

COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Volusia County Bar Association ~ May 2024

CLE: LEGAL TOOLS FOR MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Legal tools (Marchman Act, Guardianship, Baker Act, and Criminal law) we use to get someone into treatment and keep them there long enough for recovery

presented by Mark G. Astor, Esq.

Friday, May 3, 2024

On Zoom: 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. No charge for VCBA members, paralegals, and staff.

REGISTER

CLE: Artificial Intelligence—Thinking in a New Era

presented by Lori Sandman, Esq. and Jeffrey Franklin, Esq,

Friday, May 17, 2024 ~ 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon The Daytona Marriott at One Daytona

\$60.00 per person - VCBA members & staff only

CLE Approved 3.0 General, 1.0 Professionalism, 1.0 Ethics, 1.0 Technology, 3.0 Business Litigation Certification **REGISTER**



Catherine Taylor Lamb

2023/2024 President, Volusia County Bar Association



Greetings VCBA!

As we step into the vibrant month of May, I am filled with gratitude for the remarkable turnout we witnessed at our recent Bench and Barbeque event in April. Your enthusiasm and participation truly exemplify the cohesive spirit of our association. We truly are a fantastic organization.

This month holds a special significance as May 2 marks the National Day of Prayer. This is an annual day of reflection designated by the United States Congress and held on the first Thursday of May. I had the pleasure of

attending Advent Health's observance program, where I watched not just my own young children but also many others participate. It was a powerful reminder of the significance of unity, compassion, and understanding, regardless of our beliefs or faiths, within our communities. Let's carry forward this spirit of togetherness as we progress in our journey of mentorship within our local, legal profession.

Mentorship is not just about sharing knowledge; it's about fostering growth, building relationships, and creating a legacy of excellence. As legal professionals, we have a responsibility to guide and support our fellow members, especially those who are newer to the field.

As we have been discussing over the past months, mentorship takes many forms. It could be offering advice to a junior attorney, sharing insights with law students, or simply being a supportive colleague during challenging times. By engaging in mentorship, we not only help others navigate their legal careers but also enrich our own professional journey.

In May, let's make a concerted effort to embrace mentorship in all its dimensions. Reach out to someone who could benefit from your experience and wisdom. Take the time to listen, guide, and inspire. Brainstorm solutions and share your knowledge. Together, we can create a culture of learning and collaboration that elevates our entire legal community.

As we delve into this theme of mentorship and unity, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for your ongoing dedication to our association. Your active participation and contributions make our community stronger.

I look forward to seeing the continued growth and success of our members as we embrace mentorship and unity this May and beyond.

Warm regards,

Catherine Taylor Lamb
President, Volusia County Bar Association

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1396 Dunlawton Ave, Port Orange, FL 32127

MEMBERSHIP MEETING May 16, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M.

Our presenter will be Greg Snell, Esq. with Snell Legal Business Law. You will receive 1 NALA CLE for the presentation. (The Florida Bar recognizes NALA CLEs)

Menu Options:

(All options come non-alcohol beverage i.e., soda, coffee, or tea).

Alcoholic beverages are available at cost.

0

• Fried or Grilled Shrimp

(choice of potato salad, homemade coleslaw, mashed potatoes, fresh steamed vegetables or seasoned Fries)

0

Steak Wrap

(Grill sirloin, mushrooms, onions & provolone)
(choice of potato salad, homemade coleslaw, mashed potatoes,
fresh steamed vegetables or seasoned Fries)

0

Southwest Salad

(ranch dressing and topped with a grilled chicken breast, avocado, Pico de Gallo, black bean & corn salsa, mixed cheeses and garnished with tortilla straws.)

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. You will be able to pay via Zelle, credit card, check or cash. Please RSVP by May 14, 2024, by emailing Volusiaparalegals@gmail.com. Anyone not showing up at the meeting 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.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Judge Elizabeth Blackburn



I serve as a Circuit Judge, presently assigned to a Felony Criminal Division in Daytona Beach, and preside over the Eastside Volusia County Adult Drug Court. I was previously assigned to a Family Division in DeLand for six years. Prior to joining the bench, I started as a prosecutor here in Volusia County, where I ultimately served as Division Chief of DeLand and then Homicide Division Chief of Volusia County, before leaving for private practice. My private practice included criminal defense, general civil, and family law. I am Board Certified in Marital and Family Law.

I was born in East York, Ontario, Canada (outside of Toronto). My family moved to the United States when I was very young, and we lived in northeast New Jersey until I was 12 years old. We then moved to Florida, where I attended Ormond Beach Junior High, and I became a proud Seabreeze Sr. High Sandcrab graduate. In large part because I was mocked mercilessly by my older sister, I no longer have a New Jersey accent.

