

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

MARCH/APRIL 2024

News, invitations, photos and more

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Enhancing Legal Education for Young Lawyers: A Commitment to Growth and Skill Development

GET READY FOR FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENT SCOTT WESTHEIMER IN MARCH!

Members Out & About

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2020 LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS



# ENHANCING LEGAL EDUCATION FOR YOUNG LAWYERS: A COMMITMENT TO GROWTH AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

By Alexandria Nicodemi, Esq., MCBA Director

Over the past three years, it has been a privilege to represent the 12th Judicial Circuit on the Florida Bar

Board of Governors Young Lawyers Division. In my capacity as a member of the Board, my primary focus has been, and continues to be, the advancement of legal education opportunities for our young lawyers across the State. Under the guidance of President Anisha Patel, the YLD has focused on creating significant advancements to legal education opportunities in Florida. The following provides a brief overview of the legal education opportunities offered during the 2023-2024 Bar Year.

#### THE EXPANSION OF BASIC SKILLS CLE:

As the Co-Chair of the Basic Skills Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Committee this year, I have prioritized the expansion of Basic Skills Courses. Basic Skills Courses play a pivotal role in providing foundational knowledge and practical insights to those who are at the early stages of their legal careers. Our committee has diligently worked towards expanding the number and variety of Basic Skills Courses offered to young lawyers. Our Basics series, comprising 12 recorded sessions, each lasting 7 hours, provides a comprehensive foundation for legal professionals. With an additional 8 sessions currently in progress, we are working tirelessly to accumulate 140 hours of valuable legal education content that spans various legal domains.

Furthermore, we have embraced technology to make these courses more accessible to a broader audience. By leveraging virtual platforms, we aim to break down geographical barriers and provide young lawyers from various regions with the opportunity to benefit from high-quality legal education.

#### **VIRTUAL SUMMIT TRIUMPH:**

One of the highlights of our recent endeavors is the Virtual Summit, a groundbreaking initiative that hosted 32 CLE sessions. With participation from 52 speakers and representation from 16 Bar Sections, the summit attracted an impressive 980 registrations. The commitment to accessibility is underscored by the decision to make all Virtual Summit sessions freely available on our website, ensuring that valuable legal insights are within reach for legal professionals statewide.

Building on the success of the inaugural Virtual Summit, the YLD is excited to announce the upcoming Virtual Summit 2 in April. This event promises to bring together legal minds once again, providing a platform for continued learning and collaboration.

### PRACTICE SERIES WEBINARS: TAILORING LEGAL EDUCATION TO SPECIFIC NEEDS

Recognizing the diverse needs of legal practitioners, our Practice Series Webinars offer targeted one-hour sessions on family law, personal injury, business litigation, and ethical billing practices. Scheduled forums on mediation and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) provide interactive opportunities for learning and discussion. With pending webinars addressing employment disputes, probate litigation, and real estate transactions, the YLD remains committed to delivering specialized legal educational opportunities.

### **PWP Program:**

#### NURTURING PROFESSIONALISM FROM THE START

The Practicing with Professionalism (PWP) program, a mandatory 7-hour course for lawyers in their first year of practice, stands as a testament to our commitment to instilling essential professional values. As we look ahead, a second iteration of PWP is in development, set to launch in the coming Spring.

### ENGLE PROGRAM: A HUB FOR PROFESSIONALISM RESOURCES

The Engle Program has evolved into a valuable resource hub, featuring a professionalism website with courses and videos for self-education or incorporation into taught curricula. As part of our ongoing efforts, three more videos are currently in production, expanding the wealth of content available to legal professionals.

#### AOC CONTRIBUTIONS: FREE PROFESSIONALISM CLES

The Affiliate Outreach Conference (AOC) is right around the corner from February 15-17, 2024. AOC offers 2 hours of free live CLEs covering artificial intelligence, social media etiquette, managing difficult opposing counsels/clients, and utilizing decorum.law resources. This is a great opportunity for young lawyers, across the state, to come together for professional education and development.

