



COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Volusia County Bar Association ~ June 2020

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE VCBA BOARD?

The Nominating Committee will convene to consider nominations for 2 Director positions on the Volusia County Bar Association board. Directors serve a term of three years and the board meets 4-5 times a year to plan membership meetings, CLE seminars, social, networking and service activities. The slate of nominees will be voted upon at the August annual meeting. The deadline to apply is 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 15. Interested members may contact the VCBA office volusiabar@gmail.com for an application.

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE YLD BOARD?

The Young Lawyers Division has open director positions for the 2020-21 bar year. You must be less than 35 years old and/or in practice 1-5 years to be considered. Directors serve a term of three years. The board meets 4-5 times a year to plan a variety of YLD events including CLE seminars, community service projects and socials. The slate of nominees will be voted upon at the August annual election meeting. The deadline to apply is 10:00 a.m. Monday, June 15. Interested members may contact the VCBA office volusiabar@gmail.com for an application.

CLE SEMINAR: TRUST ACCOUNTING - Never (or Always) Fear a Bar Audit

Presented on Zoom by Donald A. Smith, Jr., Esquire

Personal and Fiduciary Responsibility
Receipts & Disbursements
Disputes & Florida Rule of Civil Procedure

Rules Governing Trust Accounts
Responsible Trust Accounting Practices
Supreme Court Opinions

IOTA Trust Accounts
Grounds for Audit - Rule 5-1.2(f)
Ethics Opinions

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 ~ 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

CLE Approved: 1.50 general, 1.50 ethics hours

[Register](#) - No charge for VCBA members

HOW TO WIN AT ZOOMING!

Attending Hearings presented by
Judge Kathryn Weston & Judge Terence Perkins

Tuesday, June 2, 2020
11:30 a.m. on Zoom

[Register](#)

VCARD: Volusia Real Estate Values Forum

Friday, June 5 ~ 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Each year, Florida property appraisers release latest estimates of property values for the county. Be one of the first to hear from Volusia County Property Appraiser Larry Bartlett as he details taxable real estate values.

Free event! [Register](#)

ZOOM SECTION LUNCHES

*A virtual conversation with fellow section members.
This is a great opportunity to check in with colleagues!*

ELDER LAW SECTION

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

[Register](#)

SOLO SMALL FIRM SECTION

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

[Register](#)

STATE & LOCAL GOVT SECTION

Friday, June 19, 2020

[Register](#)

My Annual Letter of Gratitude!

June 1, 2020

Today begins my 16th year as your Executive Director. I am grateful for all the years of support shown to me by the VCBA members, board members, and the members of the judiciary.

The process of running a voluntary bar has had many changes due to the Coronavirus pandemic we are currently experiencing. All in-person meetings, seminars, and socials have been canceled. Those meetings are an important aspect of a voluntary bar as a way to network and socialize with other members. We are learning new ways of communication through Zoom and other virtual platforms. The personal touch may be missing, but work is being accomplished.

As you know, the VCBA is a one-employee association. I am fairly autonomous, so I never minded working alone. To counteract my "aloneness", I scheduled lunch meetings with members, sections, and potential sponsors. I sure miss those meetings....

The Volusia County Bar Association will strive to continue to be relevant in the legal community. What can I do for you? Ideas, comments, and even criticisms are welcome as we restructure to fit into the new world.

After all these years, I still love what I do. So, once again, thank you for my job!

Kathie



Celebrating 10 Years

Our Practice Areas:

- Condo/HOA Law and Litigation
- Real Estate Law and Litigation
- Construction Law and Litigation
- Business Law and Litigation

Super Lawyers



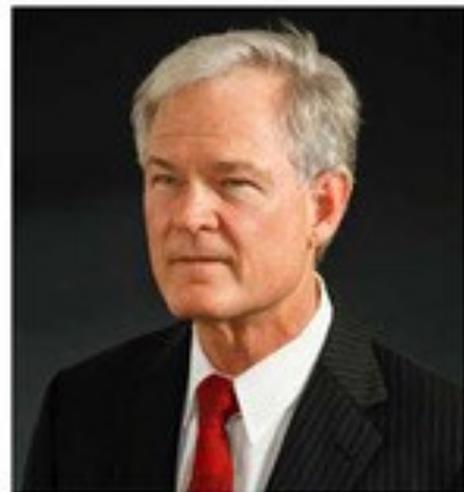
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ACCEPTING REFERRALS STATEWIDE

Referral Fees in Accordance With
Rules Regulating Florida Bar

Todd Cranshaw Jason Brown
481 N. U.S. Highway One
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
(386) 615-0515

CLSMF Virtual Clinic Seeking Volunteers

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, in response to COVID-19 will be offering income eligible essential workers an opportunity to have Living Wills, Designation of Health Care Surrogate and other health care planning documents drafted. We cannot offer this service without your help. We believe our "Healthcare Planning for Essential Workers" virtual clinic will provide peace of mind to those, who before COVID-19, never gave health care planning a second thought.

