



# INTER ALIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE  
COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER  
2023

*News, invitations,  
photos and more!*

**IT'S THE MOST  
WONDERFUL TIME OF  
THE YEAR!**

*Why YOU Should  
Join the MCBA!*

**NETWORKING TIPS  
FOR NEW ATTORNEYS**

*Giving Opportunities this  
Holiday Season*

**IT'S HOLIDAY  
PARTY TIME!**



# Why YOU Should Join the Manatee County Bar Association!

By Andre Perron, Esq.

For years I have wondered why there are multiple bar associations? You have to be a member of the Florida Bar to work as a lawyer in the state but then add local bar associations, Inns of Court, specialty associations for specific areas on law, the list is endless. So why should a lawyer join the Manatee County Bar Association (MCBA)?

This question brings me back to my arrival in Bradenton a long time ago, a wise sage told me you know Andre, life is really about relationships. That gave me pause, as a young associate I had come to believe life was about hours and cash flow. Sometimes, you have to take a step back and realize we are in a profession where relationships matter, not only socially but yes to grease the tracks to get deals done, cases resolved and build business.

The monthly MCBA meetings are a catalyst for camaraderie, networking and referrals, new opportunities, learning new schools of thought that could help you win a case, or simply discussing an idea and accepting another’s perspective. Not to mention your dues include a great lunch and an interesting speaker covering topics concerning our local community and profession such as an update from the U.S. Assistant Attorney General to Judge Smith on Manatee County history. This of course is counterintuitive to the email generation. Too many times have I seen young associates get into email wars over simple issues that could have been easily resolved by picking up the phone. Perhaps there is wisdom under our local rules requiring attorneys to meet and confer to resolve discovery disputes or organize for trial. Something about personal human interaction that gets the job done.

Further to the point of getting to know your local bar, the MCBA holds several events at no costs to members, the Holiday party in December, the Beach Party on Holmes Beach, the beach Fun Run along with a series of events held by the Young Lawyer Division. Again, all of these offer the opportunity to meet fellow members and judges on a social basis so you know who is on the other end of the email, phone or Zoom.

Let me digress, an important factor in what we do is trust, trust in the person we are dealing with, trust in their representations and trust in their commitments. An email stream does not lend itself to

trusting the person on the other end. Trust is a matter of degree, a personal relationship creates a high degree of trust which will result in more open communication and confidence, a .com relationship I would suggest is a much lower on creating a trusting relationship. Meeting fellow local practitioners at MCBA meetings and events goes a long way to knowing who you are dealing with.

There are other association benefits as well to help you build your practice. For example, the membership directory which is located on MCBA’s website and can be accessed 24/7 by the public; weekly eblasts with “News You Can Use”; and the informative Inter Alia. These last two publications help keep you current with local events that effect our profession.

The MCBA further works to represent your interests. For example, the bar created a committee to work with the clerk’s office to help address many of the problems our members were having in filing documents. This issue and other member concerns were brought to the Clerk of Court to be addressed and we continue to interact with her bringing her member concerns. There are several committees within the MCBA that you may find beneficial to join.

Our bar further organizes for our community local CLEs (which includes the monthly membership luncheon) put on by local members and judges. What a better way to understand local procedures and other requirements by having the local judge of the division speak to it. This information as they say is “priceless”.

Outside of the practice support itself, the MCBA offers community service opportunities such as Big Brother, Big Sister, Habitat for Humanity and this year’s Thanksgiving Meal project with Ray Bellamy. No requirement to participate, just another opportunity the bar gives you to make the world a little better.

The total package, that’s what the MCBA offers you to enhance your practice, your profession and your involvement in our community. If you are a member we thank you, if not we hope you reflect on this article and join and if you have an associate or friend suggest they get involved!

*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.*

**UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS AT THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & MCJC**

Nov. 10	Veterans Day Observed	Clerk & MCJC Closed	1st Appearances at 8 am
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day	Clerk & MCJC Closed	1st Appearances at 8 am
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Friday	Clerk & MCJC Closed	1st Appearances at 8 am
Dec. 25	Christmas Day	Clerk & MCJC Closed	1st Appearances at 8 am
Dec. 26	Christmas Day After	ONLY CLERK CLOSED	Check Court Website

## Guardianship & Probate Section Meets With Scott Tussing, Manatee County Appraiser’s Office

On Tuesday, October 17th, the G&P Section, led by Section Chairman Jeff Goethe, held a 90-minute CLE with Scott Tussing entitled, “How To Make Exemption Issues Easier for Your Clients, Your Property Appraiser, and Yourself”. The Lunch & Learn CLE was sponsored by Shawn Ahearn of Freedom Village and was chock full of information regarding exemptions and the workings of the Appraisers Office. This was one not to be missed! All we can say is, there were a lot of questions being asked, and Scott had the answers! Thank you to Jeff Goethe, Scott Tussing, and Shawn Ahearn of Freedom Village for making the event possible.



