



INTER ALIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE
COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2024

*News, invitations,
photos and more*

DOUBLE ISSUE!

*The Amazing Jack
Manson*

**WELCOME
2024-25 BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

SELAH Freedom

**COMING UP: SEPTEMBER
LUNCHEON MEETING**



THE AMAZING JACK MANSON

By Hon. Gilbert Smith, Jr. and Graceann Frederico, Executive Director



John Clarence "Jack" Manson was one of the most interesting and entertaining men who became a member of the Manatee County Bar Association. For over sixty-five years he practiced law in Manatee County and was a member of the Association the entire time. During that time, Jack brought a strong work ethic and business approach to the practice of law which allowed him

to prosper. He mentored many young lawyers and helped them become successful. Along the way, Jack entertained members of the Association with his keen sense of humor and plenty of talent. As a young lawyer, he wrote scripts for the luncheons which included skits affectionally making fun of judges and local leaders. *Yes, you read that correctly! We had a sense of humor back then.* Jack recruited other young lawyers to join him in the skits. The subjects were not always politically correct, there was lots of laughter and fun.

In 1965, Jack was sworn in as the president of the Manatee County Bar Association. He was a strong president and led the Association in holding legal forums providing free legal advice to the citizens of Manatee County. Jack also liked to entertain and believed that social gatherings were important for the lawyers. He was a big supporter of the annual social events and took part in the beach parties even as he advanced into his late 80's. In fact, we were able to have Jack attend our annual Beach Party in 2022, when Jack was in his early 90's! Jeff Goethe brought Jack and we

honored Jack as "King of the Beach Party" complete with a royal crown. His steak sandwiches were famous, and his secret recipe involved quite a bit of butter. Lots! Only a few trusted souls have the secret recipe memorized, as it was too secret and valuable to write down. These dedicated souls have it burned into their memories and appear each year to prepare the carefully concocted mixture and tenderly apply it to the steaks, by hand, just as Jack did. Watching Jack cook these steak sandwiches with a couple of his colleagues was well worth the price of admission. The entire time he cooked these delicious sandwiches he told story after story, many which embarrassed his old friends. He was just a fun guy to be around.

Continued on next page.



Jack Standing with "The Mural"



Jack with other Legal Aid Legends

Jack was born on March 20, 1927, in Evanston, Illinois. He grew up in Manitowoc, Wisconsin where he graduated from Lincoln High School. At seventeen years old Jack joined the Navy and served in the Pacific in World War II. After being honorably discharged, he graduated with his bachelor's and law degree from the University of Wisconsin. From 1952 through 1953, Jack practiced law in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. He decided to move to Florida and selected Bradenton as his destination. Jack joined the firm of Daniel & Woodward where he practiced for several years. Later he opened his own firm and practiced by himself the rest of his career.

In 1958, Jack and Robert Rickey purchased Lucian Hardy Abstract Company and in 1960, he became the field attorney for Attorney's Title Insurance Fund. He became a prosperous and successful attorney. He also became a master wood carver creating many interesting pieces – a chess set written about in the Bradenton Herald. Jack engaged in many organizations including the Hernando DeSoto Historical Society (president), where he socialized with Governors, Presidents and international dignitaries. He did not meet many strangers in his life. He was also involved in the Manatee County Democratic Executive Committee (chairman), Manatee County Library Foundation (co-founder), Ringling Museum (trustee) and Our Daily Bread (30 years). Until he was not able to serve, he went every week to serve food at Our Daily Bread to the homeless. Jack had a heart for others and often times helped strangers in need.

In the late 1960's, he discovered he was an artist and took on the task of painting a mural of all the members of the Association in 1970. That mural of course is an iconic glimpse of the Association during a special time in its history. Jack also painted many other murals, some which may be the subject of an event in the future. Several of the stories Jack talked about are in writing and in safe keeping until the time is right.

