



INTER ALIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE MANATEE
COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2026

*News, invitations,
photos and more*

**NO REALISTIC ALTERNATIVE -
LICENSE PLATE READERS**

*Building a Career, Not Just a
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No Realistic Alternative

*License plate readers, Article I, Section 23,
and a question Florida answered in 1989*

By Joseph B. Battaglia, MCBA President-Elect

We all get them. The questions from friends and family members at the weekend backyard barbecue, asking us to play armchair Atticus and weigh in on whatever story is making headlines. Lately I'm getting a lot of questions about the license plate cameras that have been in the news. "Don't they violate the constitution?" they ask. Summoning the two magic words we all utter, seemingly any time we answer anything, I respond, "*It depends*. Which constitution are we talking about?"

No Florida court that I am aware of has answered the question. What follows is how I would outline the brief.

What Are We Actually Analyzing Here?

The cameras in question are automated license plate readers, or ALPRs. They photograph every vehicle that passes, logging not only the license plate number, but also characteristics such as vehicle type, make, color, plate state, missing or covered plates, bumper stickers, decals, roof racks, and even the number of times the vehicle has been seen, creating what the industry markets as a "vehicle fingerprint." A single camera reads plates up to a hundred feet away across two lanes of traffic, and one vendor claims a 97% capture rate. Each image and its metadata go into a searchable database. Cameras can be installed publicly along roadways or privately by shopping centers, businesses, and HOAs. Subscribers can query data from any camera whose owner has opted into sharing. The size of the network is staggering; one vendor reports more than 120,000 cameras across 49 states.¹

These systems have real investigative value. They recover stolen vehicles and help locate missing people. But the barbecue-goers aren't asking me to rank their usefulness; they're asking me if they pass muster.² The constitutional question is narrower: what, if anything, must (or should) the government show before querying the compiled record of where (and when)³ a particular car has been?

The Constitution Everyone Reaches For

The instinct is to look to the Fourth Amendment, and for good reason. In *Carpenter v. United States*, the Supreme Court held that obtaining 127 days of cell-site records was a search, rejecting the argument that public exposure forfeits the privacy interest.⁴

This June, the Court went further in *Chatrue v. United States*, holding that obtaining location data through a geofence warrant is a search notwithstanding the third-party doctrine, and rejecting the argument that a narrow slice of an enormous database is a smaller intrusion.⁵

The Fourth Amendment has limitations. It reaches only government conduct, so the camera an HOA or a shopping center installs on its own property sits outside it entirely. Its remedy is suppression, which requires a prosecution, and so the driver who is never charged has nothing to suppress. And Article I, Section 12 of our own constitution is no help: a conformity clause added by the voters in 1982 binds our courts to federal doctrine and forbids going further.⁶ So in Florida, unless you're charged with a crime, the Fourth Amendment doesn't give you much to work with when it comes to the ALPRs.

The Constitution in Our Own Backyard

Florida Constitution, Article I, Section 23 guarantees that "[e]very natural person has the right to be let alone and free from governmental intrusion into the person's private life." It is freestanding, its drafters deliberately omitted "unreasonable" and "unwarranted" to make it as strong as possible, and it carries no conformity clause.⁷ Once it attaches, the State must show a compelling interest pursued through the least intrusive means.⁸ It also is not confined to criminal cases; declaratory and injunctive relief are ordinary Section 23 remedies, so the driver who is never charged still has something to point to.⁹

We have a case on point, and it's 37 years old. In *Shaktman v. State*, the Florida Supreme Court held that Section 23 is implicated when the government gathers telephone numbers through a pen register. This was ten years after the U.S. Supreme Court found no Fourth Amendment interest in the identical information in *Smith v. Maryland*.¹⁰ The *Shaktman* Court rejected the third-party doctrine outright, holding that the caller's expectation "is not defeated by the fact that the telephone company has that information," and observing, with the Colorado Supreme Court, that it "is somewhat idle to speak of assuming risks" where a phone subscriber "has no realistic alternative."¹¹ That was 1989. It's now 2026, and nobody has a realistic alternative to driving on a road.