### Welcome New Members

**Jackson C. Kracht, Esq.**

University of Oklahoma College of Law, 2000  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2002  
Firm: Berlin Patten Ebling  
Area(s) of Practice: Condominium and Planned Development, Civil Litigation, Commercial Litigation

**Lauren E. Ravazzoli, Esq.**

Stetson University College of Law, 2023  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2023  
Firm: Barnes Walker  
Area(s) of Practice: Real Estate, Corporate Law

**Kristina Roberts, Esq.**

Stetson University College of Law, 2015  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2015  
Firm: Cahall Law Firm  
Area(s) of Practice: Civil Litigation, Personal Injury, Condominium and Planned Development

**Gianna Marie Tomeo, Esq.**

Villanova University, 2022  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2023  
Firm: Grimes Galvano  
Area(s) of Practice: Commercial, Contracts, General Practice



- Fri., December 1, 2023 ..... Holiday Party
- Fri, January 19, 2024 ..... YLD Technology Road Show
- Wed., Jan 31, 2024 ..... General Membership Luncheon
- Wed., Feb 28, 2024 ..... General Membership Luncheon
- Fri., March 15, 2024 ..... 4 Hr Cypbersecurity CLE with Steven Bradley
- Wed., March 27, 2024 ..... General Membership Luncheon
- Wed., May 29, 2024 ..... General Membership Luncheon – LAW DAY
- Wed., June 26, 2024 ..... General Membership Luncheon – Annual Meeting

*\*Dates are subject to change*

# Giving Opportunities in Nov & Dec!

The MCBA is excited to provide you with the following opportunities to give this holiday season!



**On Tuesday, November 21st**, we ask you to give of your time to assist our friend, Ray Bellamy and the Manatee County Sheriff's Office with packing 300 Thanksgiving meals for the local community! Volunteers are asked to arrive between 5:00 - 6:45 AM to help. Packing will only take a few hours. PLEASE SIGN UP and SHOW UP! Many hands make light work.

**When:** Tuesday, November 21st, 2023

**Where:** Lincoln Middle School, 305 – 17th St. E., Palmetto – IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

**Time:** Arrive anytime between 5:00 – 6:45 AM

**Sign Up Using the link:** [THANKSGIVING MEAL BOX PACKING](#)



At the MCBA Holiday Party, we will be collecting monetary donations for **The Women's Resource Center**. Any amount is greatly appreciated. So please bring your cash donation with you to our Holiday Party on Friday, December 1st at Heritage Harbour. If you would like to donate by credit card, please do so directly using The Women's Resource Center direct link: <https://womens-resource-center.square.site/>



On November 1st, the Young Lawyers Division and Judge Charles Sniffen hosted a "Table for 8" dinner at the lovely Palm Aire Country Club. Members of the YLD enjoyed a delicious dinner and casual conversation at the much anticipated event. Stay tuned for our next one! Special thanks to Patrick Iyampillai of Hale Law, Judge Sniffen and the MCBA YLD for organizing the event. Seated left to right are: Rose Kasweck, Patrick Hale, MCBA President Elect Dustin Wagner, YLD Treasurer Matt Unzicker, MCBA President Aaron Crittenden, Judge Charles Sniffen, Laura Ocampo and YLD Vice President Patrick Iyampillai.



**Connect with your  
INNER ELF**

Last year Sarasota JAs and court staff adopted a 3rd grade class for the holiday and gifted them with goody bags filled with small toys, stickers, personal hygiene items (sample and full-size), school supplies & candy (naturally!). The Circuit Elves hope to repeat the magic this year by adopting the most in need at Palmetto Elementary School, a Title I school in Manatee County. The focus is on the recipients of the Feeding Empty Little Tummys (FELT) program, which is dedicated to feeding homeless and food-insecure students.

**HOW TO HELP**  
The Circuit Elves are asking for our donations to fill the gift bags. Please consider connecting with your inner elf and donate to the drive. Donation deadline is 12/05/23.

