



COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Volusia County Bar Association ~ April 2024

[BENCH & BBQ](#)

An annual event celebrating the Volusia County legal community.

Sponsored by REV Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine

Thursday, April 18, 2024 ~ 6:00 p.m.

CELEBRATING OUR 50-YEAR MEMBER

Michael Lambert

and

Recognizing Kathie Selover for her 20 years of commitment to the Volusia County Bar Association

Brannon Center, 105 S. Riverside Drive, New Smyrna Beach

[REGISTER](#)

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY OF
THE HONORABLE

Katherine Hurst Miller

AS A VOLUSIA COUNTY COURT JUDGE
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF FLORIDA

FRIDAY, THE FIFTH OF APRIL
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FOUR
HALF PAST THREE IN THE AFTERNOON

THE CICI & HYATT BROWN MUSEUM OF ART
AT THE MUSEUM OF ARTS & SCIENCES
352 SOUTH NOVA ROAD
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA 32114

Reception to Follow

KINDLY RSVP AS SEATING IS LIMITED
JUDGEKMILLERINVEST@GMAIL.COM

[INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE VCBA BOARD?](#)

The Nominating Committee will convene to consider nominations for Director positions on the VCBA 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 2 annual meeting. The deadline to apply is 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 26.

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 2023-24 Bar year. YLD members must be less than 35 years old and/or in practice 1-5 years to be considered. 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 2 annual meeting. The deadline to apply is 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 26.

Contact the VCBA office volusiabar@gmail.com for an application.

Catherine Taylor Lamb
2023/2024 President, Volusia County Bar Association



Happy Spring VCBA!

April is here and the first quarter of 2024 is in the rear-view mirror already. Last month we enjoyed our joint VCBA/VFAWL meeting with the Florida Bar President, Scott Westheimer. During his presentation, he hit on the hot topic of Artificial Intelligence in the practice of law. For those of our members who may feel new to this area of discussion, you are not alone; however, I assure you, this is not something that is coming. It is here.

Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) is everywhere and takes on many forms. If you use Alexa or Siri, you use AI. There are chatbots and writing tools that will create letters and documents in seconds as opposed to hours, thereby reducing time spent on such tasks and offering the potential of great benefit to both attorney and client. Pretty powerful stuff, right? True, but remember, with great power comes great responsibility and while certainly an amazing tool, AI is not perfect.

Every recent presentation I have attended on AI has told of attorneys using AI to generate entire briefs, complete with on point citations and submitting them to the Court. The problem? AI “helped” by not only creating the brief, but also by fabricating the citations. The attorney did not check the citations, but the court did. The results were disastrous. Client confidentiality is also at the forefront of these discussions as we integrate AI into our practices.

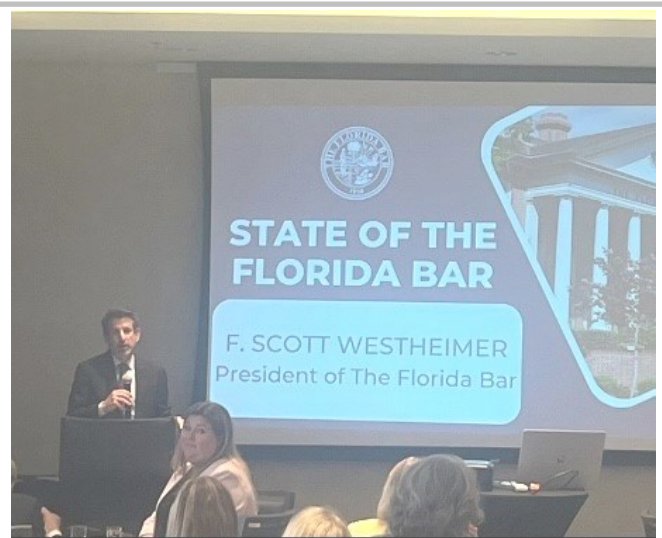
So, what now?

The takeaway is AI is here to stay and it can be an amazing tool for attorneys if used ethically and responsibly. If you’re thinking of incorporating AI into your practice, there’s help available:

1. First and foremost - If you have not familiarized yourself with the new [Florida Bar Ethics Advisory Opinion 24-1](#), do it now.
2. On Friday, May 17, 2024, the VCBA is putting on a CLE, Artificial Intelligence – Thinking in a New Era (presented by Lori Sandman, Esq. and Jeffrey Franklin, Esq.) Registration link is available on the VCBA homepage www.volusiabar.org.
3. Check out this surprising perspective on AI and the practice of law. [AI in the Practice of Law: A Unique Perspective – The Florida Bar](#);
4. Our newest generation of lawyers will have the benefit of AI as part of their legal education. Perhaps our future mentees can become our mentors in this area.

I hope to see you all at the Bench and Barbecue on Thursday, April 18th!

Catherine Taylor Lamb, Esq.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Antonio Jaimes

Practice Area: As the Chief Legal Officer of the Volusia County Clerk's Office, I am responsible for ensuring legal compliance across various areas, including employment matters and the statutory duties of the criminal, family, civil, and probate departments.