Following the death of his wife Gail Manson in 1984, Jack married Delores Goethe Manson, the mother of Jeff Goethe, and they remained together until her death in 2017. Jack was very proud of his stepson, Jeff Goethe, when Jeff became president of the Manatee County Bar Association in 2014.



Jack at the 2022 Beach Party with Jeff Goethe, Caleb Grimes, James Lynch and Judge Nicholas

Jack was the best! His spirit lives in the way the Association engages and serves the citizens of the community. And of course, the parties! After many years of servicing his nation and community, he died on June 9, 2024, at 97 years old. Jack will be missed but he lives on in his stories and "the mural".

MCBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Wed., August 7, 2024 YLD Board Planning Meeting
- Wed., August 14, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
- Sat., August 17, 2024 YLD Night at the Rowdies
- Wed., September 11, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting
- Wed., September 11, 2024 YLD Board of Directors Meeting
- Fri., September 13, 2024 Professionalism & Ethics CLE w/Judge Moreland
- Wed., September 25, 2024 MCBA General Membership Luncheon
- Wed., October 2, 2024 MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
- Wed., October 9, 2024 MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
- Tues., October 29, 2024 CLE: Intellectual Property
- Wed., October 30, 2024 MCBA Membership Luncheon
- Tues., November 5, 2024 CLE Malpractice with Jesse Butler - more details to come
- Wed., November 6, 2024 MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
- Wed., November 13, 2024 MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
- Tues., December 3, 2024 CLE: Investigations - details coming soon
- Wed., December 4, 2024 MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
- Friday., December 6, 2024 MCBA HOLIDAY PARTY
- Wed., December 11, 2024 MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
- Fri., January 17, 2025 CLE Mental Health - more details to come
- Wed., January 29, 2025 MCBA Membership Luncheon
- Wed., February 26, 2025 MCBA Membership Luncheon
- Wed., March 26, 2025 MCBA Membership Luncheon
- Wed., May 21, 2025 MCBA Membership Luncheon
- Wed., June 25, 2025 MCBA Membership Luncheon

Special Thanks to Our Annual Sponsors

CAN YOU SPOT THE MCBA GAVEL?

Richard Perlman found the gavel in our June 2024 issue! Congratulations Richard, your \$10 gift card to Amazon will be sent to you soon.



This was our last FIND THE GAVEL for the season. Stay tuned for future contests.

The Ruby logo is written in a bold, lowercase, blue sans-serif font. To the right of the logo is a large yellow circle with a pink outline, and further right is a blue square with rounded corners.

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MCBA Welcomes Our 2024-25 Board of Directors!

Join us as we welcome our new board members who were sworn in at the June 2024 Annual Meeting by 12th Circuit Chief Judge Diana Moreland!



President:
Dustin Wagner, Esq.
Lightning Law



President Elect:
James Lynch, Esq.
Harlee & Bald



Secretary:
Brian Iten, Esq.
Manatee County Sheriff's Office



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David Wilcox, Esq.
Law Offices of David Wilcox



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Hon. Robert Farrance (Ret)
12th Judicial Circuit



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Battaglia Law



Director:
Kari Martin, Esq.
Najmy Thompson



Director:
M. Brandon Robinson, Esq.
Barnes Walker



YLD President:
Patrick Iyampillai, Esq.
Hale Law



Imm. Past President:
Aaron Crittenden, Esq.
Harlee & Bald

Young Lawyers Division Welcomes New Board of Directors!

The Young Lawyers Division of the MCBA is excited to announce its 2024-25 Board of Directors.

President: Patrick Iyampillai, Esq., Hale Law

Vice President: Chad Manausa, Esq., Grimes Galvano

Treasurer: Matthew Unzicker, Esq., Berlin Patten Ebling

Secretary: Abigail Galati, Esq., Barnes Walker

Directors:

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Laura Smidt, Esq., Blalock Walters

Jenna Kyle Meltzer, Esq., Blalock Walters

Tyler Dixon, Esq., Foley Mansfield

Lex Sayre, Esq., Lutz Bobo Telfair

Gianna Tomeo, Esq., Grimes Galvano

Past President: Patrick Barnes, Esq., Spinner Law Firm

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- Owner and operator of four construction companies

As an elected leader, he served as one of the chief negotiators between political parties.

