



INTER ALIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE
COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2025

*News, invitations,
photos and more*

**BRIDGING THE
PROFESSIONS**

Members Out & About

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Bridging the Professions: YLD Plans Interdisciplinary Panel and Seeks Speaker Recommendations

By: Chad Manausa, YLD Vice President

The Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the Manatee County Bar Association is pleased to announce the development of a unique and engaging panel discussion aimed at strengthening connections between attorneys and the many non-lawyer professionals who contribute to the legal ecosystem in Manatee County. This event, which is currently in the planning stages, will bring together a variety of professionals who regularly interact with attorneys in the course of their work. Our goal is to foster a deeper understanding of how legal practice intersects with other fields—and to spotlight the diversity of career paths and practice areas available to today's young lawyers.

The YLD recognizes that legal practice does not exist in a vacuum. Attorneys collaborate daily with professionals across an incredible range of industries—law enforcement officers who provide vital input in criminal and civil investigations, therapists and counselors who guide clients through trauma in family law or dependency cases, real estate agents who facilitate property transactions, financial advisors who assist in probate and estate matters, local community leaders involved with infrastructure/development, and many more. These interdisciplinary relationships not only shape the way cases are handled but also influence how justice is administered in our community.

Through this panel, the YLD hopes to open a conversation between the legal profession and the broader community of professionals we rely on to do our work well. By inviting these individuals to share their perspectives, challenges, and experiences working with attorneys, we aim to better understand how we can collaborate more effectively and ethically. In doing so, we also hope to encourage more efficiency and innovation in the way legal services are delivered.

In addition to strengthening professional relationships, this event is part of the YLD's broader effort to expose young lawyers to the wide variety of legal career paths that exist both within and beyond traditional law firm settings. Too often, young attorneys enter the profession with a narrow view of what legal practice looks like. By hearing directly from professionals who interact with lawyers in different capacities, our members will gain insight into lesser-known or emerging areas of practice, identify new opportunities for professional development, and discover ways to add value across disciplines.

Whether it's learning how a social worker views the role of a dependency attorney, how a financial planner works with estate

lawyers, or how local government officials interact with land use attorneys, attendees will come away from the panel with a broadened perspective on what it means to be a lawyer today. We hope this event will inspire young attorneys to think creatively about their career paths and build relationships that enrich both their practice and their community involvement.

To ensure this event is as meaningful and representative as possible, the YLD is currently seeking nominations for panelists. We are looking for non-lawyer professionals who have direct, regular interactions with attorneys in Manatee County and who can speak thoughtfully about the nature of that collaboration. Panelists should be comfortable in a conversational setting, able to offer insights into their professional relationship with the legal field, and open to engaging in Q&A with an audience of legal professionals.

Ideal candidates may come from a range of professions, including: law enforcement (e.g., officers, investigators, victim advocates); mental health professionals (therapists, counselors, clinical social workers); court and judicial support staff (clerks, bailiffs, case managers); guardians ad litem or child welfare professionals; real estate professionals; accountants and financial advisors; forensic specialists or expert witnesses; non-profit organization leaders or community advocates; and local government employees.

If you have worked with someone whose perspective would benefit the broader bar—or if you know a professional who would bring energy and insight to the discussion—we invite you to submit their name for consideration. Please email your recommendations to cmanausa@grimesgalvano.com, and include a brief description of the nominee's role, experience, and relevance to this interdisciplinary discussion. **Recommendations are requested by July 15th**, and early submissions are encouraged.

Details regarding the date, location, and format of the panel will be announced soon. All members of the Manatee County Bar Association are encouraged to attend—especially those newer to the practice of law. We believe this panel will be both educational and inspiring, offering real-world insight into the value of professional collaboration and expanding our collective vision of what it means to serve clients and the community.

Thank you for helping us build bridges across professions and create opportunities for learning and connection. With your support, we look forward to hosting an event that brings lasting value to our members and to the greater Manatee County legal community.

