



COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Volusia County Bar Association | August 2024



Greetings to all,

What an incredible time this has been. As I conclude my term as the VCBA president, I find myself reflecting on the past seven years I've had the privilege of serving on the board. This journey has truly been a strong learning and growth experience for me, both personally and professionally. The opportunity to work alongside our members towards the common goals of professional and community service has been truly rewarding, and I am deeply grateful for the support and camaraderie I have experienced.

One of the most memorable honors of my tenure was the opportunity to participate in judicial investitures, during which we welcomed four new judges to our bench. These moments were not just ceremonious; they were a testament to the strength and integrity of our legal community. It has been a privilege to witness the dedication of our new judges and to play a small part in such pivotal moments of their careers.

We supported the Florida Bar's ongoing theme of mentorship. Mentorship has always been a theme close to my heart, and it remains crucial for the continued growth of our association. The guidance and support we provide to our newer attorneys and bar members are foundational to their success and the future of our profession. I urge all of you to take an active role in mentoring, sharing your experiences, and fostering the next generation of legal professionals.

This year was also marked by significant change as we expressed our gratitude and said our goodbyes to Kathie Selover and welcomed our new Executive Director, Sarah Grover. Her transition has been going smoothly, and I am confident that under Sarah's direction and enthusiastic approach, the Volusia County Bar Association and the board will continue to thrive.

My time with our VCBA board been nothing short of amazing, and I am profoundly thankful for the dedication and enthusiasm of our members. On August 2, 2024 we welcome our new, incoming board of directors and President (Elect) J. David Ellzey. While I will miss this part of my role, I am excited to see what the future holds for our association.

Thank you for an incredible year, and for the opportunity to serve our Volusia County Bar Association.

With deepest gratitude,

Catherine Taylor Lamb
Outgoing President
Volusia County Bar Association



Judge David S. Wainer and President Catherine Taylor Lamb at Judge Wainer's Investiture July 19, 2024

VCBA EVENTS

VOLUSIA
COUNTY BAR
ASSOCIATION

20
24

TOMORROW!!

AUGUST 2nd, 2024

2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Join us for our Annual Meeting, an insightful and inspiring gathering where we discuss the state of our association, share updates, and network with fellow members.

A Southern Buffet lunch is included at the beautiful Daytona One Autograph Collection hotel. The event is \$20 for VCBA members.

ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING



Date

Friday, 11:45am - 1:00pm
August 02, 2024

Venue

Daytona Marriott @ Daytona One
1870 Victory Circle Daytona Beach, FL

RSVP

Volusiabar.org
\$20 for VCBA Members



REGISTER NOW!

Happy Hour Social at [Chart House](#)

Save the Date: September 19, 2024

5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for heavy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. You do not have to RSVP to attend and there is no cost for members.

Do you have an idea for a social activity or venue? Email Sara.Glover@CobbCole.com.

We want to hear from you! Please share your thoughts with this survey:

[I am more likely to attend a social...](#)



SLATE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-25

Below is the proposed slate for the Board of Directors for the Volusia County Bar Association and the Young Lawyers Divisions for the 2024-2025 year (August - July). The Annual Meeting will take place on August 2nd, 2024, for the official vote and swearing in ceremony led by Judge Katherine Hurst Miller.

<p><u>2024-25 VCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u></p> <p>David Ellzey, <i>President</i></p> <p>Lori Sandman, <i>President Elect</i></p> <p>Tonya Cromartie, <i>Treasurer</i></p> <p>Michael Ciocchetti, <i>Secretary</i></p>		<p>Director 2022-25</p> <p>Charley Vega</p> <p>MaryCatherine Crock</p> <p>Mel Stack</p>	
		<p>Director 2023-26</p> <p>Maria Indelicato</p> <p>Maria McCorkle</p> <p>Mark Cressman</p>	
		<p>Director 2024-27</p> <p>Sundria Ridgely</p> <p>Tammy Jaques</p> <p>Michele Simonsen</p>	
	<p><u>2024-25 YLD BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u></p> <p>Carleen Leffler, <i>President</i></p> <p>Hunter Morrill, <i>President Elect</i></p> <p>Alyson Bryant, <i>Treasurer</i></p> <p>Sydney Cichon, <i>Secretary</i></p>		<p>YLD Directors</p> <p>Jeffrey Bauer</p> <p>Angela Burke</p> <p>Taylor Carley</p> <p>Christy Earls</p> <p>Carlos Gavilanes</p> <p>Kelsey Hansen-Walter</p> <p>Courtney Jones</p> <p>Justin Munizzi</p> <p>Mikaela Nordman</p> <p>Edwin Thiruchelvam</p>

