



# INTER ALIA

JUNE 2023

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



## Looking Ahead: MCBA New Policy and Procedure

*By Faith Z. Brown, MCBA President and Aaron B. Crittenden, MCBA President Elect*

As the 2022-2023 MCBA term draws to a close and the 2023-2024 term commences, both the outgoing and incoming President of the Manatee County Bar Association feel it is our duty to respond to the reactions received from the article titled “Diversity 2.0” which appeared in the May 2023 edition of the Inter Alia. Much like the current news and political climate we find ourselves living in, the article was polarizing and garnered mixed feedback. Some members have responded with praise to the article, while others have responded with



distaste and even terminated their memberships.

To correct an oversight from prior Inter Alias, it is important for the MCBA membership to know that the views and opinions expressed in Diversity 2.0, as well as in every Inter Alia article that has been published, are solely those of its respective author(s) and do not reflect the views or opinions of the MCBA as an entity or its Board of Directors. Going forward, this disclaimer will run with each Inter Alia issue. Moreover, the MCBA is committed to increasing and promoting diversity within our organization, the legal profession, and in the justice system, and affirms its commitment toward a diverse and inclusive environment.

Additionally, upon review, it became apparent that the MCBA did not have a policy in place that governs the Inter Alia publication. The MCBA does not have an editor and the prior Inter Alia issues were not reviewed by any member of the Board before publication. This has also been corrected.

We want to confirm that the Manatee County Bar Association does and should serve all of its members and should remain neutral and apolitical. Historically, the Inter Alia has been a publication dedicated to providing MCBA members with, among other things, updates from the legal profession, analysis on substantive changes in case law and Florida Statutes, community outreach and pro bono opportunities, and MCBA event recaps/reviews. Contrary to the national news landscape, the Inter Alia was/is one of the few places that members could read articles that did not take a position on hot button topics of the day. And while everyone is entitled to their own

opinion, the Inter Alia has never been the forum to express those opinions, especially when concerning controversial political, social, and/or religious topics. As a Board of Directors, by and through the Inter Alia publication, it is not our job or right to tell others what to believe or what position to take on any given subject. To that end, and consistent with the overall purpose of the Inter Alia, the Board has spent significant time meeting to establish a set of criteria that will govern the publication of all articles submitted by members of this Association. The recently approved criteria are as follows:

### SUBMISSION CRITERIA FOR INTER ALIA:

1. The content must be based on issues and concerns and/or interest relevant to the Manatee County Bar Community that applies to the profession of law.
2. The content cannot disparage members, judges, the Courts, or the profession of law as a whole.
3. The content cannot raise social, religious or political issues that are arguably offensive to a contrarian viewpoint.
4. The article cannot exceed 1000 words and must be grammatically correct.
5. The article must be submitted no later than 30 days before the publication date.
6. The content must be consistent with the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar – Rules of Professional Conduct.
7. Except for paid sponsors of the MCBA, the content cannot be a vehicle for personal promotion, advertisement, or other form of financial gain.
8. The Immediate Past President or President (or their designee from the Board of Directors) shall review all article submissions prior to publication of each Inter Alia to ensure compliance with these criteria. In the event that an article is thought to be noncompliant upon review, the article will be submitted to the entire Board of Directors for a vote on its approval or disapproval for publication.

We will continue to be an organization of the members and for the members. We sincerely appreciate each and every member of this voluntary bar and we look forward to seeing you at our future events and staying engaged with you on all topics concerning the Manatee County Bar Association.

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# **NURTURING SUCCESS:** **Healthy Mentorship for New Lawyers**

By Patrick Iyampillai, Esq. YLD President Elect



As I reflect on my journey as a five-year lawyer, I cannot emphasize enough the power of mentorship and healthy coping mechanisms in shaping my career. The legal profession is a complex and challenging field, filled with many uncertainties and hurdles for new practitioners. Fortunately, I had the privilege of finding a mentor who not only guided me but instilled in me the confidence and resilience of an experienced attorney who perseveres despite all obstacles thrown in their way. Through this article, I will explore the importance of lawyers mentoring new practitioners, the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse, and the significance of healthy coping mechanisms for managing stress and avoiding mental breakdowns that can benefit a young lawyer throughout their entire career.

## **Nurturing Professional Development:**

Having a mentor during the early years of legal practice is invaluable. While law schools equip us with legal knowledge, the practical application of that knowledge often comes to be learned on the job. Mentors bridge this gap by providing guidance, sharing practical insights, and helping us to develop essential skills like real-world (as opposed to law school-world) legal research, writing, negotiation, argument, and client management. Thanks to my mentor, I gained confidence in navigating the challenges of the personal injury legal landscape, setting a strong foundation for my professional growth. While I found my colleagues at my first firm to be ideal mentors, I also suggest looking for one outside of your firm in The Florida Bar's mentorship programs, American Inns of Court, Manatee County Bar Association events, and even through lawyer social media channels.