- Florida Senate, 2002-2012
- Florida House of Representatives, 2000-2002

And now, he is available for Business, Construction and Real Estate mediation in the Sarasota-Bradenton areas.



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Professor of Law
Univ. Of Missouri
(Kansas City)

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024


Registration and Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

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


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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

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SELAH Freedom Project Finishes BIG!

This past Spring, the Young Lawyers Division of the MCBA spearheaded a fundraising drive to benefit SELAH Freedom. Members and firms were asked to take part by purchasing items from SELAH Freedom's Amazon Wishlist to help stock their home, which houses young women rescued from human trafficking. Patrick Barnes, and the YLD Board of Directors, applied for and received a \$1200 grant from The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division which were used to create gift baskets for the current residents of the rescue home. The Manatee County Young Lawyers Division won first place from The Florida Bar YLD for this project this year. Combined with items bought by our generous members, the MCBA proudly raised appx. \$1600 to purchase items for this worthwhile project.

On Friday, July 12th, 2024, representatives from the Young Lawyers Division presented Gabrielle, SELAH Freedom's Awareness & Volunteer Advocate with the resident gift baskets. Pictured are: Tyler Dixon, Esq., Matthew Unzicker, Esq., Patrick Barnes, Esq. YLD President 2023-24, Gabrielle, Selah Freedom, Patrick Iyampillai, Esq. YLD President 2024-25, and Chad Manausa, Esq. YLD President Elect.

Summer is Heating Up at MPAC



Little Mermaid KIDS Camp
Monday-Friday July 8-19

A delightful show based on the beloved Disney characters.

Show is July 19th at 7 PM
Fun for the whole family!

Anything Goes

Music, dance, laughs, and the age-old tale of Boy Meets Girl...

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August 8-18





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August 15-18

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BREAKFAST WITH THE BENCH
CLE
WORKSHOP

The Intersections of
Professionalism, Ethics & Your
Bar Number



Hon. Diana Moreland
*Chief Judge,
12th Judicial Circuit*

GUEST SPEAKERS




Mary Ann Floyd, Esq.
12th Judicial Circuit



Mary Hawk, Esq.
Becker & Poliakoff

- Learning Objectives: As a result of this program, you will:
1. Appreciate the impact of violating the Rules of Professional Conduct.
 2. Understand the levels of the grievance process.
 3. Identify the difference between minor and substantial misconduct.
 4. Role of the Bar Referee.
 5. Role of the Bar Referee.
 6. Recognize the difference between ethics and professionalism violations.
 7. Understand the Role of the Local Professionalism Panel in resolving complaints.
 8. Appreciate how to file a complaint with LPP.

 Credits Approved for 2.5 General, 1 Professionalism and 1 Ethics



**Fri., September 13th, 2024,
9 - 11:30 am**

MEMBERS,
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Manatee County Judicial
Center, 8th Floor
Multipurpose Room

Member Exclusive Event
\$10 includes
Continental Breakfast

ANNUAL MEETING 2024



Retired Judge Durand Adams and others reflect on Charles Clapsaddle's dedication to the community and MCBA

What a time we had! Great food, great presentations, and over 80 attendees!

On Wednesday, June 26, 2024, the MCBA held its Annual Meeting at Kiwanis Hall. Chief Judge Diana Moreland presented a fantastic CLE entitled "The Role of the Chief Judge" which gave great insight into the role, duties, and responsibilities of the Chief Judge of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. The MCBA began the meeting when President Aaron Crittenden, as one of his last acts as President, called upon Judges Charles Williams, and Retired Judge Durand Adams for a special presentation to Charles Clapsaddle, METV Director acknowledging his retirement and many years of dedication to community television in Manatee County. The new Board of Directors for both the MCBA and MCBA YLD were sworn in by Chief Judge Diana Moreland and special presentations were made to Aaron Crittenden and Patrick Barnes for their service as Board Presidents during the 2023-24 year.



