



INTER ALIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE
COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2026

*News, invitations,
photos and more*

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAW DAY
AMERICA 250 LUNCHEON**

***2026 12th Judicial Bench Bar
Conference***

IT'S TIME TO RENEW DUES!

***Coming Up: Annual Meeting
& Election of Officers***

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MCBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, June 24, 2026 Annual Membership Luncheon
Wednesday, September 30, 2026 ... September Membership Luncheon
Wednesday, October 28, 2026 October Membership Luncheon
Friday, December 4, 2026 Annual Holiday Party
Wednesday, January 27, 2027 January Membership Luncheon
Wednesday, February 24, 2027 February Membership Luncheon
Wednesday, March 31, 2027 March Membership Luncheon
Wednesday, May 19, 2027 LAW DAY LUNCHEON
Wednesday, June 30, 2027 Annual Membership Luncheon

*Dates are subject to change

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

The Clerk of The Circuit Court & Comptroller's Office
and the 12th Circuit Court Offices
will be closed in observance
of the following holidays:

June 19 Juneteenth

July 3 Independence Day

Please visit their websites for more information.

Welcome New Members

Benjamin T. Hall, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law
 Date Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2021
 Firm/Office: Najmy Thompson, PL
 Area(s) of Practice: Civil Litigation, Civil Trial,
 Probate & Trust Litigation

Thomas R.L. Kindred, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law
 Date Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2025
 Firm/Office: Steiner Law Offices, PLLC
 Area(s) of Practice: Estate Planning, Tax Law

John L. Morrow, Esq.

Nova Southeastern University
 Date Admitted to The Florida Bar, 1987
 Firm/Office: Mediate First Inc.
 Area(s) of Practice: Mediation, Dispute Resolution

Anthony Santopolo, Esq.

Florida Coastal School of Law
 Date Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2012
 Firm/Office: Santopolo Law, PLLC
 Area(s) of Practice: Estate Planning,
 Wills, Trusts & Estates, Elder Law

Andrew E. Scip, Esq.

Stetson University College of Law
 Year Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2024
 Firm/Office: Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc.
 Area(s) of Practice: Public Interest

Daniel H. Smith, Esq.

George Mason University School of Law
 Date Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2018
 Firm/Office: Advocates in Aging, Wiesner Smith PLLC
 Area(s) of Practice: Elder Law, Guardianship Law,
 Wills, Trusts & Estates

David Standridge, Esq.

University of New Mexico
 Date Admitted to The Florida Bar, 2024
 Firm/Office: The Law Office of David Standridge
 Area(s) of Practice: Administrative Law,
 Estate Planning, Business Law

Special Thanks to Our Annual Sponsors



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

America 250 Comes Alive at the 2026 Law Day Luncheon



President Elect Dan Van Etten presents Special Recognition vase to Caleb Grimes on behalf of the MCBA



Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr. introduces Congressman Greg Steube



Congressman Steube receiving "Lawyers & Legends of Manatee County, Second Edition" from MCBA President Elect Dan Van Etten

Patriotism, history, and celebration filled the room at the MCBA's 2026 Law Day Luncheon on Wednesday, May 27th, 2026, as members and guests gathered to commemorate America 250 — honoring 250 years of our nation's enduring commitment to liberty, justice, and the Rule of Law.

This year's luncheon featured an inspiring presentation by Congressman Greg Steube, FL – 17 titled, "From Revolution to Rule of Law," which highlighted the critical role lawyers played in the founding of America and the development of our constitutional system. From the drafting of founding documents to shaping the principles of justice that continue today, Congressman Steube reminded attendees that attorneys have long stood at the center of protecting freedom and preserving democracy. The presentation received CLE credit and certainly delivered!

The event was made even more memorable by the many special guests in attendance, including members of the judiciary, local elected officials, community leaders, and distinguished members of the Bar. The Manatee County Sheriff's Explorer's Color Guard presented the colors, and Representative Will Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A special surprise was the special recognition given to Caleb Grimes and The Grimes Family for many years hosting the MCBA Spring Beach Party at their home on Anna Maria Island.

Attendees enjoyed an afternoon filled with reflection, camaraderie, and appreciation for the legal profession's lasting impact on our nation. As America approaches its 250th birthday, the luncheon served as a meaningful reminder that the Rule of Law remains one of the country's greatest and most enduring achievements.

