



INTER ALIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE
COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2026

*News, invitations,
photos and more*

A FISTFUL OF LIBERTY

A Year Worth Celebrating

IT'S TIME TO RENEW DUES!

*Coming Up: Beyond the
Runway*

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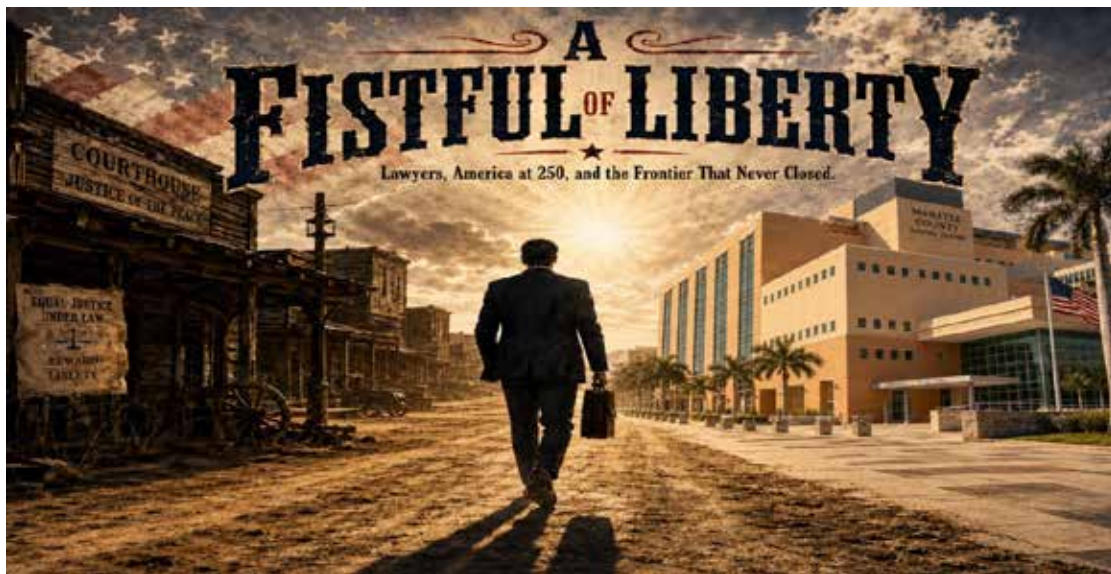
CHARLES W. TELFAIR, IV PAST MCBA PRESIDENT



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*By Dustin Wagner, Esq.,
MCBA Past President*

As our Nation rides toward her 250th birthday, I find myself less inclined to recite a dry history lesson about powdered wigs and the who's who of our forefathers. My mind roams instead to the frontier of the old West - dusty trails, hard miles, unsettled ground, clinking spurs, and the American mettle of high-noon confrontations. That imagery resembles the practice of law more than we may care to admit. Beneath the polished suits and formal briefs lies that same raw, combative instinct, innate in us today as it was generations ago to defend Liberty on an untamed frontier.

The old West may have given the United States bravado, but the law gave that energy its soul and moral direction. What makes our national character unique is that the fight for liberty has never been fully settled. It has moved from the founding to Reconstruction, from civil rights to criminal procedure, from free speech to privacy, from the courthouse steps to whatever overwhelming digital frontier comes next. Each generation inherits new ground to test and old promises to defend – often in dark valleys where the Constitution either means something or it does not. We may not carry six-shooters anymore, but in this country, one lawyer with a license, a pleading, and enough nerve to press the issue can still make power answer. That is the “have license, will travel” spirit of American law.

As lawyers, we know signing up a client is rarely as simple as stamping a few documents, collecting your retainer, and riding off into the sunset. Some clients arrive at your office like desperate townspeople fresh from Tombstone. They try to convince you that nefarious characters have disrupted their way of life, and you need to unholster your bar license and set things right once and for all. Strip away the drama and there is something distinctly American that remains. In this country, even the rattled, wounded, or outmatched citizen can walk into a lawyer's office and still believe the system gives them a fighting chance.

