



INTER ALIA

SUMMER 2023

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



YEAR IN REVIEW

By Alexandria Nicodemi, Esq., MCBA Director

YEAR IN REVIEW

To start, MCBA would like to take a moment to recognize and formally thank Past-President, Faith Brown, and the rest of the MCBA Board of Directors on a successful 2022-2023 bar year. Under Past-President

Brown, MCBA was able to keep dues down, without an increase, despite inflation and the rising costs for hosting our luncheons, events, and other administrative costs. We also moved our monthly meetings to the Manatee Performing Arts Center and continue to see a rise in our bar membership.

The accomplishments of this past year are a result of the time and commitment from our voluntary bar leaders, and we look forward to the 2023-2024 bar year under President Aaron Crittenden.

MCBA CELEBRATES MILESTONE

Established in 1902, MCBA celebrated its 120th anniversary as a bar organization. MCBA created the printed directory as well as the 2022-2023 Courthouse Membership Poster which is hanging in the Manatee County Judicial Center. The Courthouse Membership Poster is done every 10 years and is a tradition that we have upheld to date.

MCBA HONORED VETERANS

For the October luncheon, MCBA held the Veterans Appreciation Event with and special guest Commander Bradley Smith, USN, (Ret) who spoke on his military service and life lessons during the Viet Nam War. Commander Smith, a pilot, was shot down during a mission and was a POW for approximately seven years. The MCBA salutes Commander Smith and all veterans who have served our great Country throughout our Nation's history.

MCBA CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

MCBA's annual holiday party was held at the Heritage Harbor Golf Club with over 75 members in attendance. There was a Hawaiian Shirt Contest, James "DJ" Lynch returned to paying all the best hits, and I hear a few dance moves made this year's holiday party-one for the history books! The Young Lawyers Division held a raffle to raise funds for Hurricane Ian relief efforts by Captains for Clean Water.

A STELLAR FEBRUARY

The association welcomed Christopher Stott CEO of Lonestar Data Holdings, Inc. at its February Luncheon. Stott's presentation discussed the new frontier of Space Law and the understanding of the topic as the nations of the world expand into outer space. Stott spoke about mining, regulations, permits, Space Force, and admiralty law. The 2nd DCA was also in attendance and Judge Daniel Sleet provided an update regarding the new courthouse and upcoming changes.

TECHNOLOGY AND THE BAR

March's membership luncheon welcomed Steven Bradley, former law enforcement officer and FBI agent. Attendees earned technology CLE credit as they learned about evidence collection strategies for phone technology, cybersecurity tips, and safety planning for location apps and social media.

BENCH BAR

In May, over 200 attendees gathered for the 12th Judicial Circuit Bench Bar conference. Courses were presented by the 2nd DCA, area judges, and member attorneys. The Conference featured nine morning breakout sessions with a panel of speakers that appealed to a variety of legal practice areas. The day concluded with an "Update from the Bench" featuring a panel of distinguished judges. The sessions provided CLE credits including ethics and certification credits.

LAW DAY 2023

In one of the most highly anticipated events of the year, Nelon Kirkland, told the story of Donnie Clark, a local farmer who became one of the biggest marijuana growers in Florida. Nelon brought the story of Myakka Gold to life with props and song, while Donnie's former wife Cande, spoke to the community about mandatory minimums and sentencing guideline reform. To finish the programing, Ed Chiles, Founder of Chiles Hospitality Group, spoke regarding his view of the future of legalized marijuana. He also discussed the procedures and growth of the permitting process of cannabis establishments in Florida.

MCBA wishes all of our members a very safe and relaxing summer, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the fall for our September luncheon.



Manatee County Young Lawyers: We Make a Difference!

By Grace Reeves, YLD Past President

This past year, I had the privilege of being the President of the Young Lawyer's Division of the Manatee County Bar Association. I have been a part of the Manatee YLD Division since 2016 and each year I am

grateful for the leadership of the YLD here in Manatee County. Over the years, our board has had a broad range of experience and varying practice areas. However, the one thing we all have in common is that members of the board all want to make a difference for our legal community and the community at-large.

Every firm in Manatee County should encourage participation in the Young Lawyers Division of Manatee County. Not only does the YLD provide mentorship, networking, and marketing opportunities, but membership also allows Young Lawyers to establish their own path in the legal community.

Because not all members may be familiar with the YLD division, I want to highlight some of the events and opportunities the YLD board and members have participated in this past year.