## LEGAL WRITING PROGRAM: FOSTERING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

In April/May 2024, the YLD is set to launch a legal writing program, offering a 3 or 6-hour course. This initiative, developed in collaboration with other state bars, including Georgia and Louisiana, reflects our commitment to promoting effective communication skills among legal professionals.

#### LAW STUDENT OUTREACH: INSPIRING THE FUTURE

To inspire and guide the next generation of legal professionals, President Anisha Patel has undertaken an ambitious outreach effort, visiting or scheduling visits to every law school in Florida this year. This engagement with law students reflects our commitment to nurturing the future leaders of the legal community.

### **CONCLUSION:**

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 Florida Bar Year, the initiatives undertaken underscore a commitment to fostering a culture of continuous learning, accessibility, and collaboration within the legal community. Looking ahead, the YLD of the Florida Bar remains steadfast in our dedication to empowering legal professionals and nurturing the growth of the legal community in Florida.

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.

### MCBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 13, 2024	. YLD Board of Directors Meeting
March 15, 20244 HR Cyl	persecurity CLE w/Steven Bradley
March 27, 2024	General Membership Luncheon
	/Past Presidents Appreciation
April 3, 2024	Board of Directors Meeting
April 10, 2024	. YLD Board of Directors Meeting
April 16, 2024	Real Estate & Divorce CLE
May 1, 2024	Board of Directors Meeting
May 8, 2024	. YLD Board of Directors Meeting
May 10, 2024	Annual Spring Beach Party
May 29, 2024	LAW DAY Luncheon
June 5, 2024	Board of Directors Meeting
June 12, 2024	. YLD Board of Directors Meeting
June 26, 2024	.MCBA Annual Meeting Luncheon
*Dates are subject to change	

# CAN YOU SPOT THE MCBA GAVEL?

Within the pages of the Inter Alia, you will find one special gavel that looks like this:



No, this example does not count...so go look for it! It may be found in an article, a photo, or an ad.

If you can find it, email us at <a href="mailto:mcba@manatee-bar.com">mcba@manatee-bar.com</a> with your name, email and let us know where you found it (page/placement).

All correct submissions will be put into a raffle for some great prizes! This issue's winner will receive a \$10 Starbucks Gift Card! Submissions must be received by April 15th, 2024!

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





## HIGHLIGHTS OF JAVA WITH THE JUDGES 2024

The Layon Robinson Memorial Library was the place to be early morning on Wednesday, February 26th when our Young Lawyers Division hosted our annual Java with the Judges event! Members, judges from the 2nd DCA and 12th Judicial Circuit, staff and friends stopped by to enjoy a cup of morning 'Joe and pastries courtesy of our YLD and Grace Reeves of Herman & Wells. A MCBA tradition, this much anticipated event is held annually when our 2nd DCA comes to Manatee County to hear Oral Arguments. Special thanks to our YLDers who made the donut run to Turner Donut and of course our 12th Judicial Circuit staff, and the MCSO who all assisted with the moving parts to make this event happen once again.



THE INTERSECTION OF HI-TECH STALKING, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND FAMILY LAW CASES

Friday, March 15, 2024; 10 am - 2 pm

Manatee Community Foundation - 2820 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton



Steven Bradley: Cybersecurity Expert and Trainer, Consultant, Family Law Specialist, Certified Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocate, Ret. Law Enforcement

As our dependency and use of technology increases, we rely on electronic devices to complete many daily activities. Unfortunately, these same technologies are being seen more and more in family law cases where offenders have identified ways to exploit them in order to facilitate harm towards their victims and co-parents alike. In this interactive workshop, Steven Bradley will explore the risks and benefits of technology, not only for the clients we serve, but also for you in your personal and professional lives. Attendees will learn safety planning and evidence collection strategies for phone technology, location apps, social media, and more. Non-technical language will be used throughout the presentation and how to safely navigate the world of technology

NETWORKING & LUNCH INCLUDED! Approved for 3 Gen/Tech Credits!

