



# INTER ALIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

*News, invitations,  
photos and more*

**TIS THE SEASON -  
OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE BACK  
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**

*Vintage Attorneys Party*

**JCID CARDS -  
GET YOURS  
NOW**

*Get Ready for Our  
Holiday Party!*

**YOUNG LAWYERS -  
NOW'S THE TIME!**

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## 'TIS THE SEASON: Opportunities For Lawyers To Give Back To The Community During The Holidays

By Kari L. Martin, MCBA Director

As the holiday season approaches, it's a time for gratitude, reflection and giving back. For many families in Manatee County, this time of year can be particularly challenging, particularly as many families continue to recover from the lasting impacts of last year's hurricane season. As members of the legal community in Manatee County, we have the opportunity to help make a difference.

Whether through financial donations, food drives, gift donations, volunteering, or providing professional services, there are numerous ways to give back to our local community during the holidays. Many times, we want to help but do not know where to start or are just unaware of the multiple ways we can give back. Hopefully the information in this article can help point you in the right direction. Below are several charitable organizations in Manatee County that welcome community support, particularly during the months of November and December.

### 1. Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee

#### How to Help:

- Donate non-perishable food items
- Volunteer at the food warehouse or during mobile pantry distributions
- Make monetary donations to help provide meals to families in need

Website: [mealsonwheelsplus.org](http://mealsonwheelsplus.org)

The Young Lawyers Division of the Manatee County Bar Association will be participating in this year's holiday food drive and providing a convenient way for all of us to participate and contribute. Donation buckets will be placed at the following local law firms starting in November for easy drop-off:

- Najmy Thompson, PL at 1401 8th Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205
- Heintz Law at 905 6th Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205
- Hale Law at 2803 Fruitville Rd., Suite 240, Sarasota, FL 34237
- Battaglia Law at ComCenter, 9040 Town Center Parkway, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

### 2. The Salvation Army of Manatee County

#### How to Help:

- Angel Tree Program- support their Angel Tree program by donating gifts for children
- Holiday Food Baskets
- Gift sorting and distribution
- Bell ringing at donation stations
- Serving meals to individuals and families in need

Website: [brandenton.salvationarmyflorida.org](http://brandenton.salvationarmyflorida.org)

### 3. HOPE Family Services

#### How to Help:

- Donate gift cards, toys, and household items for survivors of domestic violence transitioning to safety
- Sponsor a family during the holidays
- Provide pro bono legal assistance to survivors

Website: <https://www.hopefamilyservice.org/>

### 5. Manatee Children's Services (MCS)

#### How To Help:

- Sponsor a child's wish list or purchase gifts from a child's Amazon wish list. MCS is accepting sponsors through December 12, 2025. For more information on how to become a sponsor and making a child's holiday dreams come true, you can email [holidayproject@mcsfl.com](mailto:holidayproject@mcsfl.com) or call 941-345-1200
- Make a monetary donation to the Holiday project 2025
- Donate toys, games, or books
- Volunteer for holiday gift wrapping or events

Website: [manateechildrenergsservices.com](http://manateechildrenergsservices.com)

### 6. Flight to the North Pole

Flight to the North Pole is a local nonprofit that creates magical holiday experiences for terminally ill children and their families in the community. The organization hosts an annual event with the Manatee County Sheriff's Office where children are "flown" to the North Pole to meet Santa, enjoy gifts, entertainment, and make lasting memories.

Continued on page 5

MANATEE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



Thanksgiving

# Food Drive

## Let's Share & Care

### Non Perishable Items needed:

- CANNED VEGETABLES
- BABY CEREAL & FORMULA
- CANNED FRUITS, MAC 'N' CHEESE
- PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY
- BOXED RICE, BOXED PASTA
- CANNED SOUPS, CANNED MEAT
- 100% FRUIT JUICES, BREAKFAST BARS
- OATMEAL, POWDERED MILK
- APPLESAUCE, DRIED BEANS
- TRAIL MIX, HEALTHY CEREALS



M-F, November  
**3rd - 20th**

### Drop-off locations:



Najmy Thompson, 1401 - 8th Avenue W., Bradenton

Heintz Law, 905 - 6th Ave W., Bradenton

Battaglia Law, ComCenter, 9040 Town Center Pkwy,  
Lakewood Ranch

Hale Law, 2803 Fruitville Rd, Suite 240, Sarasota



# CAN YOU ASSIST IN FINDING A WILL FOR Daryll Craig Dowty

Last Known Street Address:  
**10301 Waterbird Way**  
 City/Town: **Bradenton, FL 34209**

