The Volusia County Bar Association

COMMUNICATOR

Monthly Newsletter | November 2026

Family Law SECTION MEETING

The New Uniform Pretrial Order (soon to be official) will be the main discussion item for the meeting. Both meetings will cover the same agenda, so you only need to plan to attend one.

No lunch will be provided, please bring a lunch if you so desire.



DELAND - NOV. 4th, 2026
Time: 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
Location: Volusia County Courthouse, Deland, Courtroom #1

DAYTONA BEACH - NOV. 6th, 2026
Time: 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
Location: Steven C. Henderson Judicial Center, Daytona, Courtroom #11

Save the Date

VCBA SPRING MEETING WITH FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENT MICHAEL ORR





Date: Feb. 12, 2027
When: 11:30am - 1:00pm
Where: Jackie Robinson Stadium, Daytona Beach, FL

Sponsor Spotlight

Southern Cross Media

A Longtime Sponsorship Partner

The Volusia County Bar Association extends its sincere appreciation to Southern Cross Media for its continued and longstanding support of the VCBA.

Learn more about their marketing and media services at **www.southerncrossmedia.com**

YLD HOLIDAY HAPPY HOUR – DECEMBER 10

Join the YLD on Thursday, Dec. 10, at 6:00pm at Persimmon Hollow Brewing Company in DeLand! Take a break from the holiday hustle, enjoy a drink on us, and connect with fellow young lawyers and friends. In the spirit of giving, please bring a gift card to support the YLD Toy Drive benefiting Community Partnership for Children. Those who bring a gift card of any amount will receive an additional drink ticket (gift cards recommended Walmart or Target). We hope to see you there!

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VCBA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



“LIFE IS ABOUT BALANCE.”

SHEY MCCURDY

VCBA BOARD MEMBER | CITY OF NEW SMYRNA BEACH

Meet VCBA Board Member Shey McCurdy, Assistant City Attorney for the City of New Smyrna Beach. Shey began her legal career as a prosecutor and has served in local government.

Originally from Salisbury, Maryland, Shey earned her undergraduate degree from Florida Southern College and her law degree from Barry University School of Law. She attended law school part-time while working at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Outside of work, Shey is a big sports fan who enjoys CrossFit, pickleball, and spending time with her kids at the beach. She recently became a part-time athletic director and also volunteered at last year’s FIFA Cup Tournament, participating in the opening ceremonies. And when she’s not staying active, she enjoys baking cookies and cakes!

Her local favorites include BelAroma Mediterranean Bistro in New Smyrna Beach and Farm to Fit in Daytona Beach.



Save the Date

BAGELS WITH THE BENCH

Date: Jan. 22, 207
Time: 7:30am - 8:30am
Where: DeLand Courthouse



YLD CHILI COOKOFF RECAP

A big thank you to all the VCBA members, law firms, friends and family who came out to support our Young Lawyers Division Chili Cookoff! Special thanks to our talented chefs for bringing the heat and to our judges for taking on the tough job of blind tasting and selecting the winner: Judges Chris Miller, Katherine Miller, Michele Simonsen, and Hunter Morrill.

Congratulations to first place winner Shey McCurdy with City of NSB and People's Choice winner Vanessa Lee with Ticket Clinic.

Thank you to Ormond Brewery for hosting us!

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TONYA D. CROMARTIE, P.A.

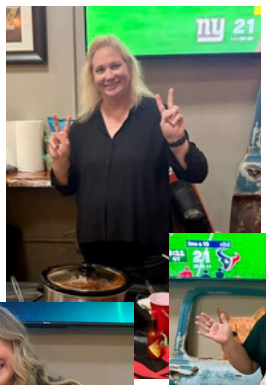
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LEGAL TEAM FOR LIFE

















FEATURE ARTICLE

What I've Learned From Lawyers Who Never Retired

AFTER 20 YEARS WORKING ALONGSIDE ATTORNEYS IN THEIR 70s AND 80s, I'M RETHINKING WHAT THE LATER CHAPTERS OF A LEGAL CAREER CAN LOOK LIKE.

By Stephen Furnari, Corporate Attorney & Owner, Ripple Coworking

Twenty years ago, I got my start in the shared workspace industry the way many lawyers do: by subletting extra offices to solo attorneys. I had the good fortune of meeting experienced attorneys who were already well into their seventies and eighties. Some are still practicing today.