**DROP OFF, MANATEE**  
Laurie Trowell's office, 9th FL

**DROP OFF, SARASOTA**  
Kaitlyn Averso's office, 10th FL

**DROP OFF, VENICE**  
Isabel Duqueyarza's office, 2nd FL.



## MCBA CELEBRATES VETERANS AT OCTOBER LUNCHEON!

The October General Membership Luncheon was abuzz on Wednesday, October 25th when the association celebrated and honored area veterans! Guest speaker, Deputy Lou Gregory, of the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office and a retired United States Marine, led a dynamic presentation entitled “Every Climb” regarding challenges in everyone’s lives and how to apply simple principles to persevere despite our changing times.

Korean War veterans from Westminster Communities attended and members were delighted to learn about their military experience and dedication to our community to this day. In attendance were Don Chown, Lou Matteo, Paul Staub and George Staudt. Also representing Westminster Communities of Bradenton, our Presenting Sponsor, were both Terry Carr and Brian Parks, Executive Directors.

The requested “MCBA Veterans Slide Show” was updated and featured honoring the associations members and their military experience, beginning with WWI through the current day. Member comments such as “I was excited to see my dad in his military photo included in the slide show”, “such a brave generation”, “what a fantastic presentation of our history – to see them on the screen just hits home. Their presence, their experience, it is truly remarkable” were just a few received expressing the impact of the presentation.



*From l to r: Brian Parks of Westminster Communities, Deputy Lou Gregory of the MCSO, George Staudt, Paul Staub, Don Chown, Dustin Wagner MCBA President Elect, Lou Matteo, Terry Parks of Westminster Communities, and MCBA President Aaron Crittenden*

A special surprise this year was the Manatee High School JROTC Hurricanes Color Guard who presented the colors while Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special thanks to all who made the event a success!

### Layon F. Robinson, II Law Library

Located on the 1st floor of the Manatee County Judicial Center - 1051 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34205 - across from the Manatee County Bar Association boardroom.



The library offers various services beneficial to attorneys:

- Access to WestLaw - the library has 3 public-use computers for your convenience.
- Extensive collection of statute and case law books. Books are not available for check-out, but are all accessible while in the library.
- Various CLEs available for checkout by attorneys.
- Public wifi and work stations.

**HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY | 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

**If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the Law Librarian, Libby Summerall, at 941-741-4090.**

# HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

## AT THE CLERK'S & MCJC

Nov. 10	Veterans Day Observed	Clerk & MCJC Closed	1st Appearances at 8 am
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day	Clerk & MCJC Closed	1st Appearances at 8 am
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Friday	Clerk & MCJC Closed	1st Appearances at 8 am
Dec. 25	Christmas Day	Clerk & MCJC Closed	1st Appearances at 8 am
Dec. 26	Christmas Day After	ONLY CLERK CLOSED	Check Court Website for hours
January 1	New Year's Day	Clerk & MCJC Closed	1st Appearances at 8 am

[www.manateebar.com](http://www.manateebar.com)

# Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Update

from Alex Nicodemi, YLD Board of Governors:



Manatee County Bar Association YLD:

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Alexandria Nicodemi and I serve on The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division (“YLD”) Board of Governors representing our 12th Judicial Circuit. The YLD launched a new set of awards this year—the 36 Under 36 Professionalism Awards—and I am reaching out to encourage you to participate by nominating any deserving young attorneys who have impressed you with the way they have raised the bar for professionalism even in the early stages of their careers. More information about these awards, including eligibility requirements, can be found at <https://flayld.org/awards/36-under-thirty-six/>. All nomination forms must be submitted by Friday, November 17, 2023! Award recipients will be announced and honored at the YLD’s Affiliate Outreach Conference (“AOC”) on February 16, 2024.

We need your help to find the best pool of candidates for these distinguished awards. Please take a few minutes to complete a nomination form (or a few!) here: <https://flayld.org/awards/2023-24-yld-36-under-thirty-six-professionalism-award-nomination/>. After submitting your nominee(s), please spread the word and urge others to do the same.

If you have any questions, please let me know, or feel free to contact the YLD Chair for these awards, Haley VanFleteren, at [hvanfleteren@mhw-law.com](mailto:hvanfleteren@mhw-law.com). Thank you in advance for your time and thoughtful consideration that will undoubtedly contribute to the success of these new awards.

Best,  
Alexandria

Email: [alex.nicodemi@mymanatee.org](mailto:alex.nicodemi@mymanatee.org)  
Phone: 941-745-3750 x3746

## MCBA Holiday Party

Friday, December 1, 2023

See page 11 for details.



