



INTER ALIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE
COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

MAY 2025

*News, invitations,
photos and more*

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THE RULE OF LAW**

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**LET'S HELP PREVENT
ELDER ABUSE**

*Bridging the Professions:
YLD Plans Interdisciplinary
Panel*

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Let's Work to Help Prevent Elder Abuse in Our Community and How the Slayer Statute Might Help

By: Daniel VanEtten, Esq., MCBA Director

So much has changed in Manatee County from when I grew up here in the 80s and 90s. What were once cow fields which hosted late night bon fires are now quaint preplanned communities. What was once a sleepy little county of families, vacationers, and retirees is now a rapidly growing metropolitan area having many of the same amenities that mere decades ago one would have to make a day trip across the Sunshine Skyway to enjoy. In the face of Manatee County's rampant development and influx of people, at least one thing has remained constant since that time: Manatee County's high population of elderly individuals.

Forgive me if I get a bit sentimental while reminiscing about how growing up in Manatee County was enhanced by so many of our elderly community members, but these individuals meaningfully shaped the adults that my friends and I grew to become. Whether it was an elderly neighbor who taught me how to mend a cast net as his father taught him while growing up in Cortez, or one of the elderly couples in Trailer Estates who would come out with a cold soda and some citrus for my friends and I as we struggled to haul a day's catch from Sarasota Bay back home, these individuals all seemed to take joy in teaching and helping us as we grew and learned to navigate the world.

Such interactions were common in the Manatee County of yesterday, and I suspect they are still common in the community into which Manatee County has now grown. I suspect this as Manatee County is still a mecca for individuals from across the Country, and now world, who are seeking a place to enjoy their retirement and the waning years of their lives.

Current estimates put the number of elderly people residing in Manatee County at over one hundred thousand individuals. Some of these elderly individuals are snowbirds, while others are permanent residents. Often, these elderly individuals help to infuse and enrich our local community through their willingness to share their lifetime's worth of experience and knowledge from their various backgrounds. Some of these elderly individuals do so through community organizations such as the Kiwanis Club, while others do so through simply good works within their more local communities.

Unfortunately, there's a serious and underreported epidemic affecting elderly individuals. It will come as no surprise that as elderly individuals approach their twilight years, they become more reliant on others to assist them in their life tasks. What may

come as a surprise is the alarming rate at which these elderly individuals are subjected to abuse and exploitation.

A report from 2022 commissioned by Florida's House of Representatives found that one in ten elderly individuals will be abused. With more than one hundred thousand elderly individuals living in Manatee County, this means that perhaps ten thousand of these individuals are, or will become, subject to abuse. Despite this rampant issue, the report found that only about five percent of such cases are ever reported. The report's reasoning for this dismal reporting rate is that the perpetrators of such abuse are usually a relative, friend, neighbor, or caregiver whom the elderly individual trusts or fears. These are often the very same relatives, friends, neighbors, or caregivers who may inherit from these elderly individuals upon their passing.

As you no doubt remember from your first year of law school, each of the states have some form of Slayer Statute or rule that prevents a murderer from inheriting from an individual whom they murder. The Slayer Rule has even permeated popular culture, such as through the blockbuster film, *Knives Out*. Accordingly, it is a fair assumption that a large segment of our society realizes that if they murder someone, they will not inherit from that individual.

Florida's Slayer Statute is codified in Florida Statute Section 732.802. What you may not know is that Florida has recently expanded the actions which may result in an individual being statutorily barred from inheriting from an elderly individual in certain circumstances when abuse, neglect, or exploitation occurs. If this came as a surprise to you, then it may be a safe to presume that a large segment of our society does not realize that by abusing, neglecting, or exploiting an elderly individual, they may not inherit from that individual in the same manner as if they had murdered them.

On July 1, 2021, Florida Statute Section 732.8031 (the "Expanded Slayer Statute") became effective. The Expanded Slayer Statute acts much like the traditional Slayer Statute in that it treats certain individuals as if they predeceased the elderly individual from whom they otherwise would have inherited. However, the conduct which can trigger this disinheritance under the Expanded Slayer Statute encompasses more than cases of murder.

