

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JANUARY FEBRUARY 2025

News, invitations, photos and more

WORKING WITH THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

MCBA Cares

WHITNEY GLASER, ESQ.
PRO BONO AWARD

Remembering David W. Wilcox, Esq.

COMING UP: JANUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON CLE

LUTZ, BOBO TELFAIR

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CHARLES W. TELFAIR, IV PAST MCBA PRESIDENT







Working With The Young Lawyers Division

By: By Patrick Iyampillai, YLD President

Being the current president of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the Manatee County Bar Association (MCBA) outside of my day job has been a rewarding experience, and I have not, and could not, do it alone. I've had the honor of working with an extraordinary group of young lawyers who are not only passionate about their practice areas but also deeply committed to making a meaningful difference in our Bar. Reflecting on the first half of the Bar year, I am proud to say that it has not been lacking in events. Our YLD has made great strides in promoting the Bar Association, providing professional networking, and supporting important causes within our community.

As the YLD president, one of my top priorities has been to increase the visibility of our Bar Association and foster collaboration with other bar associations. The first half of this year has been marked by a series of successful joint events, which have not only raised awareness of our Bar but also reinforced our commitment to community involvement. These partnerships have helped to foster stronger relationships within the legal community, and we've been able to raise the profile of the Manatee Bar while doing so.

One of those joint events was the Rowdies soccer game event, which was a collaborative effort between the YLD, the Hispanic Bar Association's Tampa Chapter, and the Clearwater Bar Association. The event was not only a fun and memorable evening but also served a greater purpose. By raising money for Gulfcoast Legal Services, we were able to contribute to an organization that provides much-needed legal assistance to underserved communities in our region.

Our other big joint bar event was the Fall Rodeo event in Arcadia, which was a fantastic success. This rodeo event not only had members of the Manatee County Bar in attendance, but also members from the Desoto, Collier, and Sarasota County Bar Associations. Also, Judges Don Hall and Danielle Brewer were in attendance, and they gave an insightful discussion about the history of the Arcadia Rodeo, which dates back about 100 years, and its arena which has been awarded nationally as one of the best. We are proud to support our neighboring DeSoto County community and all of those from Manatee County involved in the Rodeo.

Another memorable occasion this fall was the "Table for 8" YLD dinner with the Honorable Judge Gilbert Smith Jr., which was graciously hosted for free by Manatee Bar sponsors, Westminster Bradenton. We were honored to have the opportunity to break bread with Judge Smith, and the generosity of Westminster Bradenton was deeply appreciated. The evening allowed for meaningful conversations about the past and future of the Bar, as well as the challenges and opportunities facing young lawyers.

Recently, the Thanksgiving meal drive held in collaboration with Ray Bellamy and Manatee Sheriff Rick Wells was another success. This annual event is a heartwarming tradition that has grown in both scope and impact over the years. Thanks to the collective efforts of our Bar members and Judge Smith, as well as a monetary donation by the YLD, we were able to help provide Thanksgiving meals to over 300 families in need throughout Manatee County.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting lineup of events planned for the remainder of the Bar year. In the spring, we are planning a YLD mixer with the Sarasota Bar YLD, which will be another great opportunity for young lawyers to network, share ideas, and build relationships across University Parkway. Also, we will be hosting another Rodeo event, which looks to be bigger and better than ever. In addition to these events, be on the lookout for new artwork in the Manatee County Courthouse and news on associated and other gatherings.

As we look to the future, we are also excited about the prospect of vying for another Florida Bar Award at next year's Affiliate Outreach Conference. Last year's recognition was a significant milestone for the Manatee County Bar YLD, and we are eager to continue building on that success. With the continued support of our members, our sponsors, and our partners, the future of the Manatee County Bar Association looks brighter than ever, and I am confident that we will continue to expand the YLD and strengthen our community into the new year and for years to come.

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.