Continued on Page 5

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Shaktman also tells us what Section 23 demands once it attaches: procedural safeguards that “at a minimum, necessitate judicial approval prior to the state’s intrusion into a person’s privacy,” a reasonable founded suspicion of criminal use, and a “clear connection between the illegal activity and the person whose privacy would be invaded.”¹² Measure a plate query against *Shaktman* and it satisfies none of the three requirements. No judge approves the query beforehand. No founded suspicion predicates it. And no investigation connects the government to the drivers whose movements were recorded long before anyone suspected anyone of anything. Section 23 has simply never been pointed at them.

I can hear two objections forming, and let me respond to each. First, some of you have pulled out your 2L Con Law study guides and are wondering how we can stand the constitution up against the private camera vendor. I submit that it’s the law enforcement query that we would apply constitutional pressure to, not the initial capture by the ALPR. Second, some of you might be thinking that a warrant requirement may hamstring genuine emergencies. *Carpenter* answers that, preserving exigent circumstances in the same opinion that required the warrant.¹³ The stolen car on State Road 64 is covered, and so is an AMBER or Silver Alert.

I also hear some griping: “If you aren’t doing anything wrong, why should you care?” Ask Chrisanna Elser; a plate reader caught her green Rivian passing through a small Colorado town, near the time a \$25 package vanished from a porch, and a sergeant arrived at her door with a petty theft summons.¹⁴ He offered, as though it were itself incriminating, that the database showed her driving through the town twenty times that month. It took her own

dashcam footage, a Google Maps log, and two weeks to get the summons voided.¹⁵ Ms. Elser had to prove her innocence when the only “evidence” against her was a compiled record of otherwise lawful behavior.

Back to the Barbecue

This is a live question, and it is moving quickly. Vendors have begun tightening their own controls.¹⁶ FDOT recently revoked permits for readers within state highway rights-of-way, which leaves cameras on municipal streets, county roads, and private property untouched.¹⁷ Importantly, the permits were revoked voluntarily and unilaterally by the same agency that issued them in the first place. The cameras came down by memorandum, and can go back up just as easily.

In 1980, Florida’s voters wrote a privacy right into our constitution that most states do not have, and in 1989 our Supreme Court explained how it works when the government compiles a record of your otherwise innocent activity. Does it apply to ALPRs? Nobody has asked a court yet, and until someone does, we can still play armchair Atticus. When the question comes up at the cookout, the best current answer is: It depends. *Explain why*. Then ask them which constitution they’ll reach for when the cameras are pointed at them. Chances are, it’s the one in our own backyard.

Joseph B. Battaglia is board certified in real estate law by The Florida Bar and practices in Lakewood Ranch. He writes at battaglia.law/blog/.

¹Flock Safety Business Breakdown, Contrary Research, <https://research.contrary.com/company/flock-safety> (describing vehicle fingerprint attributes, camera range and lane coverage, and the vendor’s claimed 97% capture rate); City of Campbell, Cal., Flock Safety ALPR, <https://www.campbellca.gov/1260/Flock-Safety-ALPR> (municipal page describing “Vehicle Fingerprint™” technology); City of Loveland, Ohio, Flock Safety Technology, <https://www.lovelandoh.gov/496/Flock-Safety-Technology> (a vehicle fingerprint “includes the license plate, make, model, color, and number of times the vehicle has been seen”); “Flock camera map: How many are in your neighborhood?” Nexstar Media (Aug. 2026), <https://www.newsnationnow.com/business/tech/flock-camera-map/>.

²Being at a barbecue, I tried hard to write a “pass the mustard” joke out of “pass muster,” but I couldn’t land it. So I’ll drop it here. You’re welcome.