## **Ethical and Professional Guidance:**

Ethical conduct lies at the heart of our profession. As new lawyers, we often face ethical dilemmas and unfamiliar situations where sound judgment is crucial. My mentor played a pivotal role in imparting the ethical principles of The Florida Bar, emphasizing professional responsibility, and discussing the importance of ethics over winning. By sharing personal experiences, my mentor helped me develop a strong ethical foundation, which is vital for maintaining the reputation and trustworthiness of the legal profession. A young lawyer should always remember your reputation follows you throughout your legal career, that the legal community is a small one, and the practice of law is a privilege that can be taken away.

## **Building Confidence and Resilience:**

The early years of legal practice can be overwhelming and discouraging. Heavy workloads, high client and supervisor expectations, and the complexities of practice in the courtroom can lead to self-doubt and stress. Fortunately, my mentor provided a reliable source of encouragement, instilling confidence and resilience within me. By sharing his own experiences of overcoming challenges, my mentor inspired me to persevere and grow, fostering mental fortitude and preventing burnout.

Additionally, it is essential to address the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse within our field. The demanding nature of legal practice, coupled with high levels of stress and pressure, can lead a lot of lawyers astray. I am grateful to my mentor for highlighting the risks and encouraging healthy coping mechanisms. Alcohol and substance abuse not only jeopardize our physical and mental well-being but also our ability to provide competent and ethical legal representation.

To combat these challenges, my mentor promoted healthy coping mechanisms. He encouraged a supportive work-life balance, mindfulness and meditation techniques, and prioritizing self-care to manage stress and avoid burnout. Taking breaks, pursuing hobbies, and maintaining meaningful relationships have become integral parts of my life, allowing me to thrive both personally and professionally.

## **Networking and Career Advancement:**

Mentors serve as valuable connectors, opening doors to professional opportunities and networks that new lawyers might not otherwise have access to. Through my mentor's established relationships within the legal community, I was introduced to influential individuals, recommended for job openings, and received guidance on other areas of the law that I had not considered before. This networking support enhanced my professional visibility and helped me move firms when I needed to. I highly recommend all lawyers attend as many networking events as they can, not only to meet potential mentors and find new career opportunities, but also to speak with colleagues about what they are going through in the practice of law too. We are all in this together.

## **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, while the legal profession can be demanding and stressful, it is crucial to establish a supportive community within the legal profession that can provide an invaluable source of encouragement and understanding. Peer groups such as Inns of Court and bar associations, mental health resources within these groups like the Florida Lawyers Assistance Program, and various wellness initiatives foster a culture that prioritizes well-being and encourages open discussions about the challenges lawyers face. By creating an environment where seeking help and support is normalized, the legal community and mentors within can better address the issues of stress, anxiety, and mental health struggles that can arise in the practice of law, for new lawyers and beyond. Together, we can cultivate a legal community that thrives on resilience, well-being, and a commitment to ethical practice, ensuring a brighter and healthier future for all legal professionals.

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# Welcome New Members

**Patrick Hale, Esq.**

Stetson University College of Law, 2014  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2014  
Firm: Hale Law  
Area(s) of Practice: Personal Injury

**Matthew Furey Liebert, Esq.**

Notre Dame Law School, 2013  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2022  
Firm: Anderson, Rasor & Partners  
Area(s) of Practice: Medical Malpractice,  
Personal Injury, Civil Litigation

**Chadwick Manausa, Esq.**

Stetson University College of Law, 2022  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2022  
Firm: Grimes, Hawkins, Gladfelter & Galvano, PL  
Area(s) of Practice: Civil Litigation Business Law,  
Real Estate/Land Development

**Joshuah C. Miller, Esq.**

University of Florida, 2021  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2022  
Firm: The Moriarty Law Firm, PA  
Area(s) of Practice:  
Estate Planning, Wills/Trusts/Estates, Tax Law

**Albert A. Sanchez, Esq.**

University of Florida, 1978  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 1979  
Firm: Sanchez Law, PLLC  
Area(s) of Practice: Commercial Litigation,  
Construction Law, Business Law



**IT'S TIME TO  
RENEW  
MCBA DUES!**

July 1, 2023

Renew now at  
[www.manateebar.com](http://www.manateebar.com)



## It's Time to Renew!

Please watch your email this month as your Dues Renewal Form will be arriving soon! However, if you would like to use the form included in this issue, please complete and return it as indicated on the form.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Your dues include your lunch at our General Membership Meetings

Your tickets to our Holiday Party

Your tickets to our Spring Beach Party

Ability to attend exclusive CLEs, both in person and online? Many for FREE!

Entry to other events such as many YLD events, "Vintage Attorney", baseball games, events and more!

Free listing in our Online Attorney Directory!

And much more!

ENJOY 50% OFF YOUR BOOKING



Meeting room options of all shapes & sizes, for all needs and purposes.

From board meetings to client meetings, team meetings to classes.

Request and manage bookings online with real-time availability.

WHERE YOU -AND YOUR BUSINESS- BELONG

941.822.8722 | info@myconnectcentral.com

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



## LAW DAY 2023: *They Myakka Gold Story.....Unrolled!*

In one of our most highly attended Law Day events yet, members and guests arrived at Kiwanis Hall to hear the story of Donnie Clark. Donnie, somewhat of a home grown folk-legend in our area, attended the luncheon with his long-time girlfriend Sonya and former wife Cande Clark. Down to earth, in sportsman attire, Donnie in his humble demeanor smiled from ear-to-ear as his story was told.