If you are willing to draft health care planning documents for income eligible essential workers, simply click on this link <https://clsmf.legal.io/>

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Close to the Courthouses

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OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Two offices in a beautiful lovingly restored Craftsman bungalow in Daytona Beach. Each office has separate entrance or you may choose to use my lobby and receptionist for an additional fee. One office also has secretarial area. Building has alarm system, new HVAC and more charm than you could ever use! \$650-\$900 per month. 647 S. Ridgewood Avenue. 386-271-8044.



PARALEGAL POSITION CITY OF ORMOND BEACH

PARALEGAL - Performs a high volume of responsible complex tasks using independent judgment, initiative, and discretion in providing legal related support as part of the professional staff within the Office of the City Attorney. Activities may include some or all of, and are not necessarily limited to, the following: research and analysis of information retrieved from various legal sources, the preparation of legal documents, case file intake and maintenance (organizing, indexing, tracking files), and other assignments. If the position is filled by a licensed attorney, duties may include additional duties that an attorney would be qualified to perform. Must be proficient in the use of Westlaw, word processing, spreadsheets, and other business software; possess excellent verbal and written communication skills. Activities also include extensive public contact. Work is performed under the primary direction of the City Attorney and Deputy City Attorney.

To apply: www.ormondbeach.org/jobs

From The Florida Bar:

USEFUL LINKS:

- [free practice management tools](#) including the ability to chat online with a practice management specialist
- [free CLE](#)
- [free member benefits and discounts](#) on a variety of practice and recreational resources
- [health and wellness educational materials](#)
- [Lawyers Helpline](#): free, confidential 24/7 lawyers helpline with professional counselors through CorpCare Associates. Calls to **1-833-FL1-WELL** (1-833-351-9355) are unlimited.

OPTIONS TO PAY YOUR DUES: [short instructional video](#) that explains the online fee statement and payment process.

There are several options currently in place:

Pay Online: If you are currently in a position to pay your 2020-21 Florida Bar annual membership fees, online payment is now available by signing in to the [MyFloridaBar Member Portal](#) and clicking on the “Pay My Fees” button on your profile page and using a credit card.

Print and Mail: If you need to print your statement and mail your payment, this method is also available. Printed statements will be mailed in early summer to any member who has not yet paid electronically.

Pay by Phone: To pay your fees by phone, call the Bar’s Accounting Department at 850-561-5831, option 4.

Installment Plan: If you expect that you will be unable to pay your fees before the July 1 date, installment payments are available to pay fees in three installments that can extend your final payment to February 1. The installment payment option and first payment must be selected and made prior to August 15.

To **select installments online**, please [log in to the portal](#), check the box to indicate you are qualified, and the first payment amount will appear. After you elect to make installments for your 2020-21 fees and pay the first installment, you will receive follow-up emails and invoices with additional payment instructions prior to each deadline — by August 15, 2020, November 2, 2020 and February 1, 2021.

Single payment for all firm attorneys: Law firms wishing to make a single payment for all attorney members should call 850-561-5831, option 3, or [email](#) the membership department for assistance.



MaryEllen P. Osterndorf Mediator | Attorney at Law



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327 So. Palmetto Ave. Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Circuit &
Appellate
Mediations

Florida Supreme Court Certified County, Circuit, and Appellate Mediator.
Available for mediations in Volusia, Flagler, Putman, & St. Johns counties.
Hourly rate: \$250.00
No charge for travel within Volusia County.

It Takes a Village to Build a Law Practice

By
Charley Vega Esq.

After 25 years with a successful career in sales, marketing, and management with AT&T, Siemens and the federal government, I decided to change careers and pursue my life-long dream to become an attorney. When I was accepted to law school, I worked full time and attended at night part-time. I commuted 180 miles a day to and from law school four nights a week and studied every weekend, all weekend and using all my vacation time to study for finals. I attended Barry University School of Law and Florida Coastal School of Law, without any breaks, completing the four-year program in three and half years, passing the Florida bar the first time!

