



# INTER ALIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE  
COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

MAY 2024

*News, invitations,  
photos and more*

**WELCOME NEW  
MEMBERS!**

*MCBA assists  
SELAH Freedom &  
Victims of Human  
Trafficking*

**IT'S BEACH PARTY TIME!**

*Fish Fry-  
The Documentary*

**MCBA HONORS PAST  
PRESIDENTS WITH  
FLORIDA BAR  
PRESIDENT**



## The MCBA Assists the SELAH Freedom Project

By Patrick Barnes, Esq.; MCBA YLD President

The MCBA Young Lawyer Division recently won the “Best Community Service Project” at this year’s Florida Bar Affiliate Outreach Conference for their upcoming money drive for the local organization, SELAH Freedom. The drive hopes to raise much needed money for the YLD to purchase items on SELAH Freedom’s Amazon Registry and provide baskets for the women in their residential program.

SELAH Freedom is a multi-faceted anti-human trafficking non-profit organization located in Chicago and Sarasota. Their goal is to bring awareness to prevent sex trafficking and assist those that have been saved from the industry. SELAH Freedom does this through different programs: awareness, prevention, outreach, residential, and consulting.

According to their website, [www.selahfreedom.com](http://www.selahfreedom.com), 6,853 survivors have been served, 72,728 kids and adults have been trained, and have reached over 2 billion through media. SELAH Freedom combats trafficking by bringing awareness to the community by training adults on what trafficking could look like, and training children about how recruiting might occur and from whom.

The statistics in our own backyard are staggering. Sex trafficking is estimated to be a \$99 billion dollar industry, and 2 million children are sold each year. Traffickers can make up to \$1.6 million per victim, the average age ranging from 15-17 years old. Unfortunately, Florida ranks in the top 3 states for trafficking.

In addition to bringing awareness, training, and consulting to the community, SELAH Freedom also has a residential program for young women saved from trafficking. This house allows the women to re-acclimate back into society at their pace, while also protecting them in the process.

SELAH Freedom’s website has an Amazon Registry full of essential items that keep this residence running. The list includes clothes, cleaning supplies, deodorant, paper towels, and much more. The link to the registry will be included at the bottom of this article.

One of the important purposes of the MCBA YLD is to empower lawyers to promote the wellbeing of the community at large. This organization is combating an invasive and devastating industry right in our community, and they deserve to be supported.

The YLD’s drive will raise money for two purposes. The first is to encourage firms and MCBA members to make monetary

donations or gift donations from the gift registry in order to stock the house with these essential items. The second is to raise money to buy each of the current residents a basket full of personable items to make their stay as comfortable as possible. The basket includes a plush pillow, a blanket, hair clips, pens, a notebook, headphones, and more.

Once the drive is completed, the MCBA YLD will present SELAH Freedom with the gift baskets and encourage the organization to keep fighting for our community. An e-mail with details about the date of the drive will go out to all members by e-mail, and the MCBA YLD encourages the MCBA, as a whole, to show support for this amazing organization.

Link to the Amazon Registry:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2QN0CV6LH3IIT/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2QN0CV6LH3IIT/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

**SCAN TO DONATE**

MANATEE  
YOUNG LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTS  
SURVIVORS

WITH  
SELAH FREEDOM

SELAH Freedom is an anti-human trafficking non-profit organization with the mission to end sex trafficking and bring freedom to the exploited through five strong programs.

[support.selahfreedom.com/MCBA](http://support.selahfreedom.com/MCBA)

MANATEE COUNTY  
BAR ASSOCIATION  
EST. 1907

SELAH FREEDOM  
Bringing Light into the Darkness of Sex Trafficking

[selahfreedom.com](http://selahfreedom.com) 1-888-8-FREE-ME P.O. Box 1801, Sarasota FL 34230

## CAN YOU SPOT THE MCBA GAVEL?

GERALD BUHR found the gavel in our March/April issue, Congratulations! You're \$10 gift card to Starbucks will be sent to you soon.

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 [mcba@manateebar.com](mailto:mcba@manateebar.com) 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 June 1, 2024!