³A “where” without a “when” proves nothing, and the reverse proves less. Hermann Minkowski illustrated the point in 1908, explaining that locating an event takes four coordinates — three of space, one of time — and giving the path an object traces through them a name: its “worldline.” Hermann Minkowski, *Raum und Zeit* (Cologne, Sept. 21, 1908), translated at [https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Space_and_Time_\(Hermann_Minkowski\)](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Space_and_Time_(Hermann_Minkowski)). See also StarTalk, *Neil deGrasse Tyson Explains Worldlines*, YouTube (Mar. 29, 2022), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZU9YIktdiA>. An ALPR does not photograph a place. It records an event, and enough events, indexed and searchable, document the worldline of whatever vehicle is being queried.

⁴*Carpenter v. United States*, 585 U.S. 296 (2018).

⁵*Chatrre v. United States*, 609 U.S. ___, No. 25–112 (June 29, 2026) (Kagan, J.) (holding 6–3 that officers conducted a Fourth Amendment search in acquiring location data from Google, because an individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy in cell-phone location information), *vacating and remanding United States v. Chatrre*, 136 F.4th 100 (4th Cir. 2025) (en banc), https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/25pdf/25-112_0am4.pdf.

⁶Art. I, § 12, Fla. Const. (“This right shall be construed in conformity with the 4th Amendment . . . as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court.”); *Perez v. State*, 620 So. 2d 1256, 1258 (Fla. 1993); *Bernie v. State*, 524 So. 2d 988, 992 (Fla. 1988).

⁷Art. I, § 23, Fla. Const.; *Winfield v. Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering*, 477 So. 2d 544, 548 (Fla. 1985).

⁸*Winfield*, 477 So. 2d at 547.

⁹See, e.g., *Rasmussen v. South Florida Blood Service, Inc.*, 500 So. 2d 533 (Fla. 1987) (applying Section 23 to civil discovery).

¹⁰*Shaktman v. State*, 553 So. 2d 148, 151 (Fla. 1989); *Smith v. Maryland*, 442 U.S. 735 (1979).

¹¹*Shaktman*, 553 So. 2d at 151 (quoting *People v. Sporleder*, 666 P.2d 135, 141 (Colo. 1983)).

¹²*Id.* at 152.

¹³*Carpenter*, 585 U.S. at 330 (recognizing pursuit of a fleeing suspect, protection of individuals threatened with imminent harm, and prevention of imminent destruction of evidence as exigencies).

¹⁴“Police used Flock cameras to accuse a Denver woman of package theft. She had her own evidence,” *Denverite* (Oct. 27, 2025), <https://denverite.com/2025/10/27/bow-mar-flock-cameras-accusation/>; “Officer who used Flock cameras to falsely accuse Denver woman of theft will face unspecified disciplinary action,” *The Colorado Sun* (Nov. 11, 2025), <https://coloradosun.com/2025/11/11/columbine-valley-police-officer-flock-disciplinary-action/>. The summons was voided on October 15, 2025, and the officer was subsequently disciplined.

¹⁵*Id.*

¹⁶“Flock announces changes amid backlash over its license plate reader network,” *Associated Press* (Aug. 13, 2026), <https://abc7news.com/story/flock-announces-changes-amid-backlash-license-plate-reader-network/19673380/> (audit tooling to become mandatory for law enforcement customers; default retention shortened; searches tied to case codes).

¹⁷Daylina Miller, “FDOT revokes permits for Flock cameras installed on state land next to roads,” *WUSF* (Aug. 31, 2026), <https://www.wusf.org/transportation/2026-08-31/fdot-revokes-permits-for-flock-cameras-installed-on-state-land-next-to-roads>.

