

COMMUNICATOR

The Volusia County Bar Association Newsletter | September 2026



What Law School Didn't Cover: A Financial Guide for Attorneys

Date: Friday, Sept. 4, 2026

Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Speaker: Colby Long, Wealth Advisor

Location: Zoom

CLE: 1 Hour

Cost: FREE for VCBA Members

Law school prepares you to practice law, but not necessarily to navigate the financial decisions that come with a successful legal career. Join Wealth Advisor Colby Long, DeLand native, for a practical webinar covering key financial topics for attorneys, including student loan strategies, tax planning, retirement optimization, benefits, and preparing for partnership. Whether you're early in your career or planning your next professional milestone, this session will provide valuable insights to help you make informed financial decisions.

[Register Here](#)



VCBA ELDER LAW SECTION MEETING

We will be hosting an Elder Law Section lunch meeting at **12:00pm on September 17th, 2026.**

The presenter and location are as follows:

Eveline Kraljic-van der Made

Council on Aging of Volusia County, Inc.

420 Fentress Blvd.

Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Lunch is included!

Please RSVP to volusia-bar@gmail.com or Victoria Zinn at Victoria@zinnlegal.com by Sept. 12th.



Eveline Kraljic

Co-Executive Director



Legal Access For All
COMMUNITY
LEGAL SERVICES
Pro Bono

*Join us for a Pro Bono
Happy Hour!*

Thursday, September 17th, 2026

5:30PM - 7:30PM

Community Legal Services Office
1440 North Nova Road, Suite 101
Daytona Beach, FL 32117

Join us for an evening of networking, drinks, and learning about Community Legal Services' impactful pro bono work.

[Click Here or](#)
[Scan to RSVP!](#)



VCBA EVENTS

Join the VCBA Events Committee!

You may have noticed more events on the VCBA calendar this year, along with some exciting new programs and fresh ideas mixed in with our longtime favorites. We're always looking for ways to create meaningful opportunities for our members to learn, connect, and have fun.

Do you have ideas for future events? Enjoy planning and collaborating? We'd love to have your input! Join the VCBA Events Committee and help shape the future of our programming.



PLEASE NOTE: VCBA Constitution Day Celebration – POSTPONED

VCBA LEGAL SUMMIT - RECAP

Thank You Speakers!

Annual Meeting - Speakers: President Lori Sandman, YLD Pres. Judge Hunter Morrill, YLD Pres. Elect Sydney Cichon, ED Sarah Grover and Judge Christian Miller

Panel: Motions, Pleadings, and Legal Writing - Speakers: Judge Michael Orfinger, Judge Lauren Blocker, and Judge Andrea Totten

Panel: Hot Topics in Practice + Q&A - Speakers: Judge Howard Maltz, Judge Frank Talbot, and Judge Adrian Soud



YLD CHILI COOKOFF

YLD CHILI COOK-OFF

October 25, 2026, 4:00pm

Ormond Brewery

Lay down the law and pick up the ladle on **Sunday, October 25, 2026**, at 4:00 pm, at Ormond Brewery to help decide whose chili will be crowned Volusia Bar's best!

Take the heat out of the courtroom and into the kitchen!

Think your chili has what it takes? Sign up to enter the competition and bring your best recipe by emailing volusiabar@gmail.com.

Members of the Judiciary: We need you to put your skills to work! Sign up to serve as a chili judge and help determine who takes home the title of Volusia Bar's Best Chili. Email volusiabar@gmail.com to join the judging panel.



UCBA YLD
CHILI
COOK-OFF

10.25.2026 **BRING THE HEAT!** 4:00 PM

Do you have what it takes to be voted best chili by our Judges?!

Sign up by emailing volusiabar@gmail.com

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MEET THE NEW YLD DIRECTORS



Brianna “Bri” Faenza, *Cobb Cole*

Meet Bri, practicing in Estate Planning and Trust Administration. A Volusia County native, Bri was born in Daytona Beach and grew up in Palm Coast and Ormond Beach before graduating from Spruce Creek High School. She earned her B.A. in Paralegal Studies from UCF in 2022 and her J.D. from Stetson Law in 2025.

Bri credits her mother, Joanne Marchese, a longtime legal professional and real estate closing agent, as an important mentor and inspiration throughout her career. She now has the unique opportunity to work alongside her mother at Cobb Cole.