At the time, I found them fascinating. They weren't necessarily chasing bigger cases, growing their firms, or maximizing income. They simply enjoyed being lawyers, and had found ways to keep practicing on their own terms.

One of our earliest clients, Steve, is now in his mid-to-late eighties. He still commutes an hour each way to the office by public transportation a few times a week.

A PRACTICE THAT EVOLVES WITH YOU

Steve spent much of his career as a criminal defense attorney, handling demanding trial work that meant long days in court followed by evenings preparing cases. As he got older, he transitioned into immigration law, an area he'd developed alongside his criminal practice. The work was more manageable, allowing him to continue serving clients without the grueling schedule of a busy trial practice

Steve didn't retire. He reinvented his practice to fit the life he wanted.

SOMETIMES IT'S ABOUT MORE THAN THE PRACTICE

Another longtime tenant, Ira, maintained a small real estate and T&E practice. More than his commitment to long-standing clients, the main reason he kept his office was the pinochle game he played with friends on his commuter rail trip.

He'd come into the office, handle a little legal work, enjoy his routine, and head home. He continued until his health made the commute too difficult.

Then there was Peter, a patent attorney who practiced with his wife and son, loved mentoring younger lawyers, and was still skiing with me in his late seventies.

These men weren't simply working because they had to. Their practices provided purpose, relationships, intellectual engagement, and considerable enjoyment.

THE VIEW CHANGES WITH AGE

Back then, these lawyers' stage of life seemed impossibly far away. This month I turn 55 and I'll be eligible to live in a retirement community.

I'm not contemplating retirement. But I'm much closer to the age of those attorneys than I was when I first met them. And I've started thinking differently about what the later chapters of a professional life might look like.

A LEGAL CAREER CAN HAVE MANY CHAPTERS

1. REINVENT YOUR PRACTICE
Shift toward work that better suits your interests, energy, and lifestyle.

2. CHOOSE YOUR OWN PACE
A smaller caseload and shorter workweek don't necessarily mean giving up the profession.

3. STAY CONNECTED
Colleagues, clients, mentoring, and even a regular commute can provide relationships and purpose.

4. KEEP YOUR OPTIONS OPEN
A legal career doesn't have to end simply because your priorities change.

> *"The practice that serves you at 45 doesn't have to be the practice you want at 75."*

WHY I STILL KEEP A SMALL PRACTICE

Running Ripple Coworking is a full-time commitment. I put more energy into this business than I ever did into practicing law.

Yet I still maintain a small law practice even though even though I have little time for it.

Why? I don't know what I'll want my professional life to look like at 70 or 80. Maybe I'll practice more. Maybe I'll do pro bono work. Maybe nothing at all.

But I've seen what's possible, and I want to keep that option open—as long as my mind cooperates.



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, Flagler Beach and a new location in St. Augustine opening soon. He works closely with attorneys building more focused, efficient, and growth-oriented practices.

NEW FIRM ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcing the Opening of

LEFFLER LAW, P.A.

Leffler Law, P.A. is pleased to announce its opening in Holly Hill, Florida. Founded by attorney Carleen A. Leffler, the firm focuses its practice on estate planning, probate and trust administration, and corporate and business law. The firm serves individuals, families, and businesses throughout Volusia County and surrounding areas.
For more information, call (386) 795-7464 or visit www.lefflerlawfl.com.

LEFFLER LAW, P.A.

VCBA LAUNCHES ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

For the first time, the VCBA is offering comprehensive annual sponsorship opportunities designed to create greater value for both our sponsors and our members. Rather than sponsoring individual events throughout the year, these packages provide ongoing visibility, consistent engagement with the local legal community, and meaningful opportunities to build relationships with attorneys, the judiciary, and other professionals across Volusia County.
VIEW THE VCBA SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES HERE





ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

CASEACCESS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Florida Courts E-Filing Authority, in partnership with Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers, has launched CaseAccess, an optional subscription service available through the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal (E-Filing Portal). CaseAccess allows legal professionals to search case information from all 67 Florida counties through a single, streamlined platform.

For attorneys who regularly work on cases in multiple counties, CaseAccess is designed to make statewide case research more convenient by providing:

- A consistent search experience across all 67 Florida counties
- Daily updates to case information
- Secure technology designed for professional research needs
- Convenient access through the E-Filing Portal

CaseAccess subscriptions are available for $20 per month or $200 per year. To subscribe, visit the Florida Courts E-Filing Authority homepage HERE and select the "Enter the Portal" button. Sign in to your active E-Filing Portal account, then select CaseAccess Subscription from the command ribbon to manage your subscription settings.