As Nelon Kirkland, host of the event, set the stage – complete with props and a song list from the 1970s, Donnie’s story came to life beginning at 12:15 pm. A Hollywood screenplay could do no better. Lights, camera, action!

A farmer, who happened to be a very, very good farmer, Donnie became one of the biggest marijuana growers in Florida’s history. Donnie perfected a high quality marijuana plant grown in the Florida swamps known as “Myakka Gold”. Highly sought after because when harvested, it had no seeds, leaves, or stems, it was potent due to its buds and sap. Grown in make-shift hydroponic drums cut in half and floated in the Florida swamps, the plants thrived under the canopy of Spanish Moss. This natural cover made the plants virtually undetectable by helicopters and aerial surveillance. Myakka Gold got Donnie probation early on, and 2 years of house arrest, when Sheriff detectives acting on a tip found him with 900 marijuana plants. Donnie never grew his cash crop again; but was prosecuted again a few years later under the RICO act, during the Federal Governments “War on Drugs”.

Two growers, facing 25 years, sang like canaries and pointed the Feds to Donnie, who was growing watermelons by that time. However, the Feds acted on the tip and found Donnie owned a gun, and had some personal pot. This was not good – Donnie was a felon. But then again....farmers out in rural areas most always own guns for personal protection of their property and farms. So, in 1990, Donnie Clark was indicted along with 27 others on federal charges of conspiracy to grow marijuana from 1980-90. The federal judge, with no other options under the new Federal Sentencing Guidelines,

sentenced him to life in prison without parole. Donnie accepted his fate and served appx. 10 and half years.

It was during those years, that former wife, Cande, never faltered from telling Donnie’s fate to anybody who would listen, through letters, phone calls, and community meetings. It was at that time that she was introduced to FAMM.

“Families Against Mandatory Minimums”. Then one afternoon, a phone call came, “Get Donnie’s file...get everything you have and send it to our contact...TODAY! We haven’t much time!” Cande collected all she had and overnighted it to the address given to her. This was 2001, email was just born but not available to all yet. Somehow, that overnight package made  
*Continued on next page)*



*MCBA Past President Andrea Johnson, Executive Director Graceann Frederico, MCBA President Faith Brown and Aaron Servais.*



*Bill Galvano, Neil Taylor, MCBA Past President Steve Dye and MCBA President Faith Brown*

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it to the desk of non-other than President Bill Clinton. To this day, Donnie and Cande have no idea how that file ended up in the hands of President Clinton; but, alas, the story continues. During the very last minutes in the White House, Clinton commuted Donnie’s sentence. Donnie was a free man. He walked out of prison with appx. \$500 and hopped in a SUV to head home.

Bitter? No, not Donnie. His is a tale of extreme highs and lows, all while keeping

a positive outlook on life. A farmer, who became a marijuana mogul, to living on his Social Security check, Donnie is still smiling.

In a juxtaposition of the times, Ed Chiles, Founder of Chiles Hospitality Group, completed the program with his view of the future of legalized marijuana. Ed is involved with the very first cannabis restaurant in Nashville, Tennessee. He also discussed the procedures and growth of the permitting process of cannabis establishments in Florida.

From being illegal to grow.....to being on the menu. Boy, times have changed!

Special thanks to METV, Nelon Kirkland, James Lynch, Bob Farrance and Graceann Frederico for their efforts on making this year’s Law Day event a success.

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MCBA Past President Steve Dye, Ed Chiles, Cande Clark, Nelon Kirkland, MCBA President Faith Brown, MCBA Director Bob Farrance and Donnie Clark



SouthState Regional President Bank Chris Perkins, MCBA Past President Andrea Johnson and MCBA President Faith Brown

WELCOME TO LAW DAY!

ANNUAL SPONSORS OF THE MCBA!

Special Thanks to:  
METV & Imperial Court Reporting!



## BENCH BAR 2023

The 12th Circuit Bench Bar happened on May 5th at the Hyatt Sarasota. Over 200 attendees received CLE credit for several courses taught by area judges, 2nd DCA judges, tech gurus and member attorneys. The day finished off with a Judicial Panel and a Cinco de Mayo reception at the Hyatt's Boat House.



MCBA President Elect Aaron Crittenden moderating the 12th Circuit Bench Bar Judicial Panel

## Sasso Named to Two Florida Bar Committees!



MCBA member, Michael Sasso has been named to The Florida Bar Senior Lawyers Committee and The Florida Bar Clients' Security Fund Committee through June 30, 2024! Sasso was appointed in May by another MCBA member, Florida Bar President Elect, Scott Westheimer. Congratulations, Michael!

