



INTER ALIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE
COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

*News, invitations,
photos and more*

WELCOME 2024

*Calling all attorneys!
Pro Bono help needed for
those in need*

**GET READY FOR
FOOTBALL WEDNESDAY**

*Thank You Sponsors
for a Wonderful 2023*

**HOLIDAY PARTY
HIGHLIGHTS**



CALLING ALL ATTORNEYS!

Pro Bono help needed for those in need!

By James Lynch, Esq., MCBA Director

Members of the Manatee County Bar Association have a long and distinguished history of assisting our community through pro bono and volunteer endeavors. In recent memory, this includes the Wills for Hero Project, Volunteering for Veterans, and targeted pro bono opportunities such as providing homeowners assistance following the Great Recession. In 2024, the MCBA is seeking volunteers from its membership to assist with pro bono efforts in collaboration with the Manatee County Public Library System and Legal Aid of Manasota. Outreach through the local library system is crucial for some of our most need-based citizens. The Manatee County Public Library System supports the County's growing community and visitors through a wide range of educational and technological resources and programs at seven facilities through downtown Bradenton (Riverwalk), the east county region, the south county area, Holmes Beach, Palmetto, and Ellenton. In 2022, Manatee Library locations were visited over 500,000 times and their resources were used over 5 million times. Now, the Manatee County Public Library System has requested MCBA members to assist the community with a variety of pro bono legal services offered directly to Manatee County residents in need.

The project will begin in late January and consist of attorneys providing pro bono legal advice to registered Manatee County

residents in meetings held at various Manatee County libraries on a rotating basis. The January 2024 session will be held at the Central Library location located in Downtown Bradenton, the February 2024 session will be located at the South County Library location, and the March 2024 session will be held at the Palmetto Library location. The locations will continue to rotate in this order throughout 2024. The sessions will run from approximately 10:00 A.M. to Noon and 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. on the designated days.

The Manatee County Public Library System has identified the following areas of law as likely to be the most in need of legal services: family law, landlord/tenant law, general civil litigation law, criminal law, and estate/probate law. Given that the pro bono recipients will need to register with the library in advance, we should be able to identify the need for an attorney to cover a specific area of law in the days leading up to each session. If you are able to assist in providing pro bono legal services in any of these areas and are willing to sit for one hour or two-hour sessions, the library, the MCBA, and our community would greatly appreciate you signing up for this project. To sign up, please email Graceann at mcba@manateebar.com or James Lynch at jel@harlleebald.com, and we will make sure you get on the schedule and are involved in this amazing pro bono opportunity.

Thank you for all that you do for the community!

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.

Welcome New Members

John A. Lone, Esq.

Florida A&M College of Law, 2022
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2023

Firm: Mackey Law Group, P.A.

Area(s) of Practice: Civil Litigation, Business Law,
Wills/Trusts/Estates

Simone A. Taitano, Esq.

Howard University School of Law, 2020
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2023

Firm: Barnes Walker

Area(s) of Practice: Civil Litigation, Business Law

CONGRATULATIONS, NEIL LYONS!

MCBA Member and Luhrsen Goldberg attorney Neil Lyons was named the recipient of a 2023 Good Hero Philanthropic Award in December! [SRQ Magazine](#) recognized Neil for this meaningful impact to the community at the SB2: Philanthropic Agenda Luncheon and Good Hero Philanthropic Awards Luncheon. [Luhrsen Goldberg](#) managing partners Julie Luhrsen and Christina Goldberg were on hand to celebrate Neil and his achievement at the luncheon as well.





MCBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 9, 2024Real Property CLE
- Gilbert Smith Book Signing Event
- January 10, 2024 YLD Board of Directors Meeting
- January 19, 2024 YLD Tech Roadshow
- January 31, 2024 General Membership Luncheon
- February 7, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
- February 14, 2024 YLD Board of Directors Meeting
- February 28, 2024 Java with the Judges
-2nd DCA Oral Arguments
- General Membership Luncheon
- March 6, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
- March 13, 2024 YLD Board of Director Meeting
- March 15, 2024 4 HR Cybersecurity CLE
-w/Steven Bradley - details coming soon
- March 27, 2024 General Membership Luncheon
- April 3, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
- April 10, 2024 YLD Board of Directors Meeting
- May 1, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
- May 8, 2024 YLD Board of Directors Meeting
- May 10, 2024 Annual Spring Beach Party
- May 29, 2024LAW DAY Luncheon
- June 5, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
- June 12, 2024 YLD Board of Directors Meeting
- June 26, 2024MCBA Annual Meeting Luncheon

**Dates are subject to change*



As the year draws to a close, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible year we have had, and at the forefront of our gratitude are the exceptional individuals and organizations whose unwavering support has been instrumental in our success. To our esteemed annual sponsors, we extend our sincerest thanks and appreciation.