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TO REGISTER!

\$15 FOR MCBA MEMBERS/\$25 OTHERS

CLE

MORE INFO? EMAIL
MCBA@MANATEEBAR.COM

## JOB POSTINGS:

### **Attorney Vacancy**

### **Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office-Circuit 12**

Help children find permanency by joining the Florida Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office. We represent abused and neglected children in dependency court, advocating for their legal interests using multi-disciplinary teams with child welfare professionals and community volunteers. These rewarding, fast-paced positions are available to attorneys of varying levels of experience and provide many opportunities for professional development gaining trial experience and furthering expertise in juvenile law. Excellent benefits, rates as low as \$8.34 per month for single coverage with family coverage costing only \$30 per month. Free life insurance and qualified participation in the Florida Retirement System (FRS). Join our Office, where you can positively impact children and families in Florida. Openings are available in multiple jurisdictions throughout Florida. Hiring level is dependent on candidate's experience.

### Applicants need to be:

- A member of the Florida Bar in Good Standing
- Motivated to use and improve legal skills on behalf of children and youth
- Skillful at problem-solving, collaboration, and negotiation

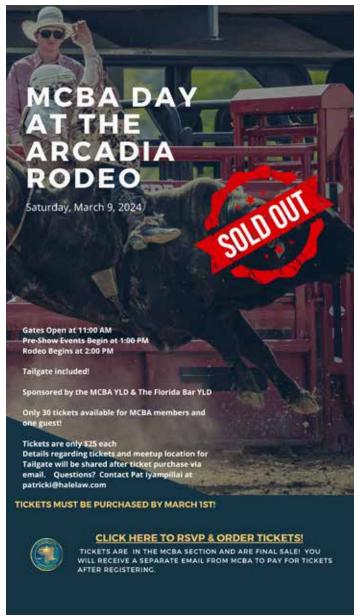
#### To Learn More:

Click Here to Read Guardian Ad Litem Career Opportunity

### **Litigation Paralegal**

Sanchez law, PLLC, a downtown Sarasota business litigation firm seeks an experienced paralegal to work directly with attorney Albert Sanchez. Applicants should have a minimum of five years of civil litigation experience. The job responsibilities will include case management from client intake through the conclusion of the case, direct interaction with attorneys and their paralegals as well as judicial assistants. The applicant will also be responsible for all scheduling and court filings on behalf of Mr. Sanchez. This is a full-time, in-office, position with a competitive salary and health insurance reimbursement. A private office and friendly atmosphere will be provided to the applicant. Please send resumes as a PDF attachment to an email to: albert@sanchezlawfla.com and admin@sanchezlawfla.com. No phone inquiries please.







### **CLE COURSE**

# THE INTERSECTION OF DIVORCE AND REAL ESTATE...

- Minimize Conflict Regarding Real Estate Matters in Divorce
- · Avoid Undiscovered Pitfalls Early in the Process
- Assist & Navigate Decision of "What to Do with the House"?
- · What to Do When Your Clients are "Married to Their Mortgage"?
- Establish Correct Value "What is the Home Worth"?
- Assess Where the Proceeds Will Go
- Know What a Certified Divorce Real Estate Expert Is and How One Can Elevate Your Law Practice

## AMANDA REICHERT, CDRE™, REALTOR®, SPEAKER

Recognized and Certified Expert in the practice of family law-based real estate across Sarasota, Manatee, Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties

### TUESDAY, APRIL 16TH, 2024

Manatee County Judicial Center,
Multipurpose Room
12 noon to 1 pm
Lunch included
Only \$10 for members!