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Friday, October 23, 2026..... Investiture of Judge Humerickhouse
Wednesday, October 28, 2026 October Membership Luncheon
Wednesday, November 4, 2026 MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, November 11, 2026 MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, November 12, 2026 CLE: Domestic Violence ZOOM
Thursday, November 19, 2026 CLE: Technology with Pat I ZOOM
Wednesday, December 2, 2026 MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, December 4, 2026..... Annual Holiday Party
Wednesday, December 9, 2026 MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, December 10, 2026 CLE: Evidence ZOOM
Wednesday, January 6, 2027 MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 13, 2027 MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 27, 2027 January Membership Luncheon
Wednesday, February 3, 2027 MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 10, 2027 ... MCBA YLD Board of Directors Meeting
**Thursday, February 18, 2027 CLE: Avoiding Malpractice
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**Wednesday, February 24, 2027 Java with the Judges
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Friday, February 26, 2027 CLE: Technology Mini Conference
Wednesday, March 3, 2027 MCBA Board of Directors Meeting
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Wednesday, March 31, 2027 March Membership Luncheon
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Building a Career, Not Just a Bar Card: How Florida's Young Lawyers Division Turns Connection into Professional Development

By Matthew Unzicker, MCBA Young Lawyers Division Treasurer

Passing the Florida Bar exam feels like the finish line. In reality, it's the starting gun. Building a sustainable practice, developing a mentor/mentee relationship, and figuring out where you fit in a profession is a different kind of work entirely. That work is where the Florida Bar's Young Lawyers Division (YLD) has staked its identity, and it's worth looking at how the Division's approach to connection has become a professional development strategy in its own right.

The Workhorse Behind the Bar

The YLD represents Florida lawyers under 36 and those in their first several years of practice, and it's often described within the Bar as its "workhorse" — the arm responsible for translating the profession's big ambitions into programming that actually reaches new attorneys where they are. Professional development, in the YLD's model, isn't a single CLE credit or a one-off networking mixer. It's an infrastructure: law school affiliates, local bar partnerships, mentoring pipelines, and community projects that are all designed to catch a lawyer early and keep them tethered to the profession as their career matures.

Mentorship as the Connective Tissue

If there's a throughline across the YLD's work, it's mentorship. Programs like Counsel to Counsel use a technology-based matching system to pair newer lawyers with more established ones, explicitly designed to help people find a mentor when a law school connection or a family relationship doesn't hand them one. The Find an Affiliate program does something similar at the local level, helping young and new lawyers locate a young lawyers section in their own circuit or county bar — because a statewide organization can't replace the value of knowing the other associates and solo practitioners down the street.

This isn't only about career advancement, either. Board of Governors members involved in YLD mentoring initiatives have been candid that the value of these relationships breaks down when mentees treat them as a job search shortcut rather than an advisory relationship. The point is guidance — how to think about a difficult client, how to pace a caseload, how to stay in the profession without burning out.

Why Connection Is a Wellness Strategy, Not Just a Networking One

It's not a coincidence that the YLD's professional development programming sits right next to its wellness programming. Surveys of young lawyers have repeatedly surfaced heavy student debt, long hours, and difficult work environments as major stressors, and national data continues to show elevated rates of anxiety and burnout in the profession, with younger lawyers among the most vulnerable. As with most things in life, isolation compounds all of it. The YLD's leadership has pointed to this directly, framing open conversations about mental health as something the profession needs more of, not less.

What This Means for Practicing Attorneys

For firms and individual lawyers, the practical takeaway is simple: professional development for young associates works better when it's relational rather than purely instructional. A CLE teaches a skill. A mentor, a local bar section, or a law school affiliate teaches someone how to survive and eventually thrive in the profession long enough to use that skill. Florida's YLD has built its entire model around that distinction — and for a profession still grappling with high attrition and high stress among its newest members, that emphasis on connection may be doing more retention work than any single policy change could.

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PRO BONO WEEK 2026

"Serving Justice. Strengthening Democracy." is the 2026 theme for Pro Bono Week, celebrated October 25-31. In Manatee and Sarasota counties, many attorneys embody this theme throughout the year though the donation of their time, skills, and expertise to help low income clients navigate the judicial system. As attorneys, our lives pull us in many different directions between clients, family, self-care, community, friends, and hobbies (if you're lucky!). Legal Aid of Manasota knows your time is in high demand and understands the sacrifice many attorneys make to take on pro bono cases.