SECTIONS & COMMITTEES

Solo/Small Firm Section - Lori Sandman, Chair
 Family Law Section - Sara Glover, Chair
 Elder Law Section - Victoria Zinn, Chair
 State & Local Government Section - Carly Meek, Chair
 Workers Comp Section - Clay Meek, Chair

Volusia County Bar Association

Sarah Grover, Executive Director
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www.volusiabar.org

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. Rates are listed on the Advertising Opportunities page on www.volusiabar.org.

Slated VCBA Officers 2024-25



**DAVID
ELLZEY**

President

“Prioritize your peace. You may have to lose your balance for a while to gain a lifetime of stability.”

S. McNutt



**LORI
SANDMAN**

Vice President

“Life is like a piano. What you get out of it depends on how you play it, and sometimes, the music of the cosmos aligns perfectly with your notes.”

Carl Sagan



**TONYA
CROMARTIE**

Treasurer

“Treat other how your want to be treated.”



**MICHAEL
CIOCCHETTI**

Secretary

“I don’t have a weather machine.”

Slated YLD Officers 2024-25



**CARLEEN
LEFFLER**

President

“It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.”

Charles Darwin



**HUNTER
MORRILL**

Vice President

“If you never try, you’ll never know. If you never risk, you’ll never grow.”



**ALYSON
BRYANT**

Treasurer

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

Eleanor Roosevelt



**SYDNEY
CICHON**

Secretary

“Will trade legal advice for tacos.”

NOTICE

Beware of SCAMS!!

We have had multiple scam attempts hit our members this month.

- Impersonation of VCBA President 2023-24 Catherine Taylor Lamb via emails to members.
- People trying to sell VCBA member lists. The Volusia County Bar will never provide our membership list to anyone, not sponsors, not even fellow members. If anyone is trying to sell you a list, it is most likely generated from the Florida Bar's website which is public record. Be cautious, be aware. Join our Cybersecurity CLE to learn more about how to protect yourself and your business.

IN SEARCH OF WILLS

Ormond Beach

William G. Wade, passed June 17, 2024.

Contact: Seveda Reddick at (210)426-8564 or sevedamr@gmail.com

Daytona Beach

Ghazi Osta, passed July 19, 2024

Contact: Habib Osta at (770) 331-7099 or ostah@msn.com

DeLand

Susan Darlene Husson, may be dated after 2017

Contact: Sammie L. Dowling at (386) 734-3451 or sdowling@landispa.com

CLE: Cybersecurity

As we all know, cybersecurity is a growing concern. Join this virtual event with two guest speakers who will cover how to protect yourself, clients, and business in the ever changing landscape of cybersecurity.

- Sept 13, 2024
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
- VIRTUAL
- FREE for VCBA members!
- \$20 for non-members.

Speakers:

- Josh Nelson, WOM Technology Management Group
- David Kaletski-Maisel, Brown & Brown, representing The Center for Cyber Safety and Education



CLE: Cybersecurity
Volusia County Bar Association

Protect yourself, your clients,
and your business

Cost: FREE for VCBA members
\$20 for non-members
CLE:1

13 Sept 2024
12:00 - 1:00PM

Virtual Event
ZOOM

REGISTER NOW!

The Young Lawyers Division (YLD)

BOWLING FOR BACKPACKS

Come out to enjoy a fun night of bowling to benefit Holly Hill School Students! We are collecting school supply donations.

Entry is \$12 per person for 3 games. RSVP below, pay at the bowling alley.

School supplies and cash donations are welcome! All monetary donations will be used to purchase school supplies. If you cannot make the event, you can still contribute by bringing supplies/donations to the VCBA Annual Meeting.

The YLD hopes to see you and your firm Aug. 7th!

REGISTER NOW!

**THERE'S
NO TIME
TO SPARE!**

WE'RE GOING BOWLING
FOR BACKPACKS!