APPROVED FOR 1 GENERAL CREDIT, 1 REAL ESTATE & 1 MARITAL AND FAMILY LAW CERTIFICATION CREDITS



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www.manateebar.com

# Welcome New Members

### Nicholas M. Bedy, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law, 2013 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2022 Firm/Office: State Attorney's Office Area(s) Of Practice: Criminal Law

### Gerald T. Buhr, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law, 1991 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 1991 Firm: Gerald T. Buhr, P.A. Area(s) of Practice: City/County/Local Government, Environmental Land Use, Family Law

### Mary Clapp, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law, 2004 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2005 Firm: Delafran, LLC Area(s) of Practice: Franchise Law, Business Law

### William Curphey, Esq.

Cleveland State University, 1973
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 1984
Firm: Curphey & Badger, PA
Area(s) of Practice: Civil Litigation,
Commercial Litigation, Labor & Employment

#### Paul Driscoll, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law, 2014 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2015 Firm/Office: City of Bradenton Police Department Area(s) of Practice: City/County/Local Government

### Cecilia Ann Eaton, Esq.

University of Miami, 1991 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 1991 Firm: Cecilia Eaton, Attorney At Law Area(s) of Practice: Family Law, Estate Planning

### Tricia Fradley, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law, 1997 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 1998 Firm: Law Office of Tricia Fradley, PA Area(s) of Practice: Family Law, Mediation

### Valerie Hall, Esq.

University of Akron School of Law, 2005 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2023 Firm: Lang Hall Law Office

Area(s) of Practice: Estate Planning, Probate & Trust Litigation, Business Law

### Jessica Ann Hannaford, Esq.

Florida Coastal School of Law, 2014 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2015 Firm: Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. Area(s) of Practice: Public Interest Law, Criminal Law

### Jennifer Hensley, Esq.

Florida Coastal School of Law, 2019 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2020 Firm: Hensley Law Office, LLC Area(s) of Practice: Estate Planning, Real Estate Law, Civil Litigation

### Joseph F. Iennaco, Esq.

Florida State University, 2021 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2024 Firm: Chapman Law Group Area(s) of Practice: Health Law, Civil Litigation, Administrative Law

### Travis D. Kemp, Esq.

University of North Dakota, 2004 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2005 Firm: Hale Law Area(s) of Practice: Civil Trial, Personal Injury

### Briahna Martinez, Esq.

Barry University School of Law, 2016 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2016 Firm: The Guardian Ad Litem Office Area(s) of Practice: Juvenile Law, Government Law, Family Law

### Alexis Schad, Esq.

University of Miami, 2022 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2022 Firm/Office: Office of The Public Defender, 12th Judicial Circuit Area(s) of Practice: Criminal Law







Telfair Building Co is a full-service contractor performing work in the Sarasota and Manatee County areas and focuses on Renovations, Additions and New Construction.

Brendan and CJ Telfair are the owners and contractors behind Telfair Building Co. They are proud to be Manatee/Sarasota County Natives and 2nd generation entrepreneurs to the area!

License#: CBC1265889

Website: Telfairbuildingco.com

941-894-7985

# January MCBA Luncheon TOUCHDOWN!

It was at the January General Membership Luncheon when Ray Bellamy and Henry Lawrence took the podium to discuss their trailblazing college and football careers. Bellamy, who played for Miami University and the New York Jets to name a few, was the first black football player to wear a Miami University jersey. Lawrence, played for the Oakland Raiders in five Super Bowls. Both gentlemen reminisced about their days at Lincoln High School, being raised within farming families in Palmetto, FL, and the experiences that made them the men they are today. Also at this meeting, Catherine Mackey won the autographed NFL football! Yay, Cathy! If you missed it in person, no worries! Charles Clapsaddle and the METV team filmed the event for Bradenton and Manatee County residents to enjoy! You may watch the event on METV's YouTube Channel at: https://youtu.be/IMpCh31wfqw?si=PIGz1zv5\_xcN9KMJ









L to R: Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr., Ray Bellamy, Catherine Mackey, Henry Lawrence, Judge Robert Farrance

"FIVE THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ME"