MCBA Past President Aaron Crittenden and new YLD President, Patrick Iyampillai smile for the camera.



Judge Charles Williams, Ret. Judge Durand Adams, Chief Judge Diana Moreland, Judge Robert Farrance and Judge Gilbert Smith Jr.



Chief Judge Diana Moreland swears in both the MCBA and YLD Board of Directors for 2024-25

SCAM ALERT

Scammers are targeting people with open court cases and using public records to make the information real enough to make you believe it's legitimate but it's not. Please don't pay them!

No one from the Court, the Clerk's Office, or law enforcement will **ever** call you on the phone and ask you to pay a fine or fee for anything. Nor will you ever be required to use a money app, like Zelle or Venmo, or cryptocurrency to satisfy a legal financial obligation.

If you receive a call like this, hang up and verify the information through your attorney's office, the Clerk's Office in the county in which your case is filed or contact Court Administration at the following numbers:

DeSoto County
(863) 993-4644

Manatee County
(941) 749-3655

Sarasota County
(941) 861-7800



September Luncheon Meeting

“SeaPort Manatee - Insight & Impact”

CLE CREDIT APPROVED



Wednesday, September 25th, 2024
Manatee Performing Arts Center- Kiwanis Hall
11:45 Lunch, Noon Meeting Start

Carlos Buqueras, Executive Director SeaPort Manatee

With three decades of distinguished Florida port leadership, SeaPort Manatee Executive Director Carlos Buqueras is globally renowned for his visionary achievements in all facets of seaport business development and operations, including containerized, bulk and breakbulk cargos, as well as cruise and ferry industry prominence.

Since taking the helm at SeaPort Manatee in January 2012, Mr. Buqueras, under the foresighted direction of the Manatee County Port Authority, has collaborated with public- and private-sector partners in leading the diverse Central-Southwest Florida Gulf Coast port through a period of unprecedented accomplishment, highlighted by numerous records for total tonnage throughput and containerized and bulk cargo activity. Join us as we receive news, updates, and more regarding SeaPort Manatee!

CLICK TO REGISTER

Free for MCBA Members
Lunch is \$35 for guests

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- Ruby answers more than 30,000 calls a day for the businesses we represent, and our average answer time is less than 10 seconds.
- Ruby really does save time for attorneys. 90% of legal professionals who use Ruby log more billable hours per day than the national average of 2.5—and 44% of our customers bill five or more hours a day!
- Ruby has earned multiple awards and accolades for our organizational culture, including repeat Best Place to Work® certifications and recognition as the #1 best small company to work for in the US by *Fortune* magazine.



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

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Congratulations to Clerk Colonnese!

Statewide Clerk association acknowledges Manatee County Clerk’s commitment to high standards

At the Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers (FCCC) summer conference, the FCCC Best Practices Committee awarded the Office of Angelina “Angel” Colonnese, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller for Manatee County, with a Recognition of Excellence in all ten categories of the FCCC’s Best Practices in Excellence Program for the fourth consecutive year.

The Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller was one of 47 out of 58 participating offices to receive recognition in every category.

FCCC established the Best Practices Program as an opportunity for Clerks to receive Recognition of Excellence certificates for completing assessments that evaluate the acceptance of specific best practices. Each Best Practice category provides guidance to Clerks and Comptrollers statewide and assists in achieving consistency in interpretation of the law and in practice.

This year’s program categories included Appeals, Civil Contraband Forfeiture, Court Record Retention and Destruction, Department of Revenue Parenting Plan Fee Waivers, Determination of Indigency, Marriage License, Public Records Requests, Service of Documents by Clerks for Pro Se Litigants, Risk Protection Orders, and Vexatious Litigants.