FUN: Health and Wellness is essential to the practice of law. Young Lawyers value a work/life balance. This past year, the Manatee YLD had the opportunity to participate in the following fun activities:

- Happy Hour at Caddy's, sponsored by Herman & Wells.
- Raffles at the Christmas Party to Support Captains for Clean Water, sponsored by members of the board that donated raffle prizes.

- A Bradenton Marauders Baseball game, sponsored by Hale Law.
- Beach Run, sponsored by the Health & Wellness Grant and Lightning Law.
- YLD Health & Wellness Olympics, organized by The Florida Bar YLD.

SERVICE: This past year, the MCBA YLD applied and received over five grants. These grants ranged from \$500 to \$1,000. Various calls for funds also helped transform the Children's Testimony Waiting Room in the Courthouse. The following events and causes represent how the YLD made a difference in the community.

- Donation to Ray Bellamy's Thanksgiving Drive, funds received from the Diversity & Inclusion Grant from The Florida YLD.
- Attorney Ad Litem CLE, funds received from the Your YLD Grant from the Florida YLD.
- Donation to Dream Oaks Camp for \$1,000 for adaptable rocking chairs, funds received as part of the AOC grant for 2023.
- Funds for bookcases and books for children at the Law Library, funds received as part of the AOC grant for 2022.
- Java with the Judges, funds received from various grants.

The above only represent a portion of how Young Lawyers make a difference in Manatee County. If anyone has an interest in joining the YLD board, I encourage you to reach out to leadership today!

DISCLAIMER: The views and opinions expressed in each Inter Alia article are solely those of its respective author and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the MCBA or its Board of Directors.



Special Thanks to Nota by M&T Bank!

On Tuesday, July 25th, several MCBA attorneys attended the online CLE event "Modern Banking for Modern Lawyers" presented by Nota by M&T Bank. The one-hour CLE was taught by Tim Jakubowski, Assistant VP of Attorney Banking, and highlighted topics such as: What is Digital Banking, Account Types and Services, Benefits of Digital Banking, Digital Banking Security Measures and more. Both Ethics and Technology credits were available.

Special thanks to Nota by M&T Bank for partnering with the MCBA as a Platinum Sponsor. If you would like to learn more about Nota by M&T Bank, or the presentation, please contact Tim at Tim@TrustNota.com and mention you're a member of the MCBA.



**Steele Williams, Esq.,
Named To Supreme Court
Committee On
Standard Jury Instructions
— Contract And Business Cases**



Congratulations to Steele Williams, Esq, MCBA Past President, on his appointment to the Supreme Court of Florida Committee on Standard Jury Instructions – Contract and Business Cases.

In accordance with Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.270, the Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instructions in Contract and Business Cases is responsible for preparing standard jury instructions for use in contract and business cases. The Committee continuously reviews statutes and judicial decisions to ensure that the standard instructions are up to date.



On July 7th, the Family Court Section of the MCBA sponsored a CLE entitled, “Family Court Updates” on Zoom. The online CLE provided timely updates and discussion regarding topics such as Timesharing, Greyson’s Law, Alimony, Paternity, Support for Adult Dependent Children and more. Presenters were Philip Schipani, BCS, Vice Chair – Florida Bar Family Law Section Legislative Committee; Judge Teresa Dees, 12th Judicial Circuit; and Judge Kevin Bruning, 12th Judicial Circuit.

The CLE was FREE. Just another great benefit of the MCBA!

Welcome New Members

Jeremy G. DeVries, Esq

Louisiana State University, 2011
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2023
Firm: Najmy Thompson, P.L.
Area(s) of Practice: Estate Planning, Tax Law,
Probate & Trust Litigation

Neil G. Taylor, Esq.

University of Memphis, 1977
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 1979
Firm: Grimes Hawkins Gladfelter & Galvano, P.L.
Area(s) of Practice: Criminal

Catherine Testa Tillman, Esq.

Cleveland State University, 2003
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2008
Firm/Office: Gulfcoast Legal Services
Area(s) of Practice: Consumer Law, Wills,
Trusts & Estates

Jonathan G. Zachary, Esq.

Regent University, 2018
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2019
Firm/Office: Office of the State Attorney
Area(s) of Practice: Criminal Law

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JUDGE DIANA MORELAND SWEARS IN NEW MCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Clerk Angel Colonnese Updates Members at Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 28th, 2023, was the day when the new MCBA Board of Directors and the YLD Board of Directors were sworn in by Judge Diana Moreland at Kiwanis Hall at the Manatee Performing Arts Center. The meeting began with the newly elected board members being sworn in and commemorative plaques being given to outgoing MCBA President Faith Brown and YLD President Grace Reeves in honor of their hard work and dedication over the past year.