Outside of the office, Bri’s dream career would be as a National Geographic wildlife photographer, and her favorite local restaurant is 63 Sovereign. One thing members may not know: while studying for the Bar Exam in 2025, Bri advocated on the news for an expedited permitting process for hurricane flood victims in Pinellas County, drawing on her own firsthand experience with hurricane recovery to push for action in the community.



Sarah Gibson, *Snell Legal PLLC*

Meet Sarah, practicing Business Law and Business Litigation. Sarah was born and raised in Mooresville, North Carolina, also known as “Race City USA” for its longstanding connection to NASCAR. Despite never being much of a racing fan, she found herself calling the Daytona Beach area home. Sarah earned her B.A. in Political Science and Sociology from Wake Forest University in 2021 and her J.D. from the University of South Carolina in 2024.

Sarah credits Greg Snell as an important mentor in her legal career. She began working with him as a summer associate after her first year of law school and has continued working with him ever since. She describes his consistent support, guidance, and encouragement as invaluable.

Sarah enjoys cooking, baking, and gardening. She even bakes her own bread and has recently taken up making and canning homemade jams and preserves. Her favorite local restaurant is Alexander’s Prime in Ormond Beach where she enjoys not only the food but also the building’s Art Deco-inspired design, history, and unique art collection.

If Sarah weren’t practicing law, she’d put her political science degree to work as a campaign strategist or political consultant.



Kayla Hartmann, *Buckmaster & Ellzey*

Meet Kayla Hartmann, an attorney practicing Family Law and Criminal Defense. Born in Orlando and raised in DeBary, Kayla earned both her Bachelor’s degree in 2020 and MBA in 2021 from Shorter University before graduating from Barry University School of Law in 2025.

While she hasn’t had a formal legal mentor yet, Kayla is just beginning her legal career and is excited to continue building relationships and becoming part of the local legal community.

Outside of the practice of law, Kayla enjoys dining at Zen Bistro and Chef Pappa’s. If she weren’t practicing law, she could see herself working as a sports agent or teacher.

One thing that might surprise her fellow VCBA members? Kayla played college soccer for three years!

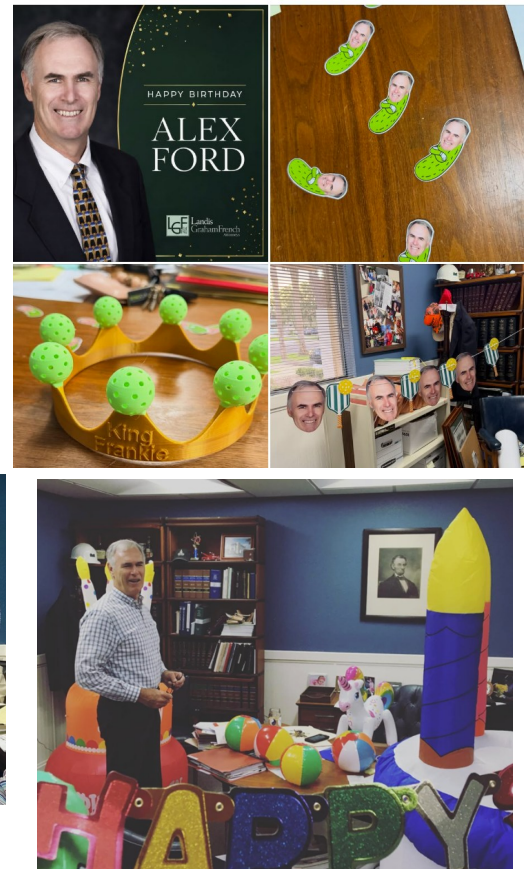


ARTICLE & UPCOMING EVENT

Happy Birthday, F.A. “Alex” Ford, Jr.!

For Alex Ford, birthdays have become a much-anticipated office tradition—complete with decorations, laughter, and a little good-natured mischief. According to Brittany Gloerson, the office has become the canvas for an annual birthday tradition, with past themes including basketball, Dog Dad, duck hunting, “Over the Hill,” and cupcakes. This year’s theme? Pickleball!

“It’s something everyone enjoys helping with,” Brittany says. “It always brings smiles and laughter to the office.” And, as Brittany points out, Alex gets his revenge by doing the same thing to her every year! While the practice of law is serious business, Alex and his colleagues recognize the importance of having a workplace where people can have a little fun, laugh together, and enjoy the friendships that develop along the way. These annual pranks have become a fun office tradition and a great reminder that a positive workplace culture is worth celebrating too.