## AMANDA REICHERT Certified Divorce Real Estate Expert "CDRE" REALTOR with Fine Properties



- I love helping people navigate the complexities of divorce. As the founder of The Divorce Connection", over the past 7 years, I have helped hundreds of people in NH, MA and FL-through partnerships with trusted, vetted divorce resources to provide free education meetings to the divorcing public.
- I have been married to my amazing husband Chris for 13 years, I am a mom to 2 adult children (22 & 26) and I am a dog mom to 2 miniature dachshunds, Leonardo & Piper.
- I wanted to be a lawyer "when I grew up". Now I
  have the privilege of working with them on a daily
  basis.
- I am always reading, mostly business books. I'm a passionate learner and lifelong student.
- 5. I am most motivated professionally knowing I make a difference every day, I am most often at "the end of the line", most frequently with high conflict divorcing homeowners and being able get them across the finish line with the sale of their home is very rewarding.

Amanda Reichert is a proud sponsor of the MCBA!

### Three Great Concerts This Spring!



The battle of the sexes takes center stage as former spouses feud onstage and off during a musical presentation of The Taming of the Shrew.



Check out all of our great events at ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com

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Carla Cummings Consumer Bank Market Manger

# Highlights of February General Membership Luncheon 2024

We hit another one out of the park....with our special guest speaker, Matt Towery, at our February 28th General Membership Luncheon. Towery, a retired national pollster, as seen on most all major news networks from NBC to ABC to FOX spoke on some of the ins and outs of his "polling" career with some insight, from a pollster point of view, of what's ahead! Towery, an attorney with the Atlanta Firm Hall Booth Smith, put the ball over the fence! Also at this luncheon was our 2nd DCA judges who were in town to hear Oral Arguments earlier in the day. Judge LaRose presented a quick update regarding the new 2nd DCA Court House being built in St. Petersburg (as you can see in the rendering photo). And, Abigail Galati, our YLD Director, presented our monthly Hot Minute updating our membership on the great upcoming events and projects being planned. Not a member of our association, well you should be! If you're an attorney, or business looking to sponsor our association and become involved with a great group, contact our Executive Director, Graceann an visit our website at: www.manateebar.com







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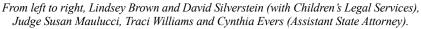


■ WWW.LBTLAW.COM

### **MCBA Members Out & About**

### Judge Smith Book Signing







MCBA Members Fred Moore, Esq. and MCBA Secretary Brian Iten

In January, Judge Gilbert Smith was spotted at the Manatee Performing Arts Center. Bradenton Kiwanis hosted a book signing where Judge Smith signed the latest edition of his newest book, "Champions of Children, Volume 2" which gives 100 years of the history of Bradenton Kiwanis and the many children's projects they have spearheaded through the last century. Many MCBA members and leaders can be found within the pages. Thank you, Judge Gilbert Smith, for your commitment to preserving our rich history! If you would like to learn more, or purchase, "Champions of Children", please contact Janene Amick at (941) 748-5875.

### MCBA Members At Camp Flying Eagle



In January, MCBA Secretary Brian Iten and Judge Gilbert Smith were spotted at Camp Flying Eagle in celebration of Merit Badge Day! Also in photo, State Representative Tommy Gregory, not pictured, Manatee County Sheriff, Rick Wells.

### **MCBA Members Out & About**

### Real Property Section Holds CLE

Lisa Gonzalez Moore, Esq, our MCBA Real Property Section Chair was spotted at our Real Property CLE entitled, Reporting Requirements Under the October 2023 GTO & CTA sponsored by THE FUND and taught by Kara Scott, Esq.



# YLD Holds TECH ROAD SHOW with The Florida Bar

Aaron Crittenden, MCBA President and Patrick Barnes, YLD President, were spotted at The YLD Tech Road Show, sponsored by The Florida Bar YLD and the MCBA. The Tech Road Show rolled into Bradenton for a half day CLE.