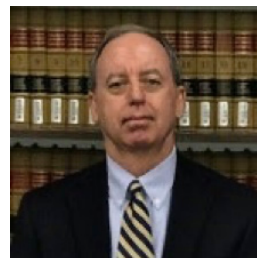
## Local Judiciary Honors Two Attorneys With Annual Professionalism Award

Twelfth Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Charles E. Roberts will present two local attorneys with the 2023 Jim Slater Award for Professionalism in the practice of criminal law. Jerome "Jerry" Meisner and Kaylin Humerickhouse will accept their awards at a presentation at 12 p.m. on June 21st in Courtroom 7B at the Silvertooth Judicial Center.

The judges of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit created the annual award to honor Jim Slater after his death in 2005. The qualities of the longtime and storied chief assistant public defender were both legendary and admirable, and the award in his honor recognizes a criminal law attorney who personifies Mr. Slater's characteristics: civility, honesty, and collegiality to the bench and to opposing counsel.

### JEROME "JERRY" MEISNER

Meisner worked as an assistant public defender in Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto counties for more than 30 years serving as misdemeanor chief, felony division chief in both Sarasota and Manatee counties, and capital crimes/homicide division chief before opening his solo practice.



### KAYLIN HUMERICKHOUSE

Prior to joining the law firm of Bentley, Goodrich & Kison, Humerickhouse was an Assistant State Attorney in Sarasota and Manatee for almost nine years, the last four years she was a dedicated violent felony prosecutor, handling Sarasota's most serious and complex criminal cases.



### PAST SLATER AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Maria Xinidis (2022)
- Tom Fielding and Kate Wallace (2021)
- Terry Drake (2020)
- Heather Doyle (2019)
- Derek Byrd (2018)
- N/A (2017)
- Chris Pratt (2016)
- Brett McIntosh (2015)
- Brian Iten (2014)
- Rebecca Wilson (2013)
- Peter Belmont (2012)
- Carolyn Schlemmer (2011)
- Liane McCurry (2010)
- Bruce Lee (2009)
- Adam Tebrugge (2008)
- Jim Dirmann (2007)
- Elliott Metcalfe, Jr. (2006)

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## YLD ANNOUNCES 2023-24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE NOTICE OF YLD VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Young Lawyers Division of the Manatee County Bar Association Inc., shall commence at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

**The meeting will be held on ZOOM.** All members of the Young Lawyers Division of the Manatee County Bar are cordially invited to attend the 2023 Annual Meeting for election of officers. All members present for the Annual Meeting of the Young Lawyers Division shall constitute a quorum for action by the Young Lawyers Division.

The Board of Directors has nominated the following slate of members for officer positions as indicated for the 2023-24 Bar year:

President: Patrick Barnes, Esq.

Vice President: Patrick Iyampillai, Esq.

Treasurer: Matthew Unzicker, Esq.

Secretary: Abigail Galati, Esq.

Directors:

Luis Silva, Esq.

Alexandria Nicodemi, Esq.

Jonathan Tortorici, Esq.

Rachel Swor, Esq.

Taylor Falkner, Esq.

Brooks Fusselman, Esq.

Grace Reeves, Past President

In accordance with the Bylaws, nominations may be made from the floor by any member of the Young Lawyers Division. Officers will be selected by majority vote of the present members of the Division, as conducted by the President. Immediately thereafter, at the Annual Meeting, the newly-elected Officers and Immediate Past President shall select the Directors for the 2023-24 year.

If you would like to attend the Zoom meeting, please contact Graceann Frederico, Executive Director to be sent a Zoom link [HERE](#)

By order of the Board of Directors,  
Grace Reeves, YLD President 2023-2024

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## ASSOCIATION PROPOSES 2023-24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE

The MCBA Nominating Committee proposed the following slate for the 2023-24 MCBA Board of Directors. All members in good standing are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 28th at noon at Kiwanis Hall to cast their vote:

President, Aaron Crittenden, Esq.

President Elect, Dustin Wagner, Esq.

Treasurer, David Wilcox, Esq.

Secretary, Brian Iten, Esq.

Immediate Past President, Faith Brown, Esq.

Directors:

Andre Perron, Esq.

Daniel VanEtten, Esq.

James Lynch, Esq.

Robert Farrance, Esq.

Alexandria Nicodemi, Esq.

Erika Dine, Esq.

Patrick Barnes, Esq.; YLD President

## LITIGATION PARALEGAL

The Manatee County Attorney's Office has an opening for an experienced litigation paralegal. Areas of experience should include personal injury and contract litigation. This position will also assist with the creation of legal opinions for a wide range of subject matters.

The successful candidate will have experience in creating and maintaining medical chronologies and deposition summaries; drafting pleadings; propounding and answering discovery; have strong written and verbal communication skills; and effectively prioritize workload to meet related deadlines. Strong virtual technology skills are highly desired as well as experience using Microsoft Suite and Adobe Pro DC.

Manatee County strives to be an employer of choice and most of our employees turn jobs into long term careers with great benefits. Please go to [www.mymanatee.org](http://www.mymanatee.org) to view the full job description and to apply or contact Patricia Nolan, Office Administrator @ [patricia.nolan@mymanatee.org](mailto:patricia.nolan@mymanatee.org) or 941-745-3750.