Manatee County resident Ray Bellamy received a \$500 donation for his Thanksgiving Meal program. The check was presented by the YLD and was made possible by a grant from The Florida Bar.

Clerk Angel Colonnese was the guest speaker and gave an in-depth update regarding policies and procedures that pertained to the interaction of her staff and attorneys in their daily practice. Clerk Colonnese brought several members of her staff who gave valuable insight into the Clerk's office and were happy to answer questions attendees had.

Congratulations to the 2023-24 MCBA Board of Directors:

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.; and Patrick Barnes, Esq.; YLD President.



MCBA Director James Lynch, MCBA Past President Faith Brown, Nelon Kirkland, Henry Lawrence, MCBA President Elect Dustin Wagner, Ray Bellamy and Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr.



Judge Diana Moreland swearing in the MCBA Board of Directors and YLD Board of Directors



Clerk Angel Colonnese and staff with MCBA Past President Faith Brown and MCBA Secretary Brian Iten



MCBA President Elect Dustin Wagner thanking MCBA Past President Faith Brown



MCBA President Elect Dustin Wagner thanking YLD Past President Grace Reeves



MCBA President Elect Dustin Wagner, MCBA YLD President Patrick Barnes, YLD Past President Grace Reeves, YLD Secretary Abigail Galati and YLD Treasurer Matt Unzicker awarding Ray Bellamy \$500 for his Thanksgiving Meal program.

Judge Williams appointed to statewide committee focused on pro bono legal services

The Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court announces the recent appointment of Circuit Judge Charles E. Williams to the Judicial Advisory Council of the Florida Bar's Pro Bono Legal Services Committee. Judge Williams is only the latest judge appointed to a statewide committee. Nearly 1/3 of our local judiciary serves on various state judicial committees, commissions, and councils.

Judge Williams and the other advisory council members are tasked with receiving input from judges, lawyers, and legal services organizations within their circuits to make recommendations to The Florida Bar on how to better provide legal services to those who cannot afford attorneys but who are in desperate need of legal assistance. The observations, recommendations and suggestions will then be reviewed and forwarded to leaders of The Florida Bar for consideration. The committee is led by United States Senior District Judge Patricia Seitz.

Judge Williams welcomes input, observations, or suggestions from attorneys about how to improve pro bono services in the Twelfth Circuit.



MCBA AT THE FLORIDA BAR VOLUNTARY BAR CONFERENCE

MCBA President Aaron Crittenden and MCBA Executive Director Graceann Frederico attended the Voluntary Bar Conference of The Florida Bar in July 2023. This year's event was extra special as Scott Westheimer attended his first as the President of The Florida Bar. The event was held in Fort Lauderdale and hosted by the Broward County Bar Association.



The two days were filled with breakout sessions, networking events, and featured great speakers such as Dr. Dr. Keita Joy, CEO of Success Uncensored Coaching, Florida Bar President Scott Westheimer, and Mark Eglarsh, Esq. of "The Happy Lawyer".

Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this event a success!

MCBA President Aaron Crittenden and Florida Bar President Scott Westheimer

JOB POSTINGS:

Family Magistrate – Part Time

The 12th Judicial Circuit is hiring a part-time contractual Family Magistrate based in Venice. This position will work 2 days per week, the days and hours are flexible. The essential function of this position is to conduct family division hearings and make recommended orders on matters referred for hearing. Administrative support will be provided. Good standing in the Florida Bar, a JD from an accredited law school and at least five years' experience in the practice of law to include one year in family law are required. Please visit [Career Opportunities Twelfth Judicial Circuit](#) for the full job posting and details on how to apply. Come join our team and help to make a significant impact on your community. This position is available immediately and paid \$3,300 monthly.

