



INTER ALIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE
COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2025

*News, invitations,
photos and more*

**MCBA PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

*Congratulations Chief
Judge Diana Moreland*

LAW OR NAW?

*It's Time! The September
Luncheon is Almost Here!*

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A Message from MCBA President, James Lynch, Esq

Dear Esteemed Members,

It is with great excitement and pride that I begin my term as President of the Manatee County Bar Association for the 2025–2026 bar year. I am honored to serve a community of professionals rooted in tradition, excellence, and the enduring principles that have guided the MCBA for the past 123 years. This year, we will increase excitement within the MCBA, provide enhanced benefits for our existing and new members, and work to expand our reach within the Manatee County community and especially among young people. I will be assisted in this endeavor by an amazing and experienced Board of Directors and perhaps most importantly, by our executive director Graceann Frederico.

For excitement, it begins with securing amazing speakers for our monthly bar luncheons at Kiwanis Hall. This fall, we will receive an update on Alzheimer's and brain disease from cutting-edge researchers with the Roskamp Institute and learn guidelines on dealing with brain disease in our legal practice. Also this fall, we will hear from key participants in the Gabby Petito case that gripped the entire nation but played out (in part) right here in our Twelfth Circuit. Next spring, we hope to hear from dynamic and influential members of the Florida judiciary, legislature, and organizations working to better Manatee County.

MCBA members will continue to receive the monthly luncheons

included with their membership dues, and please be on the lookout for many CLE seminars offered over the coming year. There will also be plenty of opportunity to network, from the Young Lawyers' Spheres of Influence event (September 24) to another "Vintage Attorney" event (October 30), plus the Bench Bar Conference (May 8) and standard Holiday and Beach parties. Throughout the year, the MCBA will have other social events, outings, and opportunities for volunteering and community involvement, so please keep an eye on the Inter Alia for details.

Lastly, the Board of Directors identified a need for community outreach regarding legal and civics education, especially among our youth. We contacted the Justice Teaching program spearheaded by former Florida Supreme Court Justice R. Fred Lewis and plan to use their resources to offer real-life, in-classroom education to the public and private middle schools located in Manatee County. If you would like to serve as a teacher, or assist with other pro bono efforts in Manatee County such as the upcoming Wills for Low Income Families event, or if you would like to run assistant deejay at a MCBA event, please let me know!

I look forward to working with each of you over the coming year to continue the success of the MCBA and make Manatee County a premier location to practice law.

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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“LAW or NAW?”

By Patrick Iyampillai, Esq.; MCBA Director & YLD Past President

Cue the lights. Cue the music. Cue the overly enthusiastic game show host voice.

Welcome to another thrilling edition of “**LAW OR NAW?**” — the game show recap nobody asked for but everyone deserves. This past July, Florida rolled out a whole new batch of laws, and we're here to highlight the biggest changes.

Let the game begin.

Round 1: “Fast and Now Felonious”

Law or Naw?

Speeding 100+ mph can now land you in jail and court, not just traffic school.

Law. House Bill 351 introduces the criminal offense of “dangerous excessive speeding,” defined as driving 50+ mph over the limit or 100+ mph in a reckless manner. Fines can reach \$1,000, but more importantly, violators face jail time, license suspension, and mandatory court appearances. No more pay-and-go citations for the most extreme offenders.

Round 2: “Justice for Dexter”

Law or Naw?

Aggravated animal cruelty now comes with a statewide public registry.

Law. HB 255, known as Dexter’s Law, enhances sentencing for severe animal cruelty with a 1.25 multiplier and establishes a publicly searchable registry of offenders. The registry will go live in early 2026, aimed at improving transparency and deterrence.

Round 3: “Keep it Passive, Please”

Law or Naw?

Golf courses and pickleball courts are now welcome in Florida’s state parks.

Naw. In fact, HB 209 prohibits construction of sports facilities like these in state parks. Recreational development is now limited to passive activities—think hiking and kayaking. The law also requires at least 30 days’ notice before public hearings on park-use changes.

Round 4: “Fluoride Gets the Boot”

Law or Naw?

Fluoride has been banned in Florida’s public water supply.

Law. Senate Bill 700 makes Florida the second state to ban fluoride and other additives from municipal water systems. While touted as a public health win by some, many medical professionals have raised concerns over long-term dental consequences, particularly for children.

Round 5: “Put the Phone Down”

Law or Naw?

Middle schools now permit phones during lunch and passing periods.