Liberty is not a relic we admire behind glass in Philadelphia. It is a bell that still rings, and lawyers are among those called to answer it. Our system of justice requires courage. When opposing counsel gallops into town expecting an easy win, we do not hide on rooftops or vanish into the crowd. We stand in the open. The courthouse may not have swinging saloon doors, but it is still where the hour of constitutional reckoning happens. This modern showdown comes with pleadings, objections, cross-examination, and the only thing ricocheting is the judge's voice off your eardrum when you confidently argue an issue previously ruled on twice.

America loves the legend of the lone rider saving the town, but the truer American story is not the myth of one hero. It is the stubborn national habit of standing back up, arguing again, appealing again, and refusing to accept the horizon as the final word. At 250, America still has valleys to cross, rivers to ford, and black hats to confront. The frontier did not close. It got a docket number. Mount up.



Paul Hoback, President & Chief CEO
Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**Free for MCBA Members
\$35 for guests**

Wednesday, September 30th, 2026

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

Paul Hoback brings more than 25 years of leadership experience in the aviation industry to his role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority, which operates the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport.

Prior to joining SRQ, Hoback served as Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer for the Allegheny County Airport Authority, which operates Pittsburgh International Airport and Allegheny County Airport. In this role, he provided leadership, oversight, and strategic direction for all capital development projects, public safety, maintenance, and operations. This included leading PIT's \$1.7 billion Terminal Modernization Program and \$220 million Airside Renovation.

Hoback now leads SRQ during a time of strategic growth and expansion, focused on enhancing passenger experience, strengthening community partnerships, and ensuring the airport's continued economic impact on the Sarasota-Bradenton region.

Special Thanks to Our Annual Sponsors



LAST CHANCE!



**If you are an MCBA member,
your dues renewal invoice was sent
to your email (several times, actually).**

If you haven't received your email receipt, your dues are now late! This is your last chance 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 your membership using the following link:

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

MCBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wed, August 12, 2026	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wed, August 19, 2026	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wed, September 2, 2026	MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wed, September 9, 2026	MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wed, September 30, 2026	September Membership Luncheon
Wed, October 28, 2026	October Membership Luncheon
Fri, December 4, 2026	Annual Holiday Party
Wed, January 27, 2027	January Membership Luncheon
Wed, February 24, 2027	February Membership Luncheon
Wed, March 31, 2027	March Membership Luncheon
Wed, May 19, 2027	LAW DAY LUNCHEON
Wed, June 30, 2027	Annual Membership Luncheon

CONGRATULATIONS SEAN POWERS!

Sean Powers renewed
his dues on time and
is the winner of our
\$50 Amazon gift card!



*Thank you to all
who renewed by July 1st !*

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JAMIE MENDELSON

**Life Insurance is an Asset: The Strategic Importance of Maximizing
Value in Modern Planning**

*1 credit pending approval for Attorney, CFP, CPA and Trust Officers.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

Registration and Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

Program: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

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2635 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota FL



Bradenton Banking Center Open House

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A Year Worth Celebrating

By Chad Manausa, YLD President



As this board year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on what the MCBA Young Lawyers Division accomplished in 2025/2026. It has been a remarkable year, and the credit belongs to a group of dedicated volunteers/board members who showed up, worked hard, and delivered programming that genuinely moved the needle for young lawyers in Manatee County.

Our approach from day one was simple, with a small board and a modest budget, focus on what matters most: real connections between real people. No flashy productions. No expensive venues. Just meaningful programming that put young lawyers in the same room as judges, community leaders, neighboring bars, and each other.

Building Bridges with the Bench

Some of our most impactful programming centered on judicial access, something every young litigator needs and few get enough of. Java with the Judges in February brought attorneys and members of the Second District Court of Appeal together over coffee and pastries in the courthouse law library. The format was relaxed, the conversation candid, and the feedback from attendees was unanimous: they left feeling more comfortable walking into a courtroom.

We also hosted two intimate Table for Ten dinners, with Judges Whyte and Hayworth in the spring and Judge Sniffen in the fall. These small-group dinners became our most requested events of the year. When you sit across from a judge over a three-course meal and talk openly about advocacy, professionalism, and the realities of practice, something shifts. Attendees consistently told us they left feeling more known and more confident.