Presenting Sponsor:





Free for MCBA Members \$35 for guests

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

Manatee Performing Arts Center- Kiwanis Hall 11:45 Lunch, Noon Meeting Start

Marc Hurwitz

Marc Hurwitz attended SUNY Buffalo for a B.A. degree in Political Science, and The George Washington University for a M.A. degree in National Security Policy.

Marc began government service with Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and continued in the U.S. Department of State's Human Rights Bureau. He then worked in the White House for three years, where he served as the aide to the Deputy National Security Advisor. Marc went on to become a counter-terrorism officer for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and later worked for the government in multiple overseas posts, earning several commendations for meritorious service.

In 2008, Marc opened Crossroads Investigations to sub-contract for retired CIA Chiefs of Stations with corporate due diligence contracts. Crossroads has since expanded into a full-service Private Investigation and Due Diligence firm, named by the Daily Business Review as the top Private Investigation Agency in South Florida for the past 7 consecutive years. Marc is a Florida Board Certified Investigator, a National Board Accredited Investigator, and a Certified International Investigator.

And, he is accredited by the Stave & Thief Society as a Bourbon Steward.

Special thanks to Our Annual Sponsors





































MCBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, January 15, 2025	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 29, 2025	MCBA Membership Luncheon
Wednesday, February 5, 2025	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 12, 2025.	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 26, 2025.	Java with the Judges
	MCBA Membership Luncheon
Friday, February 28, 2025	3 Hr CLE: Clerk Processes
Wednesday, March 5, 2025	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2025	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 26, 2025	MCBA Membership Luncheon
Wednesday, April 2, 2025	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 2025	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, April 25, 2025	Annual Spring Beach Party Social
Wednesday, May 7, 2025	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, May 14, 2025	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, May 21, 2025	MCBA Membership Luncheon
Wednesday, June 4, 2025	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 11, 2025	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 25, 2025	MCBA Membership Luncheon
Thursday, June 26, 2025	Westminster Senior Art Reception



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



Welcome New Members

Alyssa A. Adamo, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law, 2024 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2024 Firm/Office: The Cahall Law Firm, PLLC Area(s) of Practice: Civil Litigation, Personal Injury, Business Law

Janie M. Inverso, Esq.

Western New England University, 2000 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2000 Firm/Office: Inverso Law, PA Area(s) of Practice: Trusts & Estates, Probate & Trust Litigation

Kevin W. Pendley, Esq.

University of Georgia, 1990 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2007 Firm/Office: School Board of Manatee County, Florida Area(s) of Practice: Education Law

Angelina L. Stratton, Esq.

Barry University School of Law Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2015 Firm/Office: Office of The County Attorney Area(s) of Practice: City/County/Local Government Law, Personal Injury, Civil Litigation

Nathan A. Tamulonis, Esq.

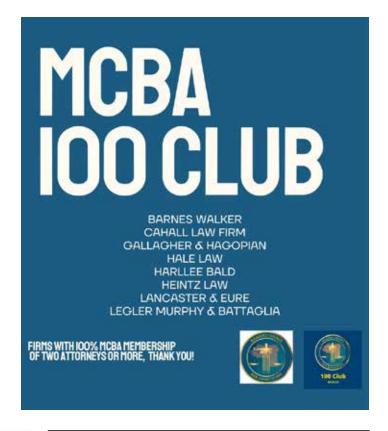
Cooley Law School, 2020 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2020 Firm/Office: Najmy Thompson, P.L. Area(s) of Practice: Condominium & Planned Development, Real Estate, Civil Litigation

Colleen L. Wapole, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law, 2014 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2015 Firm/Office: Gulfcoast Legal Services Area(s) of Practice: Family Law

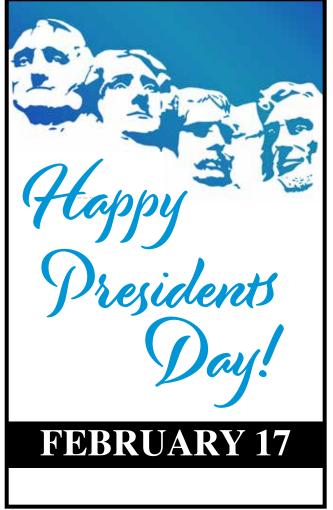
NOW HIRING!

The Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court is advertising for a full-time Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officer based in Manatee County. Travel may be required to Sarasota or Venice. Salary is \$95,557.06 (\$8,046.42/ month). In this high-volume division, the CSE Hearing Officer is responsible for setting referred child support and Title IV-D cases for hearing, conducting hearings, making determinations on cases, and preparing recommended orders for the parties and referring judge's consideration. To qualify for the role, you must have a juris doctor degree from an accredited law school and at least five years of experience in the practice of law, including one year in family law, and membership in good standing in The Florida Bar. Read the full job description and learn how to apply at jud12.flcourts.org/careers.





ALL PROCEEDS GO TO MANATEE FAWL'S CHARITY OF THE YEAR: STEP UP SUNCOAST For Sponsorship opportunities email Dana Gerling at diaganella@gerlinglawgroup.com



Stetson Law Review

2025 SYMPOSIUM

Prosecutorial Independence & While Collar Crime

EVENT LOGISTICS

When

Friday, March 28, 2025

Where

Great Hall at Stetson University College of Law

Time

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Attendance Fees

Legal Practitioners (In-Person): \$50.00 Stetson Alumni (In-Person): \$30.00 Virtual Attendance: \$10.00 Stetson Students & Faculty: Complimentary Admission.

How to Register

https://cvent.me/Z528xm

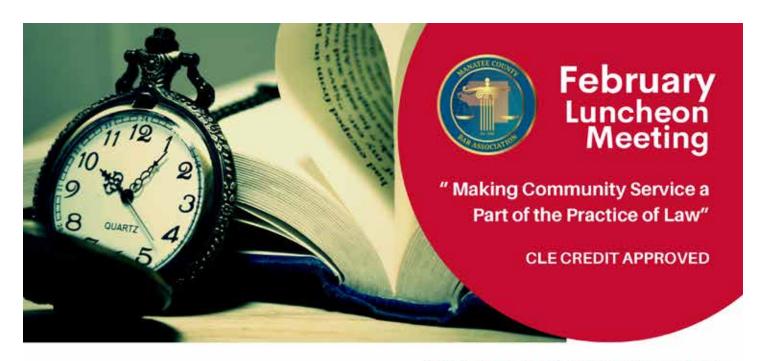
Keynote Speaker:District Attorney Sherry Boston

Join us as we explore current trends and controversies shaping our justice system. This event features four engaging panels covering:

- 1. **Prosecutorial Independence:** The critical role of prosecutors, state efforts to limit their discretion, public reactions, and the consequences of their decisions.
- 2. White-Collar Crime: The evolving landscape of financial crimes, with a focus on the intersection of technology, regulation, and politics.

Don't forget about the Florida Bar Approved CLE Credits.

The CLE credits comprise 6.0 General Credits and 1.0 Ethics Credit.





CLICK TO REGISTER

Free for MCBA Members \$35 for guests

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Manatee Performing Arts Center- Kiwanis Hall 11:45 Lunch, Noon Meeting Start

Hon. Gilbert Smith, Jr. & Hon. Diana Moreland Special Visit with Members of The 2nd DCA

Join Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr. and Chief Judge Diana Moreland for this special presentation!

Being a lawyer is much more than just practicing law, especially in the 12th Judicial Circuit.

Of course, it can include serving as an elected or appointed official or working on their own in a project that benefits the community. It may include belonging to a service club whose goal is to provide service to the community. To most lawyers, volunteering their time in the community is as important as practicing law. Did you know, many lawyers incorporate that spirit of community service into their business plan?

Join us as we board the history train for this insightful "ride" through yesteryear and into the future! You just may be inspired.....

Special thanks to Our Annual Sponsors



































MCBA Cares! From Hurricane Recovery to Feeding Those In Need at Thanksgiving

Several members of the MCBA have been spotted around our area helping others in a variety of ways – take a peek!