Continued on Page 7



MAY 2025 Law Day Luncheon Meeting

"On the Trail of War Criminals
From Investigation to Prosecution"

CLE CREDIT APPROVED



Wednesday, May 21st, 2025
Manatee Performing Arts Center- Kiwanis Hall
11:45 Lunch, Noon Meeting Start

Gregory W. Kehoe Interim US Attorney

With more than 30 years of trial experience, Gregory W. Kehoe has a national and international practice focusing on representation of individuals, corporations and financial institutions. This includes representation before federal and state courts as well as international tribunals. Mr. Kehoe recently represented General Ante Gotovina in his complete acquittal before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Mr. Kehoe also represented General Mohammed Hussein Ali before the International Criminal Court, which also led to a full dismissal on all charges.

Mr. Kehoe worked for the U.S. Department of Justice as a prosecutor for over 20 years with postings in the United States, Europe, Asia and South America. While serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, he was responsible for prosecuting a number of high profile cases involving financial institutions and corporate fraud allegations, as well as racketeering charges. Mr. Kehoe also led the team of lawyers and investigators which advised the Iraqi Special Tribunal, an ad hoc court formed to prosecute Saddam Hussein and members of his former regime. He has recently been appointed as the Interim US Attorney in Tampa, FL.

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MCBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN?

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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

Welcome New Members

Margaret A. Beck, Esq.

University of Florida, Levin College of Law
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2016
 Firm/Office: Manatee County Sheriff's Office
 Area(s) of Practice: Government

Jonell E. Dreznin, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2025
 Firm/Office: Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen & Ginsburg
 Area(s) of Practice: Trusts & Estates,
 Guardianship, Estate Planning

Daniela E. Gomez, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2020
 Firm/Office: Gomez Legal, PLLC
 Area(s) of Practice: Criminal, Immigration

Chelsea V. Salmonsens, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2017
 Firm/Office: Hamilton Price, P.A.
 Area(s) of Practice: Civil Litigation,
 Personal Injury, Construction

Maxwell A. Shrem, Esq.

University of Florida, Levin College of Law
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2022
 Firm/Office: Hale Law
 Area(s) of Practice: Personal Injury,
 Litigation, Medical Malpractice

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GREAT NEWS!

YOU CAN NOW RECEIVE CLE CREDIT FOR TAKING A PRO BONO CASE!

The Florida Supreme Court amended Rule 6-10.3 of the *Rules Regulating the Florida Bar* to allow Florida lawyers to earn **one hour of general CLE credit for every hour of pro bono service, not to exceed five credit hours during a three-year reporting cycle.**

Legal Aid of Manasota is happy to provide qualified cases to you. We always have a list of cases that are ready for pro bono placement. The clients have been vetted, and you will be covered under our malpractice insurance if you take a case through us. We also have mentors and, quite often, we can provide training if you wish to learn a new area of law.

We have cases in the following general areas:

- Debt Collection/Bankruptcy
- Contract Issues
- Divorce/Paternity, Domestic Violence
- Landlord/Tenant
- Foreclosures
- Mobile Home
- Non-Profit
- Probate to Preserve Homestead
- Wills and Durable Powers of Attorney
- Guardianships
- Social Security
- Expungement/Sealing

Please contact Pam Fields, Pro Bono Manager,
at 941-366-0038 Ext. 101
or PamelaF@legalaidofmanasota.org
for more information.

THANK YOU!

In 1991, Legal Aid of Manasota (LAMS) was established as a joint effort by the Sarasota County Bar Association and the Manatee County Bar Association to operate the pro bono program within the 12th Judicial Circuit. It is our mission to ensure fairness for all in the justice system, regardless of how much money a person has. For the past 34 years, we have provided access to legal help for people to protect their livelihoods, their health, their homes, and their families. But we don't do this alone. LAMS has a small, dedicated staff, but we rely primarily on local attorneys who donate their time. We cannot meet the needs of our community without your help!