It was truly a celebration of history, service, and the bright future ahead for the legal community and our nation.

Special thanks to our Annual Sponsors and METV for making the event possible! And, of course, many thanks to Donna McCammond and William Thompson for sharing their photos with us.



Congressman Steube presenting "From Revolution to Rule of Law" to MCBA Law Day luncheon crowd



YLD Director Max Shrem and MCBA Director Pat Iyampillai look on as Judge Gilbert Smith signs a copy of "Lawyers & Legends of Manatee County, Second Edition."



Ray Bellamy chats with Congressman and Jennifer Steube



L to R: MCBA Treasurer Brian Iten, MCBA Director Judge Robert Farrance, Former Manatee County Sheriff Brad Steube, Debbie Steube, Jennifer Steube, Congressman Greg Steube, Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr., MCBA President Elect Dan Van Etten, MCBA Director Patrick Iyampillai, MCBA Director Joseph Battaglia, MCBA YLD Director Max Shrem, and MCBA President James Lynch



Past President Stephen Dye and Congressman Steube



MCBA Secretary Brian Iten, MCBA Director Judge Robert Farrance, Congressman Greg Steube, MCBA President Elect Dan Van Etten, MCBA Director Pat Iyampillai, MCBA Director Joseph Battaglia and MCBA President James Lynch





June 2026 Annual Luncheon Meeting

**"Partners in Purpose! Non Profits &
Local Attorneys Building
Community in the 12th Circuit "**

CLE CREDIT APPROVED

Wednesday, June 24th, 2026

**Manatee Performing Arts Center- Kiwanis Hall
11:30 Networking & Lunch, Noon Meeting Start**



Hon. Gilbert Smith, Jr.
12th Judicial Circuit



Melissa Wandall
The Mark Wandall Foundation



Sarah Wertheimer
**Embracing Our
Differences SW Florida**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

[Free for MCBA Members \\$35 for guests](#)

**AND, ELECTION OF MCBA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS
FOR 2026-27!**

Special Thanks to Our Annual Sponsors



From the Softball Field to the Bench:

The Investiture of Judge Hillary Ellis

Members of the legal community gathered on Friday, May 29th, 2026, to celebrate the investiture of Judge Hillary Ellis, honoring her remarkable journey of leadership, dedication, and service to the 12th Judicial Circuit.

Surrounded by family, friends, colleagues, and members of the judiciary, Judge Ellis officially took the oath of office during a heartfelt ceremony recognizing both her professional accomplishments and the character that defined her career. Speakers reflected on her commitment to justice, strong work ethic, and ability to lead with integrity and compassion.

The ceremony also highlighted Judge Ellis's impressive softball background, where the discipline, teamwork, and competitive spirit she developed on the field helped shape the determined and respected professional she is today. Those who know Judge Ellis noted that the same perseverance and leadership she demonstrated as an athlete continue to guide her on the bench.

Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate this important milestone and show their support for one of the circuit's newest judges. The investiture served as a meaningful reminder of the diverse experiences and talents that strengthen our judiciary and legal community.

Congratulations to Judge Hillary Ellis on this tremendous achievement and best wishes for continued success in her judicial service.



LEADERSHIP MANATEE HONORS JUDGE GILBERT SMITH, JR!



Judges Nicholas and Smith

On May 13th, 2026, at the Leadership Manatee Alumni ceremony, Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr. was honored with the prestigious Kent C. Schulz Award for Distinguished Leadership in recognition of his decades of service, mentorship, and commitment to the Manatee County community.

The award celebrates leaders whose dedication and integrity have made a lasting impact throughout the region.

Judge Smith was recognized not only for his distinguished judicial career, but also for his extensive civic involvement, leadership in numerous nonprofit and community organizations, and his passion for mentoring future leaders. Leadership Manatee Alumni Association praised his steady leadership, humility, and unwavering commitment to public service, noting that his influence extends far beyond the courtroom.

Every attention to detail was taken to honor Judge Smith with curated centerpieces featuring his various publications and photos. A respected historian and author, Judge Smith, has made an enduring contribution to preserving the region's historic record. His work, including *Lawyers & Legends of Manatee County – Second Edition*, documents the people and moments that have shaped Manatee County's legal and civic history, ensuring that future generations remain connected to the community's roots.

The ceremony brought together community leaders, alumni, and supporters to celebrate Judge Smith's remarkable legacy and the positive difference he continues to make throughout Manatee County. Congratulations, Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr.!