### Just a Few Member Benefits 🔍

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

Join Now
www.manateebar.com

## MCBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Wednesday, May 08, 2024</b> .....	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Friday, May 10, 2024</b> .....	Annual Spring Beach Party
<b>Friday, May 10, 2024</b> .....	Judge Hankin Investiture
<b>Wednesday, May 29, 2024</b> .....	LAW DAY Luncheon
<b>Wednesday, June 05, 2024</b> .....	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, June 12, 2024</b> .....	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, June 26, 2024</b> .....	MCBA Annual Meeting Luncheon
<b>Wednesday, August 07, 2024</b> .....	YLD Board Planning Meeting
<b>Wednesday, August 14, 2024</b> .....	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, September 04, 2024</b> .....	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, September 11, 2024</b> .....	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, September 25, 2024</b> .....	General Membership Luncheon
<b>Wednesday, October 2, 2024</b> .....	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, October 9, 2024</b> .....	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, October 30, 2024</b> .....	General Membership Luncheon
<b>Wednesday, November 6, 2024</b> .....	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, November 13, 2024</b> .....	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, December 4, 2024</b> .....	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Friday, December 6, 2024</b> .....	Annual Holiday Party
<b>Wednesday, December 11, 2024</b> .....	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, January 8, 2025</b> .....	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, January 15, 2025</b> .....	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, January 29, 2025</b> .....	General Membership Luncheon
<b>Wednesday, February 5, 2025</b> .....	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, February 12, 2025</b> .....	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, February 26, 2025</b> .....	General Membership Luncheon
<b>Wednesday, March 5, 2025</b> .....	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, March 12, 2025</b> .....	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, March 26, 2025</b> .....	General Membership Luncheon
<b>Wednesday, April 2, 2025</b> .....	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, April 9, 2025</b> .....	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, May 7, 2025</b> .....	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, May 14, 2025</b> .....	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, May 28, 2025</b> .....	General Membership Law Day Luncheon
<b>Wednesday, June 4, 2025</b> .....	Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, June 11, 2025</b> .....	YLD Board of Directors Meeting
<b>Wednesday, June 25, 2025</b> .....	MCBA Annual Meeting Luncheon

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

## ORDERS APPOINTING EXPERTS OR COMPETENCY EVALUATIONS

The Twelfth Judicial Circuit now has form orders for the purpose of appointing experts for competency evaluations in felony cases. The forms are specific to intellectual disability/ autism or mental illness, and each county has its own forms. You may find the form orders at:

<https://www.jud12.flcourts.org/Documents/Court-Forms>

Under "Circuit Criminal Forms" you will find the forms for each county.

Please note that when using these forms, you must convert the form to PDF format before filing in the e-portal. You are highly encouraged to share these forms with the attorneys and staff in your offices; orders using the previous forms may not be signed.

Should you have any questions about these forms, please contact Mary Ann Floyd, General Counsel, at [mfloyd@jud12.flcourts.org](mailto:mfloyd@jud12.flcourts.org).

## "Divorce the House": CLE HELD IN APRIL

Amanda Reichert, a certified expert in the practice of Family Law based real estate in our local area presented an outstanding CLE entitled "Intersection of Divorce & Real Estate" at the MCJC in April. Amanda presented on topics such as "what to do with the house?", "what is the home really worth?", "what to do when your clients are married to their mortgage?", "where will the proceeds be going?" and much more! She also gave tips on how to discover and avoid pitfalls early in the divorce process. If you missed it, no worries! Amanda is happy to answer your questions and speak with you directly at 603-377-0281 or 941-782-0000. Amanda Reichert, Certified Divorce Real Estate Expert Realtor is a proud sponsor of the Manatee County Bar Association.



**DIVORCE THE HOUSE**

**AMANDA REICHERT  
REALTOR™**

CERTIFIED DIVORCE  
REAL ESTATE EXPERT

M: 603.377.0281  
O: 941.782.0000  
AMANDA@HOME4SALEFL.COM  
HOME4SALEFL.COM  
THEDIVORCECONNECTION.NET

*Fine* PROPERTIES  
5220 Paylor Lane, Sarasota FL 34242

**AMANDA REICHERT, REALTOR™**  
CERTIFIED DIVORCE REAL  
ESTATE EXPERT

COURT APPOINTED LISTING AGENT

EXPERT WITNESS WILLING TO TESTIFY:  
VALUE DISPUTES/SALE SABOTAGE

CERTIFIED FAMILY LAW SPECIALIST

COORDINATES BETWEEN ATTORNEY,  
COURT - EXECUTION OF ORDER

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

UNBIASED NEUTRAL

EXPERT NEGOTIATOR

MINIMIZE COLLATERAL DAMAGE:  
EFFECTIVE USE OF LEGAL PROCESS  
"WHERE NECESSARY"

COLLABORATIVELY TRAINED



## Welcome New Members

### Susan L. Hall, Esq.

Rutgers College of Law, 1984  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2023  
Firm/Office: Law Office of Susan L. Hall  
Area(s) of Practice: Estate Planning, Civil  
Litigation, Environmental & Land Use Law

### Ryan T. Harris, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law, 2022  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2023  
Firm/Office: Blalock Walters, P.A.  
Area(s) of Practice: Real Estate,  
Finance & Investments

### Amy K. Kenyon, Esq.

Barry University, 2009  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2009  
Firm/Office: Kenyon Law Group  
Area(s) of Practice: Personal Injury

### Nick Roknich, IV, Esq.

John Marshall Law School, 2019  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2021  
Firm/Office: Roknich Law Firm  
Area(s) of Practice: Real Estate Law,  
Wills, Trusts & Estates, Civil Litigation

### Johanne Valois Shoffstall, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law, 1993  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 1994  
Firm/Office: Loftus Law  
Area(s) of Practice: Family Law

### Laura Smidt, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law, 2022  
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2023  
Firm/Office: Blalock Walters P.A.  
Area(s) of Practice: Real Estate



# SUNSET Beach PARTY

## FRIDAY, MAY 10TH, 2024

5:30 PM - TIL FOOD DRINK FUN  
FREE FOR MCBA MEMBERS & SPONSORS

104 30TH STREET "CAYA CASA" HOLMES BEACH, FL 34217

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

Special thanks to Our Annual Sponsors



## TRAUMA INFORMED COURTS

Regional Trainings

---

**DESCRIPTION**

We are pleased to announce a series of regional education programs beginning in November of 2023 and continuing through June of 2024. The target audience will include judges and magistrates who hear domestic relations cases, family law attorneys, and court staff. The events will feature experts on a host of timely topics, such as adverse childhood experiences, the impacts of toxic stress, trauma-responsive courts, tools for resiliency, attorney practices, and self-care.