BAGELS with the BENCH

MEET THE JUDGES. BUILD CONNECTIONS.

VBCA Members are invited to join local judges for bagels, coffee, and conversation at the DeLand Courthouse.

Where: 101 N. Alabama Ave.
DeLand, FL 32724

Date: Friday, Oct. 2, 2026

Time: 7:30am -
8:30am



Please note this has been rescheduled to
Friday, Oct. 2nd.



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We hope to see you there!

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LIC. #A1600185

Texas
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LIC. #A07352001

VCBA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Glorimar “Glory” Maldonado

Community Legal Services

Meet Glory, an attorney practicing **Public Interest Law** and a proud member of the 7th Judicial Circuit legal community. Originally from Puerto Rico, Glory grew up in Central Florida and earned her undergraduate degree from UCF in 2016 before graduating from Florida A&M University College of Law in 2020.

Glory credits **Judge Myers and Sherrille D. Akin, Esq.** as important mentors who have been steady sources of support, guidance, and inclusion throughout her legal career. She is grateful to have women she looks up to as mentors and to call them part of her professional journey.

For Glory, becoming a lawyer was never a backup plan—she has wanted to be an attorney since she was six years old! Her first “legal argument” came when a classmate brought a lollipop to school, prompting Glory to bring one the next day and, in her words, win her first argument after being reprimanded by her teacher.

When she’s not practicing law, Glory enjoys dining at the DeLand Hotel, with Chica’s as a close second. And one thing that might surprise her fellow members? She was a high school wrestler!



Frank S. Ganz, Esq.

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CONDOMINIUM AND
PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

FEATURE ARTICLE

When You're Unavailable, Who Gets Your Client?

POOR COVERAGE DOESN'T JUST RISK ONE MATTER. IT CAN HAND ANOTHER LAWYER THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN THE ENTIRE RELATIONSHIP.

By Stephen Furnari, Corporate Attorney & Owner, Ripple Coworking

As a corporate attorney, I provide legal services. But as a business owner and investor, I'm also a frequent buyer of them. A recent experience reminded me how easily a law firm can put an existing client relationship at risk.

I was preparing an offer on a commercial property and wanted a real estate lawyer I've used before—and like—to review the contract and an addendum I had drafted. I needed perhaps an hour of his time.

His email autoresponder said he was away until January 1. It was August. His office clarified that he was actually overseas for several weeks, largely unreachable—and had no lawyer covering matters that couldn't wait.

So I started looking elsewhere.

THE MATTER MISSED MAY NOT BE THE MATTER YOU LOSE

My lawyer seemingly missed an hour of work. But if the property goes under contract, I'll also need title and closing help. And I regularly hire lawyers and refer work to attorneys I trust.

Lawyers often evaluate an unanswered inquiry as one lost matter. Clients and referral sources may evaluate it as information about whether they should send the next matter.

There's another risk: force a good client to find another lawyer, and you may unintentionally audition your replacement.

GOOD COVERAGE PROTECTS CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS

None of this means lawyers shouldn't take real vacations. They should. The solution is having trusted colleagues who can step in when something cannot wait.

One solo attorney I know arranges for two trusted lawyers available to cover emergencies when she travels, and reciprocates when they are away. Better to give some work to a trusted colleague than force a client into the open market looking for a replacement.

BUILD THE SYSTEM BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Coverage requires more than an autoresponder. Identify lawyers you trust. Establish reciprocal coverage. Give staff clear instructions for urgent matters. Make necessary files accessible. Notify affected clients. And check your voicemail and autoresponder before leaving.

The goal isn't to make yourself reachable on vacation. It's to build a practice that can take care of clients when you aren't.

WHEN YOU'RE AWAY KEEP YOUR CLIENTS

DESIGNATE BACKUP COUNSEL

Identify one or two trusted attorneys who can step in when something cannot wait. Agree on the arrangement in advance and reciprocate when they need coverage.

GIVE YOUR STAFF A PLAN

Make sure whoever answers your phone knows when you'll return, what constitutes an urgent matter, and exactly where to send something that cannot wait.

KEEP NEW INQUIRIES MOVING

Don't let potential new matters sit unanswered. Even if you can't take the work, acknowledge the inquiry, set expectations, or make a referral.

CHECK CLIENT COMMUNICATIONS

Notify clients who may need you while you're away. Update your voicemail and auto-responder, and make sure backup counsel can access the files and information they may need.