This is awesome, I am now a licensed attorney in the State of Florida, I have reached my ultimate goal, but now where do I go from here? How do I take my professional skill sets and management experience and apply it to the legal industry? Do I want to be in house counsel for a company, work for a law firm or open my own firm? I needed more information to make that choice, so I sought out a few prominent attorneys in the Daytona Beach area and asked to meet with them and see what they thought? To my surprise most were very receptive, welcoming and agreed to a face to face meeting. I just wanted their advice to see where a person with my professional experience may have a good fit in the legal community. I did not ask if they knew of any open attorney positions or ask any of them for a job, I really just wanted their opinion.

Afterwards, I explored in house counsel positions and looked at several law firms, but I found most were looking for a kid out of law school, entry level with low compensation unless you had a book of business to bring. Not an experienced professional who recently went to law school. I suddenly realized maybe I was an anomaly, yes, I went to law school with other people my age but maybe not the same management level or same pay grade. At this point I thought my best option was to utilize my legal education, professional sales, management and marketing experience to open my own law practice. I always wanted to be my own boss, so now is the time.

On May 20, 2019 Charles Vega PLLC d/b/a Charles Vega P.A. was born. After completing the many basic task to open a business, business cards, phones, building a website(www.charlesvegapa.com) and so much more. First on my list was to network within the legal community. I joined the Volusia County Bar Association and started attending every meeting and event offered. I also volunteered at the Mid-Florida Community Clinic to gain legal experience, meet other attorneys and give back to the community.

As I continued to network in the community, I meet so many attorneys who offered to assist with my new venture. I thought the offers were great but had no idea how important and vital there advise would be in the future. As I took on new clients, the first thing I realized what they did not teach you law school is what paperwork do you need? Now I started making calls to these attorneys for templates or examples of quick claim deeds, demand letters, complaints, motions and so much more. The paperwork was endless. The next challenge was advice on my cases, legal insights and recommended next steps. When you are in a law firm with other attorneys you can just walk down the hall and ask, what do you think? I did not have that option, so I called or emailed my new attorney friends. Again, the acceptance and willingness to assist was tremendous! When I had questions about which statutes to apply or how to apply, they were there to assist. When I wanted to join the board for the Volusia Civil Trial Attorneys Association they were there. When I had the distinct pleasure to join the United States District Court, Middle District, they were there, when I decided to add mediation to my product portfolio, the advice and assistance was there, and I became a trained Arbitrator, and a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil and Appellant Mediator. The questions were many and the support from these experienced attorneys was tremendous!

In my previous career in professional sales I always worked hard for my clients, knew my product, knew my competitors strengths and weaknesses, and always had the philosophy this is business not personal, therefore if I met any of my competitors outside of that deal I always treated them with professionalism, respect and courtesy. This is exactly what I found in the legal community. Many of these attorneys focus their practice on exactly what I am doing in the same community and could be competitors in the future, but every one of them was always willing to assist with their expertise.

There is an old saying it takes a village to raise a child. Meaning its usually takes a lot of people, family and friends to raise a child over time. Here I can apply the same concept, it takes a village to build a law practice. You need a network of professionals in the legal community to build a law business. I have had the honor and privilege to have so many established attorneys assist me with my new law practice. Many times, I thought am I asking too much, did I call them too often, but every time everyone was quick to assist and recommended to call again if I had any more questions.

As a result, I contribute much of my recent success because **I have had the opportunity to stand on the shoulders of giants!** Many times, people will say too many to mention, not here, these are the professionals I am proud to say took the time to assist and advise me on so many occasions.

These are the giants in our village!

Dorothy Maier	Dorothy Maier P.A.	Harlan Paul	Paul, Elkind, Branz, & Kelton P.A.
Greg Snell	Snell Legal	Michael Slick	Michael Slick P.A.
Chris Wickersham	Wickersham & Bowers	Kevin Vagovic	Vagovic & Abend P.A.
Robert Doan	Cobb Cole	Curtis Hutchinson	CH Litigation
John Ferguson	Cobb Cole	Michael Kurey	Phillips & Finley
Robert Merrell	Cobb Cole	John Russell	Politis & Matovina
Heather Caeners	Heather Caeners P.A.	Edward Dimayuga	Legacy Law Associates
Aaron Delgado	Aaron Delgado & Associates	Larry Avallone	Avallone Law P.A.

Thank you all so much for your assistance in the building of my law practice, so I can have my dream job!

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*VCBA members, words of thanks and kindness are always appreciated and (in my opinion) are even more meaningful right now. Do you have someone you would like to thank? Send your thoughts (up to 800 words) to [volusiabar@gmail.com](mailto:volusiabar@gmail.com) for the next newsletter. Kathie*