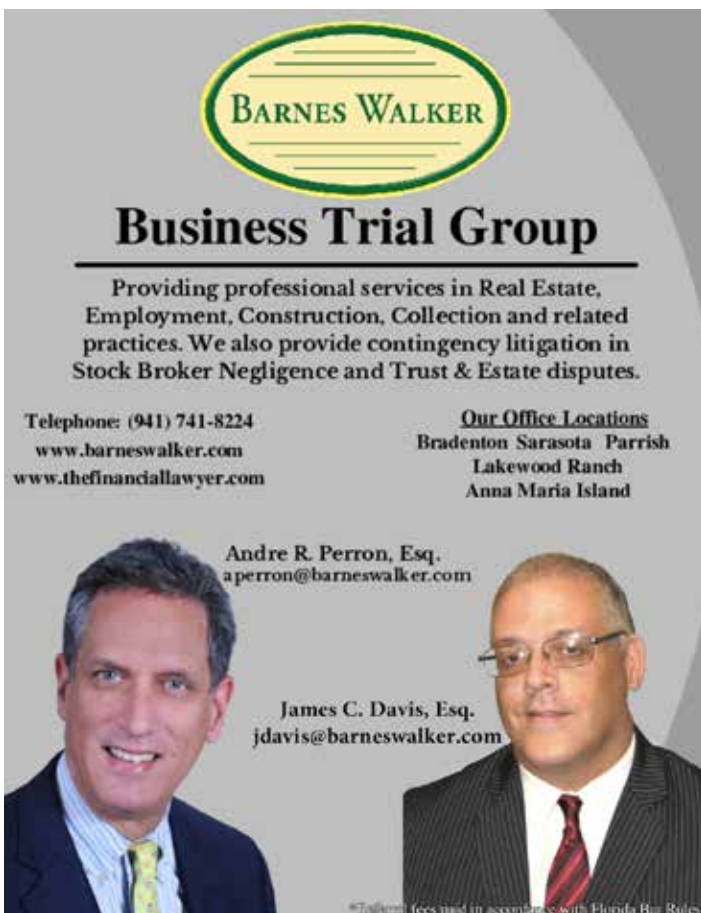
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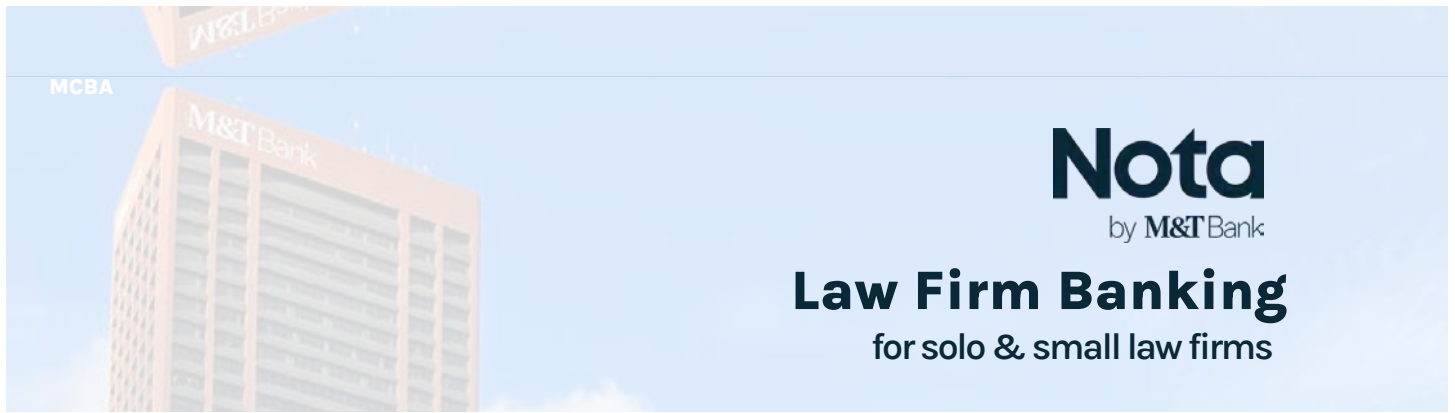
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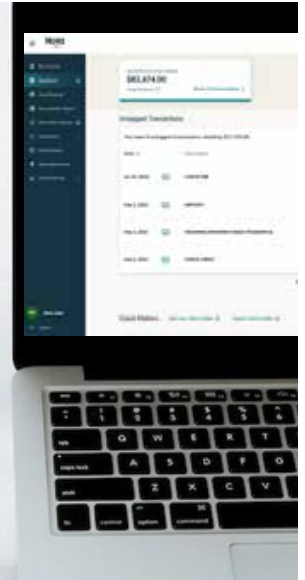
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## CONFERENCE AGENDA