## Magistrates available to hear circuit civil matters in Manatee County

Two general magistrates open their calendars to assist circuit civil divisions B and D

Do you need hearing time on a civil case filed in Manatee County's Circuit Civil Division B or Circuit Civil Division D, but the judge's calendar is booked for the next three months? Worry not! Two general magistrates have opened their dockets to civil matters.

General Magistrates David Caskey and Deborah Bailey both have time available on their separate JACS calendars, which must be used when scheduling civil actions before the magistrate.

Please note that all civil matters scheduled before a magistrate must first be referred to the magistrate by the presiding circuit judge via an Order of Referral (find the form on our [Civil Division page](#)). Once the Order of Referral has been entered, the parties may schedule their hearing before the magistrate's civil calendar on JACS.

All civil hearings before the magistrates will be via Zoom. If a party seeks an exception to this general rule, that party must file a written motion requesting same, setting forth the specific reasons why it is believed that the hearing should be conducted in person.

### TYPES OF HEARINGS HEARD BY CIVIL GENERAL MAGISTRATE

#### Motions Directed to the Pleadings

Including adding/dropping parties, motions to amend, to dismiss, for default, to intervene, to dismiss and/or for more definite statement, to strike, to quash service, and any other motions concerning the pleadings or service that are not listed.

#### Discovery Motions

Motions to compel, for contempt of discovery orders, to extend time, objections to interrogatories, requests for production, motions for protective orders, to quash subpoenas, for discovery sanctions, motions relating to compulsory medical examinations, and any other discovery-related motions not listed.

#### Miscellaneous Motions

Motions to abate, to compel arbitration, to compel mediation, to discharge lis pendens, to sever or consolidate, to transfer



venue, to vacate or set aside defaults, and motions to withdraw as counsel.

The magistrates do not conduct case management conferences, pretrial conferences, or docket soundings, and do not hear motions seeking to vacate orders or final judgments, motions relating to trial matters, such as continuances, motions to consolidate, motions in limine, motions to strike witnesses or exhibits, or motions for writs of possession.

If you are unsure whether the magistrate may hear a specific motion, please contact the magistrate's assistant before scheduling your hearing:

- Jessica Sherman, assistant to Magistrate David Caskey, (941) 749-3650
- Donna Martin, assistant to Magistrate Deborah Bailey, (941) 861-4866

To schedule hearings with Magistrate David Caskey, in the JACS drop-down menu, select "Magistrate Manatee 1 Civil (David P. Caskey)".

- Read [Magistrate Caskey's judicial requirements](#)
- Link to [Magistrate Caskey's Zoom page](#)

To schedule hearings with Magistrate Deborah Bailey, in the JACS drop-down menu, select "Civil Magistrate Hearings (Magistrate Deborah Bailey)".

- Read [Magistrate Bailey's judicial requirements](#)
- Link to [Magistrate Bailey's Zoom page](#)



### *Congratulations, Jeff S. Goethe!*

Jeffrey S. Goethe, of Barnes Walker, Goethe, Perron, Shea, & Robinson, PLLC, received the Robert C. Scott Award during the recent meetings of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar. While not granted on an annual basis, the award is granted when the occasion requires those Section members who best exemplify the devotion and continued service of Robert C. Scott to the Section and its membership. The Robert C. Scott Memorial Award was established in 1985 by the Section to memorialize the memory and many extraordinary accomplishments of Robert C. Scott. At his death in 1982, Robert C. Scott was a dedicated member and Past Chair of the Section. His many contributions included development of the Florida Association of Realtors — The Florida Bar Accord and acceptance of the initial Realtors — Florida Bar approved Contract For Sale and Purchase of Real Estate. Even though he had completed his outstanding Chairmanship of the Section in 1973, Mr. Scott continued his tireless effort on behalf of the Section and the lawyers of Florida until his death, he was faithful in his attendance at Section meetings and participated in the Section programs, and he never overlooked the opportunity to advance the objectives of the Section. This award is given in recognition of Mr. Scott's many years of untiring, devoted, and valuable service to the Section.

Mr. Goethe is the current MCBA Probate & Trust Section Chairman as well as a Past President of the association. Congratulations, Jeff!





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BRANDON MANAGING  
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**PATRICK IYAMPILLAI**  
PARTNER

\$500,000



**PATRICK HALE**  
MANAGING PARTNER

\$400,000



**ROSE KASWECK**  
LITIGATION ATTORNEY

\$350,000

## RECENT SETTLEMENTS

### WE FIGHT LIKE HALE FOR OUR CLIENTS

Our firm is dedicated to providing top-notch representation for individuals who have suffered injury due to the negligence of another. We understand the importance of client relationships and the trust that comes with bringing clients to another firm. We pride ourselves on keeping our attorney partners informed of their cases. **Attorneys who refer cases are given 25% of fees in accordance with Florida Bar Rules.** You can trust us to take care of your clients and fight for the justice they deserve.


