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NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE
COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

MARCH APRIL 2025

*News, invitations,
photos and more*

**LAWYERS & LEGENDS
OF MANATEE COUNTY 2**

YLD Receives Oscar

**PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY
OF LITIGATION
THE WEAPONIZATION OF
§ 57.105: A CALL FOR REFORM**

***Remembering Teddy N.
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PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF LITIGATION

The Weaponization of § 57.105: A Call for Reform

By: Abigail H. Galati, Esq.

As lawyers, we are committed to representing our clients zealously while adhering to our oath to avoid frivolous proceedings. To fulfill this commitment, every competent lawyer must conduct a thorough conflict check and a preliminary investigation of the facts for each client and case.

More specifically, a lawyer should check for conflicts in the proposed fee arrangement with a new client, considering potential risks. This involves determining early who will likely bear the fees under the facts. Both the client and attorney can then assess the risk and perform a cost-benefit analysis before engaging in litigation. However, despite the most thorough preparations to best position oneself to begin zealously representing a client, all evaluations and cost-benefit analysis are turned on their head the moment you, the attorney, and your client receive the infamous § 57.105 “Safe Harbor” letter and attached motion.

On October 1, 1999, Florida Statutes Section 57.105 was substantially revised, and said revision resulted in granting the court extremely broad power to award fees. First, § 57.105(1) no longer applied to an action or defense as a whole; instead § 57.105(1) can now be apply to any isolated claim or defense raised at any time throughout the course of litigation. Second, attorneys’ fees can now be assessed by the Court to be paid by the losing party *and* the losing party’s attorney, in equal amounts, if the court finds that the party *or the attorney* “knew or should have known” that a claim or defense, when initially presented to the court or at any moment before trial: (a) was not supported by the material facts necessary to establish the claim or defense; or (b) would not be supported by the application of the then-existing law to those material facts. See Fla. Stat. (1).

It is clear the initial intent behind the 1999 revision of § 57.105 was to achieve the commendable goal of preventing pursuit of otherwise frivolous claims and defenses. When considering the otherwise admirable purpose of § 57.105 it seems fitting that, in pursuit of promoting excellence in our profession, the severe sanctions that accompany such an action are justified. However, what was originally meant to be a rare policing tool for combating extreme frivolous filings, has now become a common tactic used by civil litigation attorneys to question the integrity of other lawyers and intimidate opponents early in a case. This is problematic for a number of reasons.

First, the receipt of a § 57.105 Safe Harbor Letter and attached motion immediately raises potential conflicts between the client and the attorney, often at the infancy of a case. In my experience it is extremely common to receive a § 57.105 Safe Harbor Letter, with attached motion, from an opposing party at the very beginning of a case, prior to material discovery occurring and prior to the opposing party’s Motion to Dismiss, if filed, being heard. This is likely because the opposing party’s § 57.105 almost always raises the same material issues as the Motion to Dismiss and therefore if the Motion to Dismiss is ruled upon and denied the § 57.105 is likely rendered moot and thereby loses its teeth. Additionally, service of the § 57.105 Safe Harbor Letter and attached motion, alone, can serve as a powerful message of intimidation to both the recipient attorney and their client, and poses a serious financial liability that neither had yet considered as part of their initial cost-benefit analysis when onboarding the case, as described above.

At this stage, the attorney-client relationship is usually new, and most clients are experiencing litigation for the first time. Therefore discussing with a client the potential risk posed by a § 57.105 at this early stage can be extremely jarring and intimidating for a client and may lead them to abandon what are completely valid claims supported by law and fact simply because their entire cost-benefit analysis of the case has changed. In this scenario, make no mistake, opposing counsel is not pursuing sanctions through § 57.105 to only intimidate your client, but also you, the attorney. Many attorneys on the receiving end of a § 57.105 Safe Harbor letter begin to question their case, the material facts, their client, and their client’s veracity to such an extent that they can find themselves erring on the side of caution and advising their client to abandon a valid claim. This is fundamentally contrary to any attorneys’ obligation to zealously represent their client and arguably breaches the duty of loyalty owed to every client. Attorneys must recognize that it is a rarity that a case has the perfect set of facts, and it is our job as attorneys, through thorough discovery and legal research, to satisfy the elements of the applicable legal theory under which our client is pursuing satisfaction to the best of our ability. Sometimes, we may be unsuccessful. Fundamentally, there is a difference between raising an argument that happens to be unsuccessful and raising