Please note, CaseAccess is a research tool and is not the official court record. Attorneys should continue to consult the appropriate Clerk of Court for the official and most current record, document or case status. Public case information also remains available through existing public-access channels provided by individual Clerks. In Volusia County, local cases are accessible for FREE at www.clerk.org.

I am happy to share this news as CaseAccess could be a useful resource for members of our local legal community, particularly those conducting research across multiple jurisdictions.

Thank you,

Laura E. Roth
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
Volusia County

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Be sure you are receiving emails from JoinIt in order to receive these messages.

Oct. 5 - Urgent Notice Regarding the Volusia County Law Library
Oct. 8 - FL Bar Announces Annual High School Appeellate Brief Writing & Moot Court Competition
Oct. 13 - CaseAccess Announcement, Clerk of Court
Oct. 13 - Job Announcement Clerk of the Fifth DCA

WILLS SEARCH

We ara in search of a possible will for the decedent:
Name: Gudrun Fohlinger Benson
Date of birth: June 28, 1955
Date of death: October 2, 2026
Last known address: 4965 Upson Ave, DeLeon Springs, FL 32130

If found please contact:
Tara J. Mason, Esq.
(386) 264-1737 (phone call or text)
www.tarajmasonlaw.com



PARTNER NEWS & EVENTS

FLAGLER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

FCBA will have its November monthly luncheon on Friday, November 13, 2026 from 11:30am -1:00pm at the Olive Garden in Palm Coast. You are welcome to come at any time during that time frame, and all attendees will pay for themselves.

This is a chance to socialize and have some down time during your busy schedules. Judges, as always, please feel free to bring your Judicial Assistants and if there is anyone that I may have missed in this email or someone that you know is interested in attending, please forward this email to them.

Regina Ranier-Sprague, Executive Director
Flagler County Bar Association
Phone: 386-235-2679
flaglerbar@gmail.com



VOLUSIA COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

2027 memberships for VCPA are discounted now through December 31st. The VCPA has hosted 11 hours of CLEs for its members so far in 2026, so it's a great way for law firms to invest in the professional development of their staff.





JOB POSTINGS & OFFICE SPACE

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY AND BEACH DISTRICT - GENERAL COUNSEL

A detailed description of the District and its activities can be found at www.staugustineport.com. The General Counsel to the District is an independent contractor whose responsibilities include, attending all District Commission meetings, preparing the Minutes for all District Commission meetings, advising the Commission on legal matters and pertinent legislation, representing the District in legal and administrative proceedings and/or securing appropriate outside counsel to do so and supervising such, and preparing and/or reviewing and/or revising resolutions, contracts, and interlocal agreements.

SEE FULL DETAILS HERE

Applications Due Dec. 1, 2026

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VCBA YARD "SALE"

THE VCBA is working on down-sizing our storage unit. Two FREE file cabinets and one FREE coffee maker. Kept in a climate controlled storage unit (All Aboard Ormond Beach), all in perfect condition. First come, first served. Email volusiabar@gmail.com to coordinate pick up.