“When a client has to find another lawyer, you may be giving your competitor an audition.”

RESPONSIVENESS CREATES OPPORTUNITY

Law firms spend enormous amounts of time and money trying to generate new business. Yet my recent experience suggests a simpler opportunity: your competitors may simply be bad at responding.

I was actively looking to hire a lawyer and had difficulty finding one who was both available and responsive. That should be encouraging to any small firm trying to grow.

You don't have to take every matter or answer every question immediately. But acknowledge the inquiry, set expectations and follow up. When another lawyer goes silent or leaves a client without coverage, being the lawyer who responds may be enough to get an audition for the entire client relationship.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stephen Furnari is a corporate attorney and the owner of Ripple Coworking, a professional workspace community for lawyers and other professional service-based businesses, with locations in Downtown Daytona Beach and Flagler Beach. He works closely with attorneys building more focused, efficient, and growth-oriented practices.

JUDICIARY NEWS

From the "Observer" Palm Coast, Ormond Beach

Volusia County Adult Drug Court earns full state certification

By David Hunt, August 28, 2026

The Volusia County Adult Drug Court has earned full certification through Florida's Problem-Solving Court Certification Program after demonstrating compliance with all required Florida Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards.

Circuit Judges Elizabeth Blackburn and Kathleen McNeilly preside over the program's east- and west-side operations, respectively.

Certification requires participating courts to undergo a detailed review of their policies, procedures, and practices against statewide standards governing areas such as participant eligibility, treatment, drug testing, judicial supervision, multidisciplinary team operations, and program evaluation.

The Volusia County Adult Drug Court initially demonstrated compliance with 187 of 195 required standards, or 95.9%, during its certification review in May. The program received provisional certification while judges, members of the team, and court staff worked to address the remaining requirements and provide additional documentation.

Following that work, the Problem-Solving Court Certification Committee determined the program had demonstrated compliance with all required best-practice standards and granted full certification. The certification is valid for three years, from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

The Florida Supreme Court established the Problem-Solving Court Certification Program to promote adherence to best practices among problem-solving courts and support effective, consistent court operations. Full certification recognizes that the Volusia County Adult Drug Court has successfully demonstrated compliance with the standards established for Florida adult drug courts.

The Volusia County Adult Drug Court serves non-violent offenders with documented histories of substance abuse through intensive supervision and treatment, using a team approach to address addiction and reduce future criminal conduct.



An advertisement for volunteer attorneys. The background features a statue of Lady Justice holding scales and a sword. The text reads: "Legal Access For All COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES Volunteer Attorneys Needed: Family Law and Bankruptcy". Below this, a gold banner states: "We are seeking family law and bankruptcy attorneys in Central Florida for pro bono opportunities." To the left, under the heading "Help clients and earn pro bono credits.", are two bullet points: "Family Law: in-person & virtual legal-advice clinics (first Friday each month; 2-hour commitment; advice only) and full case representation opportunities" and "Bankruptcy: virtual legal-advice clinics and full case representation opportunities". To the right, under the heading "Get involved today!", is the text: "Submit the form linked below, or reach out to probonoclinics@clsmf.org". Below this is a QR code and the URL "https://forms.office.com/r/WKSBAYRQCD". At the bottom left, it says "Primary malpractice insurance is provided."

IN THE NEWS

THE DOCKET CALL - AUGUST 2026

August 2026 edition of *The Docket Call*, the official newsletter of the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. This issue highlights the people, programs, and developments that shaped the Circuit over the spring and summer months.

[View the DOCKET CALL here](#)

In this issue, you'll find:

- New judicial appointments
- Milestones and recognition across the Circuit
- Problem-solving court graduations
- Judicial leadership and operational updates
- Courthouse tours, outreach efforts, and community engagement
- Courthouse and human resources updates



2026
ANNUAL AWARDS
Celebration
September 30, 2026
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Renaissance Daytona Beach Oceanfront Hotel
640 N. Atlantic Ave. | Daytona Beach, FL

PRESENTED BY:

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KELLY KWIA TEK, HALIFAX HEALTH

Young Professional of the Year
NATE GITTNER, HALIFAX HEALTH

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CONGRATULATIONS

ERICA WHITE

KVP is pleased to announce that Erica White has been named a Partner of the firm.

Ms. White brings more than 16 years of legal experience to the firm.