Continued on Page 7



March 2025 Luncheon Meeting

**"Operation Gator Farm:
From Investigations to Arrests"**

CLE CREDIT APPROVED



Wednesday, March 26th, 2025

Manatee Performing Arts Center- Kiwanis Hall

11:45 Lunch, Noon Meeting Start

**Jeff Babauta, Officer, Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission (Ret.)**

Imagine you are assigned to a special task force to bust an illegal alligator farm enterprise. In order to succeed, you must become what you are investigating and infiltrate a world of illegal poachers. Join us as we welcome retired Florida Fish & Wildlife Office, Jeff Babauta!

Officer Babauta will discuss a covert operation in which he went undercover for two and a half years. This involves a fake alligator farm that he operated in Desoto County which was involved in alligator hunting, egg collection and gator hatchlings. The discussion will include a Power Point presentation outlining the entire operation from gathering of evidence, transportation of wildlife, and arrests made.

The book, Gator Country: Deception, Danger, and Alligators in the Everglades, by Rebecca Renner is based on Officer Babauta's investigation and can be purchased at a variety of book stores.

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MCBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, March 12, 2025MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 26, 2025 MCBA Membership Luncheon
Wednesday, April 2, 2025 MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 2025MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 2025Joint YLD Networking Event at TWEEDS
Wednesday, April 23, 2025 YLD Table for 8 with Judge Felix
Friday, April 25, 2025 Annual Spring Party: Low Country Boil & BBQ
Wednesday, May 7, 2025 MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, May 14, 2025MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 MCBA Membership Luncheon
Wednesday, June 4, 2025 MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 11, 2025MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 25, 2025 MCBA Membership Luncheon
Thursday, June 26, 2025 Westminster Senior Art Reception

Welcome New Members

Adrienne N. Gagliardo, Esq.

Boston University School of Law
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2009
 Firm/Office: Internal Revenue Service
 Area(s) of Practice: Tax Law, Estate Planning

Britton A. Grimes, Esq.

The Florida State University College of Law, 2017
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2017
 Firm/Office: Foley & Lardner, LLP
 Area(s) of Practice: Mergers & Acquisitions,
 Corporate Law, Real Estate/Land Development

Reyna Grundy, Esq.

University of Cincinnati College of Law, 2022
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2022
 Firm/Office: Blalock Walters, P.A.
 Area(s) of Practice: Government Law,
 Zoning, Planning & Land Use

Jared M. Monahan, Esq.

Nova Southeastern, 2007
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2008
 Firm/Office: Manatee County Attorney's Office
 Area(s) of Practice: Government Law



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

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an argument frivolously that is not supported by material facts or by existing law.

Second, many § 57.105 motions inappropriately pose arguments identical to that of a Motion to Dismiss giving proponents of the § 57.105 motion the opportunity to test said arguments, often before material discovery has taken place, at an *evidentiary* § 57.105 hearing.

Under Rule of Civil Procedure 1.140(b)(6), a motion to dismiss tests the complaint's legal sufficiency. See *Fox v. Profl Wrecker Operators of Fla.*, 801 So. 2d 175, 178 (Fla. 5th DCA 2001). On a motion to dismiss, the Court is confined to the complaint, including all attachments thereto, and the allegations pled therein must be accepted as true and considered in the light most favorable to the non-moving party. See *Marshall v. Amerisys, Inc.*, 943 So. 2d 276 (Fla. 3d DCA 2006). In contrast, an evidentiary hearing is *required* for a hearing on a § 57.105 motion during which evidence outside of the four corners of the complaint and attachments thereto will be considered.

Therefore, despite the high standard for success on a § 57.105 motion a proponent, even if they know they cannot prevail, has a huge incentive to file it anyway. The § 57.105 evidentiary hearing, especially early in a case, provides valuable insight into the opposition's evidence and claims, helping to refine arguments for a Motion to Strike or Dismiss. Such a strategic use of a § 57.105 filing appears to be of no risk to the proponent and there is no case law I have found where the proponent of frivolously filed § 57.105 motion has themselves been faced with sanctions or any other ramifications. That said, the *Claudet* case resulted in sanctions imposed on the proponent of a Federal Rule 11 Motion for Sanctions because the court found the proponent's filing to be considered an "improper purpose" and more specifically "harassment". See *Claudet v. First Fed. Credit Control, Inc.*, 25 Fla. L. Weekly Fed. D 259 (U.S. M. D. Fla. 2015). Arguably sanctions imposed under Federal Rule 11 are analogous to fees awarded under § 57.105, as "the two have the same goal to discourage baseless filing." See *Pitts v. Geovera Specialty Ins. Co.*, No. 8:21-cv-2033-VMC-CPT, 2023 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 115004 (M.D. Fla. July 5, 2023).