Judge Nicholas, Judge Elect Andrea Johnson, Judge Doyle, Judge Inman, Judge Smith, Judge Gould and Judge Williams

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CHANGING TIDES: BENCH BAR 2026



*Attorney Anne Chapman with
MCBA President Elect
Dan Van Etten and Judge Elect
Andrea Johnson*

The legal community of Florida's 12th Judicial Circuit gathered on Friday, May 8th for an exceptional day of education, collaboration, and connection at the luxurious The St. Regis Longboat Key Resort during the 2026 Bench Bar Conference. Hosted jointly by the Sarasota County Bar Association and the Manatee County Bar Association, the conference brought together judges, attorneys, and legal professionals from across the circuit for a dynamic program centered on this year's timely theme, "Changing Tides: How AI and the New Rules Are Reshaping the Legal Profession."

Set against the breathtaking Gulf-front backdrop of Longboat Key, attendees enjoyed a day filled with thought-provoking discussions, practical insights, and invaluable networking opportunities. From the moment guests arrived in the grand ballroom foyer, the atmosphere buzzed with conversation as colleagues reunited over coffee, exchanged ideas, and connected with members of the judiciary in a collegial and welcoming setting.

The conference featured an impressive lineup of distinguished speakers and panelists from across Florida's legal landscape, including members of the Florida Supreme Court, the United States District Courts, and the Second District Court of Appeal. Sessions explored emerging issues involving artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, ethics, appellate practice, civil procedure, and legislative developments impacting the profession.

Among the highlights was a powerful panel moderated by Chief Judge Diana Moreland examining how artificial intelligence is transforming the practice of law. Attendees also enjoyed insightful presentations on real estate trends, overlapping family and business disputes, and the growing concerns surrounding elder exploitation in the digital age. The conference successfully blended cutting-edge legal education with meaningful dialogue between the bench and bar, reinforcing the strong professional relationships that are essential to the administration of justice within the circuit.



*Judges Hillary Ellis
and Heather Doyle*



*Mike & Carlye Barberio
of Heritage Process*

In addition to educational programming, the event offered numerous opportunities for fellowship and professional camaraderie. The elegant setting of the St. Regis Resort provided the perfect environment for attorneys and judges to engage in conversations outside the courtroom, strengthening the collaborative spirit that defines the 12th Judicial Circuit legal community.

The 12th Judicial Circuit Bench Bar Conference once again proved to be one of the premier legal events in the region as an inspiring and forward-looking gathering that celebrated professionalism, innovation, and the enduring partnership between the bench and bar.



MCBA Executive Director Graceann Frederico



Bench Bar Judicial Panel

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YLD ELECTS 2026-27 BOARD MEMBERS

The Young Lawyers Division of the MCBA has elected its 2026-27 Board of Directors!

Tyler Dixon, Esq. of Berlin Patten Ebling has been elected as President and Max Shrem, Esq. of Hale Law will service as the Vice President. Matt Unzicker, Esq. of Berlin Patten Ebling will return as YLD Treasurer along with Abigail Galati, Esq. of Barnes Walker as Secretary. Other Directors are:

Lex Sayre, Esq.; Lutz Bobo Telfair
Jennifer Myers, Esq.; State Attorney's Office
Spencer Heintz, Esq.; Heintz Law
Simone Taitano, Esq.; Barnes Walker
Lauren Ravazzoli, Esq.; Barnes Walker
Caroline Tschida, Esq.; Barnes Walker
Elizabeth Campbell, Esq.; Harllee & Bald
William Galvano, Esq.; Grimes Galvano
Kaitlyn Ford, Esq.; Blalock Walters
Daniela Gomez, Esq.; Gomez Legal
Chad Manausa, Esq.; Grimes Galvano

The YLD Board of Directors will be sworn in at the June 2026 Annual Membership Meeting.

ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2026-27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE

The Nominating Committee of the MCBA announced at the Law Day Luncheon its Board of Directors slate for 2026-27. Election for Officers and Directors will be held on Wednesday, June 24th at the Annual Membership Luncheon.