Naw. The opposite, actually. New rules extend the classroom-only cell phone ban to cover the entire school day for elementary and middle schools. High schools remain limited to classroom restrictions, but pilot programs are exploring all-day bans in some districts.

Round 6: “Condo Transparency Challenge”

Law or Naw?

HOA boards must now livestream meetings and let homeowners vote by emoji.

Almost Law. HB 913 doesn’t go that far, but it does bring sweeping changes to HOA and condo governance. Records such as bank statements and minutes must be made accessible electronically. Budgets exceeding 115% of prior assessments require alternative proposals, and digital voting and meetings are now further streamlined.

Round 7: “Yes In God’s Backyard”

Law or Naw?

Religious organizations can now build affordable housing with less local red tape.

Law. SB 1730 amends the Live Local Act to expand affordable housing development rights. Faith-based institutions can build housing projects with administrative approval, provided the structures meet defined zoning and size criteria. Local governments have limited power to intervene.

Bonus Round: “Geographic Rebranding”

Law or Naw?

Florida now refers to the Gulf of Mexico as the “Gulf of America.”

Law. HB 549 and HB 575 require state agencies and school curricula to adopt the term “Gulf of America.” The move is largely symbolic but has sparked debate over semantics, identity, and curriculum autonomy.

Lightning Round: Additional Notables

- HB 279 makes false “swatting” calls that lead to injury or death a felony.
- SB 356 establishes January 27 as Holocaust Remembrance Day.
- SB 1374 requires school districts to remove and re-screen employees arrested for disqualifying offenses within 24 hours.

No matter the type of law you are practicing, July was a big month of legal changes for us all. And while there’s no game show trophy for memorizing these new changes, knowing what’s new might help you and your client avoid becoming the next contestant in the courtroom. Also, in case you skimmed the article, note that multiple questions here are NOT law, so please do not cite them and get called out by the judge for it and blame me later.

Now, that’s a wrap. We’ll see you next time on “LAW OR NAW”!



Registration now open!

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17 OCTOBER

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5:00 PM**

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MCBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wed., Sept. 3, 2025	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., Sept. 10, 2025	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., Sept. 24, 2025	Membership Luncheon
.....	YLD Spheres of Influence Event
Wed., October 1, 2025	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., October 8, 2025	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Thur., October 16, 2025	CLE: Real Property Section
Mon., October 27, 2025	CLE: Estate Planning, Probate & Guardianship
Wed., October 29, 2025	Membership Luncheon
Thur., October 30, 2025	Vintage Attorneys at Dye Harrison
Wed., November 5, 2025	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
.....	YLD: Table for 10 w/Judge Sniffen
Wed., November 12, 2025	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., December 3, 2025	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Fri., December 5, 2025	MCBA Holiday Party
Wed., December 10, 2025	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., January 7, 2026	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Thur., January 8, 2026	CLE: Estate Planning, Probate & Guardianship w/Judge Moreland
Wed., January 14, 2026	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., January 28, 2026	Membership Luncheon
Wed., February 4, 2026	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., February 11, 2026	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., February 25, 2026	Java with the Judges
.....	Membership Luncheon
Wed., March 4, 2026	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., March 11, 2026	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., March 25, 2026	Membership Luncheon
Wed., April 1, 2026	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., April 8, 2026	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., May 6, 2026	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Fri., May 8, 2026	12th Circuit Bench Bar Conference
Wed., May 27, 2026	Law Day Membership Luncheon
Wed., June 3, 2026	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., June 10, 2026	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wed., June 24, 2026	Annual Membership Luncheon

*dates are subject to change

Welcome New Members

Ivan Alvarez, Esq.

Ave Maria College of Law
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2024
Firm/Office: State Attorney's Office
Area(s) of Practice: Criminal Law

Abigail O. Dean, Esq.

Stetson University
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2021
Firm/Office: Hamilton Price, P.A.
Area(s) of Practice: Civil Litigation, Personal Injury,
Construction

Melinda Delpech, Esq.

University of North Carolina
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 1993
Firm/Office: McNary Law, PLLC
Area(s) of Practice: Family, Mediation

Hillary Ellis, Esq.

Faulkner University
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2012
Firm/Office: The Law Place
Area(s) of Practice: Criminal Law

Jeffrey Mytinger, Esq.

Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2018
Firm/Office: Blalock Walters, P.A.
Area(s) of Practice: Estate Planning, Trust & Estates

Justin W. Najmy, Esq.