Kenyon Law Group staff (Amy Kenyon, Maira Torres and her children) performing hurricane cleanup at Grace Church's lead elementary education teacher's farm following hurricane Milton, on October 19, 2024. The farm was a mess, but they organized about 25 volunteers to help clean up, and the result was a beautiful demonstration of a community coming together to rebuild!



Jim Johnson, President of the Palmetto Rotary Club, and club members were involved in mucking and gutting some of the homes in Rubonia that Hurricane Helene flooded. Rotary had several trailers set up for relief efforts with the tools needed (shovels, saws, etc.). However, most of those trailers were quickly sent up to NC to help those folks in need.



Hale Law Firm participated in hurricane recovery efforts for a local plant nursery in Bradenton called, Orban's Nursery.







MCBA Members packing Thanksgiving Meal Boxes at the Ray Bellamy/Sheriff Rick Wells Annual Thanksgiving Meal Drive! Our Young Lawyers Division also held a one hour free legal clinic on site.

WILL SEARCH

DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO HELP LOCATE THIS WILL?

Walter J. Smith

Last Known Address:

275 N Federal Hwy, Apt 309 Pompano Beach FL 33062

or

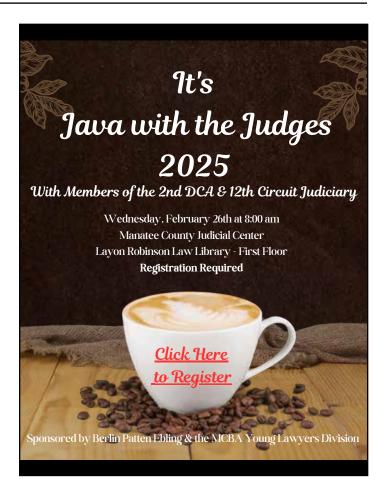
7310 US Hwy 301 N, Lot 87, Ellenton FL 34222

DOB 04/03/1958 • **DOD** 11/05/2024

If you have any information, please contact:

Paul Smith 386-837-2122

Pjsmith1197@gmail.com



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Member: Sarasota County Bar Association Manatee County Bar Association





MCBA Collects A "Wholelotta" Food For The Holidays!

This past holiday season, our association held a Food Drive for our local community. Barrels were placed at various locations throughout the Manatee County area for approximately one month. We had hopes of collecting 500 pounds of food for our community and we collected appx. 700 pounds of non-perishable food items, far exceeding our goal!

Here is how each location did:
Hale Law 98# & \$50.00 cash

Manatee County Historic Courthouse 5#
Barnes Walker 113# and donation
Najmy Thompson 145#
Blalock Walters 35#

Manatee County Judicial Center 160#

Com Center Building second pick up of 28#
and first pick up of 126#

Meals on Wheels Plus/Manatee Food Bank is grateful and the holidays were made a bit brighter for residents in need because of you, our members!

Whitney C. Glaser to be Recognized at The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Awards in January

The Florida Bar will recognize Whitney C. Glaser at The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Awards on January 16th. Whitney will be one of 21 lawyers who will be recognized for their work on behalf of low-income and disadvantaged clients at the ceremony at the Supreme Court of Florida.

Established in 1981, The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Awards are intended to encourage lawyers to volunteer free legal services to the poor by recognizing those who make public service commitments and to raise public awareness of the substantial volunteer services provided by Florida lawyers to those who cannot afford legal fees. Florida Bar President Roland Sanchez-Medina Jr. will present the 2025 awards.

The awards recognize pro bono service in each of Florida's 20 judicial circuits as well as service by one Florida Bar member practicing outside the state of Florida. They are presented annually in conjunction with the <u>Tobias Simon Pro Bono Service Award</u> and other service awards, which are given by the chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court.

In the most recent reporting period from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, Florida lawyers provided more than 1.7 million hours of pro bono services to those in need and \$11.6 million to legal aid organizations.

M. Brandon Robinson Receives Florida Patriot Award



Recently, M. Brandon Robinson, Esq. was awarded the Florida Patriot Award at an online statewide ceremony, hosted by The Broward County Bar Association. Brandon received the award in honor of his "legal leader veterans service to country and community" at the December 3rd, 2024, event. Brandon is a current member of the MCBA Board of Directors. Congratulations Brandon, we are proud of you!