Serving the Public

Art in the Courthouse continued its run as our longest-standing public service initiative. Again, this year, we coordinated with local schools and senior communities to

rotate student and senior artwork through the hallways of the Manatee County Courthouse, turning an institutional space into something warmer and more welcoming for litigants, jurors, and visitors alike.

Our flagship civic event, Spheres of Influence, brought together an extraordinary lineup of local leaders—Sheriff Rick Wells, Clerk of Court Angel Colonnese, Deputy County Administrator Courtney De Pol, State College of Florida President Tommy Gregory, and CPA John Vita—for a moderated panel followed by small-group roundtables. Young lawyers left with a deeper understanding of how law intersects with government, education, and finance, and with relationships that will serve their clients for years to come.

Collaboration Across County Lines

We also made a point to build relationships beyond our own county. A fall tailgate at the Arcadia Rodeo gave members a chance to connect with colleagues from neighboring bars in a relaxed, informal setting. And we closed the fall with a joint event alongside the Florida Bar's Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section at Harlee & Bald, which opened doors for several of our members to statewide bar involvement.

Thank You

None of this happened because of one person. It happened because we have a board that shows up, a membership that participates, and a broader bar association that believes in what young lawyers can contribute. To the judges who opened their schedules, the community leaders who shared their time, and every attorney who attended even one event this year—thank you.

The MCBA YLD is in good hands. I cannot wait to watch what comes next.

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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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



A New Year of Leadership Begins at the MCBA Annual Meeting

The Manatee County Bar Association officially kicked off another exciting year during our Annual Meeting, on Wednesday, June 24th, 2026, where members gathered to celebrate accomplishments, recognize dedicated leaders, and welcome the officers who will guide the Association in the year ahead.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the swearing-in ceremony, as our newly elected officers took the oath of office and committed to serving the legal community with integrity, professionalism, and enthusiasm. Chief Judge Diana Moreland administered the Oath of Office to both the MCBA and Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors. Their willingness to lead ensures that the MCBA continues its long tradition of supporting the bench, bar, and the citizens of Manatee County.

The program featured an outstanding lineup of guest speakers who inspired attendees with messages of resilience, compassion, and community impact. The Honorable Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr. shared thoughtful remarks on leadership and the important role the legal profession plays in serving the public with integrity.

Melissa Wandall, founder of The Wandall Foundation, spoke about transforming personal tragedy into advocacy through efforts to improve roadway safety and support victims' families. Her inspiring story reminded attendees that one person's determination can create lasting change for countless others.

Sarah Wertheimer, Executive Director of Embracing Our Differences, introduced members to the organization's mission of using art and education to inspire kindness throughout the community. Her presentation highlighted the powerful role that empathy and understanding play in creating stronger, more connected communities.

In addition to welcoming new leadership, the Annual Meeting offered an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of the past year. From outstanding CLE programs and community service projects to networking events, Young Lawyers Division initiatives, and opportunities to connect with our local judiciary, the MCBA continues to provide meaningful value to its members.

As we begin our 124th year, we extend our sincere appreciation to our outgoing officers and board members for their dedication and countless volunteer hours. We also congratulate our incoming leadership team and look forward to seeing their vision come to life.

The future is bright for the Manatee County Bar Association, and we are excited to continue building relationships, advancing the legal profession, and serving our community together. Here's to another successful year of learning, leadership, and fellowship!



MCBA President James Lynch, Esq., Sarah Wertheimer of Embracing Our Differences, Kari Martin, Esq., MCBA Treasurer



Left to Right: Tom Moseley, Esq., Judge Robert Farrance, Marjorie Chalfant, Esq., Melissa Wandall, Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr., MCBA President James Lynch, Damian Ozark, Esq.



Chief Judge Diana Moreland swearing in MCBA Board and YLD Board members

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Stetson Business Law Review

The Stetson Business Law Review is now accepting article proposals and manuscript submissions for our Spring 2027 General Issue (Vol. 6, Issue 2). We welcome submissions on any topic related to business law, particularly work that advances new theories or approaches or provides practical insights for practitioners.

Submission Information

- **Deadline:** September 15, 2026 (rolling review)
- **Submit via:** Scholastica or by emailing Lorraine Johnson at ljohnson@law.stetson.edu
- **Email Subject Line:** "Spring 2027 Submission"
- **Please include:** A current CV and an abstract or complete manuscript

For any questions regarding submissions, please contact Lorraine Johnson at ljohnson@law.stetson.edu.