AUGUST 7 • 5:30PM
ORMOND LANES BOWLING
260 US-1, ORMOND BEACH, FL 32174

Bring a backpack filled with:

Grades K - 2

- 1 Pack large primary pencils
- 4 Boxes of 24 count Crayola Crayons
- 1 Large pencil box
- 2 Packs of glue sticks (preferably Elmer's)
- 1 Ream of white computer paper
- 1 Box of plastic storage bags (ex: Ziploc)
- 1 Pair of Fiskars non-pointed scissors
- 2 Plastic folders with pockets and prongs
- 1 Box of box of facial tissues
- 1 Package of wet wipes

OR:

Grades 3 - 5

- 1 inch, 3 ring binder
- 1 Pencil pouch to fit in 3 ring binder
- 2 Single subject spiral notebooks
- 3 prong pocket folders
- 1 Box of facial tissues
- 1 Box of #2 pencils
- 2 Packs wide-ruled notebook paper
- 1 Pack of glue sticks
- 1 Pack of colored pencils
- 1 Ream of copy paper

THE 2024 MASQUERADE BALL

Join us for a night full of fun and dancing! Dinner and drinks are included in this exclusive event, \$100 per person before September 25th, and will increase to \$125 after.

Includes dinner and open bar. Don't delay!

We are also looking for sponsors for the event. To help make this event reality and make an impact with your business, download the form below.

REGISTER NOW!

BECOME A SPONSOR

The Volusia County Bar Association
Young Lawyers Division Proudly Presents

THE 2024 MASQUERADE BALL

SAVE THE DATE!

18 October 2024 • 6:30 PM

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



Message from the YLD President



Thank you, VCBA, for your ongoing support of the Young Lawyers Division of the Volusia County Bar Association! The 2023-2024 Bar year was another great one, full of progression, impact, and relationship building. It has been an honor to serve as YLD President this year.

With the support of the VCBA, the YLD has been able to continue to grow our legal and local community impacts. The Bar year started off with a major event, the Mental and Physical Health Symposium. Over 40 local attorneys from the full range of practice areas attended this free CLE, planned and put on by the YLD after receiving the largest ever grant from the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division in VCBA history. The YLD rolled into Fall with another Chili Cook Off, which was very well attended, a great time, and benefited the Giving Beck Fund. We closed out 2023 with another highly successful Christmas Toy Drive last holiday season, supporting local foster children. I know this effort is always one of our most popular and meaningful!

2024 has already built into a successful year, with a social and diaper drive to support the Chiles Academy, YLD Board Members Sydney Cichon, Angela Burke, and Courtney Jones receiving top honors for oral presentations at the FL Bar YLD Affiliate Outreach Conference, and securing additional grant funding from the FL Bar YLD.

The wonderful support, attendance, and involvement of all VCBA lawyers and the judiciary cannot be understated on its impact with the YLD. Your commitment to the YLD continues to keep the VCBA YLD's status as a well-known and well-respected affiliate possible. As President, I cannot thank you enough for helping make and keep our local YLD a tremendous success.

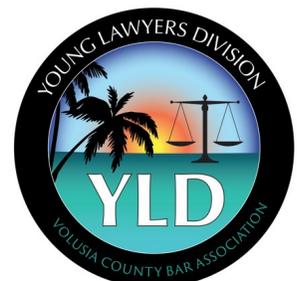
The next YLD event is next week! Come out to Bowling For Backpacks on August 7th at 5:30pm at Ormond Lanes. We are setting up local children for success with a backpack filled with school supplies through this event, so join us for bowling fun and community support! The YLD is also ramping up for the 2024 Masquerade Ball on October 18th. Get your sponsorships and tickets in for this year, as 2022 was a SOLD-OUT event!

All the best to the VCBA in 2024-2025 and beyond!

Mike Lyons

Coronado Law Group

PLLC – New Smyrna Beach



ARTICLE

Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference - RECAP

At the beginning of July, voluntary bar leaders from across Florida gathered in Orlando for the Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference (“VBLC”). This annual event is hosted by the Florida Bar’s Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee, for which I have the pleasure of serving as Vice Chair this year alongside fellow committee members and Volusia County Bar attorneys, Courtney Kilbourne Hayes and Maria Pecoraro-McCorkle. This year, we were excited to be joined by Volusia County Bar President, David Ellzey, and Executive Director, Sarah Grover, at VBLC.