Before joining KVP in 2023, she spent 13 years as a career staff attorney at the Fifth District Court of Appeal. She later served as a federal judicial law clerk for Judge Wendy W. Berger in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

Ms. White currently serves on the Judicial Nominating Commission for the 7th Judicial Circuit and focuses her practice on appellate law, business litigation, construction law, civil litigation, contract disputes, and family law.

150 S. Palmetto Ave., Suite 300
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
Phone: 386.252.1561
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ewhite@kvplaw.com

THE DINING DOCKET

THE DINING DOCKET - Mr. Dunderbak's

Have you been to Mr. Dunderbak's new location on Beach Street in Daytona Beach? Same great menu, but with even better views! This Bavarian restaurant has been serving up haus specialties like Reubens and schnitzels since 1975!

I tried the Cajun Dutchman, a fantastic triple-decker sandwich piled high with roast beef, ham, bacon, and smoked Gouda, all topped with a spicy (but delicious!) Cajun sauce. I'm a pumpernickel fan, but you can choose your bread.

Each sandwich comes with a side of potato chips, but I upgraded to the German potato salad—served warm and made with vinegar and bacon so not overly sweet - just right. Definitely worth the upgrade!

I'll be back for dinner to try the schnitzel and the sausage sampler platter. And when it comes to beverages? With more than 350 beers, the hardest part might be deciding which one to try.

Prost!

By VCBA Board Member Erika Barger

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JOB POSTINGS

The Seventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida is seeking applicants for a General Magistrate position in DeLand.

Additional career opportunities are also available:

- Sr. Trial Court Staff Attorney / Staff Attorney
- Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officer Assistant (Half Time)
- Digital Court Monitor (Half Time)

Learn more and apply at: <https://circuit7.org/employment-opportunities/>



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JOB POSTINGS

Family Law Staff Attorney

Daytona Beach, Community Legal Services

Be a part of an organization making a difference in the Central Florida community! As an Orlando Business Journal's [2021 Best Places to Work](#) Honoree, Orlando Sentinel's 2022 Best Workplaces Honoree, and a SHRM Mental Health Ally, Community Legal Services (CLS) is a full service civil legal aid law firm that promotes equal access to justice, specifically for the most vulnerable individuals in our society.

[VIEW THE JOB POSTING HERE](#)



FLORIDA
GUARDIAN
AD LITEM
OFFICE

Guardian ad Litem Office Senior Attorney

The Florida Guardian ad Litem Office is seeking for our Daytona Office a Senior Attorney to provide independent legal representation to abused, abandoned and neglected children in Florida's dependency court and the community.

We offer a competitive salary, full state employee benefits and the chance to be part of a dynamic team.

You can be part of Florida's award-winning, state-funded child advocacy organization and make a difference in a child's life by viewing the job description and applying at the link below:

<https://jobs.myflorida.com/job/SOUTH-DAYTONA-GUARDIAN-AD-LITEM-OFFICE%2C-7TH-CIRCUIT-SENIOR-ATTORNEY-21013965-FL-32119/1414378200/>



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JOB POSTINGS

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

Paul, Elkind, Branz & Paul, LLP is seeking an associate attorney. We are looking for a motivated attorney to grow their practice in a well-established Volusia County firm. Applicants should have strong communication and writing skills. This position provides the opportunity to collaborate on dynamic matters as part of a team as well as to work independently. We offer a competitive salary and benefits, with an excellent opportunity for career advancement. The ideal candidate has 2 to 8 years of experience in civil litigation or general civil practice, but we will consider the right candidate regardless of experience.

Please email resumes to dgazy@paulandelkind.com.



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TRANSACTIONAL ATTORNEY

Due to the retirement of one attorney and the departure of another, Wright & Casey, P.A. has an immediate need for a full time experienced transactional attorney to join our legal team. The attorney will be responsible for guiding clients through estate planning, probate and trust administration procedures, as well as ancillary transactional matters including business formations and modifications, deeds, leases, and contracts.

Duties

Drafting and reviewing estate planning documents such as wills, trusts, advance directives, and powers of attorney to meet client needs; Conducting probate administrations in local jurisdictions, including filing petitions, managing estate inventories, and resolving estate disputes; Assisting clients with trust administration procedures; Conducting legal research using tools like LexisNexis; Negotiating settlements and resolving conflicts among beneficiaries or other interested parties; Advising clients on a broad range of transactional legal issues; Preparing detailed legal drafts and correspondence that clearly articulate legal positions and recommendations to clients; Managing multiple cases efficiently within a law office setting while maintaining a high degree of client interaction and communication.