There is a reason why the law has determined that on a Motion to Dismiss, the court is confined to the complaint, and using a § 57.105 motion as an end-run around this rule to prematurely subject an underdeveloped case to an evidentiary hearing is an inappropriate use of a § 57.105 motion, and the Courts should begin enacting ramifications for such improper use of § 57.105 by civil litigation counsel.

Third, it appears the current, prevalent application of § 57.105 by a proponent attorney stems from the objective to strategically shift fees and pursue a new alternative to obtain reimbursement of attorneys' fees for their client against you, the attorney, and your client. Such use of § 57.105 is clearly improper and contrary to the spirit of the design of § 57.105. In no way does this fee-shifting objective address the frivolity § 57.105 was designed to combat and it is inappropriate for a proponent of a § 57.105 motion to use it as a vehicle to end-run law and statute under which their client carries the burden for their own attorneys' fees. In fact, such misuse of § 57.105, arguably, constitutes a due process and access to the courts issue, as it may preclude an indigent client from pursuing an otherwise viable claim due to financial considerations alone, as attorney's fees and the potential liability of incurring the opposing party's attorneys' fees are often a driving factor in whether or not a client pursues a case further, strength of the case notwithstanding.

The misuse of § 57.105 is contrary to the standards of professionalism that as attorneys we owe to the clients, the legal system, and each other. "*A lawyer's conduct should conform to the requirements of the law, both in professional service to clients and in the lawyer's business and personal affairs. A lawyer should use the law's procedures only for legitimate purposes and not to harass or intimidate others. A lawyer should demonstrate respect for the legal system and for those who serve it, including judges, other lawyers, and public officials....*" R. Regulating Fla. Bar 4. Preamble. In light of the prevalent misuse of § 57.105, it is clear to many civil litigators that this issue is ripe for the judiciary to address. To that end, I offer the following potential solutions. First, as stated above, courts should consider imposing sanctions against proponent attorneys who regularly, frivolously, and improperly file § 57.105 motions against opposing counsel, perhaps mirroring the "improper use" and "harassment" standards highlighted in the *Claudet* case as applied to Federal Rule 11. Second, § 57.105 could be amended, or the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure could be updated, to apply some sort of time restraint stating that a hearing on a § 57.105 motion can only be heard *after* a pending Motion to Dismiss has been heard, or, *after* formal discovery has concluded. Lastly, and while incredibly unlikely, it appears the inappropriate fee shifting objective could be addressed by switching to the "English Rule" of attorney's fees, wherein the non-prevailing party resulting from a § 57.105 hearing would be responsible for *all* fees and cost or alternatively all fees and costs associated with the subject § 57.105. Such potential solutions could help to maintain the integrity of § 57.105 and the spirit in which it was intended and designed.

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Florida's Trial Courts 2025

By: Tyler Dixon, YLD Director

Florida's trial courts manage more than two million civil case filings annually, quite a task to preside over.¹ In response, our Supreme Court has undertaken a years long process of figuring out how to best move all of these cases through the court system in a timely, cost-efficient, and accountable manner.² The most recent realization of these efforts became effective on January 1, 2025 – Happy New Year. Of course everyone in the Manatee County Bar Association has already reviewed these changes, however, here is a summary of these amendments to hand out to your friends in other counties.

Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.200

Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.200 has been re-written in its entirety and dictates that each civil case must be assigned to either the complex, general, or streamlined case management track within 120 days after the action commences.³ Specific to cases in the streamlined or general track, the trial court must include the projected or actual trial period in its originating case management order, as well as specific deadlines, including completion of discovery, ADR, etc.^{4/5} However, do not expect standardized CMOs/CMO practice across the state, as Rule 1.200 requires the chief judge of each circuit to enter into an administrative order addressing their circuit's case management policies - the purpose being to allow each circuit to "customize the process for that circuit given the varying levels of volume, resources, and available automation."⁶

Further, Rule 1.200 dictates new policies and procedures regarding case management and pre-trial conferences – stating that the trial court, at any time, may set a case management conference on its own notice, or on notice by any party.⁷ However, should a party to an action request a case management conference, the notice itself must identify what issues are to be addressed at said conference and provide a list of all pending motions.⁸

Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.201

Governing complex cases, Rule 1.201 has been amended to provide that the trial court is no longer required to hold a hearing to determine whether an action requires the complex designation.⁹

Rule 1.201 has also been amended to include that the "parties must notify the court immediately if a case management conference or hearing time becomes unnecessary."¹⁰

Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.280

Continuing its footsteps of its previous decisions, Florida's Supreme Court has once again incorporated the Fed. R. Civ. P. into the Fla. R. Civ. P. Rule 1.280 has been amended to include the entirety of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1), dictating that parties to an action are required to submit Initial Disclosures within 60 days of service

or joinder – and consistent with the changes provided in 1.200 – unless the trial court provides for a different timeline.¹¹ Of note, a party is unable to engage in discovery, from any source, until that party's initial disclosure obligation has been satisfied.¹²

Initial disclosures are to include: (1) the names and contact information of individuals likely to have discoverable information, and the subjects of information; (2) copies of all documentation it possesses to support its claims or defenses, unless solely for impeachment; (3) a computation of each category of damages, and documentation to support the same; and (4) insurance policies.¹³

Rule 1.280 has also been amended to impose a continuous duty to supplement discovery.¹⁴ Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.380 was also amended, providing an enforcement mechanism for the initial disclosure and duty to supplement requirements.¹⁵

Florida's Supreme Court also issued commentary on this amendment, confirming that Rule 1.280 is to be construed and applied with the federal proportionality standard, with the desire for courts and practitioners alike to look to federal precedent when applying proportionality.¹⁶

Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.440

As amended, Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.440 no longer requires a matter to be at issue to be set for trial, stating instead that "[t]he failure of the pleadings to be closed will not preclude the court from setting a case for trial."¹⁷

Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.440 is additionally amended to complement the new requirements of Rule 1.200(d)(2), in which the trial court is to provide an actual or projected trial term – once again for streamlined or general tracks only - in its originating case management order. Rule 1.440(c)(2) provides that for any case with a "projected" trial term, the trial court must enter an order fixing a trial period no later than 45 days before that projected trial term.

Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.460

Here comes the big one. Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.460 has been re-written in its entirety, confirming right off the bat that Motions to Continue Trial are a disfavored practice and should rarely be granted, and only upon a showing of good cause.^{18/19}

Further, Rule 1.460 provides a specific set of factors that must be included within a Motion to Continue, including: (1) the basis for the need of a continuance; (2) whether the motion is opposed; (3) the action and specific dates for the action that will enable the movant to be prepared for trial; (4) the proposed date by which the case will be ready for trial, and whether that date is agreed by all parties.²⁰ Additionally, the movant is required to meet and confer with counsel for non-movant, and the failure to do so may result in sanctions.²¹

Manatee Clerk's Office Opens April 5 for Passport Services

The Office of Angelina "Angel" Colonnese, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller for Manatee County, is opening its doors **on Saturday, April 5, from 8:30 a.m. to noon** for Passport Saturday – an annual event for passport applications.

Passport Saturday offers residents with busy weekday schedules an opportunity to apply for a passport outside of regular business hours. Whether you're a first-time applicant, renewing a child's passport, or need to renew an adult passport issued more than 15 years ago, the Clerk & Comptroller's passport division is here to help.

To save time at the passport counter, the Clerk & Comptroller's office recommends that you fill out your passport applications in advance. The application is available for download on the U.S. Department of State's website at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/how-apply/forms.html>.

Identification and Payment Requirements

All applicants must bring the following:

- **A check or money order payable** to the U.S. Department of State.
Visit www.manateeclerk.com/departments/passports for a list of fees.



- **A second form of payment** for Clerk of Court fees (cash, check, credit, or debit card).
- **A valid government-issued ID.**
- **Original proof of citizenship** (for first-time applicants and minors under 16).
- **Expired passport book/card** (for renewals only).

Passport photos are available on-site for a nominal fee.

Passport Saturday is a **walk-in-only event** with no appointments available. All applicants must be present when applying.