VBLC is designed to foster a dynamic environment for voluntary bar leaders to share ideas and collaborate on initiatives that enhance the legal profession and make voluntary bar memberships more valuable. The conference featured a range of engaging sessions on leadership, member engagement, CLEs, sponsorships, and integrating technology into bar operations. These sessions were led by executive directors, attorneys, and vendors from around the state and provided opportunities for discussion, collaboration, and networking among the attendees. In addition to the other presentations, Florida Bar President, Roland Sanchez-Medina, Jr., and President-Elect, Sia Baker-Barnes, provided a special presentation on the importance of voluntary bar involvement and the support provided by the Florida Bar to our voluntary bars.

Despite the endless amounts of information provided throughout VBLC, it is not all work and networking. One fun and rather competitive tradition at VBLC is for each voluntary bar to bring a basket that represents their bar or location in some manner. Attendees’ names are then drawn throughout the conference for a chance to win the various baskets. This year, Sarah Grover made sure the Volusia County Bar Association was well represented by bringing a basket filled with delicious Angel & Phelps chocolate—a basket that I am sure was a hit with the recipient.

*By Carleen Leffler
President Elect, VCBA YLD*



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Judge Chris Miller

Judge Miller's journey from his early years to the bench is marked by dedication, mentorship, and a deep commitment to justice. Born in Virginia Beach, Judge Miller lived there until age seven before moving to Wisconsin and, later, to Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He considers Tennessee to be where he grew up, having stayed there through college.

Judge Miller graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2001. He continued his education at Stetson Law School, earning his law degree in 2005. Throughout his career, Judge Miller has been fortunate to have several mentors, but none more impactful than Judge Christopher Kelly and Chief Judge Leah Case. "Working with Judge Case at the State Attorney's Office and now again on the bench has been invaluable," Judge Miller recalls. "Watching her prepare for high-profile cases, like the Xbox Murders, taught me the importance of thorough preparation and an unmatched work ethic." Judge Kelly also left a significant mark, imparting crucial lessons about judicial philosophy, particularly the importance of adhering strictly to the law. "Judge Kelly emphasized staying in your lane, especially when you might prefer a different result," says Judge Miller.

Outside of his legal career, Judge Miller enjoys exploring local cuisine. His favorite restaurants include wings at Houligans and South Turn, a burger at the Brickyard, and Chicas Cuban Café in DeLand for a delicious Cuban sandwich.

If he weren't practicing law, Judge Miller might have pursued a career in the insurance industry, following in his father's footsteps, who worked for State Farm for over 30 years. Alternatively, he would have tried to get into the golf industry.

An interesting fact about Judge Miller is his high school choir experience, including a memorable trip to England and France during his senior year. He even sang a solo at a performance at Euro Disney, a unique experience despite not being invited back, he recounts comically.



Sydney Cichon

Sydney Cichon, a distinguished attorney in civil business litigation and real estate, has made significant strides in her legal career. Born and raised in Ormond Beach, Sydney's journey is deeply rooted in her hometown, where she continues to make a substantial impact.

Sydney's academic journey began at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, where she completed her undergraduate studies in 2016. She then earned her law degree from Florida International University College of Law in Miami in 2019.

Much of Sydney's professional growth is due to the mentorship of her father, Scott Cichon, a seasoned attorney with over 40 years of experience. The father-daughter duo shares a unique bond, both personally and professionally. "We make a great team!" Sydney enthuses. This partnership has enriched her understanding of the legal field and strengthened their familial ties.

Beyond her legal practice, Sydney has a deep appreciation for music, with an eclectic taste spanning country, classic rock, and early 2000s emo music. In another life, Sydney's interest in psychology might have led her to a career as an abnormal child psychologist, reflecting her desire to help others.

Sydney's love for her two dalmatians, Nova and River, adds warmth to her professional persona. "They are my whole world!" she shares.



VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOLS - OPEN POSITIONS

School Board Attorney

Volusia County School Board is seeking a School Board Attorney. The candidate must have a Juris Doctorate degree from an accredited law school and experience in education law at the K-12 or higher level preferred.

This position will provide legal counsel to the School Board regarding Volusia County Schools and provide policy development services and school Board representation as assigned.

Staff Attorney

Volusia County School District is seeking a Staff Attorney. The candidate must have a Juris Doctorate degree from an accredited law school and with preference given to individuals Board Certified in Education Law. Minimum 5 years' experience in the practice of law, with preference for experience in education law at the K-12 or higher education level.