Continued from Page 1

The Expanded Slayer Statute explains, in applicable part, that a “surviving person who is convicted in any state or foreign jurisdiction of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or aggravated manslaughter of an elderly person or a disabled adult ... for conduct against the decedent or another person on whose death such beneficiary’s interest depends is not entitled to any benefits under the will of the decedent or the Florida Probate Code, and the estate of the decedent passes as if the abuser, neglecter, exploiter, or killer had predeceased the decedent. Property appointed by the will of the decedent to or for the benefit of the abuser, neglecter, exploiter, or killer passes as if the abuser, neglecter, exploiter, or killer had predeceased the decedent.”

The trigger for such a determination can take one of two means. First, when there is a “final judgment of conviction for abuse, neglect, exploitation, or aggravated manslaughter of the decedent or other person creates a rebuttable presumption that this section applies.” Second, in the absence of such a conviction, “the court may determine by the greater weight of the evidence whether the decedent’s or other person’s death was caused by or contributed to by the abuser’s, neglecter’s, exploiter’s, or killer’s conduct,”

Now is where in this article I should insert some case law that has interpreted the Expanded Slayer Statute. However, there does not appear to be any reportable opinions yet authored that deal with the aspects of the Expanded Slay Statute dealing with abuse, neglect, or exploitation. This lack of interpretation leaves open the door to many pressing questions regarding the implementation of the Expanded Slay Statute on matters such as jurisdiction and evidentiary factors. Such questions seem exceedingly important given the migratory nature of many of our elderly community members and the fact that such abuse, neglect, and exploitation often happens behind closed doors.

Personally, the thought that some of the elderly neighbors and community members may have been subjected to abuse is, to say the least, disheartening. The realization that abusers may have financially profited as a result of this abuse is sickening. Perhaps if abusers and potential abusers realized that their wrongful actions may result in their own financial loss, then they would think twice before engaging in such conduct. For the time being, perhaps the best way for these abusers and potential abusers to learn how their wrongful actions may affect themselves is by utilizing the Expanded Slayer Statute to make examples of these bad actors, and through better reporting.

If an elderly individual you know is being abused, neglected, or exploited, I would urge you to report such actions to Florida’s abuse hotline at 1-800-962-2873 or local law enforcement so that, hopefully, such abuse, neglect or exploitation ceases. Hopefully, with better reporting and some public examples of bad actors losing their inheritance, such instances of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of our elderly neighbors and community members will decrease.

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.

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The Arcadia Rodeo: Where Legal Tradition Meets Western Heritage

By: Abigail Galati, Esq., Young Lawyers Division Secretary

Each spring, a unique blend of southern grit and professional fellowship draws attorneys from across Manatee, Sarasota, and DeSoto counties to the heart of Arcadia, Florida. The Arcadia Rodeo—known proudly as “*The Granddaddy of ‘Em All*”—has become more than just an iconic Florida event; it’s become a celebration of community, legacy, and the enduring bonds within our local legal profession.

Founded in 1928 by the American Legion as a creative fundraiser for a new building, the Arcadia Rodeo has grown into one of Florida’s most revered traditions. Its signature event, a four-day spectacle held each March at the impressive Mosaic Arena, fills nearly 8,000 seats with spectators eager to witness the grit and eternal southern heritage demonstrated by the cowboys and cowgirls participating in classic rodeo events like bronc riding, calf roping, barrel racing, and, of course, bull riding.

But for many of us in the legal community, the rodeo represents more than the thrill of the arena. It has become an annual gathering where attorneys, judges, and legal professionals from the Manatee County Bar, Sarasota County Bar, and DeSoto County Bar come together to enjoy good food, good drinks, and great company in a relaxed, family-friendly environment.