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**www.HaleLaw.com**



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## Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court

### CONTRACTUAL OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

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**Family Magistrate (Part-time contractual work)**  
**\*\*2 days per week; flexible days and hours\*\***

**This position is available immediately. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply early.**

**Job Location:** Sarasota South County Courthouse (Venice)

**Position Available:** Immediately (open until filled)

**Compensation (non-negotiable):** \$3,300 flat fee per month contractual. *Contractors do not accrue holiday or vacation leave or credits in the Florida Retirement System.*

#### **The job**

This quasi-judicial position provides support to the South County Circuit Court Judge by conducting hearings and making recommendations on family matters referred for hearing. The Family Magistrate is responsible for setting referred cases for hearing, conducting hearings, making determinations on cases and preparing recommended orders for the parties and referring judge's consideration. The schedule for this position is two days per week. Scheduling can be flexible. Administrative support is provided. All hearings may be held in person, on Zoom, or both, as decided by the selected candidate.

Candidates must be proficient using computers and Microsoft Word and able to generate recommended orders. Attention to detail is important. The Family Magistrate will be provided administrative and case management support by the court.

All applicants are encouraged to read the un-numbered section of the Code of Judicial Conduct titled "Application of the Code of Judicial Conduct" which provides that anyone who performs judicial functions, including a hearing officer, commissioner, or a general magistrate, shall comply with Canons 1, 2A, and 3, and such other provisions of the Code that might reasonably be applicable. Applicants should also be familiar with the Opinions of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee.

This position requires knowledge of the legal system; family court processes and procedures.

#### **Qualifications**

Juris doctorate from an accredited law school. At least five years of experience in the practice of law, including one year in family law. Requires membership in good standing in the Florida Bar.

#### **Apply**

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and current resume to the Human Resources Manager of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. Application materials may be submitted electronically (preferred) or via mail delivery.

Email: [HR@jud12.flcourts.org](mailto:HR@jud12.flcourts.org)

Twelfth Judicial Circuit

Human Resources Manager

P.O. Box 48927

Sarasota, FL 34230

Fax (941) 861-7904

The successful applicant will be subject to a Criminal Background Check. The Florida State Courts System is a criminal justice agency.

We are an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability. If you need an accommodation in order to participate in the application/selection process, please call 941-861-7811.

Pursuant to 110.205(2)(c) of the Florida Statutes, employment with the State Courts System is not covered under the Career Service System and all employees of the State System serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority and do not attain tenure rights.



# Sand, Music, Food and Sunsets!

The association 2023 Beach Party Social was another one for the record books! Members and their guests enjoyed an evening of steak sandwiches, oysters, shrimp, hot dogs, corn, and much more! As a special added touch, several judges generously donated the desserts, with the favorite being the cinnamon rolls (at least that's what we were told). Dancing under the stars followed a beautiful Holmes Beach sunset that was extra spectacular after a brief thunderstorm out in the Gulf. Special thanks to the Grimes Family, Beach Party Committee, James Lynch our "DJ", Eric Bruce the "Grillmaster" and Imperial Court Reporting for their gift of Beach Bags for attendees.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
*Retirement party*  
HONORING  
**JUDGE CHARLES E. ROBERTS**

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June 29<sup>TH</sup> | Hors d'oeuvres buffet + cash bar (soft drinks provided)  
\$15 per person □ Event starts at 5:30 PM  
MICHAEL'S ON EAST, 1212 S. EAST AVE., SARASOTA

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Submit payment and RSVP by June 22nd to SCBA

## Tampa Bay



### SINGLE GAME TICKETS

- 4 great infield seats, on aisle, 7 rows behind the visitor's dugout
- VIP parking!



Contact Ed Sobel  
(941) 746-1203  
ed@sobelattorneys.com



**RETIREMENT DINNER**  
FOR  
*The Honorable Phyllis Rogers Galen*



Join us as we celebrate Judge Galen who has served on the County Bench since 2005

**JULY 27 2023**

5:30 PM SOCIAL HOUR | CASH BAR  
6:30 - 8:00 PM DINNER | PROGRAM  
SARASOTA YACHT CLUB  
\$70 PER PERSON

*2nd Annual*  
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Wednesday, June 28, 2023  
Manatee Performing Arts Center- Kiwanis Hall  
11:45 Lunch, Noon Meeting Start

Join Angel Colonnese and her team to elevate your understanding of how the Clerk's office serves you, the handling of confidential documents, and more.

Vote for the 2023-24 Board of Directors

Enjoy lunch, networking, and social time!

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June 13 & 14, 2023 ..... Adopt a Folder Day  
 June 13, 2023..... Clerk/Real Property Section CLE  
 June 14, 2023..... MCBA YLD BOD Meeting  
 June 16, 2023..... YLD FUN RUN/WALK  
 June 19, 2023..... Juneteenth – Clerk Closed  
 June 28, 2023... MCBA Annual Meeting Luncheon  
 June 29, 2023..... Judge Roberts Retirement  
 July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ..... Independence Day - Clerk Closed  
 July 27, 2023 ..... Judge Galen Retirement  
 December 1, 2023..... Holiday Party  
*\*Dates are subject to change*

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- Homestead issues
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- Veteran's benefits



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- Florida Bar Board-Certified in Wills, Trusts & Estates
- 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.**

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



**Brooks R. Fusselman, Esq.**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE 2023 MANATEE VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD APPLICANTS FOR SPECIAL MAGISTRATE**