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

The Manatee County Attorney's Office is seeking an Assistant County Attorney to join its team. The County Attorney's Office comprehensively serves the legal needs of the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners, as the governing body of Manatee County, and renders legal advice to the Board, the County Administrator, and to departments and agencies under the jurisdiction of the Board. Assistant County Attorneys perform a variety of highly responsible and often complex work. Candidates with at least three years of experience in any combination of these practice areas will be considered: administrative hearings, appellate practice, city/county/local government, contracts, eminent domain, labor and employment, land use, litigation, procurement, public finance and bonds, public utilities, transactional, and real estate. Manatee County offers a comprehensive benefits package, including a Telecommuting Program. A cover letter and resume may be submitted to patricia.nolan@mymanatee.org. Writing samples and references may be requested. Manatee County is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer.

12th Circuit Shines at the 2026 Florida Bar Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference



Left to right (top row): Anne Hunter, Esq. (Manatee FAWL), Jessica Close, Esq. (Sarasota County Bar), Forest Sutton, Esq., (Sarasota County Bar), Graceann Frederico, Executive Director (Manatee County Bar), Colleen Wapole, Esq. (FAWL), Holly Lipps, Executive Director (Sarasota County Bar)

Representatives from the 12th Judicial Circuit enjoyed connecting with bar leaders from across Florida during the 2026 Florida Bar Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference.

The 12th Judicial Circuit was well represented at the **2026 Florida Bar Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference (VBLC)**, held July 10–11 in beautiful Delray Beach. The annual conference brought together voluntary bar leaders from across the state for two days of leadership development, fresh ideas, and valuable networking opportunities.

Our Executive Director, Graceann Frederico (pictured) and MCBA President Dan Van Etten (not pictured) joined colleagues from bars large and small to exchange innovative ideas, learn new strategies for member engagement, and explore ways to strengthen local bar associations. Between educational sessions, conversations with fellow leaders, and a little Florida sunshine, there was no shortage of inspiration.

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Barnes Walker is a proud fixture of the Bradenton legal community, with a long history of serving clients across Manatee and Sarasota County. We are seeking a motivated Litigation Associate with a minimum of 2 years of experience to join our civil litigation department.

This is a hands-on role for an attorney who is ready to hit the ground running. You will manage case files from start to finish, work directly with clients, and take an active role in hearings, depositions, and trials. Our boutique environment means you won't only be buried in document review - you'll be doing real litigation work from day one, with the mentorship and support of an established firm behind you.

Our practice covers business and corporate litigation, real property disputes, land use matters, and trust and probate litigation. Experience in any of these areas is a plus, as is familiarity with Lexis Nexis and Florida civil procedure. Florida Bar membership is required.

Our firm is ideally located in Bradenton, FL, centrally located between the white powder sand beaches, waterfront restaurants, boating, and watersports of Anna Maria Island; the fine dining, culture, and arts of Sarasota and St. Petersburg; and the vibrant urban social scene and nightlife of Tampa.

We are a close-knit, family-oriented firm, and we take that seriously. The right candidate shares our commitment to being the best possible advocate for our clients and to serving this community with integrity.

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To apply to become a member of our firm, please submit your resume to ccoey@barneswalker.com.

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SkylawSRQ provides an opportunity for those in need of legal services in non-criminal civil matters to obtain a consultation with a member of The Florida Bar at minimal expense.

We are looking for more attorneys who wish to participate! The program is currently in a pre-launch phase until we get a core group of attorneys engaged. Your support is vital in helping us reach that goal. Currently, only the Attorney Registration page is active on the website (SkylawSRQ.com/attorneys). Once the program launches, all website pages will be open to the public.

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Family Law

Property Law

100% of the fee goes to the attorney. Open to attorneys who maintain an office in the 12th Judicial Circuit. All sessions are scheduled by clients online at SkylawSRQ.com and are held virtually. Calendar and open appointments are updated regularly based on attorney availability in each practice area as submitted to program administrators. Consultations scheduled through Skylaw are designed for legal matters that are short-term and do not require a long-term contract with a lawyer.