My own connection to the Arcadia Rodeo runs deep. My grandfather, the Hon. James S. Parker (Ret.), has long served the rodeo association in various roles, including as its very first vice president. Our family’s ties to this tradition stretch back even further—his uncle, Zeb Parker, was instrumental in the rodeo’s

founding and supplied the stock needed to launch the event in its earliest days. Growing up, the rodeo was a cherished family tradition, and it fills me with pride to now see it becoming tradition for many of my professional colleagues.

In a profession where we often find ourselves on opposite sides of the courtroom, events like the Arcadia Rodeo remind us of the importance of camaraderie and connection. Manatee, Sarasota, and DeSoto counties form a closely-knit legal community, and opportunities to build relationships outside the courtroom are invaluable. Whether you’re chatting over barbecue, tailgating before the main event, or sharing laughs under the Florida sky, these moments strengthen the bonds that make our legal system more collaborative, respectful, and more efficient in service to our clients.

If you haven’t yet experienced the Arcadia Rodeo, I encourage you to make this the year you do. And if you’re a member of the Manatee County Bar, keep an eye on our Young Lawyers Division, which continues to offer group ticket deals and organized tailgates for members to connect and unwind.

Let the Arcadia Rodeo be more than a spectacle you watch—let it be a tradition you share, a bond you build, and a reminder that justice, like rodeo, is best pursued with grit, grace, and a strong sense of community.

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Will, Trusts & Estates Paralegal needed by Sarasota-Bradenton law firm to work in Bradenton office. Must be disciplined and have a strong work ethic. Experience in wills, trusts, estates, and probate/trust/guardianship accounting required. Experience with HotDocs, GEMS, and InterActive LegalSuite software helpful. Salary commensurate with experience and includes bonuses and full benefits. Send resume to Cyndi Coey ccoey@barneswalker.com or Fax to 941-708-3225.

MCBA & Westminster Bradenton Present



Art Exhibition * 2025

Featuring

Artwork from various
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Thursday, June 26th, 2025
4 -5 pm

Manatee County Judicial Center
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Light refreshments will be served



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Officer Jeff Babauta & JA Donna McCammond

At the March General Membership Luncheon, the association welcomed retired officer Jeff Babauta of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Jeff spoke regarding his long-term undercover law enforcement assignment. For almost three years, Jeff lived in a full-time role as an undercover agent infiltrating the worst of the commercial resource violators. Jeff's dedication to protecting Florida's resources led to one of the agencies' most comprehensive undercover operations, Operation Alligator Thief. Fourteen suspects were arrested on the agencies' first use of the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICCO). Over 10,000 alligators were unlawfully collected and sold by these organized commercial resource violators. To learn more about Jeff's undercover assignment, consider picking up a copy of **Gator Country: Deception, Danger, and Alligators in the Everglades** by Rebecca Renner.



Cliff Walters, Officer Jeff Babauta & Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr



MCBA President Elect James Lynch, Officer Jeff Babauta, MCBA President Dustin Wagner & MCBA Past President Andrea Johnson

Westminster Communities of Bradenton Hosts Young Lawyers at Spring "Table for 8"



From l to r: Chad Manausa, Tyler Dixon, Alicia Radefeld, Judge Ryan Felix, MCBA President Patti Iyampillai, Patrick Hale, Jennifer Myers, and Max Shrem

Recently, several young lawyers of the MCBA could be found enjoying a delicious Surf & Turf dinner with Judge Ryan Felix. Westminster Manor hosted the event where seven young lawyers participated in an evening of fantastic food, conversation and mentoring with Judge Felix. Special thanks to Patti Wesley, Pamela Green and the team at Westminster Communities of Bradenton, annual sponsors of the MCBA!



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



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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CELEBRATING THE RULE OF LAW:

Protecting Individual Rights in the 12th Judicial Circuit

As we celebrate this year's theme, "The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One," I am reminded of how privileged I am to serve as an advocate for individual rights within the 12th Judicial Circuit, covering Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Our Constitution lays the foundation for a just society where every person's rights are respected and protected, and I am honored to play a role in ensuring those promises are kept within our community.