# Networking Tips for New Attorneys

By Patrick Iyampillai, Esq., MCBA YLD Vice President

Starting your journey as a new attorney is an exciting endeavor, filled with numerous opportunities to learn and grow. As with any profession, networking plays a critical role in development and success.

However, for newly-minted lawyers, the prospect of networking can be daunting. Here's some practical advice for those just joining the profession on how to network and expand your professional circle in an ethical and genuine manner.

## 1. Leverage the Wisdom of a Mentor

If you're fortunate to have an attorney mentor already, you possess a rich resource for introductions and guidance. Experienced attorneys have a vast network and can provide introductions to key figures in the legal community, invaluable advice, and perhaps even referrals. Engage with your mentor, ask questions, and express your interest in meeting others in the field. Their guidance can be a stepping stone to lasting professional relationships.

## 2. Seeking a Mentor

If you don't already have a mentor, the process of finding one can itself be a networking activity. Start by attending local legal events, such as those organized by the Manatee County Bar Association (MCBA). Approach attorneys you admire or who work in your desired specialty. While it can be intimidating, remember that many seasoned attorneys are eager to give back and nurture the next generation.

## 3. Attend Local Bar Association Events

The MCBA and similar organizations frequently host events, seminars, and mixers. These gatherings are perfect opportunities to meet fellow attorneys, from both your field and others. Engage in conversations, ask about their experiences, and share your journey. The legal community, while vast, often feels like a tight-knit group, especially within specific specializations or regions like Manatee County.

## 4. Explore Other Legal Organizations

Beyond the MCBA, organizations like Inns of Court can provide further networking opportunities. Inns of Court, which fosters mentorship and collegiality among attorneys, can be a treasure trove of connections and insights for newcomers.

## 5. Online CLE Events

Continuing Legal Education (CLE) is a requisite for all Florida Bar attorneys, but online CLEs offer more than just credits. They're a

chance to interact with attorneys from various locales and specialties. You can attend virtual networking sessions, participate in Q&A segments, and follow up with presenters or attendees who shared insightful points.

## 6. Engage on Social Media Channels

Social media platforms like LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook are great ways to network. Engage with other attorneys, share relevant articles, and participate in discussions. Remember to maintain the same decorum online as you would offline. While social media can seem informal, it's a public platform, and your interactions can always leave lasting impressions.

## 7. Maintain Ethical and Professional Conduct

Professionalism must underscore all networking activities. Remember a few critical guidelines:

- **Alcohol Moderation:** While many networking events offer alcoholic beverages, moderation is crucial. Overindulging not only jeopardizes your personal reputation but can also reflect poorly on your associated firm or other organization you may represent.
- **Genuine Interaction:** While networking aims to expand your professional circle, always prioritize quality over quantity. Genuine interactions, where you show real interest in the other person, are more valuable than merely distributing your business card far and wide.
- **Ethical Boundaries:** Always be cautious about broaching or discussing sensitive information. Avoid giving informal legal advice, especially outside your area of expertise.

## 8. Preserve Your Unique Voice

In your eagerness to fit in, don't lose your individuality. The legal community, like any other, benefits from a diversity of voices, perspectives, and experiences. Your unique journey to the law, your distinct way of analyzing issues, or your fresh perspective can be your greatest asset.

In conclusion, as you venture into the world of legal networking, remember that every attorney, no matter how experienced, once stood in your shoes. Most will remember the challenges they faced and be willing to offer a helping hand. Approach networking with an open heart and genuine interest, and you'll find that the legal community is as much about collaboration as it is about advocacy.

*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.*

## JOB POSTINGS:

### ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY WANTED!

Bradenton, FL based, well-established law firm is seeking an associate attorney with 1-3 years' civil litigation experience preferably in the area of Personal Injury. Must be an active member of the Florida Bar with strong communication, writing and interpersonal skills. A successful employment history is also required.

We are a small firm near downtown Bradenton with a great team of attorneys and support staff, serving the area for over 40 years. Our firm strives to reach the best possible result for our clients through integrity, honesty, and care. We proudly support various non-profit organizations in the community throughout the year.

Salary is commensurate with experience and benefits are provided. Send resume to Hamilton, Price & Marshall, P.A., 2400 Manatee Ave West, Bradenton, FL 34205 or via email to [belinda@hamiltonpricelaw.com](mailto:belinda@hamiltonpricelaw.com).