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Wed. Sept. 27, 2023 General Membership Luncheon
 Wed., Oct. 25, 2023 General Membership Luncheon
 Fri., Dec. 1, 2023..... Holiday Party
 Wed., Jan 31, 2024 General Membership Luncheon
 Wed., Feb 28, 2024..... General Membership Luncheon
 Wed., March 27, 2024... General Membership Luncheon
 Wed., May 29, 2024 General Membership Luncheon
 Wed., June 26, 2024 General Membership Luncheon

**Dates are subject to change*



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Registration and Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

Program: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

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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
- 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
- Volunteer 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

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- 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
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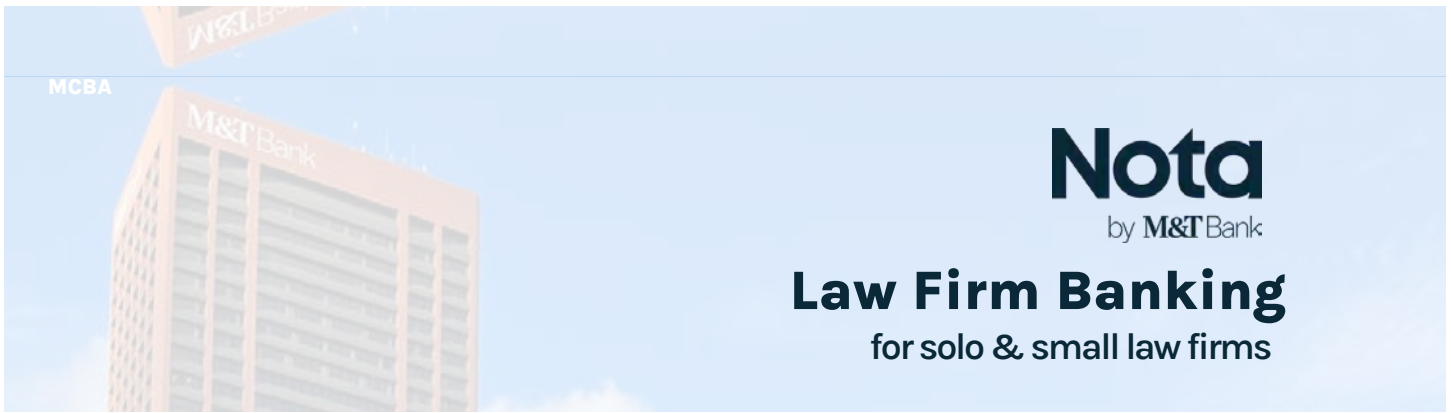


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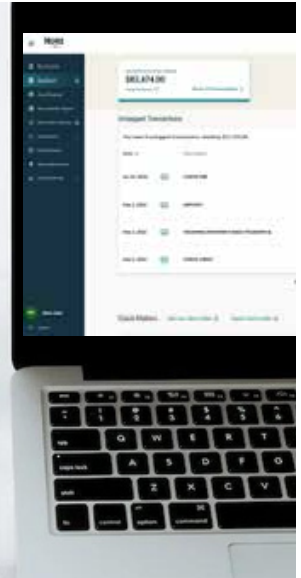
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••••NOTICE••••
2023-24 DUES RENEWAL
MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Annual Dues paid on or after August 1st will incur a \$50 late fee totaling \$275.00. The MCBA year runs July 1st through June 30th. 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
*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: _____

Federal Court Admissions: _____

Law School: _____ Year Admitted to The Florida Bar: _____

Languages Spoken, other than English: _____

Other State(s) Admitted to Practice Law: _____

***Annual dues paid by credit card require a 3.5% Administration Fee**

If using a credit card, please pay via our website at www.manateebar.com

For Office Use: Check #: _____ Amount: \$ _____ CC: \$ _____ Date recvd: _____

.....**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.

MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

PROFESSIONALISM • FELLOWSHIP • SERVICE

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Advertising in the Inter Alia

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

Payment is expected at time of publication.
Checks may be made payable to
MCBA, P.O. Box 796, Bradenton, FL 34206.

Ad rates are as follows:

Bus. card \$40 members/\$45 non members
1/4 page \$60 members/\$70 non members
1/2 page \$90 members/\$100 non members
Full page \$150 members/\$175 non members

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Will Search \$30 members/\$40 non members
Job Posting* \$30 members/\$40 non members
*Job posting includes listing on www.manateebar.com
Inter Alia, the newsletter of the Manatee County



Website: www.MANATEEBAR.com

Mailing address: P.O. Box 796, Bradenton, FL 34206

Phone: (941) 741-4091

Email: MCBA@manateebar.com

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E-mail: MCBA@manateebar.com

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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. Rates shown 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.

For information, please call Graceann Frederico, Executive Director at (941) 741-4091 or email mcba@manateebar.com. For ad specifics or variations, contact: Valerie at On Trac Publishing: Valerie@ontracnewsletters.com.