For questions about the Clerk & Comptroller's Passport Saturday event or general passport inquiries, call the passport division at **(941) 741-4022** or visit www.manateeclerk.com/departments/passports

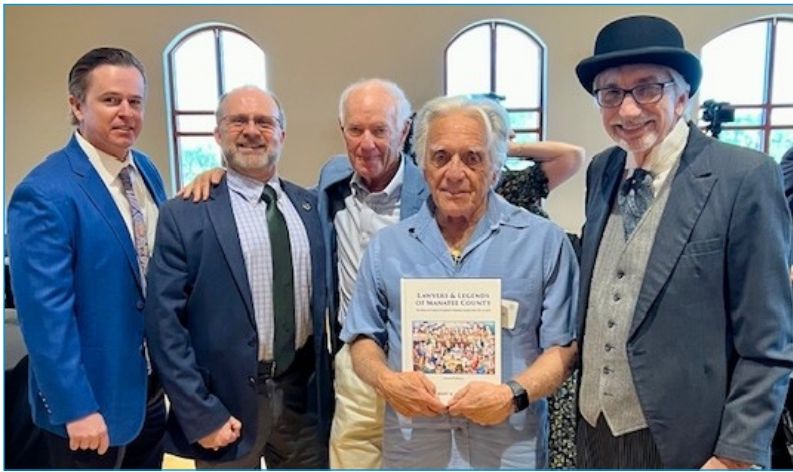
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History in the Making Community Service – Lawyers & Legends 2



Recently, over one hundred attendees gathered at the association's luncheon on Wednesday, February 26th at noon at Kiwanis Hall in the Manatee Performing Arts Center. Chief Judge Diana Moreland and Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr. presented "Making Community Service a Part of the Practice of Law." The crowd, consisting of members, past members, and guests, were

not only excited to reconnect after many years but also to find many of their families as part of the program. The focus of the program was a "famous" painting that long time member, Jack Manson, had painted of all association members in 1970. The painting has been the discussion of much intrigue and mystery over the decades with its attention to detail in caricature; inviting the imagination to ignite and wonder "what was that about?"

The program emphasized the historical past of MCBA members and how they aided with community projects, volunteerism and making Manatee County what it is today. Attendees were delighted to have received a special "sweet treat" from annual sponsor Heritage Process.

Special thanks to METV for filming the historical event. The taping can be found on the METV YouTube channel.

Want to learn more about our historical past and "the painting" Please reach out the Janene Amick at the Manatee Performing Arts Center to inquire about receiving your copy of "Lawyers & Legends of Manatee County, 2nd Edition".



NETWORKING

YLD Event

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5:30 - 7:30 pm

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Jeffrey S. Goethe, Esq.

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- 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

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Java With The Judges 2025

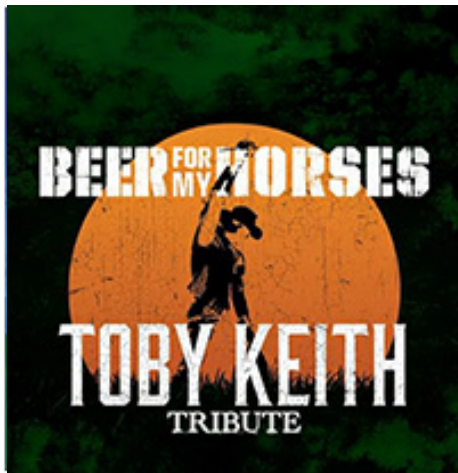


The morning of Wednesday, February 26th, 2025, the MCJC Law Library was abuzz with attendees for Java with the Judges! The annual event is held each February and hosted by the association's Young Lawyers Division. All members are invited to enjoy early morning pastries and of course, a cup or two of coffee. This year's event was underwritten by Berlin Patten Ebling.

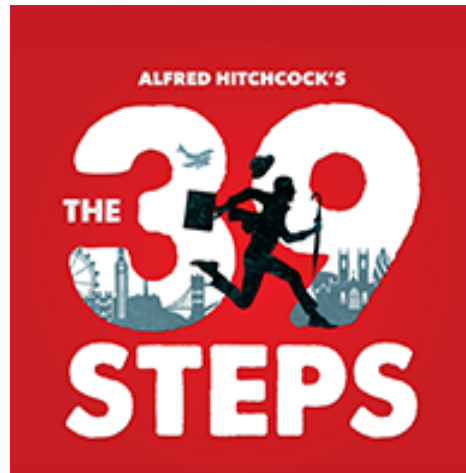


Enjoying Java with the Judges are left to right: Judge Ed Nicholas, MCBA Director Kari Martin, MCBA Past President Andrea Johnson, Judge Renee' Inman and MCBA Imm. Acting Treasurer Brandon Robinson

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April 10th - 20th



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MCBA Young Lawyers Division Awarded OSCAR at Affiliates Outreach Conference!