A challenge that comes from operating a pro bono nonprofit is that our pool of volunteers is very small – only attorneys can take on the volunteer role we need to serve our clients. It is our honor to share the names below of the attorneys in Manatee and Sarasota counties who have answered this call to action since January 2025. If you are interested in joining the ranks of these volunteers, please email Annie Breiting at AnnieB@legallaidofmanasota.org.

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Registration and Breakfast 8:00 a.m.
Program: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

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The Bankruptcy in Your File — When It Lands

By Keith P. Merritt, Esq.

You are three weeks from a final hearing, or a week from a closing, when you learn that someone in your case has filed bankruptcy, but not through formal means. Opposing counsel tells you or your own client mentions it in passing.

What just happened.

A bankruptcy filing creates an injunction the moment the petition is docketed. It is called the automatic stay, it halts most action against the person who filed, and maybe....nobody serves you.

In the Eleventh Circuit, anything done in violation of the stay is void, not voidable. An agreed order you obtain the week after the filing is not a flawed order – it's nothing at all. Including an order on a motion you argued and won before the bankruptcy filing.

Confirm the stay exists.

It is not always there, or not for long. If the filer had an earlier case dismissed within the past year, the stay expires thirty days after filing unless the court extends it. If two or more were dismissed, no stay arises at all. Manatee County files in the Florida Middle District (<https://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/>). Pull the docket before you assume anything.

On the other hand....

A great deal is not necessarily stayed. The stay reaches actions against the person who filed and does not reach a long list of family law matters: establishing paternity, establishing or modifying support, custody and visitation, domestic violence proceedings, and the dissolution itself. What stops in a dissolution is the division of property in the bankruptcy estate. The marriage can be dissolved on schedule while equitable distribution waits.

The stay also does not reach a government's police or regulatory enforcement — code enforcement, licensing, most of what an administrative board does.

When the line is not obvious, ask.

The cost of guessing runs both directions. Move forward with a stay in place and your order is void. Believe a stay exists when it doesn't and a case sits idle for months.

You do not have to guess. File a Suggestion of Bankruptcy in your own state case so the court knows why nothing is moving. Then move the bankruptcy court for relief from the stay, or for an order confirming that the stay does not reach what you want to do. It is a modest motion, and it converts a judgment call into an order you can rely on. For a family law practitioner who needs to move everything except equitable distribution, that motion is often the cleanest path forward.

The sixty-day clock.

Some debts survive bankruptcy. But be warned, three that are not typically discharged survive only if a creditor files suit in the bankruptcy court within sixty days.

Survive on their own: child support and alimony. Most taxes. Student loans (absent a hardship finding). Criminal restitution and most government fines. Injury or death caused by drunk driving. And, in Chapter 7 but not Chapter 13, a property settlement from a divorce. Whether an obligation is support or property division is a bankruptcy question — the label in the agreement does not control.

Survive with an "adversary proceeding" in the bankruptcy court (the sixty-day debts): fraud, fiduciary defalcation or embezzlement, and willful and malicious injury. The clock runs from the first date set for the meeting of creditors — the trustee's examination of the debtor, about a month after filing. Postponing the meeting does not move the date. A state-court fraud judgment does not carry itself over — someone must bring an adversary proceeding (aka litigation action) to the bankruptcy court. On day sixty-one, nobody can.

Bankruptcy Rule 4007(c).

None of this is difficult. It is unfamiliar, and the deadlines do not forgive unfamiliarity. If a bankruptcy lands in one of your files and you want a second set of eyes, call me, it costs nothing.

Keith P. Merritt practices at Suncoast Debt Relief Law in Bradenton. His practice is limited to consumer and small business bankruptcy, debt collection defense, foreclosure defense, and student loan discharge. He can be reached at (941) 222-1994 or keith@suncoastdebtrelief.com.