Opportunities now exist for appraisers and attorneys, who are licensed in the State of Florida and meet the following criteria to serve as Special Magistrate(s) to the 2023 Value Adjustment Board, pursuant to *Florida Statute 194.035* and Chapter 12D, Florida Administrative Code, for the purpose of taking testimony and making recommendations with regard to:

1. The Special Magistrate must meet the following qualifications:
  - a. A Special Magistrate must not be an elected or appointed official or employee of the county.
  - b. A Special Magistrate must not be an elected or appointed official or employee of a taxing jurisdiction or of the State.
  - c. During a tax year in which a Special Magistrate serves, he or she must not represent any party before the board in any administrative review of property taxes.
  - d. All Special Magistrates must meet the qualifications specified in *Section 194.035, F.S.*
2. A Special Magistrate appointed to hear issues of exemptions, classifications, and portability assessment difference transfers shall be a member of The Florida Bar, with no less than five years experience in the area of ad valorem taxation and having received training provided by the department, or with no less than three years of such experience and having completed training provided by the department.
3. A Special Magistrate appointed to hear issues regarding valuation of real estate shall be a state certified real estate appraiser with not less than five years experience in real property valuation and having received training provided by the department, or with no less than three years of such experience and having completed training provided by the department. A real property valuation Special Magistrate must be certified under *Chapter 475, Part II, F.S.*
  - a. A Florida certified residential appraiser appointed by the Value Adjustment Board shall only hear petitions on the just valuation of residential real property of one to four residential units and shall not hear petitions on other types of real property.
  - b. A Florida certified general appraiser appointed by the Value Adjustment Board may hear petitions on the just valuation of any type of real property.
4. A Special Magistrate appointed to hear issues regarding valuation of tangible personal property shall be a designated member of a nationally recognized appraiser's organization with not less than five years experience in tangible personal property valuation and having received training provided by the department, or with no less than three years of such experience and having completed training provided by the department.
5. All Special Magistrates shall attend or receive an annual training program provided by the department. Special Magistrates substituting two years of experience must show they have completed the training by taking a written examination provided by the department. A Special Magistrate must receive or complete any required training prior to holding hearings.
6.
  - a. The Value Adjustment Board or board legal counsel must verify a Special Magistrate's qualifications before appointing the Special Magistrate.
  - b. The selection of a Special Magistrate must be based solely on the experience and qualification of such magistrate, and must not be influenced by any party, or prospective party, to a board proceeding or by any such party with an interest in the outcome of such proceeding. Special Magistrates must adhere to Rule 12D-9.022, F.A.C., relating to disqualification or recusal.

Please note that hearings will take place in October, November and December of 2023 and could go into 2024. Availability for these dates is necessary for consideration of appointment.

Qualified individuals wishing to apply should submit a résumé on or before **Friday June 23, at 4:30 p.m.**, to:

Angelina "Angel" Colonnese, Manatee County Clerk of Circuit Court  
Value Adjustment Board  
Attn: Vicki Tessmer  
P.O. Box 25400, Bradenton, FL 34206  
(941) 741-4058  
EMAIL: [Vicki.tessmer@manateeclerk.com](mailto:Vicki.tessmer@manateeclerk.com)



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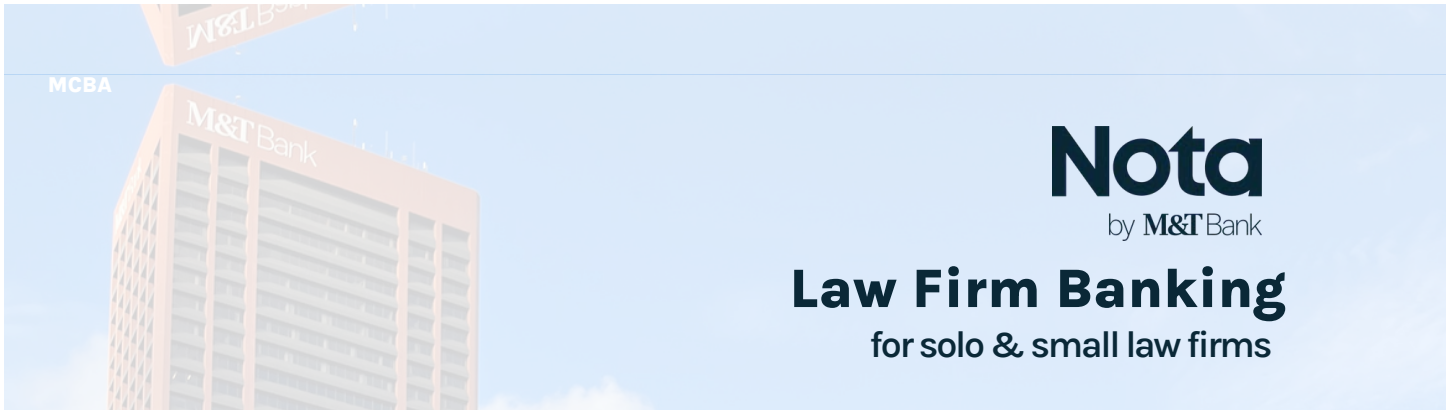
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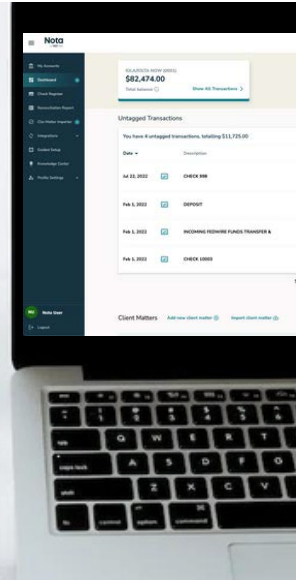
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.....NOTICE.....  
2023-24 DUES RENEWAL  
MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