Angel Colonnese, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller for Manatee County, accepted the certificate on behalf of the Clerk’s Office. “I am proud of my staff for their efforts to meet the professional standards described within the Best Practices Program,” said Colonnese. “This recognition signifies my office’s continued commitment to protecting the public trust through integrity and transparency.”

In addition to the Best Practices recognition, 2023-2024 FCCC President and Suwannee County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller honored Clerk Colonnese with the Courage Under Fire award for her outstanding courage, leadership, and initiative for the last program year.





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Job Posting:

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

The Manatee County Attorney's Office is accepting applications to fill three Assistant County Attorney positions. The County Attorney's Office comprehensively serves the legal needs of the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners, as the governing body of Manatee County, and renders legal advice to the Board, the County Administrator, and to departments and agencies under the jurisdiction of the Board. Assistant County Attorneys perform a variety of highly responsible and often complex work. Candidates with at least three years of experience in any combination of these practice areas will be considered: real estate, eminent domain, litigation, appellate practice, city/county/local government, contracts, labor and employment, procurement, utilities, public finance, and probate. Manatee County offers a comprehensive benefits package including a Telecommuting Program. A cover letter and resume may be submitted to patricia.nolan@mymanatee.org. Positions are open until filled. Writing samples and references may be requested from finalists. Manatee County is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer.

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our website at www.manateebar.com

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 Charles J. Pratt, Jr.
 Jason M. De Paola

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

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.: 2024-14.5
(rescinds 2020-02.5)**

**IN RE: RESCINDING ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING
DO-NOT RESUSCITATE ORDERS FOR THE WARD IN
GUARDIANSHIP CASES**

In 2020, the Court entered Administrative Order 2020-02.5, which provided guidance and oversight to guardians regarding advance directives, end of life decisions, and Do Not Resuscitate orders.

In 2023, the Florida Legislature enacted section 744.4431, Florida Statutes, which requires professional guardians (as defined in section 744.102(17)) to petition the court for authority to consent to withhold or withdraw life-prolonging procedures or to execute an order not to resuscitate on behalf of a ward. Additionally, section 744.3215(3)(f) was amended in 2023 to require court approval for the withdrawal or withholding of life-prolonging procedures, pursuant to the provisions of the new § 744.4431. The enactment of section 744.4431 and amendment of section 744.3215(3)(f) have rendered Administrative Order 2020-02.5 unnecessary.

In accordance with Article V, section 7, Florida Constitution, section 43.26, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to the authority vested in Rule 2.215, Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, it is, accordingly, **ORDERED** that Administrative Order 2020-02.5, rendered January 17, 2020, is hereby **RESCINDED**, effective immediately.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers in Bradenton, Manatee County, Florida, this
_____ day of July 2024.

DIANA L. MORELAND, CHIEF JUDGE

Original to:

Clerk of Court, Sarasota County

Copies to:

Clerk of Court, Manatee County

Clerk of Court, Desoto County

All 12th Circuit Judges

Sarasota County Bar Association

Manatee County Bar Association

Kimberly Miller, Trial Court Administrator

12th Circuit Probate Coordinators & Guardianship Monitors

IT Department-12th Judicial Circuit

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**STATE OF THE CRIMINAL DIVISIONS
- MANATEE COUNTY -**

MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2024

3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**Manatee County Judicial Center
Jury Assembly Room**

Currently scheduled to attend:

Judge Diana Moreland

Judge Frederick Mercurio

Judge Teri Dees

Judge Stephen "Matt" Whyte

Judge Heather Doyle

Judge Melissa Gould

Judge Jacqueline Steele





It's time to renew your MCBA Membership!

What a year! So many great speakers, CLES, luncheons and events! And it is now time to renew your membership to the MCBA for another great 2024-25 year.