# Announcing! DYE HARRISON KNOWLES

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Jason M. De Paola

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

### IT'S RODEO TIME!

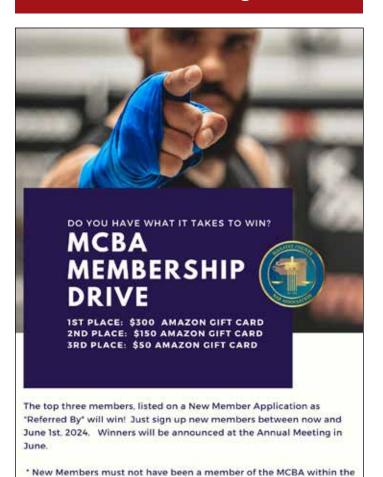
Yeehaw! Several of our 12th Circuit folks were spotted at the Kiwanis Luncheon when the guest speaker was Judge Hall! And the topic was everything "Arcadia Rodeo" as the rodeo is rolling into our area for it's 96th year! Come on out to the "Grandaddy of them All" with the largest payout this side of the Mississippi! It's a Manatee County and DeSoto County tradition. Tickets are almost gone but we have a few for Saturday, March 9th for our MCBA members and guests at only \$25 each so get them before they're gone!



Pictured l to r: Judge Nicholas, Rodeo Announcer, Judge Smith, Judge Hall, Judge Dees, Judge Doyle and Judge Sniffen

### **NEW POLICY AT THE MCJC!**

Effective January 22, 2024, e-cigs, vape pens, and butane type lighters are no longer allowed in the building.



last 3 years. Applications are online at www.manateebar.com





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

Board of Trial Advocacy



Super Lawyers



# MCBA YLD Wins First Place In Florida Bar YLD Affiliate Outreach Project



Caption for photo: "MCBA Members in photo are Alexandria Nicodemi, FL YLD Board of Governors, Patrick Iyampillai, MCBA YLD Vice President and Chad Manausa. MCBA YLD Director"

The MCBA congratulates our Young Lawyers Division on their "BEST COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT " win at The Florida Bar's Young Lawyers Affiliate Outreach Conference in Orlando on February 16th and 17th, 2024.

Patrick Barnes, MCBA YLD President, Patrick Iyampillai, MCBA YLD Vice President, and Chad Manausa YLD Director presented their project benefitting Selah Freedom in 2024, "Operation SELAH Freedom."

Selah Freedom is a non-profit organization providing safe housing for teenage girls that have been saved from human trafficking. These young women have the opportunity to reacclimate in society, receiving the services they require during their recovery from their traumatic experiences. The residential housing holds up to 14 young women, and there are currently 30 young women in the outreach program. As residents "graduate" from the program, space opens for new residents.

In addition to the outreach and residential program, SELAH Freedom had over 346 million media reaches in 2022, provided 6,000 services for survivors, and almost 60,000 kids and adults trained in human traffic awareness. The organization provides homes for victims saved from trafficking, brings media awareness of the dangers and reality of human trafficking, and training for individuals, law enforcement, and organizations to identify and prevent trafficking.

Operation SELAH Freedom, hosted by the Manatee YLD, will take on an organization-wide donation drive this spring, consisting of monetary donations and items on SELAH Freedom's Amazon gift registry. Any money raised will be used to purchase a care package for each resident in the SELAH Freedom house, with the remainder used to purchase more items on the gift registry.

MCBA members will be invited to purchase items from the Amazon registry directly as well.

The Amazon registry consists of essential items required to keep the house and its occupants healthy. The registry lists all of the items needed on a daily basis, ranked by most needed. Examples of items include: soap, toothpaste, kitchen essentials, cleaning products, and much more. As a non-profit organization housing many young women, these items are extremely important and costly; and the MCBA will be asked to participate in bringing hope to the residents of SELAH Freedom in a variety of ways listed below:

This spring, an e-mail will go out to all MCBA members with a link to the Amazon Gift Registry for direct donations as well as a link to make a monetary contribution. After the drive is completed, the MCBA YLD will host a ceremony to present the donations to SELAH Freedom and their representatives.

As ambassadors of our community, the Manatee YLD understands the crucial role SELAH Freedom plays in publicizing how invasive and terrible the human trafficking problem is nationally and within our own community. The attorneys comprising the Manatee County Bar Association will provide all the support possible to this organization who in turn supports the community, thus fulfilling the purpose of both the YLD and the MCBA as a whole.