**6.5 CJE / CLE / CME**

This statewide workshop series is different in the way that it incorporates the unique partnership lead by the Office of the State Courts Administrator, the Family Law Section of The Florida Bar, and you - local family law court teams, local bar, stakeholders, and local resource providers that support a trauma-informed approach - both locally and state wide.

**OTHER SIDE: QR CODES TO REGISTER FOR THE MARCH, APRIL, AND JUNE 2024 EVENTS!**



**PRESENTED BY:**

The Florida Bar Family Law Section

The Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA)

**DATES & LOCATIONS**

Jacksonville – November 16, 2023  
 Gainesville – November 17, 2023  
 Orlando – December 13, 2023  
 Daytona Beach – December 14, 2023  
 Fort Walton Beach – March 25, 2024  
 Tallahassee – March 27, 2024  
 Palm Beach – April 16, 2024  
 Fort Lauderdale – April 17, 2024  
 Miami – April 18, 2024  
 Tampa – June 5, 2024  
 Fort Myers – June 7, 2024

## Summer is Heating Up at MPAC



**Winnie the Pooh KIDS Camp Monday-Friday June 3-14**

A delightful show based on the beloved Disney characters.

**Show is June 14th at 7 PM**  
**Fun for the whole family!**

**IBF Presents**  
**The Wizard of Oz**

An original dance production of this all-time classic musical.

**2 Shows on May 26th**  
**Follow the Yellow Brick Road**





**CreArte Latino Presents**  
**VOCES de la Maternidad**

VOCES aims to share the experiences and perspectives of the Latino community in Manatee & Sarasota counties.

**May 30-June 2**

**Check out all of our great events at**  
**ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com**



**DICKINSON & GIBBONS, P.A.**  
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW


**(941) 366-4680 | [dglawyers.com](http://dglawyers.com)**

**Jesse R. Butler**  
*Board Certified Appellate Specialist*

## Appeals | Legal Malpractice

Why do lawyers across the state refer their appellate and legal malpractice claims to us?

- Board certified in appellate practice, bringing both experience and expertise to bear in a wide variety of complex subject areas.
- Referral relationships built on confidence and trust.
- 25% referral fee upon the successful conclusion of legal malpractice matters referred to us in accordance with the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar.














## SPOTTED!

At the Community Fish Fry...*special screening that is!*

Several 12th Circuit Judges were spotted at the opening of "Fish Fry" at the Manatee Performing Arts Center recently. The film, created by filmmakers Paul & Petra Ratner, Durand Adams, and Judge Charles Williams with a grant from the Manatee Community Foundation, documents many years of a community fish fry held at an African American church in Palmetto, FL. The weekly fish fry, held in a formerly segregated neighborhood, unknowingly brings people together acting as the catalyst to document and clean unmarked graves in an abandoned cemetery. In photo from l to r: Judge Durand Adams (Ret), Nikki Rutkowski, Judge Frederick Mercurio, Judge Charles Williams, Judge Matt Whyte, and Judge Jacqueline Steele.



## OH, THE AI!

Recently, Stephen Bradley was back in Bradenton to teach his 4 hr CLE "The Intersection of High Tech Stalking, Domestic Violence & Family Law". A special guest speaker, Judge Kevin Bruning, gave a family court update and answered attendee questions during the lunch segment. The luncheon event was held at The Manatee Community Foundation, an annual sponsor of the association. Just another fantastic CLE presented by The Manatee County Bar Association!







# LAW DAY Luncheon

**SPACE LAW IN THE 21st CENTURY -  
Recent Developments in  
Space Law & Regulation**

With the creation of the USA's military branch, Space Force, we now enter a new frontier of law: "SPACE LAW"! Join us as we welcome Christopher Stott, Chairman & C.E.O. of Lonestar Data Holdings Inc. Mr. Stott will discuss "Space Law", how it impacts developments in the space industry and more.

**CLE CREDIT APPLIED FOR**

**Wednesday, May 29th, 2024**

**Manatee Performing Arts Center- Kiwanis Hall**

**11:45 Lunch, Noon Meeting Start**



### Christopher Stott, Founder Chairman & C.E.O., Lonestar Data Holdings, Inc.

Chris Stott is the Founder, Chair, and CEO of Lonestar Data Holdings Inc., the Lunar information, technology, and communications company and the first to send and operate data centers from the Moon for global disaster recovery. A lifetime entrepreneur, Chris is also the Founder and Non-Executive Chair of River Advisors and ManSat, the world's largest commercial provider of satellite spectrum.