MCBA & Westminster Bradenton Present



Art Exhibition * 2025

Featuring

Artwork from various
resident artists from
Westminster Bradenton

Thursday, June 26th, 2025
4 -5 pm

Manatee County Judicial Center
1051 Manatee Ave. West - 5th Floor
Please join us as we celebrate our local artists!
Light refreshments will be served



[RSVP: CLICK HERE](#)



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**dates are subject to change*

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..... Aaron Crittenden, Esq.
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..... Patrick Iyampillai, Esq.
.....Chad Manausa, Esq.

The Manatee County Attorney's Office is seeking a dedicated and skilled legal professional to serve as an Assistant County Attorney. This position offers the opportunity to work on meaningful and complex legal matters that impact our growing and dynamic community and support the operations of County government. Our team provides comprehensive legal services to the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners, the County Administrator, and various departments and agencies under the Board's jurisdiction. Desired candidates will have at least three years of experience in one or more of the following practice areas or subject matters: appellate practice, city/county/local government, code enforcement, contracts, eminent domain, labor and employment, land use/planning/zoning, litigation, procurement, public finance and bonds, public records, public utilities, and real estate. At the Manatee County Attorney's Office, we offer a collaborative and collegial work environment, a comprehensive benefits package, and opportunities for professional growth and development. To apply, please submit a cover letter and resume to: patricia.nolan@mymanatee.org. Position open until filled. Writing samples and references may be requested. Manatee County is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer.

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Welcome New Members

Annie Breitinger, Esq.

St. Louis University

Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2012

Firm/Office: Legal Aid Manasota

Hannah A. Hawkinberry, Esq

Barry School of Law

Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2024

Firm/Office: State Attorney's Office

Area(s) of Practice: Criminal

Kenneth M. Poole, Esq.

University of Florida

Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2006

Firm/Office: Sypret Meshad, P.A.

Area(s) of Practice: Family

Int. US Attorney Gregory Kehoe Speaks at MCBA Law Day Luncheon



L to R: MCBA President Dustin Wagner, MCBA Secretary Brian Iten, US Attorney Greg Kehoe, Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court Angelina Colonnese, Neil Taylor, and MCBA Past President Mickey Palmer

"Engaging."

"He drew me right in."

"I couldn't get enough – the hour flew by."

Just a few of the statements we heard from MCBA members who were fortunate enough to attend our 2025 Law Day Luncheon on May 21st. Int. US Attorney Gregory Kehoe presented "On the Trail of War Criminals: From Investigation to Prosecution" touching on his experience with war criminals from around the globe, including Saddam Hussein. Mr. Kehoe led the team of lawyers and investigators which advised the Iraqi Special Tribunal. Complete with photograph evidence, often heart wrenching, Int. US Attorney Kehoe described the scene, forensic investigative skills, and obstacles his team experienced during the investigation, culminating in the conviction of Saddam Hussein for crimes against humanity. Hussein was sentenced to death by hanging and was executed on December 30, 2006.

US Attorney Kehoe was appointed by Attorney General Pamela Bondi for the Middle District Court of Florida on March 31, 2025. Most recently, he was a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig.



Looking for Job Opportunities?
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on our website at
www.manateebar.com



 **JUNE 2025
Annual
Luncheon
Meeting**

**"Law Firm & Community Wellness:
Community Service & Law Practice
Benefits with Healthy Teens"**

CLE CREDIT APPROVED



Wednesday, June 25th, 2025
Manatee Performing Arts Center- Kiwanis Hall
11:45 Lunch, Noon Meeting Start

**We will be voting & swearing in our 2025-26
MCBA Board of Directors!**

**Special Guest Speaker: Valerie Green, M.Ed;
Healthy Teens, Program Director**

Join us as we welcome Valerie Green and Healthy Teens! Ms. Green will discuss the Healthy Teens program in Manatee County. From its founding in 2010 and its mission, to its accomplishments and interaction with members of the Manatee County Bar Association. Learn how volunteering in the community will benefit your practice of law and improve the quality of your personal life. Hear from teens that are mentored and Teen Health Educators who will share testimonials of what Teen Health Educators do and where they provide peer health education. Focusing on mental health, trauma, bullying, and more. Let's focus on Healthy Teens in Manatee County!