The YLD knows they can count on the MCBA's support in this extremely important initiative, and hopefully continue supporting this great cause for years to come. The MCBA YLD sincerely thanks The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division for their support in this initiative, as they have already confirmed our grant application for this cause is approved.

### Steele Williams, Esquire

Legal Expertise You Can Rely On Sarasota & Manatee County

My Florida law practice is focused on assiting clients in the following areas of the law: Civil Litigation • Real Estate • Business Litigation Securities Litigation • Estate & Trust Litigation

- ♦ 27 years of trial experience in court and arbitration.
- ♦ Referrals welcome, co-counsel business, commercial and estate litigation cases regularly.
- Very experienced with Florida Bar business and contract jury instructions.
- ♦ Board certified in business litigation over 10 years.

### Steele Williams, Esquire

1381 Mc Ansh Square, Sarasota, FL 34236 (941) 378-1800

Email: SteeleTWilliams@comcast.net Website: www.sarasotalitigation.com

Member: Sarasota County Bar Association Manatee County Bar Association









### **Barnes Walker**

### Goethe, Perron, Shea, & Robinson, PLLC

The firm's Wills, Trusts and Estate attorneys are currently accepting referrals and new clients in the following areas:

· Homestead issues

· Veteran's benefits

· Guardianship administration and litigation

M. Brandon Robinson, Esq.

Admitted to the Florida Bar in 2015
 United States Dept. of Veteran's Affairs

Conduct Veteran, United States Marine Corps

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

Accredited Attorne

- · Estate planning
- · Probate and trust administration
- · Elective share and surviving spouse rights



- 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, Manutce County Bar Association
   Member, The Florida Bar Rules of General Practice and
- J.D., The University of Tennessee College of Law



Kevin M. Collver, Esq.

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



Erin M. Hinsberg, Esq.

- Admitted to the Florida Bar in 2023
- Member, Manatee County Bar Association
- JD, Stetsen University College of Law Certificate of Concentration in Elder Law



- Personal Injury Matters
- REAL ESTATE LITIGATION
- MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
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# Navigating The Legal World Made Easier With Manatee County Clerk's Support

By Angel Colonneso, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller for Manatee County

For many recent law graduates, entering the legal profession is akin to stepping into a whole new world. Navigating the intricacies of the legal system, understanding court procedures, and effectively representing your clients can be daunting tasks. Fortunately, my office, the Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, is here to support you by offering valuable guidance and resources.

### **Access to Court Documents**

One of the primary functions of the Clerk of Court is to maintain and manage access to court documents. We make this access easy through our online Public Records Hub. Gone are the days where you need to go in person to the Clerk of Court's office to view your case's docket. Now, you simply visit our website, <a href="https://www.ManateeClerk.com">www.ManateeClerk.com</a> and click on Court Records.

To get started, you will need to register an account and enter into a Subscriber Agreement.

By entering into a Subscriber Agreement, lawyers can access all the documents in their cases, unless a document is sealed by the Judge. Simply, click on the big green button that says "Learn More and Request Access" and follow the instructions provided.

Of course, we still offer access to records and document filing in-person.

### **Filing Assistance**

Filing legal documents correctly and on time is critical to a lawyer's success. The Clerk's office offers guidance on the filing process and any associated fees. This assistance streamlines your interaction with the court and minimizes the chances of errors.

### **Expert Guidance**

Navigating the legal system can be complex, especially for those who are just starting. My knowledgeable staff is here to provide guidance and clear answers to your questions. Whether it's understanding court procedures and filing requirements, or keeping track of legal deadlines, we're here to assist you. You can conveniently access a list of Clerk departments and their contact information on our website. Don't hesitate to reach out to staff; a simple phone call can save you valuable research time.