Where were you born and where did you grow up? I was born in a small village in Guerrero, Mexico. I immigrated to the United States at the age of six, and Florida became my new home.

College and law school: I received a bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida and a law degree from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University College of Law in 2015.

If you weren't practicing law, what would your career choice be? If I weren't practicing law, I would pursue a career as a concert promoter.

Did you have a mentor at any point in your legal career and if so, what did that mean for you? John A. Stanton and Judge Raúl Zambrano have played a significant role in shaping my legal career. Their guidance and support have been invaluable to me, especially considering that I am the first in my family to graduate from college and pursue a career in law. Attorney Stanton introduced me to the legal field, sparking my interest and providing me with advice and insights that helped me navigate this new path. Judge Z, who swore me in, has been instrumental, offering me mentorship and guidance as I continue to grow in my legal career. Their mentorship has not only provided me with valuable knowledge and skills but has also given me the confidence and support I need to succeed in the legal profession.

Sports fan? I am a big sports enthusiast who enjoys watching a variety of sports. I was a huge Kobe Bryant fan but will always root for my hometown team, the Orlando Magic.

Favorite food? I have to keep it original and go with tacos de carne asada. Hint: the tacos from the Mexican food trucks are the way to go for the real Mexican taco experience. You are missing out if you haven't tried them. You won't be disappointed!

One thing we might be surprised to know about you. One surprising fact about me is that I have a background in playing a variety of musical instruments and performing in a Mexican band with my father and brothers. We performed at birthday parties, quinceañeras, weddings, and other social events. I have experience playing drums, guitar, keyboard, and bass guitar.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FREE LEGAL CLINIC

Some members of the Volusia County Bar along with the Community Legal Services office will be offering a free advice clinic for people whose ongoing Social Security benefits have been threatened based on incorrect alleged overpayments or overpayments caused by Social Security that should be waived under the existing law.

The clinic is being held on April 12, 2024, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Community Legal Services office on 1440 North Nova Road, Suite 101, Daytona Beach, Florida 32117. There is no charge or eligibility criteria. Representatives from the Community Legal Services office will be available to determine whether any of the participants are eligible for ongoing representation through their nonprofit association. The representative from Congressman Waltz's office who provides service to his constituents with Social Security problems will also attend. A representative from Congressman Mills' office is also expected to attend.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Rick Culbertson by phone (386) 253-6811 or email culbertsonlaw@msn.com.

If you know of anyone who wants an appointment encourage them to contact Cassandra Vodicka (386-253-6811). People can still walk into the advice clinic if they are not able to call in advance.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Angela Burke

Practice Area: I started my legal career by moving to Daytona Beach to work for the 7th Circuit Public Defender's office. After 4 years I decided to challenge myself to something new and moved into the area of civil and family. Eventually I realized that criminal defense was my passion and returned to working with indigent clients via the Office of Conflict & Civil Regional Counsel for the 5th District.

Where were you born and where did you grow up? I was born and grew up in the beautiful town of Clearwater, Florida. I spent a good portion of my life within a 30-minute drive and even returned there for law school.

College and law school I attended college at the University of Central Florida where I graduated in 2010. I received my law degree from Stetson University College of Law in 2014.

If you weren't practicing law, what would your career choice be? I wasn't a criminal defense attorney I would have gone an obvious route.... Elementary school teacher.

Did you have a mentor at any point in your legal career and if so, what did that mean for you? I have had multiple mentors in my legal career who all helped guide me in different ways. Through my involvement with a mediation company early in my career, I was lucky enough to spend my days surrounded by retired judges. They not only passed on tips and tricks, but also made me feel comfortable conversing with judges on a regular basis. Prior to taking the bar exam, I worked with an attorney who had been practicing for almost 50 years. He taught me the value of taking the time to make your words count, even if only in a one paragraph letter to a client. Lastly, I have been surrounded by powerful female attorneys who have shown me that while there is time and place for emotion in the legal profession, is not a weakness and that your strongest advocate, needs to be yourself. If you are not going to fight for yourself, how do you expect to fight for your client?

Sports fan? To be honest... I hate sports. However, if I had to pick a team it would be the Savannah Bananas. Google them.

Favorite food? My grandmothers chicken cutlets with her francaise sauce over pasta.

One thing we might be surprised to know about you. President William McKinley is a distance relative.

Carleen Leffler

Practice Area(s) Estate Planning, Probate & Trust Administration, and Corporate.

Where were you born and where did you grow up? I was born in Daytona Beach at Halifax Health and grew up in Ormond Beach.

College and law school Webber International University- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration 2008; Jacksonville University- Master of Business Administration 2011; Florida Coastal School of Law- Juris Doctorate 2011

If you weren't practicing law, what would your career choice be? My backup plan in law school was to go to culinary and open a restaurant. Now, I would probably run a doggie daycare or a party planning business.

Did you have a mentor at any point in your legal career and if so, what did that mean for you? I am a strong advocate for mentorship, and I have been fortunate to have a few mentors in my legal career. I believe an attorney's mentorship needs to evolve as your career develops. When I first started my career, I had an excellent mentor who helped guide me through the transition from academia to actual practice. However, as I progressed in my career, my mentors have become friends and my friends have become mentors. Today, my mentorship often takes the form of bouncing ideas off one other, everything from best practice management tips to area specific, "how would you handle this?" Ultimately, I am a firm believer that you never stop needing mentorship, but eventually someone will look to you to be their mentor.