Skills

Comprehensive knowledge of estate planning laws, probate rules and procedures, trust laws, rules, and procedures, and related legal areas such as contracts, landlord/tenant, homestead, real estate, land use and planning; Strong research skills (Wright & Casey P.A. uses LexisNexis); Excellent writing and legal drafting skills; Preferred experience within a private law office environment; Skilled negotiation abilities; Ability to interpret complex legal issues accurately and effectively communicate with clients.

This opportunity is for a turn-key practice in the aforementioned areas. Please contact us directly to inquire about the position or to request an interview (386-428-3311 or amy@surfcoastlaw.com).



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WILLS SEARCH

WILLS SEARCH

We are in search of a will for:

John Leonard Thomas
Date of birth May 18, 1934
Date of death November 30, 2010
14 Sunset Blvd., Ormond Beach, FL 32176

If you have any information please contact:
Neva Puryear
407-417-7769
nevajean49@yahoo.com

We are in search of a will for:

Name: Tammy Lynn Trumbauer
Date of Birth: 05/03/1969
Date of Death: 7/27/2026
1011 N Halifax, Daytona Beach FL 32118

If found, please contact:
Amber Griffis
gr8griffis6@aol.com
757-618-1780

We are in search of a will for:

Name: Julius F. Accardi
DOB: 9/15/1953
DOD: late July 2026
Fairview Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

If you have any information please contact:
MaryEllen Osterndorf
maryellen@osterndorflaw.com
386-255-9171

We are in search of a will for:

Jay Alexander Farrell
DOB: 11-3-1949
DOD: 7-31-2026
23 Old Macon Drive, Ormond Beach, FL 32174

If you have any information please contact:
MaryEllen Osterndorf
maryellen@osterndorflaw.com
386-255-9171

Mikaela M. Nordman, Esquire

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**NEW CONTACT
INFORMATION**

Email: mikaela@nordmanlaw.com
Phone: (386) 597-3073
(Call or Text)



COURT NOTICES

COURT NOTICES

Sent Sept. 1, 2026: Supreme Court Disciplines 12 Attorneys

- [SEE NOTICE HERE](#)

Sent Sept. 1, 2026: Applicants sought for justice administrative commission, attorney vacancy

Sent Sept. 1, 2026: The Florida Board of Governors to make December Appointments

Sent Aug. 24, 2026: Florida Judicial qualification commissions vacancy

Sent Aug. 24, 2026: The Volusia County Adult Drug Court earns full state certification

Sent Aug. 13, 2026: Call for nominations for the 2026 Florida Bar Reporters' workshop

Sent Aug. 5, 2026: Administrative Order No. AOSC26-38, extend time periods for Volusia County

Sent August 3, 2026: Supreme Court Disciplines 10 Attorneys

- [VIEW THE NOTICE HERE](#)

SCOTT W. CICHON CERTIFIED MEDIATOR

Mr. Cichon has been a Certified Circuit Civil Mediator since 1994. He concentrates his mediation practice on commercial, real estate, construction, contract, condominium, and collection disputes.

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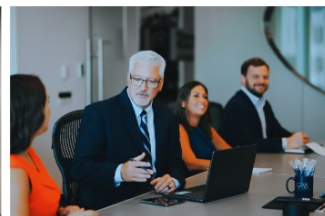
Online calendar for easy scheduling



EDWARD H. THOMPSON CERTIFIED MEDIATOR

Mr. Thompson is a Florida Supreme Court Circuit Civil Mediator. He mediates personal injury, product liability, premises liability, and insurance disputes statewide.

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- No mileage or travel fees for off-site mediations
- No cancellation fees



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VOLUSIA COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

Volusia County Law Library

FLSSI Forms

The 2026 Florida Bar approved FLSSI forms for Guardianship and Probate are available on the computers in the DeLand and Daytona Beach Law Libraries.

Westlaw

The VCLL offers extensive Westlaw databases on its computers located in the DeLand and Daytona Beach Law Libraries, and at the Deltona, Ormond, and New Smyrna Beach Public Libraries.

vclawlib.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026 - 27

VCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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State & Local Government Section - Sean Livingston, Chair
Workers Comp Section - Clay Meek, Chair
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VOLUSIA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Sarah Grover, *Executive Director*
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