MANATEE FAWL SAVE THE DATES:

February 7, 2025.......Elder Law Exploration Symposium
April 10, 2025.......Judicial Assistant Luncheon
May, 2025......Installation of new officers





Our Office Locations Bradenton Sarasota Parrish Lakewood Ranch Anna Maria Island

Abigail Holmes Galati, Esq.



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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, 2025. Share with others the benefits of being an MCBA member - luncheons, CLEs, networking, mentoring, and more!

* New Members must not have been a member of the MCBA within the last 3 years. Applications are online at www.manateebar.com



REMEMBERING DAVID W. WILCOX

On December 7, 2024, the Manatee County Bar Association lost an active and devoted long-term member.

David W. Wilcox has served in many roles as a member of the Association. Always positive and energetic, he was a regular at luncheons for over forty years. David was always a gentleman, and he will be missed. He will forever be known as an avid and unconditional supporter of the "Noles." David will also be known as a dedicated supporter of the DeSoto Celebration and DeSoto Historical Society.

David was born on October 28, 1949, at Eglin Air Force Base to (Officer) Carl and Hazel Wilcox. His father and mother were both from Bradenton, so it was their home. Growing up, David lived all over the world as his dad received new assignments. The family lived at Patrick Air Force Base Cocoa, Florida, Craig Air Force Base in Selma, Alabama, Hamilton Air Force Base in Novato, California, Lakenheath Air Force Base in London, England, Richards-Gebauer Air Force Base in Belton, Missouri, and McDill Air Force Base in Tampa Florida. Even though the family moved around, David became a Cub Scout and then a Boy Scout, earning the rank of Life. Through scouting, he learned the importance of community service. In Belton, Missouri, an experience changed David's life. As he was walking to the front door of his school, he witnessed a girl who had injured herself from glass shattered from a door. David's quick thinking and knowledge of first aid saved her life. He applied pressure to the wounds and kept the girl calm until the ambulance arrived. David attributes his experience in scouts to being prepared for that type of emergency.

Eventually the family moved to Tampa where David graduated from Robinson High School. He then enlisted in the Air Force where he served in Southeast Asia. After receiving an honorable discharge, David returned home to Bradenton and attended Manatee Junior College, where he was on the debate team. In 1973, he transferred to Florida State University where he graduated with this bachelor's degree in business administration & management in 1976. With a natural gift of speaking and writing, David decided to become an attorney. He graduated with his law degree from FSU in 1979 and began his legal career with the law firm of Icard Merrill in Sarasota. After one year, he accepted a position as assistant general counsel for Governor Bob Graham. He moved back to Tallahassee and for the next two years represented the Governor. David's experience as

general counsel gave a unique talent as an attorney. David returned to lcard Merrill in 1983 where he practiced for two years before opening his own firm in 1985 in downtown Bradenton. Except for another brief period with lcard Merrill, he has practiced on his own since that time. As an attorney with many specialties, David was a successful and popular attorney in Manatee County.

David married Susan and they raised one son, Andrew. Besides being a devoted family man and active in the Club, he was involved with many other organizations including the Seminole Club of Manatee County (chairman), Bradenton Kiwanis Club (president 2001 - 2002), Manatee County Chamber of Commerce, DeSoto Celebration (chairman), DeSoto Historical Society (president), Manatee Glens Hospital and Addiction Center (chairman), Florida State University Law School (director) and Manatee County Audubon Society. David was also the founder of Take Back Bradenton and MOR Music TV, an international cable television network. He also served as chairman and founder of Coast Bank and president of Sportsman's National Land Trust. Most recently, David, as co-founder of the Committee for Open Democracy, helped raise and distribute over \$1.3 million in humanitarian aid to those in need in Ukraine. For his leadership and contributions to the community, David has been recognized many times including with the Lifetime Community Service Award from the Manatee County Bar Association in 2004 and the George Hixson Award in 2008. He was recognized in the book, Champions of Children.