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HON. CHARLES E. WILLIAMS

Judge for the 12th Judicial Circuit
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The Nuremberg Trials established that crimes against humanity would not be forgotten simply because a war had ended. Decades later, Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman helped ensure that the United States would not become a refuge for those who participated in Nazi persecution, leading the effort to bring them to justice. She uncovered their presence here and our government's failure to act against them; created a special Justice Department unit to investigate and deport them and wrote the landmark Holtzman Amendment to facilitate their deportation. She also helped win passage of the law to declassify US secret files on Nazi war criminals and served on the panel overseeing the project.

Designed for attorneys, judges, law students, and members of the legal community, this luncheon examines how legal precedent continues to shape accountability for crimes against humanity - and why those lessons remain relevant today.

Join **Hon. Charles E. Williams** and former Congresswoman **Elizabeth Holtzman** for a compelling discussion on the evolution of American law, pursuit of justice, and the enduring responsibility of the legal profession.



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Lunch with the Bench & Bar: Judge Charles Williams

Recently, our members enjoyed another great Lunch with the Bench & Bar, this time joined by Judge Charles Williams in the Manatee County Judicial Center Jury Assembly Room.

Judge Williams provided valuable updates and important reminders regarding current procedures, requirements, and expectations for practicing attorneys. The program gave members an opportunity to hear directly from the Bench, ask questions, and stay up to date on the information that matters in their day-to-day practice.

The program also offered CLE credit, making it a productive lunch on every level with a little learning, a little conversation, and a great opportunity to connect with the Bench & Bar.

A big thank-you to Judge Williams for taking the time to meet with our members and share his knowledge and perspective. We always appreciate the opportunity to bring our legal community together for meaningful conversations.

OUT & ABOUT



Five County Judges were spotted at the September 2026 Kiwanis meeting when Judge Gilbert Smith, Jr. was the guest speaker! Pictured are: Judge Heather Doyle, Judge Jacqueline Steele, Judge Hillary Ellis, Judge Melissa Gould and Judge Renee Inman.

From Troop 369 to the Clerk's Office: Colonneseo honored for a lifetime of leadership

Long before she became the first woman elected Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller in Manatee County history, Angel Colonneseo was a Brownie at St. Joseph Catholic School, earning badges with Troop 369.

That early lesson in leadership never left her.

Colonneseo was one of three women honored recently by Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida at its annual Denim & Pearls Lifetime of Leadership Luncheon, alongside ABC 7 Sarasota's Linda Carson and former Sarasota Mayor Carolyn J. Mason. The award recognizes women whose lives reflect the leadership qualities Girl Scouts works to build in girls today — the same qualities Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida CEO Mary Anne Servian pointed to when she said this year's honorees show what leadership, civic engagement, and perseverance look like over a lifetime.

For Colonneseo, that lifetime has included more than 30 years of public service in Manatee County — as an Assistant State Attorney prosecuting domestic violence, gang violence, and homicide cases, as General Counsel to



former Clerk R.B. "Chips" Shore, and now as the elected head of the office she once served as counsel. She has held every officer position in the Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers Association, including President, and serves by appointment of the Florida Supreme Court on the Florida Courts Technology Commission.

She's never left the spirit of Troop 369 behind. Colonneseo continues to volunteer her time with the Manatee County Bar Association,

Bradenton Kiwanis Club, and the Leadership Manatee Alumni Association.

"As young girls in Troop 369, the sky was the limit," Colonneseo said. "That's where I first learned to lead with integrity and honor, and it's stayed with me through every job I've held since, including this one."

Proceeds from the Denim & Pearls luncheon support Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida's leadership development programs and scholarships for underserved girls across the region.