University of Miami
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2022
Firm/Office: Najmy Thompson, PL
Area(s) of Practice: Estate Planning, Tax Law,
Business & Taxation

William G. Najmy, Esq.

Stetson University
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2020
Firm/Office: Najmy Thompson, PL
Area(s) of Practice: Tax Law, Corporate Law,
Wills, Trusts & Estates

Caroline Tschida, Esq.

Florida State University
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2025
Firm/Office: Barnes, Walker, Goethe, Perron,
Shea & Johnson, PLLC
Area(s) of Practice: Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts & Estates

Paige A. Wojdyla, Esq.

Stetson University
Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2018
Firm/Office: Hale Law
Area(s) of Practice: Personal Injury



SPHERES OF INFLUENCE 2025

CLE CREDIT APPROVED

An evening of conversation at the intersection of law and leadership.

Explore how their roles connect and collaborate with the legal community.

Insight. Dialogue. Connection.

📅 Wednesday, September 24th, 2025

🕒 5:30 - 7:00 PM

📍 Manatee Community Foundation
2820 Manatee Ave. W.



SPEAKER

Rick Wells

Sheriff, Manatee County



SPEAKER

Angel Colonnese

Manatee County Clerk of
the Circuit Court &
Comptroller



SPEAKER

Courtney DePol

Manatee County Deputy
Administrator



SPEAKER

Tommy Gregory

President - State College
of Florida



SPEAKER

John Vita

The Milestone Financial
Group at Morgan Stanley

\$10 MCBA Members,
\$25 non-members
Dinner provided

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 **MANATEE
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Chief Judge Diana Moreland honored with 2025 Chief Justice Award for Judicial Excellence



Chief Judge Diana Moreland is the 2025 recipient of the Chief Justice Award for Judicial Excellence and honors her service to and leadership within Florida's judicial branch. The award, established in 2015, is presented annually to honor a circuit judge and a county judge who demonstrate exceptional commitment to the judicial branch and who personify judicial excellence.

Judge Moreland was first elected to the bench in 2004 and has been re-elected to the circuit court subsequently. She has held many leadership positions for Florida's courts. Judge Moreland has served as chief judge for the 12th Judicial Circuit since 2023. Her service as chair of the Trial Court Performance and Accountability Commission for more than a decade is a highlight among her many contributions to the judicial branch and her community. The commission proposes policies to encourage the effective functioning of trial courts throughout the state by developing resource management, performance measurement, and accountability programs. From 2022 to 2024, Judge Moreland served as chair of the Judicial Needs Assessment Committee, working to update the model used to determine the number of judges needed statewide.

The recipient of the Judicial Excellence Award also receives a flag flown over Florida's Supreme Court Building in her or his honor. IMAGE COURTESY OF SENIOR JUDGE LEE HAWORTH

"Chief Judge Moreland's integrity is beyond reproach. Her dedication to the rule of law is unshakable. ... Her



willingness to sacrifice her time for the betterment of herself and others is proven. Her leadership both locally and at the statewide level exemplifies the qualities sought to be recognized by this prestigious award," another letter in support of her nomination noted.

She earned her law degree from Stetson University College of Law, then worked as an assistant public defender and in private practice before her election to the bench.

"Chief Judge Moreland's steadfast leadership at the (Trial Court Performance and Accountability Commission) over the years has resulted in the completion of many difficult projects of importance for the justice system that enhance trust, confidence, and accountability of the public in the courts," a fellow judge wrote in support of her nomination for the award.

The Twelfth Circuit is now home to three recipients of the Judicial Excellence Awards and all were recognized for their professional ethics, qualities and strength of character: Judge Moreland; Circuit Judge Lee Haworth (Ret.) in 2015; and Sarasota County Judge David Denkin in 2019.

Reprinted from the 12th Judicial Circuit website.

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**** THIS PROMOTION IS IN NO WAY AFFILIATED WITH THE NFL ****

SECTION NEWS:

Your MCBA Sections are working hard to bring you a fantastic 2025-26 year!

NEW NAME! At the August MCBA Board of Directors meeting, the board approved the update of the Guardianship & Probate Section to "Estate Planning, Probate & Guardianship" Section. The Section is led by Section Chairs Jeff Goethe, Esq. and Whitney Glaser, Esq.

Solo/Small Firm: Steele Williams, Esq. a Past President of the MCBA is returning this year to Chair the Solo/Small Firm Committee. Steele is also a Director of the MCBA. He can't get enough of us!