The following have been nominated:

<i>President</i>	<i>Daniel Van Etten, Esq.; Blalock Walters</i>
<i>President Elect</i>	<i>Joseph Battaglia, Esq.; Battaglia Law</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Kari Martin, Esq.; Najmy Thompson</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Brian Iten, Esq.; Manatee County Sheriff's Office</i>
<i>Imm. Past President</i>	<i>James Lynch, Esq.; Harllee & Bald</i>
<i>Directors are:</i>	<i>Hon. Robert Farrance</i>
	<i>Aaron Crittenden, Esq.; Harllee & Bald</i>
	<i>Steele Williams, Esq.; Steele Williams Law</i>
	<i>Chad Manausa, Esq.; Grimes Galvano</i>
	<i>Faith Brown, Esq.; Brown & Brown Legal</i>
	<i>Dustin Wagner, Esq.; Lightning Law</i>
	<i>Tyler Dixon, Esq.; Berlin Patten Ebling, YLD President</i>

Sasso Appointed as Vice Chair to The Florida Bar Senior Lawyers Committee!

Recently, MCBA Member Michael Sasso, Esq. was appointed as Vice Chair of The Florida Bar Senior Lawyers Committee by TFB President Elect Michael Fox-Orr. Sasso served six years on the Family Law Rules Committee, where he served three years as Vice Chair. He also served six years on the Rules of

General Practice and Judicial Administration. He is currently completing a three-year term on the Client Security Fund; and was recently reappointed to serve on the Client Security Fund Committee for a second three-year term.



DID YOU RENEW
YOUR DUES?





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Save the Date

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WHEN

August 21, 2026

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WHERE

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More details on registration are coming soon.

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Stephen W. Thompson, Esq.
Louis J. Najmy, Esq.
Richard A. Weller, Esq.
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Kari L. Martin, Esq.

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MEMBERS OUT & ABOUT

Recently, Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr., Mark Barnebey and Tom Moseley were spotted at the 2026 Manatee High School Alumni Association Dinner. Judge Smith was awarded the "Outstanding Alumni" award by MHSAA President, John Vita.





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SkylawSRQ services are offered as authorized by Florida Bar Rule 4-5.8. Before accepting payment or confirming appointments, attorneys should conduct their normal client intake to make sure there is no ethical impediment to providing this service. A participating attorney who is part of a Law Firm, Legal Corporation, Law Partnership, or LLC will reconcile their participation in accordance with their legal entity's internal policies and procedures regarding client conflicts and malpractice coverage. In the event of a conflict, the Sarasota County Librarian should be informed and will seek a substitute.

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It's Time to Renew Your MCBA Membership!

If you are an MCBA member, your dues renewal invoice was sent to your email!

Now through the end of June, all MCBA members are encouraged to renew online for the **2026-27 membership year**. Renew by **July 1** to avoid additional fees and ensure uninterrupted inclusion in the **Official Manatee County Bar Online Membership Directory**.

Your MCBA membership offers outstanding value, including:

- **Complimentary meals** at our General Membership Luncheons
- **Online directory listing** on the MCBA website (public and searchable)
- **Free or low-cost CLE opportunities**
- **Free or discounted tickets** to signature events such as:
 - Annual Holiday Party
 - Spring Social/Beach Party Events
 - Vintage Attorney Recognition/Past President Event
 - Law Day Luncheon
 - Java with the Judges
 - Young Lawyers Division events
 - And more!
- **Digital subscription** to *Inter Alia*, our member newsletter

Renew online by July 1 and you'll also be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Amazon Gift Card! The winner will be notified by email and announced in the Summer 2026 edition of *Inter Alia*.

If you would like to renew today, please use the following link:

Renew today:

<https://manateebar.com/renewal-form/>

IN THE CIRCUIT AND COUNTY COURTS OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR MANATEE, SARASOTA AND DESOTO COUNTIES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2026-05a.4
(Amends 2026-05.4)

THIRD AMENDED JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS 2026

The following judicial assignments are effective August 3, 2026.