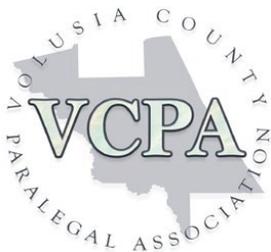
This position will provide legal counsel regarding the day-to-day operations of the Volusia County Schools and provide administration of labor relations, contract administration, and policy development services.



To see complete job description and to apply, please use the web link:

<https://www.vcsedu.org/>

Click on the "Careers" tab and follow the prompts.



VOLUSIA COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

Mailing Address: 125 N. Ridgewood Ave., Suite 100, Daytona Beach, FL 32114 Email: volusiaparalegals@gmail.com - Website: volusiacountyparalegal.com

[SEE ALL VCPA's EVENTS HERE](#)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

August 15, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M.

Houligan's 1725 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach 32114

James J. ("J.J.") Partlow, Esq. will be presenting: "Family Law – Navigating Recent Changes in Legislation". You will receive 1 hour NALA CLE for the presentation.

Menu Options: Fried or Grilled Shrimp, Steak Wrap, Southwest Salad

- Membership Cost with dinner: \$ 21.00
- Membership cost without dinner: \$7.00
- Non membership cost with dinner: \$26.00
- Non membership cost without dinner: \$10.00

Payment will be taken at the door. Please RSVP by August 13, 2024, by emailing Volusiaparalegals@gmail.com. Anyone no-shows without cancelling will be responsible for the meal cost.

Please provide us with your choice of meal, and any menu change, so that your meal can be prepared and served shortly after 6:00 p.m.

**AUG
15**

Membership Meeting
"Family Law - Navigating
Recent Changes in Legislation"
6:00pm - 8:00pm

**SEPT
14**

Seminar: Road Map to
Professional Paralegals
8:30am - 12:30pm

**SEPT
26**

Event: Simple Defense for
Women
Sponsor - Charles Vega, Esq.
6:00pm - 8:00pm

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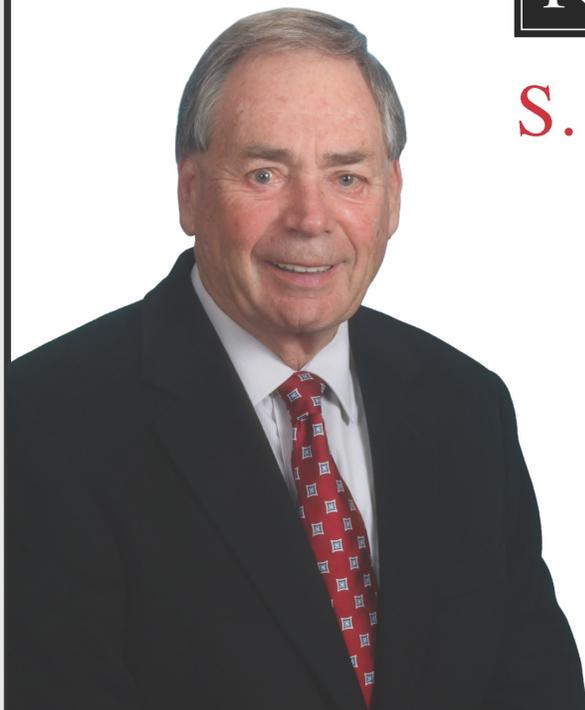
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S. LaRue Williams

Urgently Needed

We're Hiring at Kistemaker Business Law Group

Associate Attorney Position

Associate attorney needed in Ormond Beach. Kistemaker Business Law Group has an opening for a 2-6 year attorney to join our boutique firm that focuses on community, real property, business and civil litigation law. Experience in both condo/HOA law and any litigation preferred.

We offer competitive pay and benefits.
Flexible schedule · Paid time off
Partially remote position will be considered

Please send your resume to
Admin@e-kbusinesslaw.com



Urgently Needed

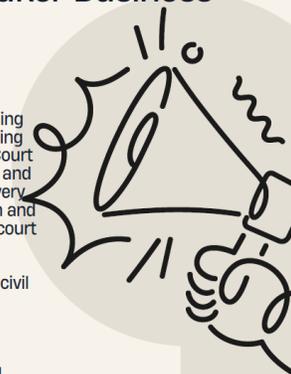
We're Hiring at Kistemaker Business Law Group

Paralegal Position

The Paralegal will assist attorney(s) by providing clerical and research support services including document preparation and review; research, Court filings and scheduling, Public record searches and corporate searches and fact checking; discovery preparation, response and hearing preparation and support, record documents and file and serve court documents.