Real Property: Lisa Gonzalez Moore, Esq. is returning to chair our Real Property Section! Stay tuned for two CLEs this year -the first one is coming up on Thursday, October 16th on Zoom with Old Republic Title.

Family Law: Faith Brown, Esq. and Dustin Hay, Esq. are returning as our Family Section Chairs. They are busy planning CLEs for those interested.

LEGAL ASSISTANT

Legal Assistant needed. \$50 - \$60K/year. Please contact office of Ed Sobel 941-746-1203 or ed@sobelattorneys.com

Welcome New Annual Sponsor: Richard Morris, CFP® The Milestone Financial Group at Morgan Stanley



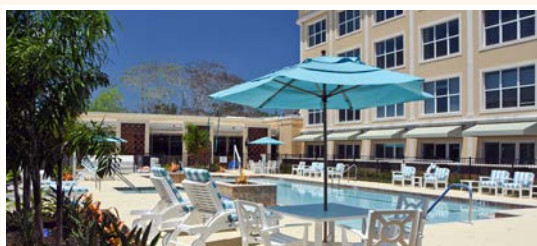
We are pleased to welcome **Richard Morris, CFP®** with The Milestone Financial Group at Morgan Stanley in Bradenton, as a new annual sponsor. Mr. Morris provides comprehensive wealth management services, offering clients thoughtful guidance and strategic solutions to help achieve their financial objectives.

We greatly appreciate his support and commitment to our organization. Partnerships such as this allow us to continue delivering meaningful programs and opportunities to our members.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Richard Morris and The Milestone Financial Group at Morgan Stanley!



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Get to Know Your Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors!



Meet Maxwell Shrem, Esq., YLD Director

Maxwell is admitted to practice in all Florida courts and the United States District Courts for the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida. His unique experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants in personal injury matters gives him a comprehensive perspective that benefits every client he serves.

Maxwell's academic journey reflects his dedication to excellence:

- Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies - Florida Gulf Coast University (Summa Cum Laude)
- Juris Doctor - University of Florida Levin College of Law
- Member of the Honors College at FGCU
- Academic Athletic Honor Roll for three consecutive years

While at UF Law, he held leadership positions in the Jewish Law Student Association and Entertainment and Sports Law Society. Maxwell Shrem currently serves on the Manatee County Bar Association – Young Lawyers Division Board.

Maxwell gained valuable courtroom insight as an intern at the Fourth District Court of Appeals under the Honorable Mark W. Klingensmith. His previous work as an insurance defense attorney has given him unique insight into case strategies, allowing him to anticipate challenges and craft winning arguments for his clients.

Practice Areas are Personal Injury Cases, Auto Accidents, Trucking Accidents, Motorcycle Accidents, Slip and Fall Incidents

When he's not FIGHTING LIKE HALE® for his clients in the courtroom, Maxwell enjoys watching sports, traveling, and spending time at our beautiful local beaches.







September 2025 Luncheon Meeting

"Brain Disease & Estate Planning: Medical & Legal Perspectives"

CLE CREDIT APPROVED

Free for MCBA Members
\$35 for guests

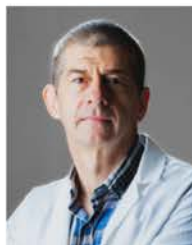
CLICK TO REGISTER

Wednesday, September 24th, 2025
Manatee Performing Arts Center- Kiwanis Hall
11:45 Lunch, Noon Meeting Start



Fiona Crawford, Ph.D.
President & CEO
The Roskamp Institute

Dr. Crawford is a molecular geneticist and neuroscientist, and co-founder of The Roskamp Institute. She has more than 30 years, 200+ publications, and over 20,000 citations in the field of research for Alzheimer's disease, Traumatic Brain Injury, and related disorders.



Michael Mullan, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Director
The Roskamp Institute

Dr. Mullan trained both as a physician, treating patients with neuropsychiatric diseases, and also as a neuroscientist. He has authored over 300 scientific publications on Alzheimer's Disease and other neurological disorders and focuses on finding new treatments for them.



Jeffrey S. Goethe, Esq.
Partner; Barnes, Walker, Goethe, Perron, Shea & Robinson, PLLC

Jeffrey Goethe, Board-Certified in Wills, Trusts, and Estates, has over three decades of experience advising clients in estate, trust, and tax planning. He is an active Executive Council member of The Florida Bar's Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section and is widely respected for his leadership and contributions to the legal profession.