THANK YOU SPONSORS

THE DINING DOCKET

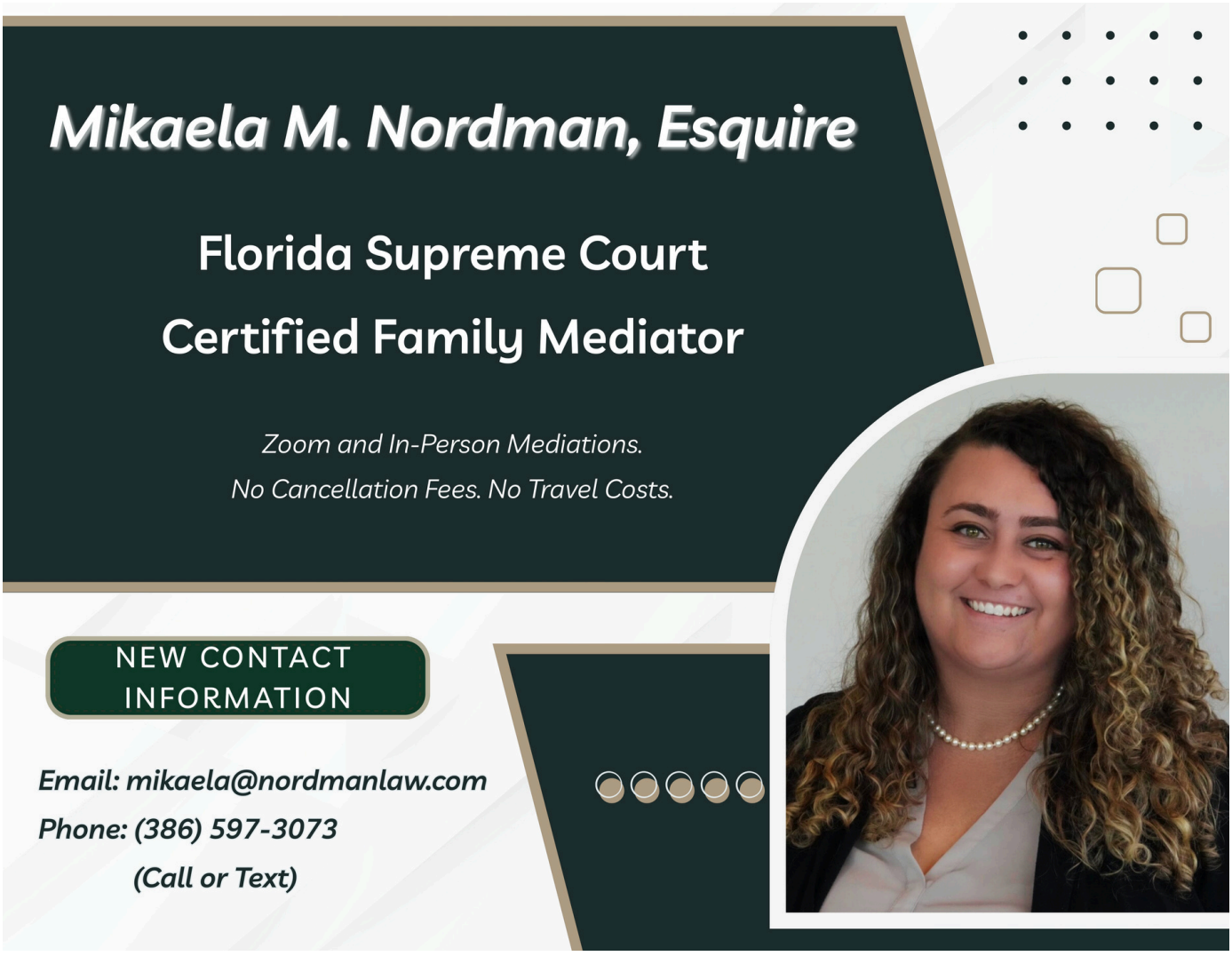
Cool mornings call for hot chai lattes and a tasty breakfast sandwich! I finally made it to The Boardroom and it was definitely worth the wait! They offer a variety of beverages, breakfast options, and pastries, making it a great spot to start the day.

The First Break came highly recommended – a Galette waffle "bun" with sausage and cheddar sandwiched in between.

Talk about the perfect sweet-and-salty combination... with plenty of cheesy goodness, too! This sandwich didn't even need any sauces! And just the right portion to fuel your morning without weighing you down.



THE BOARDROOM, ORMOND BEACH



THANK YOU SPONSORS



Volusia County Law Library

Support Your Law Library!

- **Book Sale - 25% Off Books for the Month of November**
- **CLE Titles - Available for rent at the VCLL.**

For a complete list of titles, visit **vclawlib.org**.

Volusia County Courthouse
101 N. Alabama Ave., Rm. B318
DeLand, FL 32724
(386) 822-5769

Steven C. Henderson Judicial Center
125 E. Orange Ave., Rm. 208
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(386) 257-6041

VCBA SOCIAL - RECAP

Thank you to all who came out to our VCBA Halloween Social at the Chart House on Oct. 29!
Pictured: Executive Director Sarah Grover and President Tonya Cromartie

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.

- Conference rooms in DeLand & Daytona Beach
- No mileage or travel fees for off-site mediations
- No cancellation fee






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KVP



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.

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VCBA CONTACT INFORMATION

Sarah Grover, Executive Director
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www.volusiabar.org

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