Chris serves as the Chair Emeritus, alongside the late Sir Arthur C. Clarke, of the Space and Satellite Professionals International (SSPI), the largest professional association in the global space and satellite industry, which also named him Satellite Industry Mentor of the Year in 2015.

Chris's passion for the economics and commerce of space has led him to co-found both the Institute of Space Commerce in Austin in the United States, and the International Institute of Space Commerce on the Isle of Man in the British Isles. He has served on faculty at the International Space University (ISU) since 2003 and is a former co-chair of the university's school of business and management. Chris is also a guest lecturer in space law and regulation at MIT Media Labs, the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, and the School of Law at the University of Houston.

**CLICK TO REGISTER**  
**Free for MCBA Members**  
**Lunch is \$35 for guests**

**Special thanks to Our Annual Sponsors**







## RESCISSION OF MEDIATED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS FOR DISCOVERY VIOLATIONS

By D. Robert Hoyle, Esquire

Florida law has always favored the settlement of disputes. In the context of a mediation, Florida courts have also found grounds to set aside settlement agreements for various reasons. For example, in *Vitakis-Valchine v. Valchine*, 793 So.2d 1094 (Fla. 4<sup>th</sup> DCA 2001), the Fourth District Court of Appeal held that misconduct by a mediator in violation of the Florida Rules for Certified and Court Appointed Mediators can provide a basis for setting aside a mediated settlement agreement.

The Fourth District Court of Appeal recently held that in a case where one party withheld material information and discovery from the other party, a mediated settlement agreement can be rescinded. In *Garvin v. Tidwell*, 126 So.3d 1224 (Fla. 4<sup>th</sup> DCA 2012), Mrs. Garvin sued Mrs. Tidwell for injuries suffered as a result of a fall from a horse named Buster owned by Mrs. Tidwell. Prior to riding Buster, Mrs. Garvin inquired several times as to whether the horse had ever exhibited any dangerous behavior. Mrs. Tidwell advised Mrs. Garvin that the horse did not have any problems. However, on Mrs. Garvin's third ride, Buster reared up, bolted off at a fast gallop and then stopped suddenly to change direction. As a result, Mrs. Garvin fell off the horse and was injured.

Mrs. Garvin filed a complaint and alleged that Buster had a long and well known history of bucking and running away, and that Mrs. Tidwell negligently failed to disclose the horse's dangerous propensities.

Mrs. Garvin sent interrogatories and a production request to Mrs. Tidwell for information and documents concerning the care, maintenance, and training of Buster, including feeding, medical issues and riding. Mrs. Tidwell responded to the interrogatories and production request. Mrs. Tidwell testified at her deposition that Buster had no tendency for dangerous behavior and was a gentleman who was lazy, if anything.

The parties went to mediation and settled in the fall of 2010. Mrs. Garvin's attorney then received an unmarked envelope containing a magazine advertisement for a dietary supplement for horses dated "Spring 2010". The advertisement featured a page about a horse-calming supplement known as "Ex-Stress". The featured horse was Buster. Mrs. Tidwell was quoted as saying that she decided to give Ex-Stress to her horse because the horse could be a little difficult at times and that it made a

huge difference in his behavior.

Mrs. Tidwell and her attorney had not produced the advertisement in response to discovery. Mrs. Garvin moved to reopen discovery, rescind the settlement agreement and for sanctions. The trial court denied the motion to rescind the agreement and for sanctions, and Mrs. Garvin appealed.

The 4<sup>th</sup> DCA gave an extended discussion of the requirement of good faith discovery and found that Mrs. Tidwell violated her discovery obligations by failing to disclose the Ex-Stress advertisement and information known to her about the horse's behavior which prompted the use of Ex-Stress.

The court stated "Since our system of justice depends on truthful discovery, misconduct in discovery must be discouraged by disallowing the settlement which is the fruit of such misconduct". One legal basis for the court's decision was a finding that the discovery violation created a unilateral mistake by Mrs. Garvin in her assessment of the case based upon the failure of Mrs. Tidwell to disclose the use of the supplement for Buster's behavior.

The *Garvin* case has numerous implications for attorneys and parties to confirm full compliance with all discovery requests, including proper answers to interrogatories, production of documents, and also truthful responses in deposition. Attorneys should counsel clients as to the impact that a discovery violation may have upon a mediated settlement agreement. As noted by the court, the requirement of good faith discovery is to enable parties to enter settlement negotiations with an understanding of their chances of success at trial.