YLD President Patrick Iyampillai, Vice President Chad Manausa, and Past President Patrick Barnes attended the Florida Bar Affiliate Outreach Conference in Orlando recently, representing the Manatee County Bar Association YLD. They were proud to be recognized with an Oscar at the Council of Affiliates Meeting for one of their events this past year, the Rowdies Joint Bar Soccer Game Event!

Way to go Manatee Bar YLD!



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Estate Planning & General Business Law

Our Estate Planning practice group is seeking a qualified attorney with zero (0) to three (3) years of experience. The Associate will work with and learn from our experienced, collaborative estate planning and business law teams. The Associate will work on family estate planning and business succession plans, entity creation, operating and shareholder agreements, and business counseling.

Candidates must possess excellent drafting and analytical skills, have a strong academic record, and be or soon-to-be admitted to The Florida Bar. Additionally, candidates should be detail oriented, self-motivated, and have excellent communication and organizational skills.

To apply, please submit your cover letter, resume, and other supporting documentation to jschembri@blalockwalters.com.

Business Litigation Law

The firm's business litigation practice group is seeking a dedicated and professional attorney with zero (0) to five (5) years of experience. The candidate will have interest in business litigation law and will learn to direct and lead files, perform initial case analysis, develop comprehensive case strategies, engage in discovery processes, conduct depositions, draft motions, appear at hearings, and skillfully negotiate settlements. He/she will also have the opportunity to assist with trials. Candidates must be admitted or soon-to-be admitted to The Florida Bar.

To apply, please submit your cover letter, resume, and other supporting documentation to cjohnson@blalockwalters.com.

Real Estate Attorney:

Blalock Walters is seeking an exceptional candidate to join our esteemed Real Estate department. Immediate transferable skills and a strong academic background are essential, and the candidate must be admitted to or soon-to-be admitted to The Florida Bar.

To apply, please submit your cover letter, resume, and other supporting documentation to mstaggs@blalockwalters.com.

Leasing Attorney:

The ideal candidate will bring two (2) to five (5) years of experience. This role will work with a diverse portfolio of properties, including local and national retailers, restaurants, mixed-use office buildings, medical facilities, and industrial parks.

The candidate will draft, review, and negotiate lease agreements, amendments, and related documents and provide legal advice and counsel to clients on leasing transactions, including issues related to landlord-tenant law, lease interpretation, and compliance. Admission to The Florida Bar is required.

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Members Out & About

MCBA Members Clerk of the Circuit Court Angel Colonnese and Michael Gallen, General Counsel to the Clerk of the Circuit Court could be found presenting a CLE to the association on Friday, February 28th. The 3-hour CLE was an intense course reviewing processes and procedures at the Clerk's office. Special thanks to Clerk Colonnese's staff for the full house event.



Spotted At Merit Badge Day!

Recently, MCBA members were spotted celebrating Merit Badge Day with local Eagle Scouts at Peace Presbyterian Church.

Congratulations on a job well-done!



In photo are scouts with Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr.; Sheriff Rick Wells; MCBA Secretary Brian Iten and State Representative Bill Conerly

Legal Assistant Wanted Bradenton, FL

Established law firm in Bradenton, Florida, is seeking a highly motivated and detail-oriented **Legal Assistant** to join our team. This is an excellent opportunity to work in a fun yet dynamic professional environment with a focus on commercial and residential real estate, title insurance, and Land Use & Government law.

Responsibilities:

- Provide administrative support to 2 attorneys in business and real estate transactions, title insurance matters, and land use and government matters.
- Draft and review legal documents related to the practice area.
- Assist with land use applications and governmental representation.
- Communicate effectively with clients, consultants, opposing counsel, and government agencies.
- Maintain accurate files and manage calendars and deadlines.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience in commercial and residential real estate transactions
- Knowledge of title insurance processes and regulations.
- Familiarity with Land Use and Government Law.
- Strong organizational and communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Proficiency in technology and software utilized in the legal industry.