Real Estate, Business Law, Estate planning, or civil litigation - (Preferred)
Notary Public - (required)
Ormond Beach, FL 32176 (Preferred)
Location Volusia County
Partially remote position will be considered

Please send your resume to
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Our Practice Areas

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Welcomes Jessica Drenkhahn to its firm.

Jessica Drenkhahn is a native Floridian, hailing from the city of Orlando. She attended the University of Central Florida and earned her bachelor's degree in Legal Studies. She then went on to earn her Juris Doctorate at Barry University's Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law in Orlando, FL in 2021. She worked as a real estate paralegal throughout obtaining her undergraduate degree and law school and became a member of the Florida Bar in 2023. She subsequently earned an LL.M. degree in Real Property Development from the University of Miami's School of Law in 2024. Her areas of focus are Real Estate and, particularly HOA and Condominium law. She has assisted clients in the preparation and negotiation of asset purchase agreements, facilitated title closings for both residential and commercial transactions, real estate purchase agreements, leases, operating agreements, and other general commercial contracts. She has also represented clients relating to property issues, including foreclosure actions, evictions, unlawful detainers, and petitions for partition.

In her free time, Jessica enjoys spending time with her family and animals, being a mother of three boys, traveling with her partner, and enjoying the best part of what Florida has to offer, hot days, sandy beaches and beautiful waters.

Tax Attorney Jeff DeRosier

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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. Mr. Cichon is also Certified in Business Litigation with the Florida Bar.

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



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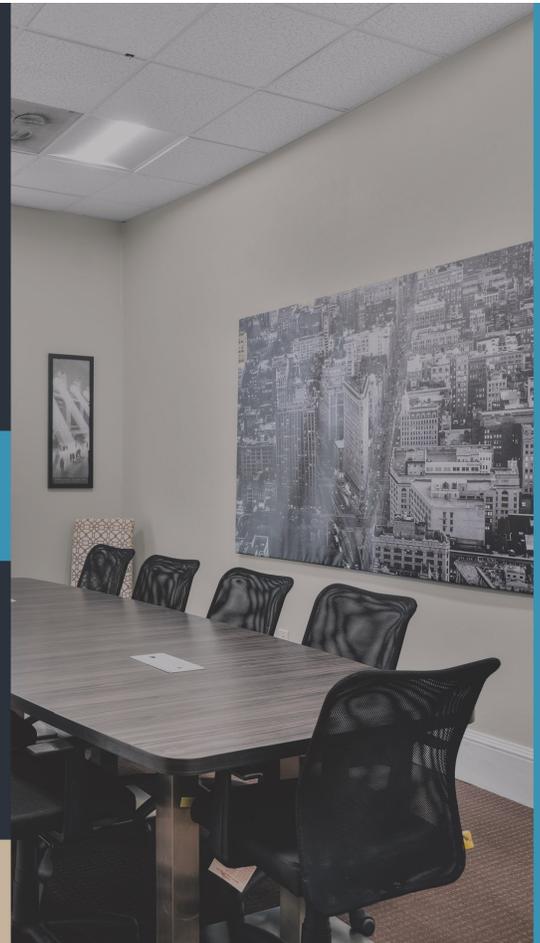
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Volusia County Law Library

Countywide Legal Resources

Visit us at one of these locations:

- DeLand Law Library in the Volusia County Courthouse.
- Daytona Beach Law Library in the Volusia County Courthouse Annex.
- Volusia County Legal Research Computers in the New Smyrna Beach, Deltona, and Ormond Beach Public Libraries.

www.vclawlib.org

LIBRARY WORKSHOP

Legal Learning Workshop Series: Become a More Informed Renter

Join Community Legal Services for a *Legal Learning Workshop: Become a More Informed Renter* as we explore issues commonly faced by tenants including rental repair issues, evictions, and scams. This Legal Learning Workshop is being offered in collaboration with the Volusia County Library system and is free to attend.

August 5, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.
Daytona Beach Regional Library
105 Jackie Robinson Parkway, Daytona Beach

August 21, 2024 @ 1:30 p.m.
DeLand Regional Library
130 E Howry Ave., DeLand

August 27, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m.



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