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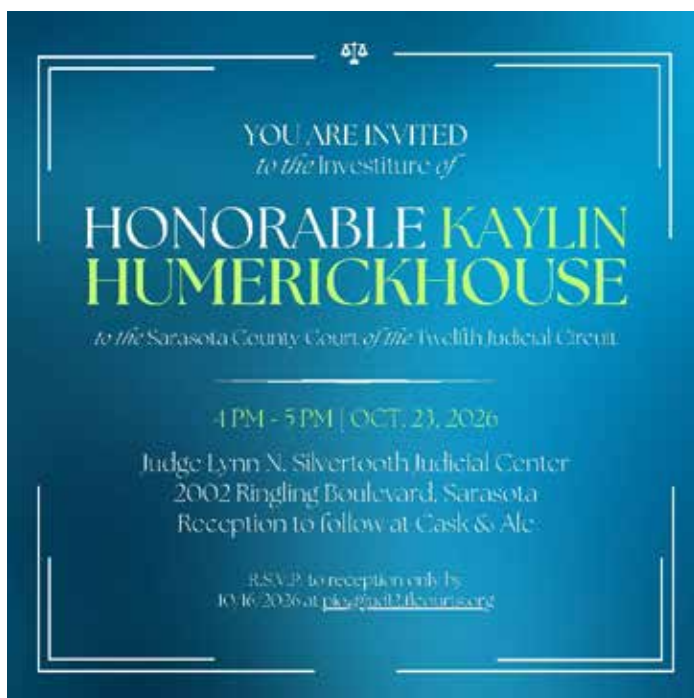
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Working cases in more than one county? CaseAccess, a new optional subscription service from the Florida Courts E-Filing Authority available beginning Oct. 12, 2026, lets legal professionals search case information statewide through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal. Subscriptions are \$20 per month or \$200 per year. To sign up, sign in to the E-Filing Portal and select CaseAccess Subscription.

CaseAccess is a research tool only and does not replace the official court record. For official records, contact the appropriate Clerk's office. Public case information remains available at no cost through each Clerk's office, including the Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller at www.ManateeClerk.com.

Welcome, John Campora, as an Annual Sponsor to the MCBA!

The Manatee County Bar Association is delighted to welcome John Campora of Edward Jones as an Annual Sponsor!

We are grateful for John's support and commitment to the MCBA and our local legal community. Annual Sponsors play an important role in helping us provide valuable programs, educational opportunities, and meaningful connections for our members throughout the year.

Thank you, John, for investing in the MCBA and helping us continue to serve our members and strengthen our legal community. We're thrilled to have you on board!

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- Q&A as time allows

Keith Merritt, Esq.
Suncoast Debt Relief Law

Keith practices Chapter 7, Chapter 13, and Subchapter V Bankruptcy Law in Florida. He has served many years as in-house litigation counsel for the Fidelity National Financial Title Insurance family before moving to Bradenton to begin a bankruptcy and debt relief practice.

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A WONDERFUL NEW CHAPTER: *Celebrating Judge Andrea Johnson*

The Manatee County Bar Association was honored to celebrate the investiture of Judge Andrea Johnson, surrounded by family, friends, colleagues, and members of our local legal community.

An investiture is always a special occasion, but this one was particularly meaningful as we celebrated not only Judge Johnson's new role on the Bench, but also someone who has given so much to our association. Judge Johnson is a Past President of

the Manatee County Bar Association, and her dedication to our members and the legal community has been an important part of her professional journey.

Judge Johnson brings to the Bench her experience, compassion, intelligence, and genuine commitment to serving others. We know she will carry those same qualities into this exciting new chapter.



*Judge Charles Sniffen
and Judge Andrea Johnson*



*MCBA President Elect Joe Battaglia
presenting gavel plaque to Judge Johnson*



*Young Lawyers Division President Tyler Dixon
presenting engraved pen to Judge Johnson*