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Join our team and help us deliver top-tier legal services to our clients in Bradenton, Manatee County and beyond!

WILL SEARCH Searching For Joseph Francis Kraker

Date of Birth: 10/08/1944

Date of Death: 01/26/2025

Last Known Street Address:

1809 Restful Dr, #N3, Bradenton, FL 34207

The home at the address listed above was purchased during March of 2024 so his will may have a different address. Joseph has also lived at several other addresses in Bradenton, Florida, Holmes Beach, Florida, and Houston, Texas.

Joseph died while at The Hampton at Meadows Place in Fort Bend County, TX. He has been buried at FIS cemetery located at 3000 5th St, Stafford, TX.

If you have any information, please contact:

Mary-Jo Hermann

maryjo.hermann1@gmail.com

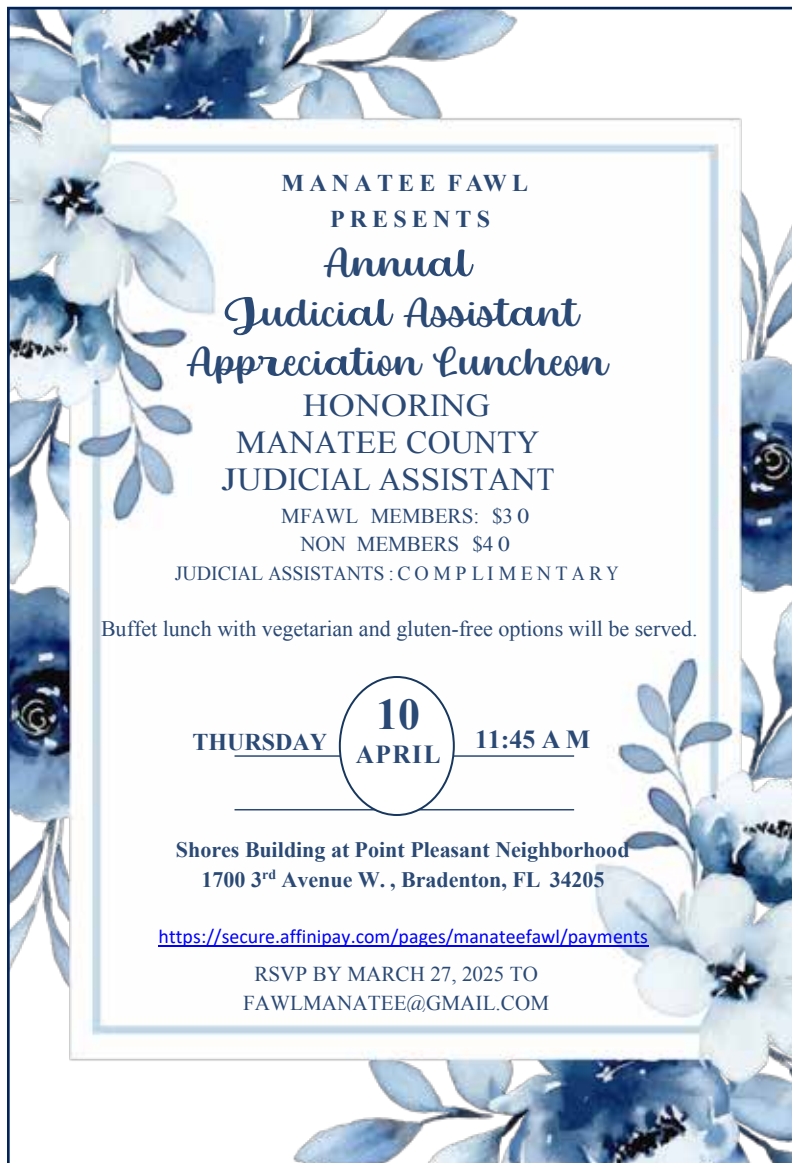
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Remembering Tedd Williams

The MCBA has recently learned of the passing of the former County Attorney for Manatee County, Tedd Williams.

Teddy N. (Tedd) Williams, Jr. was the County Attorney for Manatee County from 1997 until 2012, prior to which he served as Chief Assistant County Attorney in the same office for 12 years. Tedd was a graduate of USF and the Florida State University College of Law.