Special thanks to Our Annual Sponsors



LEGAL AID NEWS:



Annie Breiting practiced law in Manatee County until 2021, when she left to pursue nonprofit work and to spend more time controlling the chaos of her home with two little boys.

"Annie! Are you practicing law again?"

Nope! But I've found another way to rejoin the Manatee County legal community!

After a few years of career changes, I am excited to rejoin the Manatee County legal community with my new role as a pro bono coordinator with Legal Aid of Manasota.

During my time practicing, I honestly knew nothing about Legal Aid of Manasota, how the nonprofit functions, or how lawyers (of all practice types) could participate.

Now, in my new role, it is my responsibility to promote Legal Aid of Manasota in Manatee County by increasing both the number of attorneys taking pro bono cases and increasing opportunities for attorneys to participate in pro bono legal service events.

Things I did not know about Legal Aid of Manasota ("LAM") when I was a practicing attorney:

- Legal Aid of Manasota relies mostly on volunteer attorneys—you!
- We handle only civil cases, not criminal.
- Your malpractice coverage is provided for pro bono cases.
- We'll train you in specialized areas of law where the need is greatest. If you're not an expert yet - let us train you!

If you're thinking, "My area of practice doesn't apply here," I get it—I thought the same as a small business and healthcare attorney. But LAM offers trainings so you can step into areas of need with confidence. For example, we're launching a sealing and expungement training, and we already have clients waiting for help. Keep an eye out to take the training once released!

Whether you can take on a case, join a training, or simply learn more, I'd love to connect with you. Together, we can ensure that more of our neighbors have access to justice. Please reach out—I can't wait to get more of you involved with Legal Aid of Manasota.

AnnieB@legalaidofmanasota.org

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.

NOTICE OF MEETING OF TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 9, 2025

Contact: Hunter Norton, Chair
Twelfth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission

Notice is hereby given that the Twelfth Circuit Nominating Commission will convene via Conference call on September 15, 2025 at 9am for the purpose of reviewing the judicial applications received by the Commission for judgeship vacancies in the Sarasota County Court and in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court.

If you require additional information please contact Hunter G. Norton, Chair at (941)364-2771 or hnorton@shumaker.com.



Now Offering Mediation

We're pleased to announce that **Melinda Delpech** is now a Florida Supreme Court **Certified Family Mediator**, and is offering mediation services throughout Manatee and Sarasota Counties.



Melinda has long been a trusted advocate in the Sarasota / Bradenton legal community.




Melinda is excited to support attorneys and their clients in achieving practical, low-conflict resolutions outside the courtroom.



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SAINT STEPHEN'S OPENS PULLEN CENTER



Saint Stephen's Episcopal School officially cut the ribbon to open its \$13-million Janet S. Pullen S.T.E.A.M. Center on Aug. 14. This 16,000 square foot, multi-purpose facility will transform campus life, inspiring creativity, collaboration, and innovation.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) activities occur daily in every grade level throughout campus. Students learn the dynamics of computer languages, build and fly drones, design and 3D print interactive projects, engineer bridge models, and examine the impact of computers on society.

The new Pullen Center now provides a home base for these activities that is easily accessible to faculty and students, providing the next generation of computer scientists and engineers with cutting-edge resources and transformative spaces to learn, collaborate, and problem-solve.

Saint Stephen's also has a long and colorful history when it comes to the arts. With the center's performance area and backstage spaces, fine and performing arts become an instant beneficiary as the facility provides a home for budding singers, actors, musicians, and dancers of all ages to develop and showcase their talents.

The Pullen Center is available to businesses and community groups that are in need of space to host events. It has stadium seating for 300 and can host up to 600 people for auditorium-style events and sit-down dinners. There is a spacious foyer area that can be used for receptions, a kitchen area for catering prep, and three backstage rooms for props, dressing, and breakout rooms.

For more information, contact Saint Stephen's at (941) 746-2121 or info@saintstephens.org.

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MCBA Bar

ARCADIA

RODEO NIGHT

The Action is Back!