Their commitment to our cause has been the cornerstone of our achievements throughout the year. Our sponsors’ belief in our mission has not only provided us with financial support but has also empowered us to reach new heights and amplify our impact throughout Manatee County and beyond. Their generosity has allowed us to initiate groundbreaking projects, fuel innovative ideas, and create opportunities that have touched countless lives within our community. From presenting keynote speakers at our General Membership Luncheons, to empowering aspiring student artists through our “Art in the Courthouse” gallery, through continuing legal education courses to spearheading various charitable events such as the giving of necessary supplies to The Women’s Resource Center and providing the funds for 400 Thanksgiving Meals to our local community, and let us not forget our “Salute to Veterans” luncheon, your contributions have left an indelible mark on our endeavors.

Many thanks to our Annual Sponsors:

- Bar Prep Hero
- Barnes Walker
- Connect Central
- Firkins Automotive
- Harlee & Bald
- Lutz Bobo Telfair
- Manatee Community Foundation
- Nota by M&T Bank
- Perzel & Purdy Forensic CPAs
- Porges Hamlin Knowles & Hawk
- Ruby
- SouthState Bank
- The Fund
- UJWWM Mediation Group
- Westminster Communities of Bradenton

Looking for Job Opportunities?
Check out our Job Openings page on
our website at www.manateebar.com



MCBA GIVING BACK AT OPERATION THANKSGIVING DINNER!

It was 5:30 am on Tuesday, November 21st when members of the MCBA and various local groups gathered at Lincoln Middle School in Palmetto, Florida. No, they weren't gathering to watch the sun rise, but were getting ready to pack approximately 400 Thanksgiving Dinner boxes for residents in Manatee County. A small army worked in their formations to bag 400 turkeys, create the meal boxes and distribute them to

drivers to make the deliveries. Both Ray Bellamy and Sheriff Rick Wells organize the event each year and the MCBA was honored to provide \$500 toward the meal boxes and several volunteers! Get ready for next year! Thanksgiving 2024 will be here before you know it!

Many thanks to the MCBA volunteers and the Young Lawyers Division who provided a \$500 grant from The Florida Bar.



TECH

The Florida Bar YLD Technology Roadshow is coming to Bradenton

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

KIWANIS HALL- MANATEE

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

\$10 FOR MCBA MEMBERS/\$25 OTHERS

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[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

[MORE INFO? EMAIL MCBA@MANATEEBAR.COM](mailto:MCBA@MANATEEBAR.COM)

LAW CLERK



MEDIATION GROUP

ROADSHOW



MCBA Holds Holiday Party at Heritage Harbour Golf Club

Heritage Harbour Golf Club was the place to be on Friday, December 1st for the association's annual Holiday Party! Guests donning their holiday best, ugly sweaters, and festive attire came together for an event filled with fun, food, and festivities! Attendees were delighted to be part of raffles for fantastic prizes donated by annual sponsors such as Westminster Communities of Bradenton and Imperial Court Reporting! And the cookies...did you see the cookies? Wow! The beautiful, and very delicious cookie trays were created by Bite Me

Cookies and generously donated by Matt Unzicker of Berlin Patten Ebling.

Judge Charles Sniffen and Magistrate Paul Hudson found themselves being the official judges of the Ugly Sweater and Creative Costume Contest. Deliberations took a while after entrants strutted their stuff (there was a report of a shimmy) to

show off their sweaters and festive attire. Aaron Crittenden was the Overall Winner with his entry of the Lord of the Rings (Yule Log) sweater, while James Lynch ran a tight second in his toy soldier, or was it a nutcracker? Sweater. You be the judge of that!

Special thanks to the Annual Sponsors, Imperial Court Reporting, Bite Me Cookies, and Berlin Patten Ebling for making this another great event!

Stay tuned as next year's date will be announced soon!



SEAN POWERS RECOGNIZED AS 12th CIRCUIT PATRIOT!

Recently, Sean Powers was recognized at the 3rd Annual “The Florida Patriot” event, spearheaded by The Broward County Bar. Participating Bar Associations submitted names of veterans’ worthy of the honor. Veteran lawyers receiving the award were those who were both attorneys and veterans, providing service to their country and community. MCBA President, Aaron Crittenden presented Sean Powers with the award at the online event on Monday, November 27, 2023.