Date of Birth: **12/13/1947**

Date of Death: **9/2/2025**

Date of Birth: **3/21/1939**

Date of Death: **7/20/2025**

Originally from Somerset, MA. Coast Guard veteran. Former electrical engineer & professor at Central Connecticut State University. Former resident of Middletown, CT. Wife is Nancy Dowty. Two sons, Timothy and Kevin Dowty. Grandchildren: Andrew Roy, Lindsay Dowty, Spencer Dowty, & Connor Dowty. Congregant at Episcopal Church of the Annunciation in Holmes Beach, FL.

Name and Contact Information  
 for Our Members to Contact:

**Lindsay Dowty: (860) 884-1152 / [ldowty17055@gmail.com](mailto:ldowty17055@gmail.com)**

**Timothy Dowty: (860) 301-9626 / [sgtdowty@gmail.com](mailto:sgtdowty@gmail.com)**

**Kristin Dowty: (860) 301-6535 / [kristindowty@gmail.com](mailto:kristindowty@gmail.com)**

*'Tis The Season continued from page 1*

How to Help:

- Sponsor a child or family for the event
- Donate new toys or gift cards
- Contribute financially to help cover event and travel costs
- Volunteer at the event to help with logistics, setup, and hospitality

Website: [flighttothenorthpole.org](http://flighttothenorthpole.org)

**The Joy of Giving Together**

Organizing a donation drive within your office or setting aside time for team volunteerism with your colleagues does more than support those in need—it brings people together. As we all know, the holiday season can often be hectic. Coming together with colleagues to give back can offer a moment of calm amidst the holiday rush, while renewing a sense of purpose and strengthening bonds among colleagues. The experience often brings just as much joy to those who give as to those who receive, offering a chance to see the direct impact of your contributions and step away from the day-to-day demands of legal practice.

**Why Our Participation Matters**

As members of the legal profession, we are in a unique position of leadership in our community. Giving back to the community not only supports those in need but also strengthens our legal community’s connection to the people we serve. Many of these organizations also welcome pro bono legal services, so your time and expertise can have a powerful impact beyond traditional volunteering.

The holidays offer us the perfect reminder that small acts of kindness can lead to lasting impact. Whether through time or donations, your support and contributions can bring comfort and joy to someone in need.

Happy Holidays!

*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.*



🍷 THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT EVENT! 🍷



## Vintage Estate Reserve



### *Tasting Notes:*

Hints of sharp wit, refined judgment, and unforgettable stories.  
Balanced with equal parts charm, charisma, and courtroom flair.

### Best Served With:

- 🍷 Good friends    🍴 Heavy hors d'oeuvres
- 🎵 A dash of nostalgia
- 👜 And just a splash of professional gossip

### *Winemaker's Notes:*

Only the finest attorneys, aged 50 years or more,  
hand-selected for depth, character, and legendary appeal.  
Enjoy responsibly – laughter may cause wrinkles.



## MCBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Wed., November 12, 2025 .....MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
- Thur., November 20, 2025 ..... Young Lawyers Event @ Harlee & Bald
- 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
- Fri., May 1, 2026 .....Annual Beach Social
- 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

### Nicholas Bedy, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law  
Date Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2022  
Firm/Office: Legler, Murphy & Battaglia, LLP  
Area(s) of Practice: Personal Injury, Product Liability

### Nicholas M. Edwards, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law  
Date Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2025  
Firm/Office: State Attorney's Office  
Area(s) of Practice: Criminal

### Elizabeth Campbell, Esq

Stetson University College of Law  
Date Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2025  
Firm/Office: Harlee & Bald, PA  
Area(s) of Practice: Civil Litigation, Trusts & Estates, Appellate Practice

### Kaitlyn H. Ford, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law  
Date Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2025  
Firm/Office: Blalock Walters, PA  
Area(s) of Practice: Commercial Litigation, Civil Litigation, Litigation/Trial Advocacy

### Jason L. McCosby, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law  
Date Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2023  
Firm/Office: Blalock Walters, PA  
Area(s) of Practice: Estate Planning, Corporate