### MAGISTRATE OPENING

The 12th Judicial Circuit is hiring a Family Magistrate based in Manatee. The essential function of this position is to conduct family division hearings and make recommended orders on matters referred for hearing. This position supervises a full-time administrative assistant. 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. This State of Florida position includes many benefits including 12 paid holidays each year, substantial vacation and sick leave, a generous contribution by the State for health insurance premiums, and enrollment in the Florida Retirement System. Come join our team and help to make a significant impact on your community.

### LEGAL ASSISTANT WANTED

Solo Relationship oriented board certified wills, trusts and estates law firm located near downtown Bradenton seeks Legal Assistant committed to excellence for full-time employment. Ability to support attorney and assist in management of office is required. Must have good organizational, client and administrative skills and enjoy accepting new challenges. Compensation negotiable depending on education and experience. At least three years of legal experience is required. Small firm experience preferred. Willing to train. Must have high school diploma. Some college preferred. Please submit your resume and a position-specific cover letter in PDF format to [bradentonlaw34205@gmail.com](mailto:bradentonlaw34205@gmail.com). Background checks required.

Pay: \$50,000.00 - \$70,000.00 per year

**BYOH**  
(BRING YOUR OWN HACK!)

**NOVEMBER 9 2023**  
**6:00 PM**

COME SHARE THE "HACKS" THAT MAKE YOUR LIFE A LITTLE EASIER AS WE HEAD INTO THE STRESS OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

All money raised will be used to donate a kid's bike to Magic for Mittens

Anne Hunter's House  
5108 39th Avenue East, Bradenton 34208  
RSVP [fawimanatee@gmail.com](mailto:fawimanatee@gmail.com)

*If your hack is a product, please bring one for the raffle!*

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN?

**MCBA**  
**MEMBERSHIP**  
**DRIVE**

1ST PLACE: \$300 AMAZON GIFT CARD  
2ND PLACE: \$150 AMAZON GIFT CARD  
3RD PLACE: \$50 AMAZON GIFT CARD

The top three members, listed on a New Member Application as "Referred By" will win! Just sign up new members between now and June 1st, 2024. Winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting in June.

\* New Members must not have been a member of the MCBA within the last 3 years. Applications are online at [www.manateebar.com](http://www.manateebar.com)



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## THE FLORIDA JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION IS SEEKING AN ATTORNEY FOR PARTIAL TERM VACANCY

The Florida Bar Board of Governors is seeking attorney applicants to fill a partial term vacancy on the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission during its January 19, 2024, meeting. Applicants must be members of The Florida Bar and in good standing.

**Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission:** One attorney to serve the remainder of a six-year term commencing on immediately on appointment and expiring December 31, 2026. The 15-member commission is authorized under Article V, Section 12, Florida Constitution, to investigate complaints against judges whose conduct demonstrates a present unfitness to hold office and recommends disciplinary action to the Supreme Court. No member of the commission, except a judge, shall be eligible for state judicial office while acting as a member of the commission and for a period of two years thereafter. No member of the commission shall hold office in a political party or participate in any campaign for judicial office or hold public office; provided that a judge may campaign for judicial office and hold that office.

**Applications will be accepted until close of business on Friday, December 1, 2023.**

Resumes *will not be accepted* in lieu of the required application. The Board of Governors will review all applications and may request telephone or personal interviews.

Persons interested in applying for these vacancies may [download the application for special appointment](#) or call Bar headquarters at (850) 561-3127, to obtain the application form. Completed applications must be received by the Executive Director, The Florida Bar, 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-2300 or [submitted via e-mail](#).

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## THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS VACANCIES TO FILL

The Board of Governors is seeking applicants for the following vacancies to be filled during its January 19, 2024, meeting:


**The Florida Bar Foundation Board of Directors:** Two attorneys to serve three-year terms, commencing July 1, 2024. The Florida Bar president receives recommendations from The Florida Bar Foundation for consideration. This 33-member Board of Directors administers Florida's IOTA program. Directors shall be members of the Foundation during their term(s) as directors.

[FBFND - Expectations of Service as a Member of the Board of Directors](#)

**Applications will be accepted until close of business on Monday, December 11, 2023.** Resumes *will not be accepted* in lieu of the required application. The Board of Governors will review all applications and may request telephone or personal interviews.

Persons interested in applying for these vacancies may [download the Application for Special Appointment](#) or call Bar headquarters at (850) 561-3127, to obtain the application form. Completed applications must be received by the Executive Director, The Florida Bar, 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-2300 or [submitted via e-mail](#).