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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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New Art Debuts at the Manatee County Judicial Center and You're Invited!

If you are an MCBA member who enjoys art and meeting local artists, read on!

On Thursday, June 26th from 4 – 5 pm, the association will host an art reception at the debut of the MCJC's newest art installation on the 5th floor. The art, created by residents of Westminster Bradenton, will be celebrated with light bites and a meet and greet with the artists. To RSVP, please see the flyer in this issue of Inter Alia.

Welcome Kenyon Law Group, PLLC as Law Firm Sponsor of the MCBA!




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All of the awards above that our firm has attained are non-tested. Board certification is significantly more difficult to achieve than any of the above.



Steven Heintz is in the less than 1% of Florida lawyers that are board certified by the Florida Bar. Less than 1/2 of 1% are board certified by the National Board. Steve is certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy



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WILL SEARCH Can You Help?

We are in search of a Will for:
**Sylvia Kroger Willenbrink,
Sylvia Rose Willenbrink**

Last Known Street Address:

6291 Timberlake Drive Unit I4, Sarasota, FL

Date of Birth: June 3 1943

Date of Death: April 29 2025

She may have used her maiden name Kroger as her middle name, she was retired from Cincinnati OH, it was believed she last used Mark Siegel as an attorney before his disbarment, but unsure at this time.

Please Contact: Mandy Ashley

941-929-3130 or mandya1293@gmail.com

MCBA Members Out & About



MCBA member and Past President Tim Knowles was spotted at the Bradenton Country Club in May. Tim Knowles received the 2025 Outstanding Alumni Association Award from the Manatee High School Alumni Association. John Vita, president of the Alumni Association, presented Tim with the award based on Tim's outstanding service in the community as well as professional achievements.

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DID YOU KNOW?

FL Bar Rule 5-1.1(g)(5)(B)

Determination of Interest Rates and Dividends

Effective May 15, 2023, an amendment to the Florida Bar Rule 5-1.1(g) established a floating minimum rate of interest tied to the Wall Street Journal Prime Rate, ensuring that IOTA accounts receive a fair return.

While banks are not obligated to offer IOTA accounts, those that choose to participate must comply with the interest rate calculation specified in Rule 5-1.1(g)(5)(B). Attorneys, in turn, must ensure that their IOTA accounts are held at financial institutions that meet these criteria.

By adhering to these guidelines, management of IOTA funds with a compliant bank partner ensures interest earned is remitted to the Florida Bar Foundation to fund legal aid services for low-income individuals.

Under the Florida Bar rule, the rate of interest earned in your IOTA account is currently calculated at 3.0%.

Is your bank compliant?

If it is not, and they do not have a plan to cure, please look to your local Bar Association sponsors as a resource.

Information provided by:



How are you celebrating Independence Day?

Send your photo(s) with a short caption to us
by July 10th, and you may just see it in
the pages of the Inter Alia
Summer issue!

Email to:

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Dear Members,

A friendly reminder that your membership at Manatee Bar will **expire on July 1st.**

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 membership deactivation, deactivation of their online membership directory listing and late fees.

As always, 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. Not to mention, it's easier to renew online - only a short form as opposed to completing paper, mailing, etc.

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[Renew your membership](#)

Amount Due: \$295

Due Date: June 30, 2025

For Membership July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Thank you for being a member of the MCBA! If you have already renewed your membership, many thanks!

Graceann Frederico, MCBA Executive Director

*Winner of the gift card will be notified by email and announced in the Summer 2025 Inter Alia





JULY 2025

Family Law Section CLE

"Litigating Like a Pro: Evidence, Objections, and Impeachment for Family Law Attorneys"

Approved for 1 CLE General Credit



Thursday, July 17th, 2025

Noon to 1:00 pm

on ZOOM

Special Presenter: Kimberly Mills Kuhn, Esq.