### Ryan D. Opitz, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law  
Date Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2025  
Firm/Office: Icard Merrill  
Area(s) of Practice: Probate & Trust Litigation, Estate Planning, Business & Taxation

### Taylor M. Uselton, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law  
Date Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2025  
Firm/Office: Blalock Walters, Pa  
Area(s) of Practice: Estate Planning, Tax, Business

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[www.manateebar.com](http://www.manateebar.com)**



# BEYOND THE BAR EVENT FOR YOUNG LAWYERS



**Thurs., Nov 20th**

**5 - 7:00 PM**



Enjoy an evening networking with experienced attorneys and members of the 12<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judiciary.

Learn how to get involved and advance your career.

Cocktails, wine, beer and appetizers

**CLICK HERE TO  
RSVP**

**Location**  
Harlee & Bald, 202 Main St.  
Bradenton

## Updates and Insights from the Manatee County Appraiser's Office

Our recent Continuing Legal Education (CLE) session featured Scott Tussing, CFE and Patricia McClintock from the Manatee County Appraiser's Office, providing attendees with timely updates and practical guidance on property tax matters. Scott is the Director of Public Service & Exemptions at the Manatee County Property Appraiser's Office.

Scott shared valuable insights into the latest developments in property assessment, highlighted key exemptions available to homeowners and businesses, and discussed best practices for navigating the appraisal process. His expertise offered attendees a clear understanding of both routine procedures and more complex appraisal scenarios that often arise in legal practice.

Participants walked away equipped with actionable knowledge to better advise clients, identify potential savings, and ensure compliance with the latest appraisal regulations. The session fostered meaningful discussion and provided a platform for attorneys to ask questions directly to the Manatee County Appraiser's Office.

We thank Scott Tussing, Patricia McClintock and the Manatee County Appraiser's Office for their time and dedication in helping our members stay informed and prepared in this critical area of law. Special thanks to Jeff Goethe and Whitney Glaser, Co-Chairs of the MCBA Estate, Guardianship & Probate Section for their leadership.



*Pictured from the Manatee County Appraiser's Office, Patricia McClintock and Scott Tussing with MCBA Director Joe Battaglia*



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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



Super Lawyers



# Celebrating Experience: Our Vintage Attorney Party

Our recent Vintage Attorney Party brought together attorneys over the age of 50 for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship. The event celebrated the wisdom, experience, and camaraderie that our seasoned legal professionals bring to the community.

Guests enjoyed a relaxed and lively atmosphere, complete with delicious food, drinks, and engaging conversation. The gathering provided an opportunity to connect with colleagues, share stories from years of practice, and simply enjoy each other's company outside of the courtroom and office.

The event was catered by Curated Catering & Events and hosted by our friends at the Dye Harrison Knowles firm. Special event sponsor was Hale Law at the Golden Gavel level.

We thank everyone who joined us for making the evening memorable, and we look forward to more opportunities to celebrate the incredible attorneys who have shaped our profession.





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**ruby**

# You're Invited to Our Holiday Celebration!

Join us for an elevated evening of festive fun, food, and cheer!

## WHAT'S IN STORE:

- Delicious catering by Curated Catering & Events
- Mouthwatering hors d'oeuvres and a gourmet dinner
- Wine, beer, and bubbly to toast the season
- Festive games provided by Heritage Process

Mix, mingle, and celebrate the season with colleagues and friends in style. This is one party you won't want to miss! Free for MCBA Members and Annual Sponsors, only \$40 for guests

**RSVP by November 26th to secure your spot.**



**Holiday Party**

You're invited to celebrate this special time of year with holiday cheer!

Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
5:30 - 8:30 pm

Manatee Performing Arts Center - Kiwanis Hall  
Free for MCBA Members, \$40 guests

Enjoy champagne, adult beverages and a fabulous meal catered by Curated Catering & Events

**RSVP HERE**

Special Thanks to Our Annual Sponsors



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## JCID CARDS! NOW IS THE TIME!



It's time to APPLY or RENEW your JCID Cards! Please read the following from the 12th Circuit and don't delay, or you'll have to wait until next year.