### **Continuing Education**

The legal field is constantly evolving, with new laws and regulations emerging regularly. To keep new lawyers well-informed, the Clerk's office collaborates with the Manatee County Bar Association to offer continuing education opportunities. These workshops and seminars cover a wide range of legal topics, helping new lawyers stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the field.

### **Layon F. Robinson II Law Library**

An additional resource is the Layon F. Robinson II Law Library. Even in a digital world, libraries still play a vital role in the access of information. The Law Library is located on the first floor of the Manatee County Judicial Center and provides various services beneficial to attorneys:

- Access to WestLaw
- Extensive collection of statute, case law books, and much more
- · Various CLEs available for checkout by attorneys
- · Public WIFI and workstations

The library is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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### **About Angelina "Angel" Colonneso**

Angelina "Angel" Colonneso is the Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller for Manatee County. Ms. Colonneso holds over 30 years of diverse experience in public service, with 20-plus years of that at the Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller. She's held countless roles at the Clerk's office, including General Counsel to her predecessor, the late R.B. "Chips" Shore. Prior to her role as General Counsel, and then Clerk, Ms. Colonneso was an Assistant State Attorney for eleven years, prosecuting complex evidentiary cases. You can learn more about Clerk Colonneso on the Clerk's website at <a href="https://www.manateeclerk.com/about-us/meet-the-clerk/">https://www.manateeclerk.com/about-us/meet-the-clerk/</a>.





F. Scott Westheimer, President, The Florida Bar

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F. Scott Westheimer is the 2023-2024 President of The Florida Bar. He joined Syprett Meshad as an associate in 1996 and became a partner in 2000.

In 2019, Westheimer was re-elected to a fourth two-year term on the Florida Bar Board of Governors, 12th Circuit Representative, seat one, representing over 1,800 attorneys in Sarasota, DeSoto and Manatee counties. Westheimer has served as the chairman of the Disciplinary Review Committee (2020-2021), serves on the executive committee (for the fifth straight year), served as chairman of the Communications Committee (2017-2018 and 2018-2019), served as chairman of the Program Evaluation Committee (2019-2020), and has served on the Special Committee on Technologies Affecting the Practice of Law and Strategic Planning Committee. Westheimer has been honored twice with the President's Award of Merit, by Past President William J. Schifino at the June 2017 Annual Convention and by Past President Michelle Suskauer at the June 2019 Annual Convention.

Westheimer's practice involves primarily the representation of plaintiffs in personal injury matters and various aspects of commercial litigation. He is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the U.S.; U. S. District Court, Middle District of Florida; U.S. District Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; and Florida state Courts.

He is a past president of the Sarasota County Bar Association (2010-2011), a past president of the Sarasota County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, a member (co-founder and former chair) of the Sarasota County Bar Association Diversity Committee, and served on the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors from 2004 to 2013.

Westheimer received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, with high honors, from the University of Florida in 1993, and in 1996, received his Juris Doctorate, with high honors, from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

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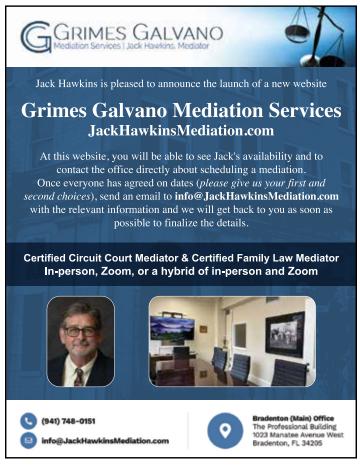


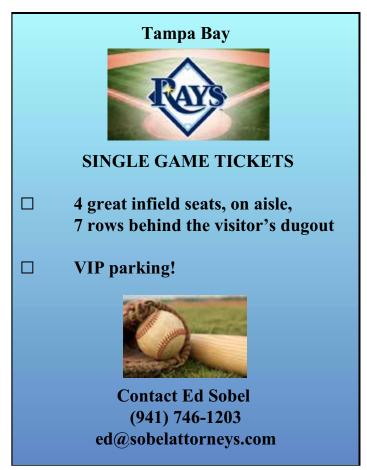
























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