Did you know that this year, the MCBA not only held fantastic events and heard from a wide array of fabulous speakers, but we

also assisted with feeding 400 families in Manatee County over Thanksgiving, provided necessary items to victims of human trafficking at SELAH Freedom, supported children's reading initiatives by providing books in our Law Library and more!

Renewals were due on July 1 with a grace period through July 15th. They are now including the \$50 late fee. Dues still include your meals at our General Membership Luncheons, and many other benefits. Your dues also include your FREE profile listing in our MCBA Online Attorney Directory on our website. **ONLINE DIRECTORY LISTINGS WILL BE DEACTIVATED ON AUGUST 1**, if dues are not paid.

So, please avoid deactivation and renew your dues today.

To renew your dues easily online, please click [HERE](#) to be taken to our online portal through Law Pay/AffiniPay.

To renew by mail, download and complete the form and return the form with your payment to MCBA, PO Box 796, Bradenton, FL 34206.

Download form: [DOWNLOAD PRINTABLE FORM HERE](#)

Thank you for being a member of the MCBA!



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- 25% referral fee upon the successful conclusion of legal malpractice matters referred to us in accordance with the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar.





MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION DUES RENEWAL FORM

Active members include members of The Florida Bar in good standing who maintain an office for the (1) practice of law in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, or (2) reside in Manatee County, or (3) who are members of The Florida Bar and employed in Manatee County in any non-judicial position. All renewals paid beginning August 1 incur a \$50 LATE FEE, totaling \$275.00. Dues include lunches as General Membership Lunches, tickets to events such as the Holiday Party, Beach Party and more. Bar dues renew on July 1st annually.

Please return this form with check payable to: MCBA, P.O. Box 796, Bradenton, FL 34206. **Membership dues paid by credit card require a 3.5% Administration Fee, totaling: \$283.25.* To process a credit card, please see our website at www.ManateeBar.com
Completed form must accompany payment. Send to: MCBA@manateebar.com

- Name: _____ FL Bar #: _____
- Name of Firm, P.A. or Government Agency: _____
- Position: _____ E-mail address: _____
- Mailing address: _____
City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____
- Telephone: _____ Cell: _____
- Manatee County address if different: _____

- Primary areas of practice to be listed in the membership directory (list up to 3 areas of practice using *Areas of Practice Listing*):
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- Certifications Held: _____
- Federal Court Admissions: _____
- Law School & graduate year: _____ Year admitted to the Florida Bar: _____
- Undergraduate School, degree, and graduate year: _____

Other jurisdiction(s)/state(s) in which admitted to practice: _____

Language(s) fluent in other than English: _____

Are you interested in Pro Bono volunteer opportunities? Yes No REFERRED BY: _____

I hereby agree to abide by the provisions of the By-Laws of the Manatee County Bar Association, Inc. and adhere to the current Standards of Professionalism for attorneys practicing in the 12th Judicial Circuit.

(Signature of Applicant)

(Date of application)

SECTIONS: Sections provide an opportunity for Bar members to interact with others practicing similar areas of law. There is no additional cost to participate in a Section. Please indicate your interest in any of the Sections listed below:

___ Real Property
___ Solo/Small Firms

___ Family Law
___ Probate & Trust Law
___ Young Lawyers (40 yrs. of age & younger or 5 yrs. in practice or less)

___ I would like to be involved on the planning committee of my Section.

___ I would be willing to chair the following Section: _____

COMMITTEE PREFERENCE: Please indicate your choice(s) below:

COMMITTEES: Please indicate your choice(s) below.

___ Membership: To include recruitment/retention of members and beneficial services for members.

___ Youth Related Education: To include activities relating to civics education, classroom speaker’s bureau and youth education programs.

___ Events: To include the planning and preparations for social activities throughout the year, to include Law Day, Spring Beach Party and Holiday Party in December.