Kimberly Mills Kuhn opened her private law practice in 2012 after 6 years of experience in criminal litigation with the Public Defender's office in Broward, Pasco, and Pinellas counties, and two years of experience in civil and criminal appeals at the Third District Court of Appeals. There and in her current practice, she has worked diligently and passionately to defend clients accused of misdemeanor, DUI, and felony crimes. Kimberly also has extensive experience handling community violence injunctions, where she represents both petitioners and respondents.

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REGISTER**

**Free for MCBA Members
\$10 for guests**

Committed to justice and rehabilitation, Kimberly also assists individuals in clearing their records by facilitating the expungement or sealing of prior arrests. She provides this service pro bono to survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence whose charges stem directly from their experiences of abuse.

In addition to her legal practice, Kimberly is an instructor at St. Petersburg College Allstate Center Police Academy, where she educates future law enforcement officers on the legal aspects of policing. Since May 2023, Kimberly has served as Assistant General Counsel for the Fraternal Order of Police, acting as a Critical Incident Response Attorney and providing legal representation to law enforcement officers involved in on duty, shootings or accidents involving death or serious injury.

Zoom Credentials will be emailed prior to event.

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
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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!

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

The Clerk's Office
and 12th Judicial Circuit Manatee Offices
will be closed on:

June 19 – Juneteenth

July 4 – Independence Day



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JOB POSTING

The Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court is seeking licensed attorneys to fill two magistrate positions in Sarasota County: a family magistrate in Venice and a civil magistrate in Sarasota. These quasi-judicial officers are responsible for conducting hearings, entering recommended orders to the family or civil judge and presiding over Baker Act and Marchman Act hearings.

Joining the ranks of magistrates and hearing officers means you'll be given opportunities for professional growth, training and mentorship while working with some of the best and brightest legal minds in the state.

Required qualifications include a juris doctor from an accredited law school, five years of experience in the practice of law, including one year in family law or civil law, and membership in good standing in The Florida Bar. Prior magistrate experience is preferred.

Positions offer a competitive salary and include wide-ranging benefits packages, paid time off and an opportunity to join the Florida Retirement System. Find full job descriptions and learn how to apply at jud12.flcourts.org/careers



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3RD PLACE: \$50 AMAZON GIFT CARD

The top three members, listed on a New Member Application as "Referred By" will win! Just sign up new members between now and June 1st, 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

Steele Williams, Esquire

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Steele Williams, Esquire

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

NOTICE OF YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

2025-26 Board of Directors Slate

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Young Lawyers Division of the Manatee County Bar Association Inc., shall commence at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2025.

The meeting will be held on **ZOOM**. All members of the Young Lawyers Division of the Manatee County Bar are cordially invited to attend the 2025 Annual Meeting for election of officers. All members present for the Annual Meeting of the Young Lawyers Division shall constitute a quorum for action by the Young Lawyers Division.

The Board of Directors has nominated the following slate of members for officer positions as indicated for the 2025-26 Bar year:

President: Chad Manausa, Esq. Grimes Hawkins Gladfelter & Galvano

Vice President: Tyler Dixon, Esq. Berlin, Patten, Ebling, PLLC

Secretary: Abigail Galati, Esq. Barnes, Walker, Goethe, Perron, & Shea, PLLC

Treasurer: Matthew Unzicker, Esq. Berlin, Patten, Ebling, PLLC

Imm. Past President: Patrick Iyampillai, Esq. Hale Law

Directors:

Jenna Kyle Meltzer, Esq. Blalock Walters, P.A.

Lex Sayre, Esq. Lutz Bobo Telfair

Jennifer Myers, Esq. State Attorney's Office

Spencer Heintz, Esq. Heintz Law

Maxwell Shrem, Esq. Hale Law

Simone Taitano, Esq. Barnes, Walker, Goethe, Perron, & Shea, PLLC

Lauren Ravazzoli, Esq. Barnes, Walker, Goethe, Perron, & Shea, PLLC

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aperron@barneswalker.com

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