**D. Robert Hoyle, Esquire**

**D. Robert Hoyle, P.A.**

6707 35th Avenue West

Bradenton, Florida 34209

Telephone: 941.745 1124

[bhoyle@hoylefirm.com](mailto:bhoyle@hoylefirm.com)

[www.floridamediators.org/robert-hoyle](http://www.floridamediators.org/robert-hoyle)

Past Chair of the Florida Bar Alternative Dispute Section

Certified Circuit Civil Mediator

Certified County Civil Mediator

## MCBA CELEBRATES PAST PRESIDENTS AND WELCOMES FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENT SCOTT WESTHEIMER AT MARCH LUNCHEON



MCBA Past Presidents: (Back Row l to r) Greg Hagopian, Esq., Hon. Scott Brownell (Retired), Tim Knowles, Kim Bald, Mark Nelson, Faith Brown, Rob Eschenfelder, Lori Dorman, Barry Bell, Andrea Johnson, Cliff Walters, Steele Williams, Bill Lisch, Mickey Palmer, Jeff Goethe, Retired Executive Director Sue Revell, Eric Bruce, (Front Row l to r) Hon. Gilbert Smith, Jr., Executive Director Graceann Frederico, Patricia Petruff, Hon. John Blue (Retired), Bob Blalock



L to R: Hon. Scott Brownell (Retired), MCBA Secretary Brian Iten, MCBA Director James Lynch, Stephen Jones, MCBA President Aaron Crittenden, Florida Bar President Scott Westheimer, Cliff Walters, Eric Bruce, Hon. Gilbert Smith, Jr., MCBA Executive Director (Retired) Sue Revell, Bob Blalock



In March, the MCBA honored its Past Presidents at the General Membership Luncheon when Florida Bar President Scott Westheimer was the guest speaker. A delicious lunch catered by Popi's, a fantastic CLE on the "State of The Florida Bar" which brought 1 CLE credit; and, much laughter, reminiscing, and "catching up" was had by all.

## Let's Start **Banking Forward** Together.

Our goal has always been to help meet yours. Today, we're here for you in more ways than ever. With more locations, more services, and more expertise to help you wherever life takes you.

This is banking at its best.  
**This is Banking Forward.**



941.306.0100  
[SouthStateBank.com](https://www.SouthStateBank.com)  
Member FDIC



**Chris Perkins**  
Regional President

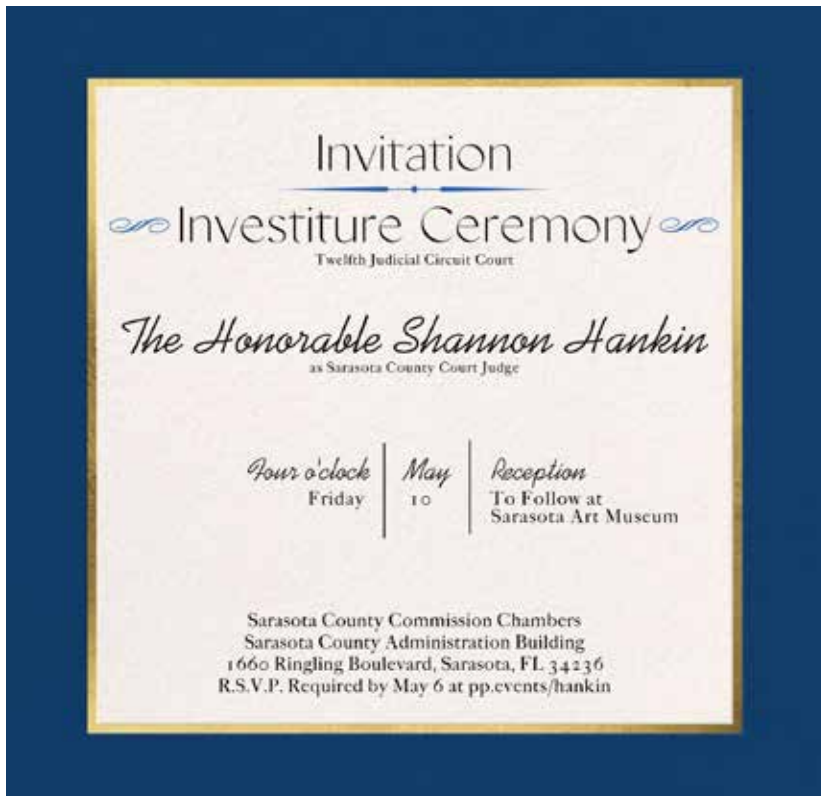


**Renee Brady**  
Premier Private  
Banker



**Carla Cummings**  
Consumer Bank  
Market Manger





# JOB POSTINGS:

## Associate Attorney Wanted!

Exciting and growing law firm in downtown Bradenton seeking an Associate Attorney to specialize in Business Law, Real Estate, Estate Planning and more. Excellent communication and organizational skills are essential. Courtroom experience is preferred. Must be able to work effectively in a team atmosphere. There are opportunities for extensive client contact, team interaction, and learning new areas of law and continuing education opportunities. Full-time position with benefits. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Position open immediately. Please submit resume, writing sample and contact information to [jessica@espositolegal.com](mailto:jessica@espositolegal.com)

## ASSOCIATE ESTATE PLANNING AND PROBATE ATTORNEY

Detail-oriented associate needed by a growing 5-office Bradenton/Sarasota law firm for an estate planning and probate and trust administration practice. Florida Bar membership, good legal research & writing skills, strong work ethic, along with self-motivation, a must. 2-5 years' experience preferred. Compensation will be commensurate with education and experience and includes bonuses and full benefits. Fax or email resumes to Cyndi Coey at Barnes Walker, Goethe, Perron, Shea & Robinson, PLLC, 3119 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205. 941-708-3225 or [ccoey@barneswalker.com](mailto:ccoey@barneswalker.com).