David Deitch
1st Circuit



Judge Gary Wilkinson
4th Circuit



Judge Carlos Mendoza
USDC Middle Dist.



Judge Ivan Fernandez
3rd DCA



Sean Powers, Esq.
12th Circuit



Judge Greg Holder (ret.)
13th Circuit

CO-HOST



Judge Howard Coates, Jr.
15th Circuit



Stephen Moss, Esq.
17th Circuit



Michael Corso, Esq.
20th Circuit



Braulio N. Rosa
Executive Director
Broward Co. Bar Assoc.



Robyn Vines, Esq.
GrayRobinson
Shareholder



Angelina "Angel" Colonnese

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller of Manatee County

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Mailing Address P.O. Box 25400, Bradenton, Florida 34205 • Website www.ManateeClerk.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JUDICIARY
CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS
MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
NEWSPAPERS
GENERAL PUBLIC

FROM: Angelina "Angel" Colonnese

DATE: September 27, 2023

RE: *AMENDED* HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR 2024

Please be informed that the Clerk of the Circuit Court's Office will be following a combination of the Board of County Commissioners', Court and State holidays as designated below.

Jan. 1	New Year's Day	Monday	1 day
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday	1 day
Feb. 19	Presidents' Day (with Court coverage - Clerk to provide coverage for court as needed)	Monday	1 day
Mar. 29	Good Friday	Friday	1 day
May 27	Memorial Day	Monday	1 day
June 19	Juneteenth	Wednesday	1 day
July 4/5	Independence Day/Day after Independence	Thurs./Fri.	2 day
Sept. 2	Labor Day	Monday	1 day
Oct. 3	Clerk's In-Service Day/Closed to Public	Thursday	1 day
Nov. 11	Veterans Day	Monday	1 day
Nov. 28/29	Thanksgiving Day/Day after Thanksgiving	Thurs./Fri.	2 day
Dec. 24/25	Christmas Eve/Christmas Day	Tues./Wed.	2 day

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Get Ready for

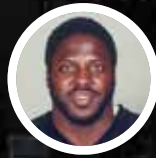
FOOTBALL WEDNESDAY

GUEST SPEAKERS



**RAY
BELLAMY**

NY Jets
Montreal Alouettes, CFL
University of Miami
Lincoln High School, Palmetto



**HENRY
LAWRENCE**

Oakland Raiders
Super Bowls XI, XV, and XVIII
Florida A&M
Lincoln High School, Palmetto



ALL **ATTENDEES** WILL BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE FOR AN AUTOGRAPHED FOOTBALL!

WED., JANUARY 31ST, 2024 KIWANIS HALL, MPAC

12:00 NOON, 11:45 LUNCH BEGINS

FREE FOR MCBA MEMBERS/\$35 GUESTS

CLICK HERE TO RSVP

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Save The Date

MCBA Past Presidents Appreciation Luncheon

Wednesday, March 27th at noon, Kiwanis Hall
 Guest Speaker: Scott Westheimer, Florida Bar President

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Special thanks to Our Annual Sponsors



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- 1.** Free Lunches
- 2.** CLEs - local and many are Free!
- 3.** Free Events
- 4.** Free Online Directory Listing



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Office of the Federal Defender
Middle District of Florida
Alec Fitzgerald Hall, Esq.
Federal Defender

Vacancy Announcement #2024-003R
Position Title: Assistant Federal Defender
Duty Station: Orlando, Florida

Posting: December 29, 2023
Closing Date: Open until filled
Full-Time

The Federal Defender for the Middle District of Florida is accepting applications for Assistant Federal Defender position in the Trial Unit in Orlando. The Trial Unit represents indigent persons charged with criminal offenses in the United States District Court and provides appellate representation, in conjunction with the appellate division in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

The ideal candidate must have a demonstrated commitment to indigent defense, excellent oral advocacy, and solid legal research and writing skills. The successful candidate should expect to defend and litigate federal criminal offenses involving guns, drugs, violent crimes, sex offenses, and complex conspiracies and fraud. The successful candidate must be prepared to zealously advocate for our clients who are often facing minimum mandatory and life sentences. Preference is given to applicants with criminal trial experience, preferably more than five years.

The successful candidate must be an effective and thoughtful communicator with clients, colleagues, and staff. The successful candidate should be team-oriented and possess the ability to collaborate with other attorneys, paralegals, investigators, staff, and experts.

The successful candidate must be a member in good standing of any state bar. Florida Bar membership is preferred but not required. Spanish language proficiency is preferred but not required.

Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. This is a full-time position with federal government employment benefits, including health and life insurance, retirement, and Thrift Saving Plan. Salary is payable only by Electronic Funds transfer (direct deposit).

How to Apply: Qualified persons may apply by submitting a letter of interest, resume, three professional references, and two recent writing samples (limited to 10 pages each) in a single Adobe PDF format. **that are incomplete or fail to follow the instructions above will not be considered. If you already applied for this position, your application is still under review; therefore, there is no need to reapply.** An email confirming receipt of the PDF will be sent to all applicants.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN?
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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

Announcing!

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Of Counsel: Patricia A. Petruff, Gregory Porges,
Thomas A. Thanas

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- Chairman, Florida Bar Council of Sections 2018-2019
- Certified Circuit Civil Mediator
- Certified County Civil Mediator

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*Referral fees paid in accordance with Florida Bar Rules

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2023-20.4

(Amends AO 2023-11.4)

FOURTH AMENDED JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS 2023

The following judicial assignments are effective December 4, 2023.

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 Charles Sniffen (Manatee County)

Unified Family Court (Desoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties - has operational authority to implement UFC policy and procedures circuit-wide)

Honorable Teresa K. Dees

Family Division

Honorable Maria Ruhl (Sarasota County) Honorable Teresa K. Dees (Manatee County)

Hague Convention Cases

Honorable Diana L. Moreland (Manatee and Desoto Counties) Honorable Donna Padar (Sarasota 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 Civil	Manatee County	Honorable David Ryan Felix Honorable
Division D	Manatee County	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 Offenders (Jimmy Ryce Act)		Honorable Diana L. Moreland Violent

*in Desoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties

CIRCUIT CRIMINAL – MANATEE & SARASOTA COUNTIES

Felony Division I Felony	Manatee County	Honorable Matt Whyte Honorable Frederick
Division III Felony	Manatee County	P. Mercurio Honorable Charles Sniffen
Division V	Manatee County	
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 Honorable
Family Division 4	Manatee County	Teresa K. Dees
Family Division 1	Sarasota County	Honorable Rochelle T. Curley
Family Division 2	Sarasota County	Honorable Maria Ruhl
Family Division H	South Sarasota County	Honorable Danielle Brewer

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
Sarasota County – Division H	Honorable Charles E. Williams

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		Honorable Lon S. Arend
Drug Court, Veteran’s Court	Manatee County	Honorable Lon S. Arend
Drug /Opioid/ Veteran’s Court	Sarasota 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
CTC – Manatee	Manatee County	Honorable Heather Doyle
Early Childhood Court	Manatee County	Honorable Teresa K. Dees
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 Erika N. Quartermaine
Comprehensive Treatment Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Erika N. Quartermaine
Health Care Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Erika N. Quartermaine

COUNTY COURT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

Desoto County	Honorable Guy A. Flowers
Manatee County	Honorable Renee L. Inman
Sarasota County	Honorable Erika N. Quartermaine

DESOTO COUNTY COURT

All County Civil and Criminal
Honorable Guy A. Flowers

MANATEE COUNTY COURT

Civil Division 1
Civil Division 2
Criminal Division 3
Criminal Division 4

Honorable Renee L. Inman
Honorable Jacqueline B. Steele
Honorable Heather Doyle
Honorable Melissa Gould

SARASOTA COUNTY COURT

South County Division
Criminal/Civil Division A
Criminal/Civil Division B
Criminal/Civil Division C
Criminal /Civil Division D

Honorable Maryann Olson Uzabel
Honorable Erika N. Quartermaine
Honorable Kennedy Legler
Honorable TBD
Honorable David Denkin

GENERAL MAGISTRATES/HEARING OFFICERS

David P. Caskey, Natalya Evans, Mary Ann Floyd, Vincent Giura, * Laura M. Hale, Paul Hudson, Rebecca L. Hunt, Lawrence Jacobs, Edward C. Wilson
**effective December 11, 2023*

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT HEARING OFFICERS

Laura M. Hale, Lawrence Jacobs

TRUANCY COURT GENERAL MAGISTRATE

Linda Lorrier

CIVIL TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS HEARING OFFICER

Matthew K. Peters

DONE AND ORDERED this 7th day of December, 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
Kimberly Miller, Court Administrator, Twelfth Judicial Circuit IT Dept.
Clerk of Court, Manatee County Clerk of Court, Desoto County
All Law Enforcement Agencies, Twelfth Judicial Circuit Sarasota County Bar Association
Manatee County Bar Association