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**A great one for the holidays!**

In this case of mistaken identity and letter writing, two feuding perfume clerks have no idea that they are in love.


**Nov. 30-Dec 10**

John will be singing his ultimate own version of his classic hit "Some Kind of Wonderful" as well as newly penned songs from his newest album.





**Dec. 30 at 2 & 8 P**

**ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com**



**Our Office Locations**  
 Bradenton Sarasota Parrish  
 Lakewood Ranch  
 Anna Maria Island

Andre R. Perron, Esq.      Abigail Holmes Galati, Esq.

aperron@barneswalker.com      agalati@barneswalker.com

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\*Referral fees paid in accordance with Florida Bar Rules



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MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

# HOLIDAY

JOIN US FOR FOOD,  
 DRINKS & MERRIMENT!  
 WEAR YOUR FESTIVE SWEATER  
 - YOU MAY WIN A PRIZE!

# Party



Friday, December 1st

5:30 - 8:00 pm

Heritage Harbour Golf Club

FREE for MCBA Members & One Guest

Please click [here](#) to RSVP!

*We will be accepting monetary donations  
 for the Women's Resource Center.*

Special Thanks to Our Annual Sponsors!



PORGES, HAMLIN,  
 KNOWLES & DEPAOLA, PA.





## Refer your clients to one of our two senior living communities in Bradenton



### WESTMINSTER MANOR

[WestminsterManorFL.org](http://WestminsterManorFL.org)

1700 21st Avenue West • Bradenton, FL



### WESTMINSTER POINT PLEASANT

[WestminsterPointPleasantFL.org](http://WestminsterPointPleasantFL.org)

1533 4th Avenue West • Bradenton, FL

Feel confident in referring your clients to one of our trusted Life Plan Communities in Bradenton. They'll love the active, maintenance-free lifestyle, great services and amenities, and the assurance of a plan for the future with our not-for-profit faith-based family, like:

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- Housekeeping
- Fitness center
- Outpatient therapy services — physical, occupational and speech
- A full continuum of healthcare services right on campus
- And more!

*Call (941) 242-7030 today to learn more or to schedule a personal tour!*

 **Westminster  
Communities**  
of Florida  
[WestminsterCommunitiesFL.org](http://WestminsterCommunitiesFL.org)



**THE MANATEE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE & MCJC  
WILL BE CLOSED ON  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH**

**THANK YOU  
VETERANS**  
*for your service.*

*We take an active role - We never give up!*

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[donna@donnalugar.com](mailto:donna@donnalugar.com)



5020 Clark Road #514  
Sarasota, FL 34233

**IN THE CIRCUIT AND COUNTY COURTS OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
IN AND FOR MANATEE, SARASOTA AND DESOTO COUNTIES**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-17.4**

**JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS 2024**

The following judicial assignments are effective January 2, 2024.

Chief Judge	Honorable Diana L. Moreland
Acting Chief Judge (in absence of Chief Judge)	Honorable Frederick P. Mercurio
Desoto County Administrative Judge	Honorable Don T. Hall
Manatee County Administrative Judge	Honorable Frederick P. Mercurio
Sarasota County Administrative Judge	Honorable Hunter W. Carroll

**CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES**

**Civil Division** - Honorable Hunter W. Carroll (Sarasota County), Honorable Edward Nicholas (Manatee County)  
**Unified Family Court** (Desoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties - has operational authority to implement UFC policy and procedures circuit-wide)  
 Honorable Maria Ruhl  
**Family Division** - Honorable Maria Ruhl (Sarasota County), Honorable Charles Sniffen (Manatee County)  
**Hague Convention Cases (see AO 2023-15.12)** - Honorable Maria Ruhl (Sarasota and Desoto Counties), Honorable Charles Sniffen (Manatee County)  
**Criminal Division** - Honorable Donna Padar (Sarasota County), Honorable Frederick P. Mercurio (Manatee County)  
**Probate/Guardianship Division** - Honorable Charles E. Williams (Sarasota County), Honorable Diana L. Moreland (Manatee County)

**CIRCUIT CIVIL – MANATEE & SARASOTA COUNTIES**

Civil Division B	Manatee County	Honorable TBD
Civil Division D	Manatee County	Honorable Edward Nicholas
Civil Division A	Sarasota County	Honorable Stephen Walker
Civil Division C	Sarasota County	Honorable Hunter W. Carroll
Civil Division H	South Sarasota County	Honorable Danielle Brewer
Involuntary Civil Commitment of Sexually *in Desoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties		Honorable Diana L. Moreland Violent Offenders (Jimmy Ryce Act)