**EcoScribe Solutions is Thrilled to Be the Newest Sponsor of the Manatee County Bar Association!**

Who EcoScribe is and What We Provide:

- \* Boutique nationwide in person and remote court reporting and legal video.
- \* Over 70% of our clients are small to medium sized firms.
- \* Translators and interpreters.
- \* Cohesive, responsive and professional internal team
- \* Complimentary nationwide conference space.
- \* Audio transcription.
- \* No extra charges for linking exhibits, synching video to transcripts, file format creation and exhibit scans.
- \* Remote online notarization.
- \* Pro bono case discounts.
- \* Deferred payment plans for plaintiff class action cases.
- \* Online scheduling.
- \* Secure transcript and exhibit repository.

**About Me: Jen Fogelson, National Director of Business Development**

- \* Tufts University '97
- \* Suffolk University Law School '00
- \* 18+yr industry exp.
- \* Founding member of EcoScribe, 2010
- \* Cape Cod & Bradenton
- \* Avid thrifter
- \* 25+yr Animal Rescuer
- \* Mental Health Advocate



[jen@ecoscribesolutions.com](mailto:jen@ecoscribesolutions.com) Nationwide

[www.ecoscribesolutions.com](http://www.ecoscribesolutions.com) 888-651-0505 Toll Free

617-517-0077 Direct

## NEW POLICY AT THE MCJC!

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

# LUTZ, BOBO & TELFAIR

TRIAL LAWYERS

BRADENTON | SARASOTA | PUNTA GORDA | TALLAHASSEE

## PERSONAL INJURY COMPLEX CIVIL LITIGATION

*15 lawyers with over 350 years of  
collective legal experience*

**REFERRALS & ASSOCIATIONS  
WELCOME**



**CHARLES W. TELFAIR, IV PAST MCBA PRESIDENT**

(941) 951 - 1800



**WWW.LBTLAW.COM**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### 2024 VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD

### APPLICANTS FOR SPECIAL MAGISTRATE

Opportunities now exist for appraisers and attorneys, who are licensed in the State of Florida and meet the following criteria to serve as Special Magistrate(S) to the 2024 Value Adjustment Board, pursuant to Florida Statute 194.035 and Chapter 12D, Florida Administrative Code, for the purpose of taking testimony and making recommendations with regard to:

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

Please note that hearings will take place October, November and December of 2024, and January and February of 2025. Availability for these dates is necessary for consideration of appointment.

Qualified individuals wishing to apply should submit a resume on or before Friday, June 9, 2024, at 4:30 p.m., to:

Angelina "Angel" Colonnese  
Value Adjust Board  
Attn: Vicki Tessmer  
P.O. Box 25400  
Bradenton, FL 34205  
(941)741-4058  
Or  
[VAB@manateeclerk.com](mailto:VAB@manateeclerk.com)



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)

## Tampa Bay



### SINGLE GAME TICKETS

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



Contact Ed Sobel  
 (941) 746-1203  
[ed@sobelattorneys.com](mailto:ed@sobelattorneys.com)

# Announcing!

## DYE HARRISON KNOWLES

DYE HARRISON KNOWLES KIRKLAND PRATT & DEPAOLA, PLLC

A FULL SERVICE LAW FIRM SINCE 1920



(941) 746-1167  
 (941) 748-4411  
 (941) 748-3770



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



1206 Manatee Avenue W.  
 Bradenton, Florida 34205



Stephen R. Dye  
 G. Joseph Harrison  
 Thomas W. Harrison  
 Timothy A. Knowles  
 W. Nelon Kirkland  
 Charles J. Pratt, Jr.  
 Jason M. De Paola

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

# FAWL SPRING CLE

**“Legal Principals and Ethics in the Age of Generative A.I.”**

**1 tech credit and 0.5 ethics pending**

**MAY 17, 2024**

**CLE PRESENTATION AND LUNCH AT  FROM 11:45 - 1:00**

**NETWORKING AND RELAXATION AFTERWARDS AT SPA NORTHWEST**

**PROSECCO AT THE SPA SPONSORED BY ICARD MERIL**

**\$35 MEMBERS, \$45 NON-MEMBERS - INCLUDES CLE AND LUNCH ONLY**

**PLEASE RSVP TO FAWLMANATEE@GMAIL.COM BY MAY 10TH**

**VEGETARIAN OPTION UPON REQUEST**

**PLEASE CALL THE SPA DIRECTLY TO BOOK TREATMENTS - 941-713-1637**

**[HTTPS://SECURE.AFFINIPAY.COM/PAGES/MANATEEFOWL/PAYMENTS](https://secure.affinipay.com/pages/manateefawl/payments)**



**5239 MANATEE AVE W  
BRADENTON, FL 34209**

**SPA NORTHWEST  
5701 21ST AVE W  
BRADENTON, FL 34209**

**enRich to start serving  
lunch to the public at  
the end of May**





# HEINTZ LAW

*A Law Firm Serving Accident Victims*

941. 748.2916 • HEINTZLAW.COM




NBLSC Board  
Certified Lawyers




## Super Lawyers






**Barnes Walker, Goethe, Perron, Shea, & Robinson, PLLC**




**Jeffrey S. Goethe, Esq.**

- Admitted to the Florida Bar in 1990
- Florida Bar Board-Certified in Wills, Trusts & Estates
- Fellow, American College of Trust and Estate Counsel
- Past President, Manatee County Bar Association
- Member, The Florida Bar Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration Committee
- J.D., The University of Tennessee College of Law