SkylawSRQ services are offered as authorized by Florida Bar Rule 4-6.8. Before accepting payment or confirming appointments, attorneys should conduct their normal client contact review 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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Manatee Clerk Recognized Statewide for Protecting Residents' Records, Funds, and Legal Rights

When you request that a court record be sealed, wait for unclaimed funds owed to you, or trust the Clerk's office to invest public dollars responsibly, you're counting on that office to follow the rules correctly. For the sixth consecutive year, the Manatee Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller is doing exactly that — earning Recognition of Excellence in all 10 categories of the Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers' (FCCC) Best Practices Excellence Program.

The recognition, presented during a ceremony at FCCC's summer conference, covers areas that directly affect residents: protecting exempt personal information from public exposure, sealing and expunging criminal records, returning unclaimed funds to their rightful owners, and following sound investment and procurement policies with public money. It also covers areas that keep the court system fair and efficient for everyone who uses it, including how fee waivers, case transfers, and vexatious litigants are handled.

Manatee was one of just 38 offices statewide — out of 58 participating Clerks and Comptrollers — to achieve full Recognition of Excellence across every category evaluated this year.

"This recognition isn't just a certificate — it's confirmation that my office is doing right by the residents who trust us with their



records, their funds, and their cases," said Angel Colonnese, Esq., Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller for Manatee County.

The Best Practices Excellence Program, established in 2020 and built on more than 20 years of collaboration among Florida's Clerks and Comptrollers, evaluates offices through assessments tied to standards set annually by the FCCC

Best Practices Committee, chaired by Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Ken Burke, CPA. This year, 58 offices participated, together completing 511 assessments.

The 10 categories evaluated this year were:

- DOR Parenting Plan Fee Waivers
- Ensuring the Adoption of Relevant Financial Policies
- Investment Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Reopen Fees for Civil Cases
- Requests to Redact Exempt Personal Information
- Sealing and Expunging Criminal Court Records
- Transfer of Civil Cases
- Unclaimed Funds
- Vexatious Litigants



CAN YOU ASSIST WITH FINDING THE FOLLOWING WILL?

Peter Edmond Zaloum

Last Known Street Address: **4724 Silvermoss Drive**

City/Town: **Sarasota, FL 34243**

Date of Birth: **4/21/1946**

Date of Death: **1/12/2026**

Approximate Timeframe Will May Have Been Created: **2021**

Previously lived in Knoxville, TN
and had an IHOP in Calhoun, GA

Please Contact with Any Information:

**Georgette Morgan, (561) 942-6336
or email: gneama@comcast.net**

Trauma-Informed Justice: Turning Insight into Action

Empower the family courtroom to become a catalyst for lasting family stability. This conference brings judges, attorneys, and paralegals together to explore trauma-informed strategies that reduce conflict, strengthen decision-making, and break the cycle of repeat filings. Discover practical tools that transform how families experience the legal system — and how the legal system supports families on a healthier path forward.

PROGRAM AGENDA

8:30 - 8:45 AM	Welcome & Introductions	Mag. Larry Jacobs Chief Judge Diana Moreland
8:45 - 9:30 AM	The Why Behind the Work: ACEs and Their Impact on Families in Court *	Hon. Jack Helinger (Ret.)
9:30 - 10:20 AM	Replicable Wins: Trauma-Informed Approaches from Other Circuits *	Dr. Christine Profito Sarah E. Kay
10:20 - 10:30 AM	Break	
10:30 - 11:15 AM	Inside the Trauma Response: A Psych Perspective on Supporting Children and Families *	Dr. Christine Profito
11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Courtroom Challenges Through a Trauma Lens: Solutions That Work *	Hon. Kevin Bruning
12:00 - 12:45 PM	Beyond the Courtroom: Community Supports for Trauma-Affected Families *	HOPE / Centerstone SPAARC
12:45 - 1:00 PM	Closing Comments	Mag. Larry Jacobs

[Register Here](#)



Manatee Clerk Launches A New Online Platform For Property Tax Appeals

New system lets homeowners file, pay, and track Value Adjustment Board petitions from any device — and automatically pulls property details to save time and reduce errors

The Manatee Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller has launched Equity Bridge Pro, a new online platform for filing a petition with the Value Adjustment Board (VAB) — becoming the first county in Florida to use this particular system.