___ PR/Communications: Solicits and reviews monthly articles for the Inter Alia, press releases, etc.

___ Community Service: Community Service Projects, Awards and Events.

___ Speakers Bureau: Upon request, makes appearances before civic and educational groups with general information on legal topics and areas of law. Your area: _____

___ Heritage Committee: Collects and preserves the history of the MCBA

___ ByLaws Committee: Reviews and creates proposed revisions as needed

___ Technology Committee: All things social media, photography, taping, editing, etc.

___ Diversity Committee: Promotes and encourages diversity

Disclosure

Association dues, except as noted below, may be deductible as professional or business expenses, to the extent allowable by law. Dues and other contributions to local, state or national associations are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income purposes.

June 2023

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Florida Bar Areas of Practice

Administrative
 Admiralty and Maritime
 Adoption
 Agricultural
 American and International
 Animal Law
 Antitrust and Trade Regulation
 Appellate Practice
 Arbitration
 Asian and Comparative
 Asset Forfeiture
 Aviation
 Banking
 Bankruptcy
 Biotechnology and Genomics
 Business
 Business and Taxation
 City/County/Local Government
 Civil Litigation
 Civil Rights
 Civil Trial
 Commercial Litigation
 Communications
 Condominium and Planned Development
 Constitutional
 Construction
 Consumer
 Contracts
 Copyright
 Corporate
 Criminal
 Criminal Appellate
 Debtor and Creditor
 Dispute Resolution
 Education
 Elder
 Election, Campaign and Political
 Eminent Domain
 Employee Benefits
 Energy, Environment/Natural Resources
 Entertainment, Arts and Sports
 Environmental and Land Use
 Equal Opportunities
 Estate Planning
 Family
 Finance and Investments
 General Practice
 Global Technology
 Governance and Rule of Law
 Government
 Government Administration and Regulation
 Government and Administrative
 Government and Public Policy
 Government Contracts
 Guardianship
 Health
 Health Administration
 Immigration and Nationality
 Indigenous and Native American Law
 Insurance
 Intellectual Property

Inter-American
 Intercultural/International Human Rights
 International
 International and Comparative
 International Business
 International Economic
 International Environmental
 International Legal Studies
 International Litigation and Arbitration
 International Taxation
 Internet
 Juvenile
 Labor and Employment
 Legal Malpractice
 Litigation/Trial Advocacy/Advocacy
 Media
 Mediation
 Medical Malpractice
 Mergers and Acquisitions
 Military
 Natural Resources
 Occupational Safety and Health
 Ocean and Coastal
 Patent
 Personal Injury

Probate and Trust Litigation
 Product Liability
 Professional Liability
 Public Finance and Bonds
 Public Interest
 Public Utilities
 Real Estate
 Real Estate/Land Development
 Securities
 Social Security Disability
 State and Federal Govt & Admin Practice
 Sustainable International Development
 Tax
 Technology and Science
 Toxic Torts
 Trademark
 Transportation
 Trial
 Trusts and Estates
 Urban Affairs/Urban Studies
 Wills, Trusts and Estates
 Workers' Compensation
 Workers' Compensation/Claimant
 Workers' Compensation/Defense
 Zoning, Planning and Land Use

Florida Bar Certifications and Federal Admission Listings

Florida Bar Certifications:	Federal Court Admissions:
Admiralty & Maritime Law	US Court of Appeal for the Eleventh Circuit
Adoption Law	US District Court Middle District of Florida
Antitrust & Trade Regulation Law	US District Court Northern District of Florida
Appellate Practice	US District Court Southern District of Florida
Aviation Law	
Business Litigation	Florida Middle District Bankruptcy Court
City, County & Local Government Law	
Civil Trial	Florida Southern District Bankruptcy Court
Condominium & Planned Dev. Law	Florida Northern District Bankruptcy Court
Construction Law	United States Supreme Court
Criminal Appellate	US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
Criminal Trial	US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
Education Law	US Court of Federal Claims
Elder Law	US Court of International Trade
Health Law	US Tax Court
Immigration & Nationality	
Intellectual Property Law	
International Law	
International Litigation & Arbitration	
Juvenile Law	
Labor & Employment Law	
Marital & Family Law	
Real Estate	
State & Federal Govt, & Administrative Practice	
Tax Law	
Wills, Trusts & Estates	
Workers' Compensation	

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 Manatee County Bar Association



FIVE THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT US: Manatee Community Foundation

1. Our favorite word is *partnership*.

Manatee Community Foundation's mission is to partner with our citizens to strengthen and enhance our community through philanthropy, education, and service—now and forever.