**CIRCUIT CRIMINAL – MANATEE & SARASOTA COUNTIES**

Felony Division I	Manatee County	Honorable Matt Whyte
Felony Division III	Manatee County	Honorable Frederick P. Mercurio
Felony Division V	Manatee County	Honorable Teresa K. Dees
Felony Division II	Sarasota County	Honorable Donna Padar
Felony Division IV	Sarasota County	Honorable Thomas W. Krug
Felony Division VI	Sarasota County	Honorable Dana Moss

**UNIFIED FAMILY COURT – MANATEE & SARASOTA COUNTIES**

**A. FAMILY DIVISION- MANATEE & SARASOTA COUNTIES**

Family Division 3	Manatee County	Honorable Kevin Bruning
Family Division 4	Manatee County	Honorable Charles Sniffen
Family Division 1	Sarasota County	Honorable Rochelle T. Curley
Family Division 2	Sarasota County	Honorable Maria Ruhl
South County Family Division 1		Honorable Danielle Brewer
South County Family Division 2		Honorable Maria Ruhl

**B. JUVENILE DIVISION - MANATEE & SARASOTA COUNTIES**

Division J	Manatee County	Honorable Gilbert A. Smith, Jr.
Division K	Manatee County	Honorable Susan B. Maulucci
	Sarasota County	Honorable Andrea McHugh

**PROBATE & GUARDIANSHIP DIVISION -MANATEE & SARASOTA COUNTIES**

Manatee County	Honorable Diana L. Moreland
Sarasota County	Honorable Charles E. Williams
South County Probate & Guardianship	Honorable Maria Ruhl

**CIRCUIT COURT – DESOTO COUNTY**

All Circuit Civil, Unified Family, Circuit Criminal,  
 Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency,  
 Probate and Guardianship

Honorable Don T. Hall

**PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS – DIVISION P**

Division P Administrative Judge		Honorable Lon S. Arend
Comprehensive Treatment Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Lon S. Arend
Drug /Opioid/ Veteran’s Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Lon S. Arend
Health Care Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Lon S. Arend
CTC – Manatee	Manatee County	Honorable Lon S. Arend
Drug Court, Veteran’s Court	Manatee County	Honorable Lon S. Arend
Early Childhood Court	Manatee County	Honorable Lon S. Arend

All problem-solving courts are assigned to Division P. The problem-solving courts listed below will be presided over by a judge other than the Division P Judge.

Desoto Case Mgmt. Court	Desoto County	Honorable Danielle Brewer
TYLA Court	Manatee County	Honorable Susan B. Maulucci
Community Care Court	Sarasota County	Honorable David L. Denkin
DUI Court	Sarasota County	Honorable David L. Denkin
Early Childhood Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Andrea McHugh
TYLA Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Andrea McHugh

**COUNTY COURT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES**

Desoto County	Honorable Guy A. Flowers
Manatee County	Honorable Renee L. Inman
Sarasota County	Honorable Maryann Olson Uzabel

**DESOTO COUNTY COURT**

All County Civil and Criminal	Honorable Guy A. Flowers
-------------------------------	--------------------------

**MANATEE COUNTY COURT**

Civil Division 1	Honorable Renee L. Inman
Civil Division 2	Honorable Jacqueline B. Steele
Criminal Division 3	Honorable Heather Doyle
Criminal Division 4	Honorable Melissa Gould

**SARASOTA COUNTY COURT**

Criminal/Civil Division A	Honorable Maryann Olson Uzabel
Criminal/Civil Division B	Honorable David Ryan Felix
Criminal /Civil Division C	Honorable David L. Denkin
South County Criminal/Civil Division E	Honorable Erika N. Quartermaine
*South County Criminal/Civil Division F	Honorable TBD
<i>*effective 2/1/2024</i>	

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Matthew K. Peters

**DONE AND ORDERED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023

**DIANA L. MORELAND, CHIEF JUDGE**  
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STATE OF FLORIDA

Original: Clerk of Court, Sarasota County  
 Copy to: All Judges, Twelfth Judicial Circuit  
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- Capital University Law School, J.D., Cum Laude, 1986
- Harvard Law School Mediation Training Program
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**Court opens application period for expedited security screening with JCID**

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Pursuant to [AO2022-10.2](#), *In Re: Security of Operations of Court Facilities*, under conditions of high volume, when feasible and practical, judicial security at the Manatee County Judicial Center and the Silvertooth Judicial Center will open dedicated, expedited screening lines for attorneys who display a current JCID.