My journey in the legal profession began as a public defender, where I witnessed firsthand how critical it is to stand alongside individuals facing the immense power of the state. Later, I expanded my practice to include personal injury and medical malpractice cases, representing those who had been harmed and seeking justice on their behalf. Now, as a solo practitioner focusing primarily on criminal defense, my commitment to protecting constitutional rights is stronger than ever. Each client I represent is a reminder that the rule of law is not abstract — it is personal, it is essential, and it must be fiercely defended.

Our criminal justice system is one of the primary arenas where constitutional rights are tested every day. Whether it is the right to a fair trial, the right against unreasonable searches

and seizures, or the right to counsel, I work tirelessly to ensure that these protections are not merely theoretical but are fully realized in practice. Upholding these rights strengthens the integrity of the legal system and reinforces public trust in our courts and institutions.

The theme "Out of Many, One" resonates deeply with the work we do as lawyers. No matter our clients' backgrounds or circumstances, we are unified by the fundamental rights guaranteed to all under the Constitution. Our system depends on lawyers who are willing to challenge injustice, advocate for the underrepresented, and demand that every individual be treated with dignity and fairness.

As we honor the rule of law this year, I am proud to be part of a profession dedicated to safeguarding the Constitution's promise. It is through our daily efforts, large and small, that we give real meaning to the ideals that unite us as one people under the law.

Best regards,
Dustin S. Wagner, Esq.

Welcome Kessler Spine & Rehab as the Newest Annual Sponsor to the MCBA!

They offer top-notch care for motor vehicle accident victims, athletes looking for chiropractic care, and those looking to optimize their health in Bradenton, Florida. Kessler Spine & Rehab specialize in treating families who have been affected by auto accidents, and their team of experienced chiropractors are dedicated to helping patients recover and get back to their normal lives.

At Kessler Spine & Rehab, they understand the unique needs of motor vehicle accident victims and provide personalized treatment plans tailored to each patient's individual needs. Their state-of-the-art facility is equipped with the latest technology and equipment, ensuring that patients receive the highest quality care available.

Did you know? They are the team chiropractor for the State College of Florida!

KESSLER
SPINE & REHAB

Welcome Najmy Thompson as Law Firm Annual Sponsor of the MCBA!!

The association is excited to announce its newest Law Firm Annual Sponsor, Najmy Thompson. Led by Joseph Najmy, Stephen Thompson, Richard Weller, Louis Najmy, Sean Kelly, Aaron Thomas, and Kari Martin, the law firm has assembled a highly effective team by selecting and developing associates who complement each principal's experience and knowledge. Najmy Thompson, P.L. serves individual and business clients in the Manatee, Sarasota, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Charlotte, and surrounding county areas. They have recently launched their newest office in New York City, filling a need created by the real estate sector of their practice, and the clients who require support services in New York and Florida. Welcome, Najmy Thompson!

Najmy Thompson
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PUBLIC NOTICE

2025 VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD

APPLICANTS FOR SPECIAL MAGISTRATE

Opportunities exist for appraisers and attorneys, who are licensed in the State of Florida and meet the following criteria to serve as Special Magistrate(S) to the 2025 Value Adjustment Board, pursuant to Florida Statute 194.035 and Chapter 12D, Florida Administrative Code, for the purpose of taking testimony and making recommendations with regard to:

1. The Special Magistrate must meet the following qualifications
 - a. A Special Magistrate must not be an elected or appointed official of the county.
 - b. A Special Magistrate must not be an elected or appointed official or employee of a taxing jurisdiction or of the State.
 - c. During a tax year in which a Special Magistrate serves, her or she must not represent any part before the board in any administrative review of property taxes.
 - d. All Special Magistrates must meet the qualifications specified in Section 194.035, F.S. Links are on the Clerk's Website at www.manateeclerk.com
2. A Special Magistrate appointed to hear issues of exemption, classifications, and portability assessment difference transfers shall be a member of the Florida Bar.
3. A Special Magistrate appointed to hear issues regarding valuation of real estate shall be a state certified real estate appraiser. A real property valuation Special Magistrate must be certified under *Chapter 475, Part II F.S.*
4. A Special Magistrate appointed to hear issues regarding valuation of tangible personal property shall be a designated member of a nationally recognized appraiser's organization.
5. All Magistrates must have no less than five-years of experience in their related area of taxation. and having received training provided by the department or with no less than three years of such experience and having completed training provided by the department.