Chief Judge	Honorable Diana L. Moreland
Acting Chief Judge (in absence of Chief Judge)	Honorable Frederick P. Mercurio
DeSoto County Administrative Judge	Honorable Don T. Hall
Manatee County Administrative Judge	Honorable Frederick P. Mercurio
Sarasota County Administrative Judge	Honorable Hunter W. Carroll

CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

Civil Division

Honorable Hunter W. Carroll (Sarasota County)
Honorable Charles Sniffen (Manatee County)

Unified Family Court (DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties - has operational authority to implement UFC policy and procedures circuit-wide)
Honorable Edward Nicholas

Family Division

Honorable Andrea McHugh (Sarasota County)
Honorable Edward Nicholas (Manatee County)

Hague Convention Cases (pursuant to AO 2025-19.12)

Honorable Andrea McHugh (Sarasota and DeSoto counties)
Honorable Edward Nicholas (Manatee County)

Criminal Division

Honorable Danielle Brewer (Sarasota County)
Honorable Frederick P. Mercurio (Manatee County)

Probate/Guardianship Division

Honorable Charles E. Williams (Manatee and Sarasota County)

CIRCUIT CIVIL – MANATEE & SARASOTA COUNTIES

Civil Division B	Manatee County	Honorable Charles Sniffen
Civil Division D	Manatee County	Honorable Stephen Matt Whyte
Civil Division A	Sarasota County	Honorable Dana Moss
Civil Division C	Sarasota County	Honorable Andrea M. Johnson
Civil Division H	South Sarasota County	Honorable Kevin Bruning
Civil Division R	Manatee and Sarasota counties	Honorable Diana L. Moreland

CIRCUIT CIVIL MAJOR TRIAL DIVISION – ALL COUNTIES

Civil Trial Division T All Counties	Honorable Hunter W. Carroll
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CIRCUIT CRIMINAL – MANATEE & SARASOTA COUNTIES

Felony Division I	Manatee County	Honorable David Ryan Felix
Felony Division III	Manatee County	Honorable Frederick P. Mercurio
Felony Division V	Manatee County	Honorable Guy Flowers
Felony Division II	Sarasota County	Honorable Donna Padar
Felony Division IV	Sarasota County	Honorable Thomas W. Krug
Felony Division VI	Sarasota County	Honorable Danielle Brewer

UNIFIED FAMILY COURT – MANATEE & SARASOTA COUNTIES

A. FAMILY DIVISION- MANATEE & SARASOTA COUNTIES

Family Division 3	Manatee County	Honorable Edward Nicholas
Family Division 4	Manatee County	Honorable Kennedy Legler
Family Division 1	Sarasota County	Honorable Rochelle T. Curley
Family Division 2	Sarasota County	Honorable Andrea McHugh
South County Family Division 1		Honorable Kevin Bruning
South County Family Division 2		Honorable Andrea McHugh

B. JUVENILE DIVISION - MANATEE & SARASOTA COUNTIES

Division J	Manatee County	Honorable Teresa K. Dees
	<i>Dependency cases</i>	
Division K	Manatee County	Honorable Susan B. Maulucci
	<i>Delinquency cases, crossover cases</i>	
	Sarasota County	Honorable Maria Ruhl
	<i>All Dependency and Delinquency cases</i>	

PROBATE & GUARDIANSHIP DIVISION -MANATEE & SARASOTA COUNTIES

Manatee County	Honorable Charles E. Williams
Sarasota County	Honorable Charles E. Williams
South County Probate & Guardianship	Honorable Charles E. Williams

CIRCUIT COURT – DESOTO COUNTY

Circuit Civil (other than Divisions R and T), Unified Family, Circuit Criminal, Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency, Probate and Guardianship	Honorable Don T. Hall
Civil Division R	Honorable Diana L. Moreland
Major Trial Division T	Honorable Hunter W. Carroll

PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS – DIVISION P

Division P Administrative Judge		Honorable Stephen Walker
Comprehensive Treatment Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Stephen Walker
Drug /Opioid/ Veteran's Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Stephen Walker
DUI Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Stephen Walker
Health Care Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Stephen Walker
Community Care Court	Manatee County	Honorable Stephen Walker
CTC Manatee	Manatee County	Honorable Stephen Walker
Drug Court, Veteran's Court	Manatee County	Honorable Stephen Walker
Independent Living	Manatee County	Honorable Stephen Walker

All problem-solving courts are assigned to Division P. The problem-solving courts listed below are presided over by the following judges:

DeSoto Drug Court	DeSoto County	Honorable Guy Flowers
Early Childhood Court	Manatee County	Honorable Teresa K. Dees
TYLA Court	Manatee County	Honorable Susan B. Maulucci
Community Care Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Megan Leaf
Early Childhood Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Maria Ruhl
OPTIONS Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Maria Ruhl
Truancy Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Andrea McHugh
TYLA Court	Sarasota County	Honorable Shannon Hankin

COUNTY COURT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

DeSoto County	Honorable TBD
Manatee County	Honorable Renee L. Inman
Sarasota County	Honorable Maryann Olson Uzabel

DESOTO COUNTY COURT

All County Civil and Criminal	Honorable TBD
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MANATEE COUNTY COURT

Please see Administrative Order 2026-04.4 for case types assigned to each division.