**HOW IT WORKS**

During peak times and upon presentation of a current JCID card, attorneys will move through their own screening line without having to remove shoes or belts. All items in your care, control or possession must also be screened by security. If you forget your card, you may be denied expedited screening and/or redirected to the public screening line.

Attorneys can visit the [JCID application page](#) on the Court’s website during the annual open enrollment period: October 1st through November 30th. Attorneys are required to renew their JCID each year during the enrollment period to be eligible for continued access to the expedited screening line. The application includes consent to a criminal background check. Attorneys with pending criminal charges may apply but will not be eligible to obtain a JCID card until their criminal case is resolved.

Please note that the application period is limited to the months of October and November – if you miss it, you cannot apply again until next October.

The application fee is \$25; the fee for a replacement JCID is \$10. Both fees must be paid by credit card online. The application fee is waived for government attorneys; replacement card fees will not be waived.

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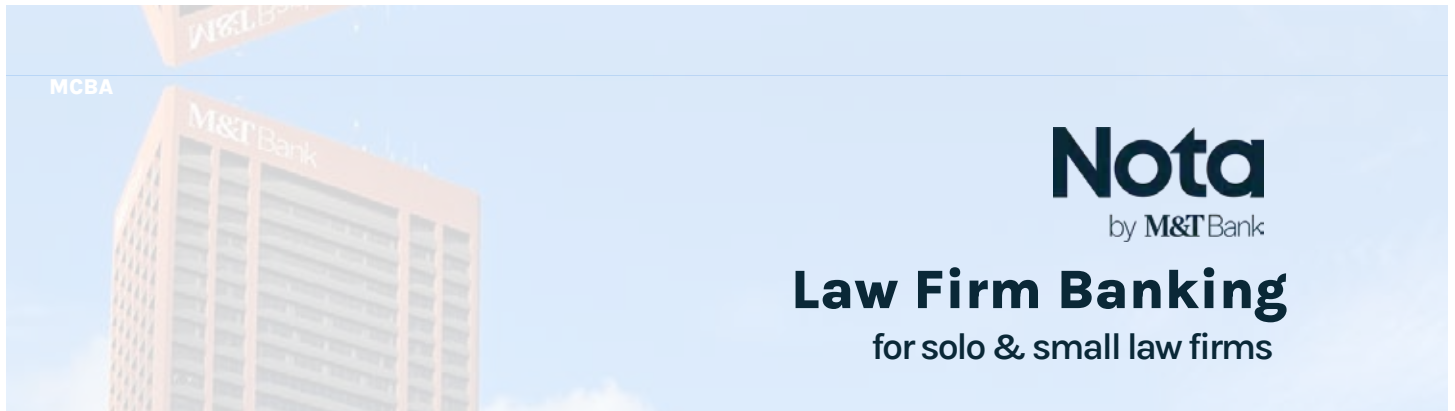


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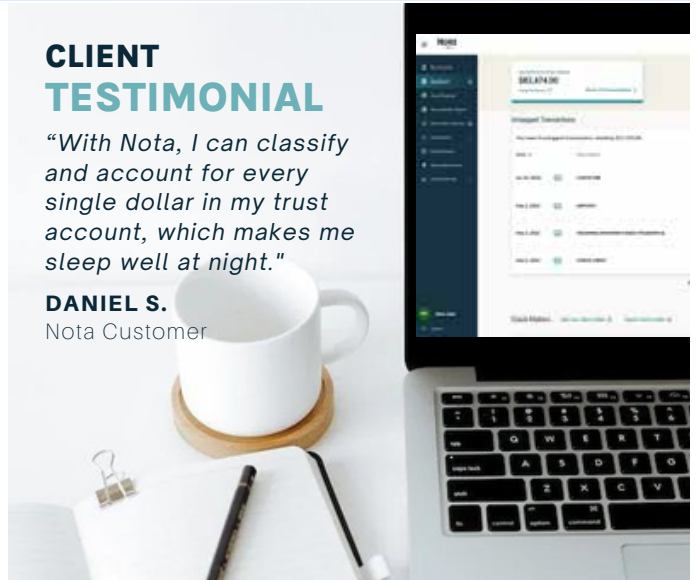
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- JD, Stetson University College of Law



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- Member, Manatee County Bar Association
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