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

Qualified individuals wishing to apply should submit a resume on or before Friday, June 6, 2025, at 4:30 p.m., to:

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

Are You 40 years old or younger?

Or, have you been a lawyer for 5 years or less?

If you can answer yes to either or both of those questions, our Young Lawyers Division wants you to join its dynamic group! The YLD Board of Directors is currently seeking volunteers to serve on the board for the 2025-26 year. If you would like to learn more, please contact YLD President Patrick Iyampillai or YLD President Elect Chad Manausa by May 20th. Be part of making our YLD all it can be!



Contact Pat Iyampillai at: patricki@halelaw.com
Contact Chad Manausa at: cmanausa@grimesgalvano.com

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My Florida law practice is focused on assisting
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MCBA Members Out & About

Spotted at O'Bricks on March 27th was retired Judge Durand Adams and several Judicial Assistants from the Manatee County Judicial Center. Judge Adams surprised several of the Judicial Assistants with a delightful lunch and plenty of laughter!



L-R: Nancy Bigness, Judge Durand Adams (Ret.), Laurie McClure, Kelly Zoellner, Ruth Taylor, Donna McCammond, Debbie Trusz.

Recently, MCBA Past President Steele Williams was spotted at Meadows Country Club. Steele was able to catch up with the golf team he sponsored in the Sarasota Teen Court Golf Tournament. The team won the tournament which was a best ball scramble at 19 under. The team birdied most holes and had 3 eagles, 2 on the par 5's, and 1 eagle was on a par 4 with a chip shot into the cup. "Of course we won, I didn't play" Williams stated at his big win. Way to go!



From left to right Will Smith, Colby Eschew, Steele Williams, James Callahan-Bond (Lt. with Sarasota Fire Department), Steve Strausberg (Director of golf at IMG)



Recently, Pat Iyampillai, MCBA YLD President and Grace Reeves, Past MCBA YLD President were spotted at a JOINT YLD Social at TWEEDS Sarasota! TWEEDS invited members of the SCBA and MCBA for an evening of fun, food and friends!



In April, Judge Gilbert Smith was spotted volunteering at the Manatee Village Historical Park. His visit to the 1860 Courthouse included sharing stories from his newly released book, "Lawyers and Legends."



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It's TIME to RENEW your MCBA Membership!

Now through the end of June, we are encouraging all MCBA members to take advantage of renewing their membership online for the 2025-26 membership year! All members must renew by July 1 to avoid additional fees and interruption of their online membership directory listing.

Some of the fantastic benefits of MCBA Membership includes:

- Meals at our General Membership Luncheons
- ONLINE listing in our searchable public membership directory
- Free (or almost free) CLE events
- Free (or almost free) tickets to events such as our Annual Holiday Party, Spring Social Event, Vintage Attorney Night, Java with the Judges, YLD events and more!
- Digital Subscription to our newsletter, *Inter Alia*

Renew Online by July 1st to be included in a drawing to win a \$50 Amazon Gift Card! We have waived credit card fees if you renew online by July 1st. Winner of the gift card will be notified by email and announced in the Summer 2025 Inter Alia.

To renew online, please visit our website at:
<https://manateebar.com/renewal-form/>



Historical Records Library hosts Open House in honor of the City of Bradenton's 122nd Anniversary

As part of the City of Bradenton's 122nd birthday bash hosted by Realize Bradenton, the Manatee Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller invites the public to a special open house at the Historical Records Library on Saturday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Visitors can stop by the Clerk's booth at the Bradenton Public Market at the corner of Old Main Street and 4th Ave W to learn more about the Historical Resources Department and pick up walking directions to the Historical Records Library, located just two blocks away.