From the 12th Circuit:

The Twelfth Judicial Circuit's Judicial Center Identification (JCID) card application period begins this Wednesday, October 1. Administrative Order 2025-03a.2, provides that when feasible and practical, during times of high volume, judicial security at the Manatee County Judicial Center and the Silvertooth Judicial Center will open dedicated, expedited screening lines for attorneys displaying a current JCID card. Attorneys presenting the JCID card will not have to remove shoes or belts when going through the expedited screening line\*\*. All other personal belongings must be screened for security purposes. The application period for the JCID card runs October 1 through November 30, each year.

Attorneys can visit the Twelfth Judicial Circuit's JCID application page from October 1 through November 30, to submit their application and associated fee. The application

fee for the JCID card, which is waived for government attorneys\*, is \$25 each year. The fee for a replacement card is \$10; this fee will not be waived. The application and all fees must be submitted online. Attorneys should attach a headshot to their application. Photos can also be taken in Court Administration's office in the Manatee and Silvertooth Judicial Centers. However, this may delay receipt of the JCID card.

**Attorneys who miss this application period cannot apply again until next October.** Questions about the JCID card or the status of an application may be submitted to Court Administration in Sarasota at 941-861-7800.

\*Government attorneys include SAO, PD, AGO, ORC, GAL, DCF, county attorneys, city attorneys, clerk's office attorneys, attorneys employed by LEOS, etc. The government employer must be listed on the applicant's Florida Bar profile to qualify for the fee waiver.

\*\*The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office currently allows attorneys presenting their JCID card at the **South County Courthouse** to leave their belt on when going through security screening.

## Free Clerk Services For Veterans!



The Manatee Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller will honor veterans and active-duty military personnel throughout November with complimentary copies, passport photos, and notary services in recognition of Veterans Day.

The offer includes certified copies of official documents.

"Offering these complimentary services to the men and women who served and still serve this great nation to protect the values we hold dear is an honor," said Angel Colonnese, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller for Manatee County. "It is a small token of our appreciation for their sacrifice and service."

The complimentary services are available **November 1-30, 2025**. To access these services, veterans and active-duty military personnel must present a valid military ID or DD214 form.

This offer does not apply to e-certify services.

For more information, contact the Clerk & Comptroller's office at (941) 749-1800.



# The Clerk's COMMUNITY SHRED DAY

*Hosted by the Manatee Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller*

**A FREE PERSONAL DOCUMENT DRIVE-THRU SHREDDING EVENT!**

*Plus hard drive destruction!*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025**

9 AM - 11 AM

*(Or until the shred truck reaches capacity, which ever comes first.)*

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## WHAT TO BRING



Up to TWO (2) Bankers Box size (12" x 10" x 15") worth of personal documents

Any container is fine. Ex. Bags, plastic totes, copy paper boxes, etc.

Paper clips, staples, rubber bands, labels, and file tabs do not need to be removed.



## NOT ACCEPTED



Electronics of any kind

Business or commercial shredding

Wet/damp or previously wet paper

Binders or plastic folders

**PLEASE DO NOT TAPE BOXES OR KNOT BAGS.**

## MORE INFORMATION:

Scan QR code or visit

[www.ManateeClerk.com](http://www.ManateeClerk.com)

Or call us at (941) 749-1800



# Legal Aid Corner

By Annie Breiting, Esq., Legal Aid of Manasota

The Fourteenth Amendment enshrines the guarantee of equal protection under the law—a bedrock principle of the American legal system. The familiar image of a blindfolded Lady Justice embodies this ideal, symbolizing impartiality under the legal system.

Yet, practicing attorneys recognize how aspirational this image can be in the concept of access to justice. Most of us would identify economic disparity as a significant impediment to genuine equality before the law. While financial limitations undeniably play a central role, many other, less visible barriers can thwart an individual's ability to secure meaningful access to justice:

**Technology and Digital Literacy** – As legal processes increasingly migrate online, those without adequate training or comfort with technology—often older adults or individuals lacking digital access—are left behind. For someone overwhelmed by the simple task of uploading a PDF bank statement, the will to persist can quickly fade.

**Geographic Isolation** – In rural communities, legal counsel and aid services may be scarce, and the sheer distance to courthouses or attorneys' offices can become an insurmountable obstacle.

**Social Stigma** – Many hesitate to seek help, out of pride or the mistaken belief that legal aid “isn't for people like them.”