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 18

JOIN COLLIER, SARASOTA, & MANATEE
BAR MEMBERS AT MOSAIC ARENA!
TAILGATE 3:00, RODEO 6:00

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REGISTER](#)

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AND INCLUDES TAILGATE & RODEO

QUESTIONS? [CLICK TO CONTACT PAT IYAMPILLAI](#)

Morgan Stanley



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[L-R] J. Ryan Denton, CFP®, ChFC®, Financial Advisor; Jamie Shapiro, Wealth Management Associate; Reese Vita, Financial Advisor; Cari Eanes, Portfolio Associate; EmmaLee Holmes, Client Service Associate; Zachary Brown, Business Development Associate; John Vita, CRPC®, Financial Advisor; Christopher Vining, Financial Advisor; Kristina Pino, Portfolio Associate; Gary Plum, Financial Advisor; Sharon McGlynn, Client Service Associate; Robert Latessa, CIMA®, Financial Advisor; Rich Morris, CFP®, Financial Advisor

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Help Us Capture the History of Our Famous BEACH PARTY

For decades, our Association's "Beach Party" has been a highlight of the year—where sand, sun, and plenty of stories have brought our members together. Now, we want to make sure those memories don't get lost to the tides of time!

We're putting together a history of this beloved tradition, and we'd love your help. Share your fun memories, surprising moments, and even those "shocking" stories (the ones that are still good and clean!) that made our Beach Party unforgettable.

Your stories will help us honor the past, celebrate our traditions, and give future members a glimpse of what makes our Association so special.

Please click the link to participate in our online questionnaire: <https://forms.gle/JMEjaFZZtELPk28u6>

Deadline to participate is October 15th! If you're thinking about it, that means you WANT to participate... don't delay, click the link today!



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Trauma Responsive Courts: If You See Something, Do Something!

Presented by the 12th Judicial Circuit Courts
With the Family Court Professional Coalition

September 12th, 2025
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

(Doors open at 8 AM, opening remarks will start at 8:30)

Breakfast provided

Nathan Benderson Finish Tower, 5th floor
5851 Nathan Benderson Circle
Sarasota, FL 34235

Free for court personnel and FCPC members

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Program highlights include Welcome & Introduction by **Chief Judge Diana Moreland** and **Magistrate Lawrence Jacobs** and presentations by **Judge Jack Helinger, Sarah E. Kay, Esq., Peter Collins, Esq., Dr. Eddy Regnier, and Judge Charles Sniffen.**

The purpose of this seminar is to educate and inspire those working in family law to recognize and address trauma as a pivotal factor in shaping healthier outcomes for children and families. Through the engagement of judges, magistrates, attorneys, and community professionals, the program promotes a justice system that prioritizes healing and breaks cycles of harm. In response to Chief Justice Muniz's call for statewide education, the seminar advances efforts to make Florida's courts truly trauma responsive.

At its core, this seminar aims to strengthen partnerships between courts, local practitioners, and community resources—ensuring that trauma and adverse childhood experiences are identified and addressed in ways that promote long-term well-being for children and families.

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September 23**
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How to Make Exemption Issues Easier for Your Clients, Your Property Appraiser, and Yourself

**When: Monday, October 27th, 2025
12 - 1:30 pm.**

**Where: Manatee County Judicial Center
1051 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205
8th Floor Multipurpose Room**

Approved for 1.5 General Credits



About The Presenter, Scott Tussing: Assistant Director - Public Service, Exemptions, & Tangible Personal Property

Scott Tussing has been employed with the Manatee County Property Appraiser's Office since 1993. Scott graduated from The University of Michigan in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. He serves as the Director of the Public Service and Exemptions Department. His department oversees the homestead status for over 100,000 parcels with current homestead exemptions, and over 2,000 parcels with Greenbelt exemptions, as well as other exemptions available under Florida law.

Jeffrey S. Goethe, Esq. & Whitney Glaser, Esq.
Estate Planning, Guardianship & Probate
Section Chairs

About the Course:

As Florida's property values and population continue to grow beyond expectations, the statutory and constitutional property tax exemptions are more valuable than ever. Scott Tussing will share his extensive real-world experiences to help attendees guide their clients qualify, maintain, and protect these increasingly valuable exemptions and avoid pitfalls that result in the denial of an application, the loss of exemptions, or, even worse, the retroactive assessment of back taxes, penalties and interest.

**\$10 for MCBA Members
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- Maintain accurate case files and support case development strategies.

Requirements:

- J. D. from an accredited law school.
- Awaiting results or planning to sit for the Florida Bar within the next administration.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Excellent organizational and time management abilities.
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- Strong interest in personal injury and/or trial law.

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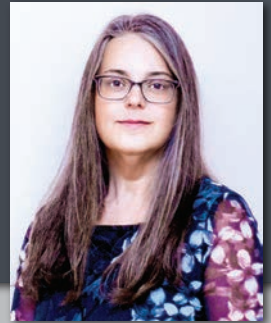
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