**M. Brandon Robinson, Esq.**

- Admitted to the Florida Bar in 2015
- Combat Veteran, United States Marine Corps
- Volunteer Judge, Manatee County Teen Court
- J.D., Stetson University College of Law



**Kevin M. Collver, Esq.**

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

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

- Estate Planning
- Probate and trust administration
- Homestead issues
- Elective share and surviving spouse rights


Serving Manatee and Sarasota Counties from our main office in Bradenton,  
3119 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida  
(941) 741-8224

Available by appointment in Lakewood Ranch, Parrish, Sarasota, and Holmes Beach

## Mediation Services

### BOB HOYLE

- Probate matters
- Will and trust contests
- Real estate
- Homeowner and condominium associations
- Foreclosures
- Commercial and residential leases and tenancies
- Business and commercial litigation
- Personal Injury



**36 YEARS EXPERIENCE**

- Harvard College B.A., 1975
- Capital University Law School, J.D., Cum Laude, 1986
- Harvard Law School Mediation Training Program
- Chairman, Florida Bar Alternative Dispute Resolution Section 2015-2016
- Chairman, Florida Bar Council of Sections 2018-2019
- Certified Circuit Civil Mediator
- Certified County Civil Mediator

**D. ROBERT HOYLE P.A.**  
941-745-1124  
[bhoyle@hoylefirm.com](mailto:bhoyle@hoylefirm.com)

6707 35th Avenue West  
Bradenton, FL 34209

Calendar availability and full bio at  
[floridamediators.org/Robert Hoyle](http://floridamediators.org/Robert%20Hoyle)

## Upchurch Watson White & Max Mediation Group



**Mark A. Haskins**  
[mhaskins@uww-adr.com](mailto:mhaskins@uww-adr.com)

*welcomes Mark A. Haskins to its distinguished panel of neutrals.*

- » Working Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil Mediator for over 5 years.
- » Civil litigator representing both plaintiff and defense counsel on Florida's Southwest Gulf Coast in areas such as personal injury, complex medical malpractice, catastrophic injury, wrongful death, premises liability and commercial cases — for more than 32 years.
- » Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell.

---

MEDIATION | ARBITRATION | E-DISCOVERY | SPECIAL MASTERS

Successfully Resolving Conflicts in Florida,  
Alabama & Nationwide Since 1988



**CALL TOLL FREE: 800-264-2622 | READ MORE & SCHEDULE: [WWW.UWW-ADR.COM](http://WWW.UWW-ADR.COM)**

 [linkedin.com/company/upchurch-watson-white-&-max](https://www.linkedin.com/company/upchurch-watson-white-&-max)

 [www.facebook.com/UWWMmediation](https://www.facebook.com/UWWMmediation)

 [@UWWMmediation](https://twitter.com/UWWMmediation)

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

**DONNALUGAR**  
MEDIATIONS - ARBITRATIONS - FLORIDA

HOLDING VIRTUAL SESSIONS FOR CASES PENDING IN ANY COUNTY



- Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil Mediator
- Florida Supreme Court Qualified Arbitrator
- Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer (1998)
- AV Preeminent Rating by Martindale Hubbell
- Has arbitrated and mediated 2,000+ cases to conclusion

Quality mediation and arbitration services at a reasonable price



BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT ONLINE  
[DonnaLugar.com](http://DonnaLugar.com)

Visit our website for more information on rates, travel, and other details



941.600.9431



[DonnaLugar.com](http://DonnaLugar.com)



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



5020 Clark Road #514  
Sarasota, FL 34233



. HAPPY .

**Mother's Day**

Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>



## UPCOMING CLOSINGS

The MCJC will be CLOSED on the following dates:

Monday, May 27 – Memorial Day

Wednesday, June 19 – Juneteenth

Thursday, July 4 – Independence Day

Friday, July 5 – Independence Day After

Monday, Sept. 2 – Labor Day

\*Please confirm the posted schedules of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and 12th Judicial Circuit Court on their websites

## Steele Williams, Esquire

*Legal Expertise You Can Rely On*

Sarasota & Manatee County

My Florida law practice is focused on assisting 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](mailto:SteeleTWilliams@comcast.net)

Website: [www.sarasotalitigation.com](http://www.sarasotalitigation.com)

Member:  
Sarasota County Bar Association  
Manatee County Bar Association



All gave some, some gave all.  
Remember them this Memorial Day.



**H** HALE  
LAW  
ACCIDENT ATTORNEYS



## Why refer a personal injury case to Hale Law?

1. Personal injury law is all we do.
2. We have paid hundreds of thousands in attorney referral fees.
3. Give us a call, and we will make it easy for you and the client.