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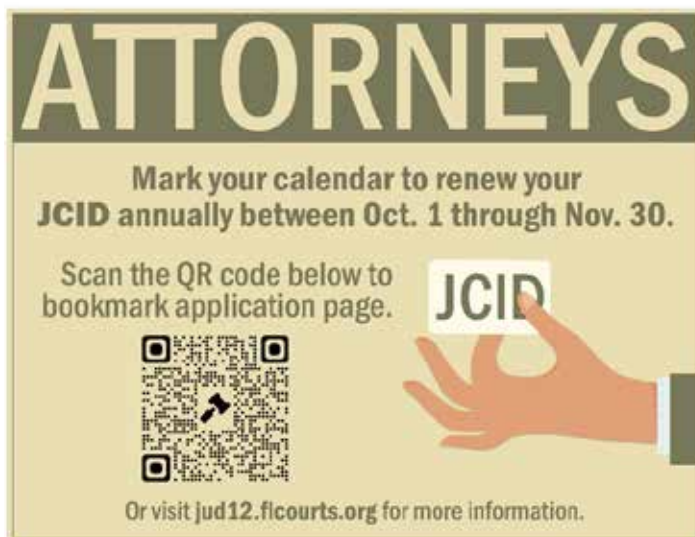
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The Twelfth Judicial Circuit's Judicial Center Identification (JCID) card application period begins tomorrow, October 1. [Administrative Order 2025-03b.2](#), provides that when feasible and practical, during times of high volume, judicial security 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.

The attached sign will be posted in our Judicial Centers to remind attorneys to complete their application before November 30. **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. **JCID cards will be distributed on or after November 2.**

*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.

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September Membership Luncheon: Cleared for Takeoff!

Our September Membership Luncheon was cleared for takeoff, and our members were along for the ride!

We were delighted to welcome Raymond Anderson, Esq., of the Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority as our featured speaker. Mr. Anderson gave members an engaging look behind the scenes at the legal issues, challenges, and opportunities that come with operating and expanding one of our region's most important and rapidly growing assets.

But before Mr. Anderson took to the podium, we had a little fun and formality of our own. We celebrated the ceremonial swearing-in of MCBA President Daniel Van Etten, MCBA President-Elect Joseph Battaglia, YLD President Tyler Dixon, and MCBA Past President Dustin Wagner. Judge Robert Farrance donned his official robe and administered the Oath of Office, officially getting our leadership team cleared for another year of service!

From there, we were cleared for takeoff, as Mr. Anderson delighted members with his insight into everything from airport operations and development to the legal considerations that keep everything moving smoothly. He offered a fascinating perspective on the work happening at Sarasota Bradenton International Airport, giving our members a better appreciation for just how much legal work goes on behind the scenes before an airplane ever leaves the gate.

And, of course, CLE credit was part of the itinerary, making this luncheon a win on both the professional education and networking fronts. Who says you can't earn CLE and still have a little fun while you're at it?

A big thank-you to Raymond Anderson, Esq., for joining us, sharing his expertise, and giving our members an insider's view of the airport's continued growth and impact on our community.

It was an informative, entertaining, and timely program — and one thing is certain: our September luncheon definitely took off!



Annual Sponsor Amy Kenyon, MCBA President Dan VanEtten, Ray Anderson, Judge Robert Farrance, MCBA President Elect Joe Battaglia, MCBA Past President James Lynch, and John Talkington



Judge Farrance administers the Oath of Office while James Lynch looks on



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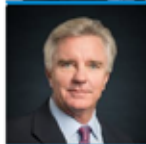
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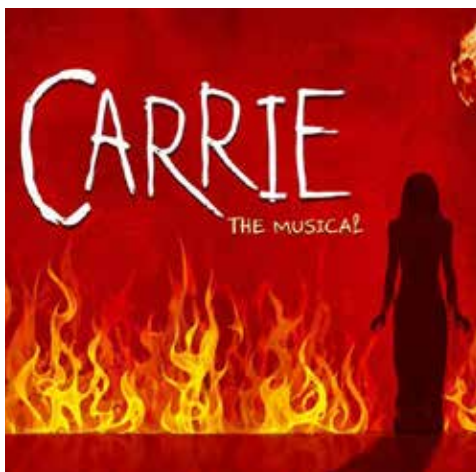
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Dear Evan Hansen
Oct 22nd - Nov 1st - 7 pm



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5:30 - 8:30 PM

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