Division 1	Honorable Renee L. Inman
Division 2	Honorable Hillary Ellis
Division 3	Honorable Jacqueline B. Steele
Division 4	Honorable Melissa Gould
Division 5	Honorable Heather Doyle

SARASOTA COUNTY COURT

Criminal/Civil Division A	Honorable Maryann Olson Uzabel
Criminal/Civil Division B	Honorable TBD
Criminal/Civil Division C	Honorable Shannon Hankin
South County Criminal/Civil Division E	Honorable Erika N. Quartermaine
South County Criminal/Civil Division F	Honorable Megan Leaf

GENERAL MAGISTRATES/HEARING OFFICERS

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Vincent A. Giura
Laura M. Hale
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Lawrence Jacobs
Michael L. King
Rebecca L. Mockovciak
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Laura M. Hale
Lawrence Jacobs
Michael L. King

TRUANCY COURT GENERAL MAGISTRATES

Nicole Cameron
Linda Lorrier

CIVIL TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS HEARING OFFICER

Matthew K. Peters

DONE AND ORDERED in Bradenton, Manatee County, on May 29, 2026.

DIANA L. MORELAND, CHIEF JUDGE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF FLORIDA

Original: Clerk of Court, Sarasota County

Copy to: All Judges, Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Kimberly Miller, Court Administrator, Twelfth Judicial Circuit
IT Dept.
Clerk of Court, Manatee County
Clerk of Court, DeSoto County
All Law Enforcement Agencies, Twelfth Judicial Circuit
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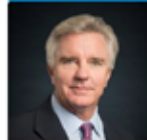
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CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY IN BRADENTON: Fireworks, Family Fun & America 250

Get ready to celebrate America's birthday, and our nation's 250th anniversary, with a full lineup of Independence Day festivities throughout Bradenton and Manatee County!

The centerpiece of the celebration will be the annual fireworks spectacular over the Manatee River on Friday, July 4. Residents and visitors are invited to gather along the beautiful Bradenton Riverwalk and Rossi Park beginning in the late afternoon for an evening filled with live entertainment, food vendors, family activities, and patriotic fun. The fireworks display, launched near the Green Bridge, is expected to light up the sky shortly after 9:00 p.m., providing breathtaking views from both the Bradenton and Palmetto waterfronts.

Families will find plenty to enjoy before the fireworks begin, including children's play zones, splash park activities, live music performances, local vendors, and a variety of food trucks. Community celebrations on both sides of the river will create a festive atmosphere as thousands gather to honor our nation's independence.

Baseball fans can kick off the holiday *a day early* on July 3rd, at LECOM Park, where patriotic festivities traditionally include

a Bradenton Marauders game and a post-game fireworks show. The first 1500 fans typically receive a free, exclusive Independence Day themed t-shirt.

For those heading west to the islands, the beloved Anna Maria Island Privateers Parade and Water Fight offers a uniquely Florida celebration featuring pirate-themed floats, community spirit, and plenty of opportunities to cool off in the summer sun. If you don't want to get wet, stay home!

Whether you choose the excitement of the riverfront festivities, an evening at the ballpark, or a beachside celebration, Independence Day in Bradenton promises unforgettable memories for the entire family. Bring your lawn chairs, wear your red, white, and blue, and join the community as we celebrate freedom, patriotism, and America's 250-year journey.

Happy Independence Day from the Manatee County Bar Association!

**Event schedules and times may be subject to change. Attendees should check official event organizers' websites and social media pages for the most current information before attending.*



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NOTICE OF THE TWELFTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10, 2026

CONTACT: Hunter G. Norton, Chair

Twelfth Circuit Judicial Nomination Committee

Telephone: (941) 364-2771

Notice is hereby given that the Twelfth Circuit Nominating Commission has extended the deadline for judicial applications for vacancies in the Sarasota County Court, DeSoto County Court and the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court. The new deadline is June 22, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Anyone interested is encouraged to apply. Applications can be found at:

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



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