S/B Scott Brownell
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- BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL LITIGATION
- LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ISSUES
- PRODUCT LIABILITY
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISPUTES
- PROFESSIONAL FEE DISPUTES

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ed@sobelattorneys.com



ANGELINA "ANGEL" COLONNESO
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER OF MANATEE COUNTY

New Requirements for Recording Documents Affecting Real Property

Effective Jan. 1, 2024 per F.S. 695.26

Documents affecting real property must include:

- The name of each witness is legibly printed, typewritten, or stamped immediately beneath the signature of the witness; and,
- **The address of each witness is legibly printed, typewritten, or stamped on each instrument.**

Documents will not be recorded unless they meet all statutory requirements.



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- Past President, Manatee County Bar Association
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- J.D., The University of Tennessee College of Law




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- Combat Veteran, United States Marine Corps
- Volunteer Judge, Manatee County Teen Court
- JD, Stetson University College of Law



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CLE COURSE

Reporting Requirements under the October 2023 Geographic Targeting Order and the Corporate Transparency Act

When: Tuesday, January 9th, 2024
Where: Manatee County Judicial Center, Multipurpose Room


12 - 1:00 pm., Approved for 1 General & .5 Ethics/Technology credits

About the Course:
 High-value residential real estate markets are vulnerable to penetration by foreign and domestic criminal organizations and corrupt actors, especially those misusing otherwise legitimate limited liability companies or other legal entities to shield their identities. The IRS' Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) has established regulations which require financial institutions or other businesses to report certain transactions as well as reporting beneficial owners of certain entities.

This course describes the reporting requirements for real estate transactions under the most recent Geographic Targeting Order (GTO) as well as the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA). Instruction includes a discussion of the history of money laundering in real estate, as well as instructions and practice tips to help the real estate practitioner file the reports. The program will begin with a discussion of the most recent GTO and how to file a Currency Transaction Report, followed by a discussion of the Corporate Transparency Act, which takes effect on January 1, 2024. Lastly the program will address the similarities and the differences between reporting under each law.

\$10 for MCBA Members
Only MCBA members may attend - space is limited!

About The Speaker:
 KARA J. SCOTT is a native of Rhode Island and earned a degree in history from Rhode Island College in 1992 and her law degree from New England Law in Boston, MA, in 1995. She has been a member of the Rhode Island Bar since 1995 and became a member of the Florida Bar and the Connecticut Bar in 2006. Ms. Scott was a partner of a prestigious real estate firm in Rhode Island prior to relocating to Florida in 2019 where she practiced with a real estate firm in Sarasota. Prior to joining the Fund's Legal Education Department in 2023, Ms. Scott's practice focused on residential and commercial real estate transactions, business law, land use and estate administration. Ms. Scott is a member of The Florida Bar's Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section and the Sarasota County Bar Association.

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MATT TOWERY, ESQ.

Matt Towery is a graduate of Cambridge University and the Stetson University College of Law. In 2016 he was inducted into the Stetson College of Law's Hall of Fame. Matt is an attorney and the former CEO of his family owned Atlanta-based Color Graphics, which was the Southeast's largest sheetfed commercial printing company when sold to a publicly traded company, in the late 1990s. He is the author of 4 books and was a nationally syndicated columnist for Creators Syndicate for fifteen years until he retired from writing. Matt Towery founded the national polling firm InsiderAdvantage in 2000 and has served as pollster and political analyst for major network-owned national Fox affiliates, including Fox 13 in Tampa. He also is a cast member of the nation's top-rated daily syndicated radio talk show and co-host of a weekly podcast, Polling Plus, carried on Apple Podcasts and IHeart Radio. InsiderAdvantage was rated one of the top national pollsters for the cumulative period of 2016 to present and the most accurate pollster in the nation for the 2020 presidential cycle by RealClearPolitics. Mr. Towery is also Of Counsel to the national law firm of Hall, Booth, Smith. Matt served as a Georgia State Representative in the Georgia House of Representatives, representing the northern suburbs of Atlanta, before returning to Florida. He and his wife Dolle live on Snell Isle in Saint Petersburg. The 2nd DCA are scheduled for Oral Arguments and to be in attendance as is our tradition!

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Details:

- 2 hr time slots, 10a-12p or 5p-7p
- January: Central Library
- February: South Manatee (26th Ave)
- March: Palmetto Library
- Locations Rotate through 2024
- Family Law, Landlord/Tenant Law, General Civil Litigation Law, Criminal Law, Estate/Probate Law



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