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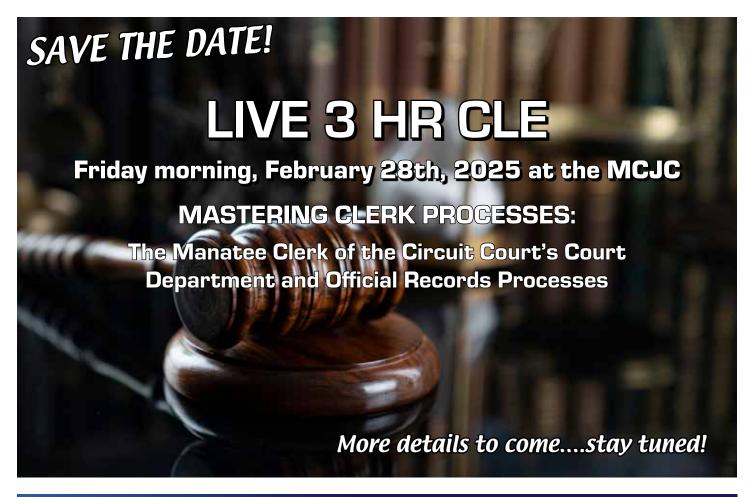


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The MCBA is excited to welcome Jeff Birnbach and Blackheart Intelligence, LLC as our newest annual sponsor! As Cyber Tech Investigators and Consultants, the staff at Blackheart Intelligence specialize in ESI & E-Discovery, Cyber Crime: Payment & Wire Fraud, Deep/Dark Web Activity, and Cyber Tech Consulting. Interested in learning how Blackheart Intelligence can assist you? Please give them a call in Sarasota at 1-941-312-2201 or click to visit their website at: https://blackheart.us/







2024 Holiday Party Fun!



MCBA Members could be found at Kiwanis Hall this past December enjoying food, festivities and plenty fun at the Annual Holiday Party. This year, party goers, donning their ugliest of more festive holiday garb strutted their stuff across the "runway" competing for the coveted first place award and to be written in our MCBA history forever. The competition was fierce as Judge Robert Farrance (ret). served as our celebrity judge, taking his role quite seriously and with utmost care. After narrowing down the participants, the winner was declared as Brian Johnson, husband of Andrea Johnson, and runner up was Patrick lyampillai. Brian took home the grand prize of a Gift Basket filled with goodies and donated by Westminster Communities. Patrick was awarded tickets to a show at the Manatee Performing Arts Center as well as a gift card to Detweilers. Guests also enjoyed the interactive games with the possibility of winning gift cards and more! Hale Law surprised guests with their very own bottled hot sauce, enough for all to take home and enjoy. Special thanks to the Young Lawyers Division and our Annual Sponsors who made this event possible. Stay tuned for details regarding Holiday Party 2025...



JOB POSTING!

The Manatee County Sheriff's Office is advertising for an Assistant General Counsel position based in Manatee County. Salary is \$101,441.60, annually. This position will be responsible for filing and prosecuting Risk Protection Order petitions in Circuit Court, representing the Office in court on a variety of criminal and civil matters, and providing internal legal guidance on a variety of topics, including law enforcement, local government, and contractual matters. To qualify, you must have a juris doctor degree from an accredited law school, at least three years practicing law, and membership in good standing with The Florida Bar. Read the full job description, minimum qualifications, recommended qualifications, and learn how to apply at https:// www.governmentjobs.com/careers/manateeso/ jobs/4785577/assistant-general-counsel.

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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.

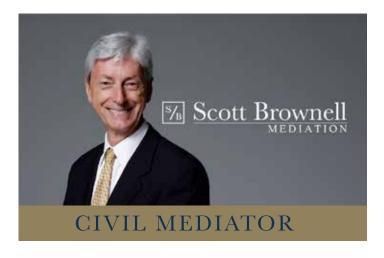
- · Admitted to the Florida Bar in 1997
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