The next time you get a personal injury case, call Hale Law:  
1-800-800-1414

All fee sharing is in compliance with FL Bar Ethics Rules  
Main Office: Sarasota; Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch by appt only




- PERSONAL INJURY MATTERS
- REAL ESTATE LITIGATION
- MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
- BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL LITIGATION
- LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ISSUES
- PRODUCT LIABILITY
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISPUTES
- PROFESSIONAL FEE DISPUTES

Scott Brownell  
scott@brownellmediation.com  
941.447.3701



[www.brownellmediation.com](http://www.brownellmediation.com)  
WWW.BROWNELLMEDIATION.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

## Business Trial Group

Providing professional services in Real Estate, Employment, Construction, Collection and related practices. We also provide contingency litigation in Stock Broker Negligence and Trust & Estate disputes.

Telephone: (941) 741-8224      www.barneswalker.com

\*Referral fees paid in accordance with Florida Bar Rules





Jack Hawkins is pleased to announce the launch of a new website

## Grimes Galvano Mediation Services

**JackHawkinsMediation.com**

At this website, you will be able to see Jack's availability and to contact the office directly about scheduling a mediation. Once everyone has agreed on dates (*please give us your first and second choices*), send an email to **info@JackHawkinsMediation.com** with the relevant information and we will get back to you as soon as possible to finalize the details.

**Certified Circuit Court Mediator & Certified Family Law Mediator**  
**In-person, Zoom, or a hybrid of in-person and Zoom**

**(941) 748-0151**  
**info@JackHawkinsMediation.com**

**Bradenton (Main) Office**  
 The Professional Building  
 1023 Manatee Avenue West  
 Bradenton, FL 34205

## When Clients Seek Resolution, Attorneys Seek Chapman Mediation.

Your clients deserve the least stressful and most practical path to resolution. John Chapman is an experienced, creative mediator who brings patience, persistence and a passion for helping disputing parties achieve common ground.

- 25 years as a Florida Board-Certified Business Litigation attorney
- 12 years as a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil mediator
- Florida Supreme Court Approved Arbitrator
- FINRA Dispute Resolution Arbitrator

Let my experience and know-how resolve your client's civil dispute, via Zoom or in person at your office or mine.



## CHAPMAN MEDIATION

BUSINESS AND ESTATE MEDIATION

1515 Ringling Blvd, Suite 870 | Office: (941) 404-4616 | Jchapman@johnchapmanlaw.com  
 Sarasota, FL 34236 | Fax: (941) 404-4605 | **Book your mediation online at: ChapmanMediation.com**

# MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

## PROFESSIONALISM • FELLOWSHIP • SERVICE

### 2023-2024 OFFICERS

President.....*Aaron B. Crittenden, Esq.* ..... Harllee & Bald, P.A.  
President Elect ...*Dustin S. Wagner, Esq.* ..... Lightning Law, PLLC  
Secretary .....*Brian A. Iten, Esq.* ..... Manatee County Sheriff’s Office  
Treasurer .....*David W. Wilcox, Esq.* ..... David W. Wilcox, Attorney

### 2023-2024 DIRECTORS

*Robert A. Farrance, Esq.* ..... Hon. Robert Farrance (ret.)  
*Andre R. Perron, Esq.* ..... Barnes, Walker, Goethe, Perron, Shea & Robinson, PLLC  
*James E. Lynch, Esq.* ..... Harllee & Bald, P.A.  
*Alexandria C. Nicodemi, Esq.* ..... Manatee County Attorney’s Office  
*Daniel Van Etten, Esq.* ..... Blalock Walters, P.A.  
*Erica Dine, Esq.* ..... Dine Elder Law

### YLD PRESIDENT:

*Patrick A. Barnes, Esq.* ..... Spinner Law Firm, P.A.

### IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT:

*Faith Z. Brown, Esq.* ..... Brown, Brown & Kuhn

**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.*

## Advertising in the Inter Alia

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

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

Ad rates are as follows:

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

#### EBlast

**Will Search** \$30 members/\$40 non members  
**Job Posting\*** \$30 members/\$40 non members  
\*Job posting includes listing on [www.manateebar.com](http://www.manateebar.com)  
**Inter Alia**, the newsletter of the Manatee



**Website:** [www.MANATEEBAR.com](http://www.MANATEEBAR.com)

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

**Phone:** (941) 741-4091

**Email:** [MCBA@manateebar.com](mailto:MCBA@manateebar.com)

Executive Director:  
Graceann Frederico

E-mail: [MCBA@manateebar.com](mailto:MCBA@manateebar.com)

Layout & Design:  
Teledrex, Inc.  
(941) 723-5003

**County Bar Association**, is published 8 months annually and is circulated electronically to local attorneys, judges and law office staff. Issues are later posted to the association website: [www.manateebar.com](http://www.manateebar.com). Rates shown are for one issue. Discounts apply to multiple issues on a prepaid basis. Ads should be submitted as high resolution pdf files. Deadline for submission: First of the month.

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