As the only community foundation in Manatee serving the entire county and beyond, MCF is your partner in philanthropy. We are the trusted steward of charitable legacies and the guide for current giving through donor-advised funds, field of interest funds, designated funds, scholarship funds, unrestricted funds, and agency funds. We provide creative options for tax-wise giving with local knowledge – we are **YOUR PARTNER IN PHILANTHROPY**.

Manatee County has always been a tight-knit community with a caring, giving spirit. MCF simply acts as a bridge between generous donors, business leaders, our government, and nonprofit partners, helping them invest in and improve our community. We foster connections, share knowledge, provide funding, and engage others to act today, for a better tomorrow—because, **together, we can do greater things**.

2. Manatee Community Foundation can serve as a trusted steward of your client's charitable wishes...now and forever.

- Your clients trust you to help them manage their assets and plan their estates when they are making decisions about the intersection of their wealth and philanthropy. They turn to you for expertise on how to make the most of their hard-earned dollars.
- Manatee Community Foundation works together with you and your clients in partnership to find the right giving vehicle, the right cause, and the right timing for clients for who are charitably inclined, Manatee Community Foundation can help and be an extension for your services.

Manatee Community Foundation partners with estate planning attorneys, financial advisors, CPAs and others who trust the local knowledge and philanthropic expertise of our team when planning a current gift or legacies that will live forever.

3. Our executive director's personal mission echoes MCF's mission.

In August 2023, Veronica Thames joined MCF as Executive Director with immense gratitude for the opportunity to advance MCF's mission, particularly because it aligns so closely with her personal mission.

On her 19th birthday, Veronica reluctantly immigrated to the U.S. due to her father's job. This massive change at such a formative age was a struggle, but it later proved to be a life-changing

experience. She had grown up seeing corruption, poverty, and suffering in a third world country, but now, she suddenly found herself in a land of opportunity. What if she could play a part in helping those with fewer privileges gain similar opportunities? Thus, she discovered an ambition which would stick with her for life: **to pay it forward by creating opportunities for all**.

4. We are committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

Communities are better when their citizens champion diversity, equity, inclusion, and access, and MCF strives to build a better community in this way. We want to reach everyone who lives here—and although we've made progress, we still have work to do.

Our strategies:

1. **Listen and Learn.** We aim to integrate diversity, inclusion, equity and access into ongoing staff and board professional development.
2. **Adapt Decision-Making Processes.** We seek diverse voices to inform our work and decision-making through deliberate processes and networking.
3. **Make Meaningful Investments.** We strive to include meaningful initiatives in our annual plan that reflect our commitment to access and opportunity.
4. **Communicate Our Values.** We seek to demonstrate to diverse donors and community members that we represent their needs, interests and communities as part of our work.

As we assess grant applications, we're especially interested in how a nonprofit's work is addressing diversity, equity, inclusion and access.

5. In our 25 years, we have infused our community with over \$60 million of philanthropic support—and value beyond dollars.

Since its inception, MCF has invested over \$60 million into the community, in areas of health and human services, education, arts and culture, the environment, and animal welfare. However, not all value can be measured in dollars. We harness the power of partnership, creating strong bonds and lasting connections that have yielded immeasurable positive change.

As we move forward, we hope to closely partner with our donors, fellow foundations, government officials, the business community, and our esteemed nonprofit partners—because philanthropy is a team sport. Together, we are stronger.

For information about Manatee Community Foundation, visit www.manateecf.org

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