**Lack of Awareness** – Too many residents are unaware that free or low-cost legal assistance exists or how to find pro bono representation.

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**Health Challenges** – Chronic illness, mounting medical bills, and frequent appointments sap the physical and mental energy needed to pursue a legal remedy.

**Childcare Responsibilities** – Parents balancing young children with multiple attorney meetings and court dates often find the burden overwhelming.

**Work Obligations** – Wage workers often lack the flexibility to leave work, as needed, to attend to legal matters without risking their employment.

Legal Aid of Manasota collaborates with numerous partner agencies in Manatee and Sarasota counties to confront these multifaceted barriers. Still, our ability to provide competent legal representation depends on one indispensable resource: you.

If you are interested in joining our ranks of volunteer attorneys, please email me at [AnnieB@legalaidofmanasota.org](mailto:AnnieB@legalaidofmanasota.org) or visit our website at [legalaidofmanasota.org](http://legalaidofmanasota.org)



***Free CLE***

*Presented by Legal Aid of Manasota*

# ***Sealing & Expunging***

Giving Clients a Fresh Start

***Friday November 7, 2025***

***Noon—1:00 PM***

***Speaker: Mark Zimmerman, Esq.***



*Learn about eligibility requirements, step-by-step procedures, and the significant impact these remedies can have on clients' lives.*

**online class**

***1 hour General CLE credit*** approved



[tinyurl.com/SECLE](https://tinyurl.com/SECLE)

*Registration is free but we ask that you use your training to give back—by taking a pro bono case and making a difference in someone's life.*

# ATTENTION YOUNG LAWYERS!

## You're Invited to Our YLD Meeting on Zoom!

At our upcoming Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors meeting, any young lawyers within the MCBA, who are interested in serving on the YLD Board of Directors, are encouraged to attend!

The meeting will be held on Zoom with login credentials below.  
We will be voting on two new members, possibly more:

**William Galvano**

**Elizabeth Campbell**

**YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE!**

Join us, and find out why we are THE BEST Young Lawyers Division around!  
(That's what we hear from our "Big Board" and Executive Director, anyway...)

Attend the meeting at Noon on Wednesday, November 12th on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81230550053?pwd=hpbuQVHg2ja6w51F4ZaHJdZXFMvbQa.1>

### Just a Few Member Benefits 🔍

- 1.** Free Lunches
- 2.** CLEs - local and many are Free!
- 3.** Free Events
- 4.** Free Online Directory Listing



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# KESSLER

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MEET THE DOCTORS

# 2026 12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BENCH BAR CONFERENCE



SAVE THE DATE  
FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026  
ST. REGIS LONGBOAT KEY

## CHANGING TIDES

HOW AI AND THE NEW RULES ARE  
RESHAPING THE LEGAL PROFESSION



# October 2025: An Inspiring Luncheon with Attorney Pat Reilly and Joe Petito

"You could've heard a pin drop"

"I could've listened all day long"

Those are just two quotes from guests who attended our October 29th Membership Luncheon. Our recent luncheon brought together members of the legal and business community for an extraordinary and deeply meaningful program featuring **Attorney Pat Reilly** and **Joe Petito**, father of **Gabby Petito** and co-founder of the **Gabby Petito Foundation**.

Attorney Reilly, who represented the Petito family in their civil case, offered a thoughtful discussion on advocacy, victims' rights, and the importance of using the law as a tool for justice and healing. His remarks highlighted the power of compassion within the legal profession and reminded attendees that attorneys can make a profound difference in the lives of those they serve.

Joe Petito shared his family's powerful story and the mission behind the Gabby Petito Foundation, which works to raise awareness about domestic violence and support organizations that help victims and their families. His words were both emotional and inspiring, challenging everyone in attendance to recognize the role each of us can play in preventing violence and supporting those in crisis.

The conversation between Reilly and Petito offered a rare combination of legal insight and personal courage — a reminder that justice is not just a professional pursuit, but a deeply human one.

We are grateful to both Pat Reilly and Joe Petito for sharing their experiences, their advocacy, and their call to action. Their message continues to resonate with all who attended, inspiring us to lead with empathy, integrity, and purpose in our work and in our communities.