Sports fan? First, go Gators! Second, go Red Sox! Yes, I am a sports fan.

Favorite food? Thai

One thing we might be surprised to know about you. I played on my college's volleyball team.



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Email: volusiaparalegals@gmail.com - Website: volusiacountyparalegal.com



“Introduction to the 7th Judicial Circuit”

We are excited to announce the Volusia County Paralegal Association, Inc. will be hosting our 1st Annual “Bring Your Attorney to Lunch” event on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at Stonewood LPGA. The luncheon will be attended by attorneys, paralegals, and legal assistants working in the legal community here in Volusia County. The purpose of the luncheon is to bring together our legal community, while offering exciting, educational topics.

This year’s topic will be “Introduction to the 7th Judicial Circuit” Presented by the Honorable Leah Case, Volusia Chief Judge.

We are asking for the nominal amount of \$100.00 to sponsor the luncheon. As a sponsor, this amount will include recognition on the tables at the event, and a business card size ad on our website for 6 months. For those sponsoring the luncheon, your sponsorship is important in helping to ensure the success of this luncheon and the continuing efforts of our Association.

Our Association has been working diligently to promote the paralegal profession through offering educational opportunities to enhance the professional growth of paralegals and providing a network for not only advanced-level professionals, but students just entering the career field. We are now asking for your help in continuing that effort by being a sponsor.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail. Thank you for your support!

Heather Bragg
Vice President

Volusiaparalegal@gmail.com Or (386) 295-8974

EIN# 93-3025546

Volusia County Paralegal Association
“Bring Your Attorney to Lunch”

REGISTRATION FORM



“Introduction
to the 7th
Judicial
Circuit”

*Featured Speaker: The Honorable Leah Case,
Volusia County Chief Judge*

When: Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Where: Stonewood Grill & Tavern, LPGA
2150 LPGA Blvd.
Daytona Beach, FL 32117

Time: 11:30am – 1:30pm

***CLE Credit:** approval by
The Florida Bar & NALA

Registration ends April 6, 2024*

Attorney Name: _____

VCPA Member [] \$25.00 per person

Paralegal/Legal Assistant: _____

Non-Member [] \$28.00 per person

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Checks by April 6, 2024, to:
Volusia County Paralegal Association
125 N. Ridgewood Avenue, Suite 100
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
(If using U.S. Mail, Please send us a copy of the form/check to volusiaparalegals@gmail.com)

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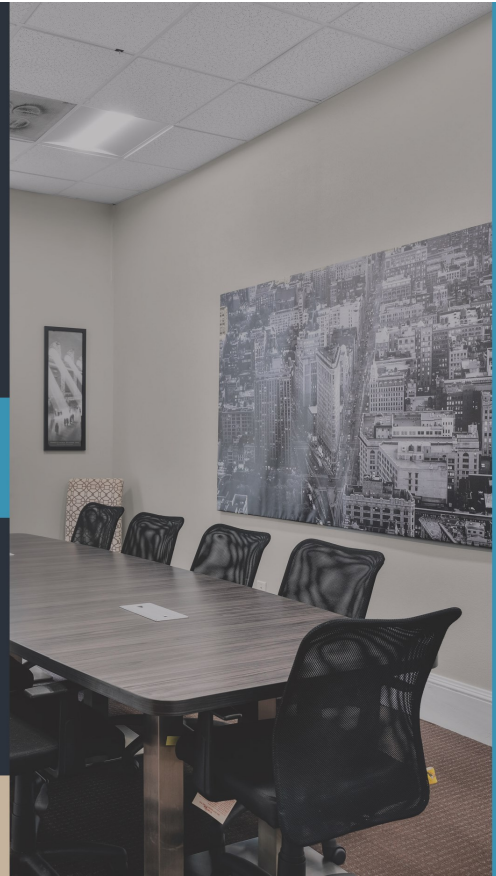
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Law Practice Management & More

The LPM collection exists to serve the legal community in its pursuit of professional growth and expertise.

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See a complete list of all Law Practice Management titles available to borrow at:

www.vclawlib.org.

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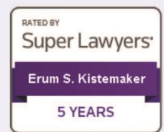
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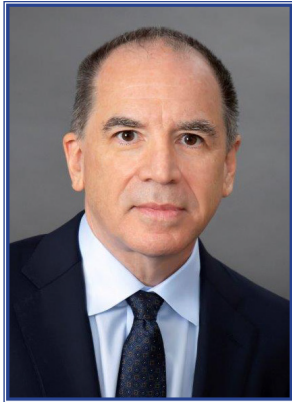


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The Communicator is published by the Volusia County Bar Association as a part of its commitment to information relevant to issues and concerns at the local level. Opinions expressed or positions taken are those of the author and may not reflect the views of the publication of the Volusia County Bar Association. Articles for publication should be sent via email to volusiabar@gmail.com no later than the 15th of the month.

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