At the open house, guests will find exhibits showcasing Bradenton's history since becoming a city in 1903, which will be presented using resources available at the library, along with information about the library's role in preserving our community's past. Free cake will be available while supplies last.

About the Historical Records Library

Located in a 1918 Carnegie Library, the Historical Records Library, offers researchers Clerk of Court records dating back to 1855. Deed books, marriage licenses, probate files, court records, County Commission minute books, aerial maps, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, historic maps, plat maps, tax cards, general directories, school yearbooks, school attendance records, and voter registration books are some of the items that are available to researchers. In addition, the library houses the Herb Loomis Manatee County Postcard Collection.

The Historical Records Library is located at 1405 4th Avenue West in downtown Bradenton.

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

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Grimes Galvano, PL in Bradenton, Sarasota, and West Palm Beach Florida has an immediate opening for an Associate Attorney who possesses a high ethical and moral standard. We are seeking an individual who has 3-5 years of experience in commercial and/or construction litigation for the Bradenton & Sarasota offices.

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- Represent clients in legal disputes, including contract disputes, delays, payment issues, construction defects.
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- Juris Doctor (JD) degree from an accredited law school.
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- Minimum of 3-5 years of experience in litigation.
- Strong knowledge of contract law, lien law, and dispute resolution processes.
- Proven ability to handle complex litigation cases, including drafting and arguing motions, managing discovery, and appearing in court.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
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HAPPY
MEMORIAL DAY



May 26th

Spring Social 2025

“Boil & BBQ”

Notes of bluegrass music from Sycamore Shade drifts through the live oaks as pleasant wafts of southern BBQ, shrimp and crawfish boils tempt the tastebuds ah, can you picture it? It's not an opening scene to a Hollywood production but a brief introduction to what it was like to be at our Spring event in late April! Members and sponsors of the MCBA were delighted to attend a BBQ & Boil event at Hidden Oaks, hosted by Dan VanEtten.

The festivities included a Lowcountry Shrimp Boil, New Orleans Crawfish Boil, southern BBQ, desserts and all the fix ins! Aaron Crittenden prepared the New Orleans Crawfish Boil, complete with crawfish flown in from NOLA. Brandon Robinson prepared his special recipe for the Lowcountry Shrimp Boil – was it an old family recipe from South Carolina – we don't know but it was amazing! So amazing were “the boils” that the crowd voted for the best and declared a TIE! Both Aaron and Brandon will be awarded Amazon gift cards at the Law Day Luncheon.

This year, a special treat was entertainment by Ret. Judge Doug Henderson and bluegrass band, Sycamore Shade. Between sets, DJ James Lynch returned with his curated sound.

We couldn't have asked for a more lovely setting and perfect weather. Special thanks to the MCBA Events Committee for putting this event together: Dan Van Etten, Eric Bruce (Grillmaster), Dustin Wagner, James Lynch, Aaron Crittenden, Brandon Robinson, Faith Brown, Mary Hawk, Chad Manausa, Whittni Hodges and more. Special thanks to our annual sponsors, including Heritage Process and Jen Fogelson with EcoScribe for the special goodies!







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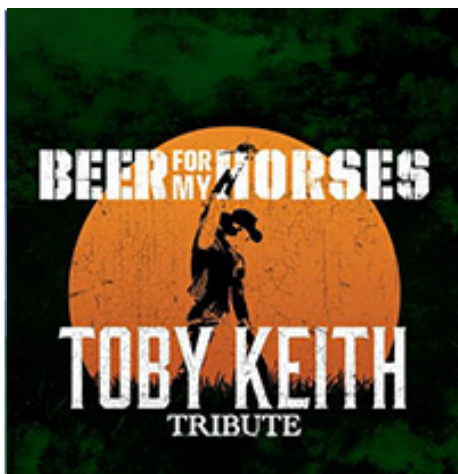
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