*Photo top right: Joe Petito, MCBA Director Joe Battaglia, Pat Reilly, MCBA Past President Aaron Crittenden, MCBA Treasurer Brandon Robinson, MCBA Director Kari Martin and MCBA President James Lynch*

*Photo bottom right: Attorney Pat Reilly*

*Photo bottom center: Joe Petito, father of Gabby Petito*

*Photo bottom left: MCBA President Elect Dan Van Etten*

*Photo center left: MCBA President James Lynch and St. Stephen's Head of School Peter Kraft*

PRESS RELEASE

SECOND DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL  
JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION  
DISTRICT COURT VACANCY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 22, 2025

CONTACT: Eliot B. Peace, Chair  
2d DCA Judicial Nominating Commission  
864-980-7351  
[Eliot.peace@gd-ots.com](mailto:Eliot.peace@gd-ots.com)

TAMPA – Governor Ron DeSantis has asked the Second District Judicial Nominating Commission to provide him with names of highly qualified nominees for one vacancy on the Second District Court of Appeal created by the resignation of Judge Anne Leigh Gaylord Moe.

The Commission requests that interested candidates submit an application for consideration. Applicants must meet the qualifications for district court judges described in Article V, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution.

Applicants must submit two copies, one unredacted and one redacted, via email no later than **November 21, 2025, at 4:00 PM**. Personal information not subject to public disclosure—such as the social security number—shall be redacted as permitted by Section 119.071 of the Florida Statutes.

Applications must be emailed in .PDF format to BOTH the following individuals:  
Eliot Peace at [eliot.peace@gd-ots.com](mailto:eliot.peace@gd-ots.com) AND Ryan Owen at [ryan.owen@arlaw.com](mailto:ryan.owen@arlaw.com)

**Upon receipt of the application, the applicant will receive an email response acknowledging receipt. If an applicant does not receive such an acknowledgement, the applicant should contact Eliot Peace, Chair of the Second District Judicial Nominating Commission, at 864-980-7351 to verify receipt of the application.**

**Untimely applications will not be considered.**

The filename for .pdf applications should be as follows “LASTNAME FIRSTNAME District Application (redacted /unredacted).”

Applications may be downloaded from the Florida Bar’s website at [www.flabar.org](http://www.flabar.org) and the Office of the Governor at [www.flgov.com](http://www.flgov.com). Applicants should include a recent photograph.

**NOTE TO APPLICANTS:** To assist the Judicial Nominating Commission in its review of applications, all questions must be fully and completely answered. Applications must include current contact information, including e-mail addresses, for judges, co-counsel, opposing counsel, and references to facilitate the background investigation that will be conducted by the members of the Commission.

Following the close of the application period, the Commission will convene to discuss scheduling interviews of the most qualified applicants. The Commission will publish an additional notice at that time containing the names of the applicants, the date of applicant interviews, and information for any member of the public who wishes to attend the public portion of that meeting.

The Members of the Second District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission are:

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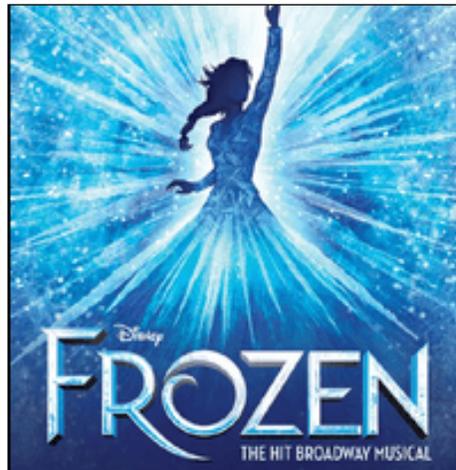
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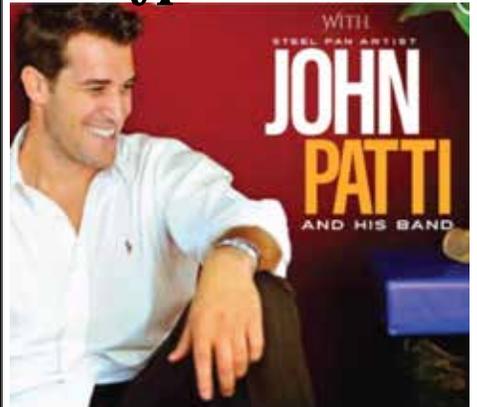
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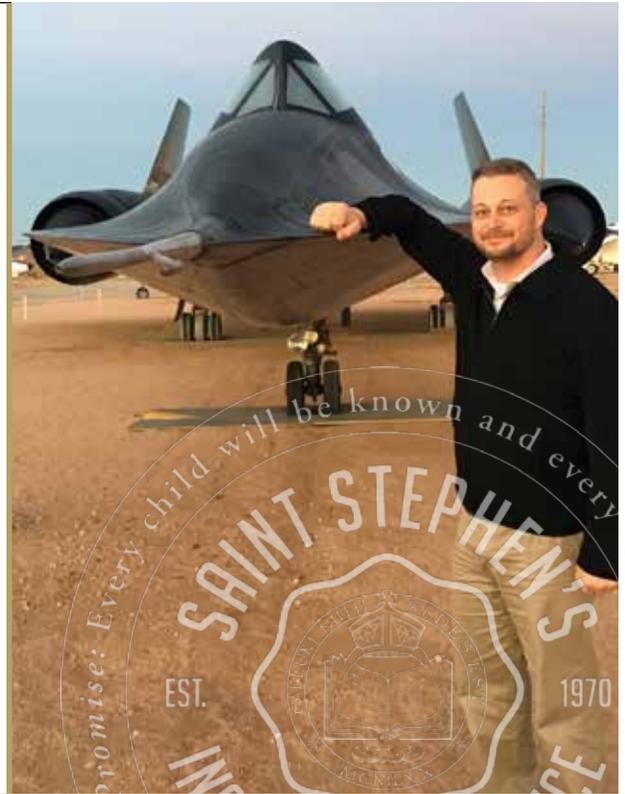
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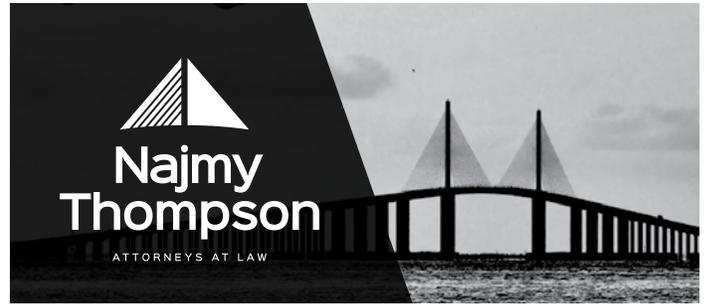
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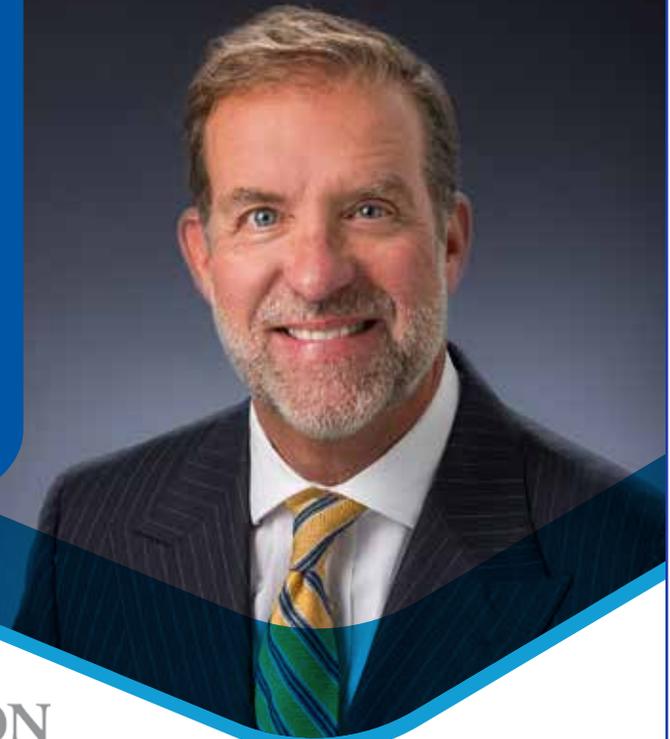
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Wednesday, December 24th  
CHRISTMAS EVE, Clerk Closed,  
Court Administrative Day

Thursday, December 25th and Friday,  
December 26th, CHRISTMAS BREAK,  
Clerk and Courts Closed

Thursday, January 1, 2026,  
NEW YEARS DAY, Clerk and Courts Closed

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