Prior to his government service, Tedd practiced law with Holland & Knight for 7 years.

Tedd served as President of the MCBA (1999 – 2000). He was an alumnus of Leadership Manatee, served as a coach for the Bradenton Christian School mock trial team, and was a Vestry Member and Senior Warden at St. Paul's Reformed Episcopal Church. Tedd was a proud veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Tedd will be remembered for his intellect, his dry humor, his quiet demeanor and his steady, measured approach to the practice of law. Most importantly, he was a family man through and through.

Tedd passed away in November of 2023 in Columbia, South Carolina, where he had resided during his retirement years.

WILL SEARCH Language: **Searching for Will of:** **THEODORE ANDROS A/K/A TY ANDROS**

7409 Fairlinks Court, Sarasota, FL 34243

Date of Birth: 12/01/1955 • Date of Death: 12/21/2024
Any information, please contact ADAM B. PORTNOW at:
adamp@legallaidofmanasota.org / 941-366-0038 x 108

COMMENTS: PLEASE INCLUDE ANY COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT YOU BELIEVE MAY BE HELPFUL TO AN ATTORNEY such as: aliases, business, profession, etc.

Examples can be seen online at www.manateebar.com, under the NEWS tab: Newsletter

WILL SEARCH **For** **JUDITH BUCCI**

5905 32nd St E
Ellenton, Florida

Predeceased by her husband Frank Bucci

Any information, please contact

Tom Harrison, Esq.

at Dye Harrison Knowles:

Tom Harrison

TWH@dye-harrison.com

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- Harvard Law School Mediation Training Program
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- Chairman, Florida Bar Council of Sections 2018-2019
- Certified Circuit Civil Mediator
- Certified County Civil Mediator

TABLE FOR 8 YLD DINNER EVENT

Young Lawyers Division

This event is a small, intimate dinner for MCBA young lawyers providing casual conversation and comradery with featured guest and host Judge D. Ryan Felix
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6:00 pm
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Welcome Old Republic Title as Annual Sponsor!

Recently, the MCBA welcomed Old Republic Title as an Annual Sponsor of the association.

For over 100 years, Old Republic Title has aided Americans in protecting their property rights while providing peace of mind for one of the biggest investments homeowners will make. Ted Berg, and his team, works closely with title agents, real estate professionals, lenders and industry experts to secure safe and efficient real estate transactions. They provide comprehensive title and escrow products and services for individuals, businesses and government.

The MCBA looks forward to collaborating with Ted Berg and Old Republic Title this year!



THE MCBA Welcomes Heritage Process as Annual Sponsor!

In February, the MCBA welcomed Heritage Process as an Annual Sponsor of the association.

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The MCBA looks forward to working with Heritage Process owners, Mike and Carlye Barberio, this year!



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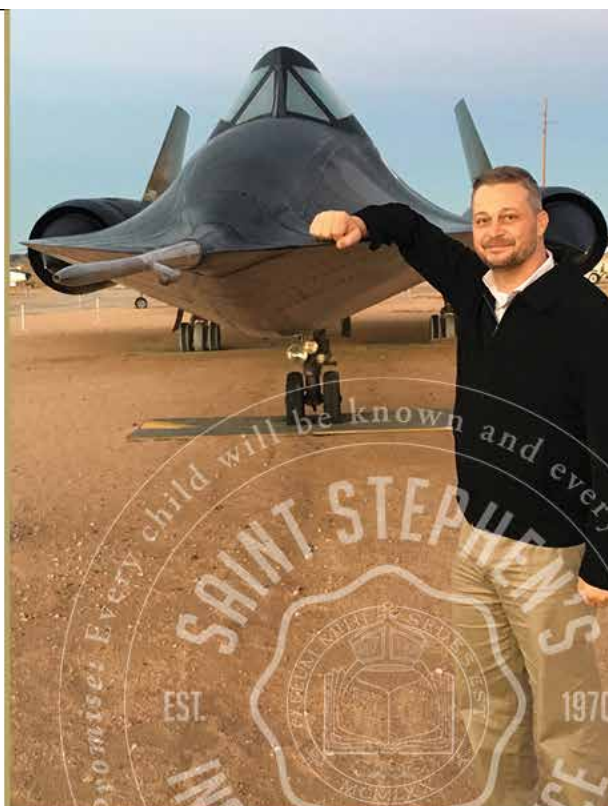
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