**Annual Dues** for current members are **\$225.00\*** for the year (July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>).

This notice is payable upon receipt. Please return this completed form with check payable to:

Manatee County Bar Association ~ P.O. Box 796 ~ Bradenton, FL 34206

*Note: Renewals may also be paid online at [www.manateebar.com](http://www.manateebar.com)*

*\*Subject to a 3.5% administration fee\**

**~ UPDATE YOUR CONTACT & PRACTICE INFORMATION AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR IN OUR DIRECTORY ~FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IN ITS ENTIRETY**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FL. Bar #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(lastname, firstname, middle initial)

Complete name of firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Ste: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Manatee County Address (if not firm address): \_\_\_\_\_

List 3 primary *areas of practice* (use attached list to make your selections)

Primary: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary: \_\_\_\_\_

FL Bar Certifications held: \_\_\_\_\_

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Languages Spoken, other than English: \_\_\_\_\_

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.....**COMMITTEE and SECTION PREFERENCE**.....

*Please indicate your interest for the 2023-24 Bar Association year:*

**SECTIONS:** Practice sections offer continuing legal education programs and events focused on relevant topics. Section involvement provides lawyers with a forum to enhance their substantive practice skills, and to interact with others practicing similar areas of law. Please indicate your interest in any of the Sections listed below:

- Family Law
- Probate, Estate, Guardianship
- Young Lawyers (40 yrs. & younger)
- Real Property
- Solo/Small Firm

.....  
**COMMITTEES:** Please indicate your choice(s) below.

- Membership:** To include recruitment/retention of members and beneficial services for members.
- Youth Related Education:** To include activities relating to civics education, classroom speaker's bureau and youth education programs.
- Events:** To include the planning and preparations for social activities throughout the year, to include Law Day, Spring Beach Party and Holiday Party in December.
- PR/Communications:** Solicits and reviews monthly articles for the Inter Alia, press releases, etc.
- Community Service:** To include the coordination of the annual Community Service recognition awards and participation in local community service projects.
- Heritage Committee:** Collects and preserves the history of the MCBA
- ByLaws Committee:** Reviews and creates proposed revisions as needed
- Technology Committee:** All things social media, photography, taping, editing, etc.
- Diversity Committee:** Promotes and encourages diversity

- Yes  No Are you interested in Pro Bono volunteer opportunities?
- Yes  No Are you a Young Lawyer (40 yrs. or less -or- 5 yrs. or less in practice)?

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

Disclosure: Association dues, except as noted below, may be deductible as professional or business expenses, to the extent allowable by law. Dues and other contributions to local, state or national associations are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income purposes.

**BE SURE TO COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION - SOME INFORMATION WILL BE USED IN THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY.**

**MCBA YEAR IS JULY 1 - JUNE 30th. ALL MEMBERS MUST RENEW BY JULY 1ST TO BE CONSIDERED ACTIVE.**

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Asset Forfeiture  
Aviation  
Banking  
Bankruptcy  
Biotechnology and Genomics  
Business  
Business and Taxation  
City/County/Local Government  
Civil Litigation  
Civil Rights  
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Commercial Litigation  
Communications  
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Constitutional  
Construction  
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Contracts  
Copyright  
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Criminal  
Criminal Appellate  
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Eminent Domain  
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Energy, Environment/Natural Resources  
Entertainment, Arts and Sports  
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Workers' Compensation  
Workers' Compensation/Claimant  
Workers' Compensation/Defense  
Zoning, Planning and Land Use



## **FLORIDA BAR CERTIFICATIONS:**

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Adoption Law  
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Aviation Law  
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Condominium & Planned Dev. Law  
Construction Law  
Criminal Appellate  
Criminal Trial  
Education Law  
Elder Law  
Health Law  
Immigration & Nationality  
Intellectual Property Law  
International Law  
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Juvenile Law  
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US District Court Northern District of Florida  
US District Court Southern District of Florida

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Florida Northern District Bankruptcy Court  
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US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims  
US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces  
US Court of Federal Claims  
US Court of International Trade  
US Tax Court

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<i>James E. Lynch, Esq.</i>	Harlee & Bald, P.A.
<i>Alexandria Nicodemi, Esq.</i>	Manatee County Attorney's Office
<i>Dan Van Etten, Esq.</i>	Blalock Walters, P.A.
<i>Dustin S. Wagner, Esq.</i>	Lightning Law, PLLC

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