Previously, petitioners filed by mail, email, or in person, and staff manually processed each case — collecting the \$50 filing fee, entering data by hand, and coordinating hearing dates individually. That process could take several weeks before a case was fully scheduled. Equity Bridge Pro consolidates each step into a single online system.

Property owners who want to dispute their property tax assessment can now file a petition from a computer, tablet, or phone. The platform is free to join and keeps payments, reminders, hearing dates, and documents in one place — with all messages and reminders sent automatically, so petitioners always know their case status without calling the office.

Equity Bridge Pro connects directly with the Property Appraiser's Office, automatically filling in property details on the petition to save time and reduce typos or missing information. If a petitioner notices incorrect information pulled from the Property Appraiser's records, they can contact the VAB team by email at vab@manateeclerk.com to request a correction.

The platform also gives property owners, attorneys, magistrates, and the Property Appraiser shared access to the same case information — replacing the fragmented, manual coordination the process has relied on until now. For residents who prefer not to file online, paper filing remains available through the Clerk's Board Records department, which manages the VAB process.

For Clerk's office staff, consolidating the process into a single system reduces manual data entry and administrative back-and-forth, freeing up time to focus on more ways to serve the public.

"Every property owner deserves a simple, transparent way to exercise their right to appeal," said Angel Colonnese, Esq., Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller for Manatee County. "Equity Bridge Pro puts the entire process in one place, so residents spend less time navigating paperwork and more time getting answers."

To create a free account and file a petition, visit <https://www.manateeclerk.com/departments/value-adjustment-board/>.



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Jeffrey S. Goethe, Esq.
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Brandon Robinson, Esq.
Juris Doctor and a Certificate of Concentration in Elder Law



Andrew L. Clark, Esq.



Kevin M. Colver, Esq.
LL.M., Taxation, University of Florida



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The firm's Wills, Trusts, and Estates attorneys handle matters relating to:

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- Homestead issues
- Wills & Trusts
- Estate and gift tax planning
- Elective share and surviving spouse rights

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CAN YOU ASSIST WITH FINDING THE FOLLOWING WILL?

Donita Jenise King

Last Known Street Address: **7018 Pleasant Hill Rd.**

City/Town: **Bradenton, FL 34203**

Date of Birth: **09/23/1960**

Date of Death: **06/03/2025**

Please Contact with any Information:

Michael J. Cristoforo, Esq.

772-287-2600

mcristoforo@crarybuchanan.com

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1. Our local banking team has many dedicated team members serving the community, including Regional President Chris Perkins, Premier Private Banking Relationship Manager Renee Brady, and Commercial Banking Area Executive Kerry Ward. All are veteran bankers with a wide range of expertise and desire to help both businesses and individuals succeed. Chris has served on the Manatee County Bar Association Grievance Committee, while Renee is currently serving.
2. SouthState is a leading regional bank, providing consumer, commercial, mortgage and wealth management solutions to more than 1.8 million customers throughout Florida, Texas, the Carolinas, Georgia, Colorado, Alabama, Virginia and Tennessee. Our Bank was founded in 1934 on the principles of providing innovative, personalized banking services for all, making our communities a better place to live, and supporting our knowledgeable, experienced bankers. Decades later, we are still taking measurable steps to continue these initiatives.
3. At SouthState, our unique culture sets us apart from our peers. We believe in local market leadership, focusing on the long-term horizon, providing remarkable customer experiences, developing meaningful and lasting relationships, and serving a greater purpose.
4. SouthState is committed to putting our values into action by giving of our time and resources to the communities where we live and work. In 2025, our team members volunteered more than 22,900 hours to nonprofit organizations, schools, national organizations, events and more. Our team members maintain this level of commitment by consistently serving on countless committees and nonprofit boards of directors around the Sarasota and Manatee region.
5. According to Coalition Greenwich, SouthState is tied for the second-highest number of awards for overall client satisfaction in the country and tied for the highest number of awards for Middle Market Banking. In total, our team earned 29 Best Bank Awards in 2026, reflecting our ongoing commitment to creating remarkable client experiences across Small Business, Commercial and Middle Market Banking.

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