7:45 - 9:00 am • Registration & Breakfast  
 9:00 - 9:15 am • Welcme & Opening Remarks

### *Breakout Session 1* 9:30 - 10:30 am

- 1 **Mental Capacity in Estate Planning**  
 Judge Charles Williams, Barbara Welch, Ed Boyer, David Payne
- 2 **Effective Use of the Offer of Judgment Statute/ Proposal for Settlement Rule**  
 Judge Daniel Sleet (2d DCA), Judge Andrea Teves Smith (2d DCA), Andrea Johnson
- 3 **Effective Mediations in a Digital World**  
 Harold Oehler, Retired Judge Scott Brownell, Gary Larsen
- 4 **Writ of Certiorari for Non-Final Orders**  
 David Wallace, Judge Edward LaRose (2d DCA), Judge Susan Rothstein-Youakim (2d DCA)
- 5 **Compassion Fatigue and Trauma-Informed Legal Practice**  
 Dr. Michael Barnes, Patrick Barnes

10:30 - 10:45 am • Networking Break

### *Breakout Session 2* 10:45 - 11:45 am

- 1 **Civil Case Law Update – A Year in Review**  
 Manny Farach
- 2 **Collaborative Law and Its Future in Civil Practice**  
 Sharon O'Day, Cady Huss
- 3 **Evidentiary Tips and Practices**  
 Judge Sleet (2d DCA), Judge Rothstein-Youakim (2d DCA), Judge Andrea McHugh, Judge Matt Whyte
- 4 **Protections Against Cyber Fraud**  
 Steven Teppler, Adam Sharp

11:45 am - 12:00 pm • Networking Break

### *Lunch* 12:00 - 1:10 pm



*Keynote Speaker*

**David Houle, The Futurist**

1:10 - 1:30 pm • Networking Break

### *Breakout Session 3* 1:30 - 2:20 pm

**Practicing with Technology in a New World**  
 Judge Hunter Carroll (Moderator), Ilyas Sayeg, Steven Teppler, Doug Cherry

2:20 - 2:30 pm • Networking Break

### *Judicial Panel* 2:30 - 4:00 pm

**Updates from the Bench**

- Judge Phyllis Galen
- Judge Renee Inman
- Judge Robert Morris (2d DCA)
- Judge Dana Moss
- Judge Maria Ruhl
- Judge Charles Sniffen
- Judge Stephen Walker

4:00 - 5:30 pm • *Social*



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**Early Bird Registration Deadline: April 14, 2023**  
Enter early and be entered to win free admission to the Conference (refunds processed after event)

**Standard Registration Deadline: April 27, 2023**

- SCBA/MCBA Members \$130.00
- Non-members \$160.00
- YLD Members \$100.00
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**Please indicate which sessions you are attending:**

- Breakout Session 1: 9:30-10:30 am (select one)
  - 1. Mental Capacity in Estate Planning
  - 2. Effective Use of the Offer of Judgment Statute/Proposal for Settlement Rule
  - 3. Effective Mediations in a Digital World
  - 4. Writ of Certiorari for Non-Final Orders
  - 5. Compassion Fatigue and Trauma-Informed Legal Practice
- Breakout Session 2: 10:45-11:45 am (select one)
  - 1. Civil Case Law Update – A Year in Review
  - 2. Collaborative Law and Its Future in Civil Practice
  - 3. Evidentiary Tips and Practices
  - 4. Protections Against Cyber Fraud
- Breakout Session 3: Practicing with Technology in a New World - 1:30-2:20 pm
  - I will attend
  - I will not attend
- Judicial Panel: 2:30-4:00 pm
  - I will attend
  - I will not attend
- Networking Social: 4:00-5:30 pm
  - I will attend
  - I will not attend

Please check here if you have a disability that may require special attention or services. To ensure availability of appropriate accommodations, attach a general description of your needs. We will contact you for further coordination.

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