I attended the University of Kansas, graduating with a B.S.E and an M.S.E. (Education) in 1984. Rock Chalk Jayhawks, Go KU!!!!! I taught learning disabled and emotionally handicapped elementary aged children in Orlando for two years, before attending Stetson University College of Law from August 1985 until graduating in December 1987.

If you weren't practicing law, what would your career choice be? I would love to choose a career in music but I think I would be a starving artist.

Mentors? I was very fortunate to have many mentors throughout my career, both as a young lawyer and as I continued throughout my practice and on the bench. Mentorship is very valuable in so many ways- from helping to develop trial skills to professionalism and to developing those collegial relationships that remain throughout your career. As a lawyer, it helps you learn how to be a strong advocate in the courtroom while maintaining a high level of professionalism.

Favorite Music? I have diverse taste in music, from jazz to classical to rock/pop.

One thing we might be surprised to know about you. I started out as a music major in college (hence, the change of career path), where I played flute, piccolo and piano. I was very much a band geek from junior high through college.

Hunter Morrill



Family Law & Criminal Defense with sprinklings of Injunctions, Marchmans, Dependency, etc.

Where were you born and where did you grow up? I'm a Volusia County local, grew up in Ormond Beach and went to Seabreeze

College and law school and graduation year. Attended Florida State University (GO NOLES) + Florida Coastal for law school

If you weren't practicing law, what would your career choice be? I would probably be in real estate. I am obsessed with Zillow, looking at houses and land

Mentors? I've been very lucky to have many people that helped, and to continue to help, me learn and navigate my legal career. When I started at the State Attorney's Office, all the ASA's more senior than me were available for questions and assistance. Spencer Hathaway helped me with my first arraignment, Sarah Thomas took me under her wing, Shey McCurdy and David Cromartie were always there for me. Judge Campbell was the first judge I ever practiced in front of and she was so kind and patient. But I have to say my #1 fan and mentor has always been my father, Horace Smith, who I now have the honor of working with and practicing under. He is the epitome of professionalism and humble about his wealth of knowledge. Having a multitude of mentors allows you to see different styles in and out of the Courtroom and can help you decided the kind of lawyer you want to be

Mentors? I love all kinds of music! Jam bands like Dave Matthews and Old Crow Medicine Show. Plus alternative and country like Billy Strings and Sturgill Simpson.

One thing we might be surprised to know about you. I don't know how much of a surprise it is, but I do in fact live up to my name and enjoy hunting (and fishing). I recently went to Argentina to hunt red stag while 6 months pregnant!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Mikaela Nordman



My practice area is family law.

I was born and raised in DeLand. I have spent my whole life in Volusia County, other than the time I spent in Gainesville for college and law school.

I received both my bachelor's degree and my law degree from the University of Florida. I graduated from college in 2016 and from law school in 2019.

If you weren't practicing law, what would your career choice be? In another life, I would love to be an English teacher. I would also love to own a dessert bakery!

Mentors? I have had many mentors in my career so far, but the two mentors I am lucky enough to work with every day are Douglas Kneller and Therese Truelove. I started working at iFloridaDivorce.com, LLC in 2018 as a summer law clerk, and I knew immediately that was where I wanted to be long term. From my first day on the job, Mr. Kneller and Ms. Truelove provided me with an environment where I was fully immersed in all aspects of family law. As an added benefit, I get to observe two very different styles of practicing law on a daily basis. I also continue to learn from my dad, Michael Nordman, who is Board Certified in property law.

Favorite music? I consistently listen to all different kinds of music. I do not have a favorite genre, as I believe there is a time and a place for every kind of music.

One thing we might be surprised to know about you. I love all things artistic and creative! I spend a lot of time painting, drawing, singing, taking photographs, baking and decorating desserts, learning to play new songs on my guitar, and doing any other creative design projects I can think of.

Michelle Simonsen



I have been an Assistant State Attorney here in Volusia County since 1998. I am an intake attorney handling domestic violence cases.

I was born in Omaha, Nebraska. My family moved to Florida in 1972, and I grew up in Apopka, Florida.

I am a double graduate of the University of Florida. I earned my undergraduate degree in 1987 and my JD degree in 1990.

If you weren't practicing law, what would your career choice be? I would probably be involved with renovating houses or working with dogs in some capacity.

Mentors? A number of attorneys and judges have mentored me at various points in my legal career, both in South Carolina and in Florida. I have enjoyed working in offices with multiple attorneys and being able to sit down with the more experienced attorneys to get their advice, insight, and wisdom when I needed it. Now I enjoy helping our newer attorneys with questions and issues that arise in their cases.

Favorite music? I love 80's music and contemporary Christian music.

One thing we might be surprised to know about you. I was the captain of my dance corps team in high school.

My Final Annual Letter of Gratitude! May 2024

I have been most fortunate to have a job that I enjoyed. I enjoyed the challenge of bringing members together, creating events and projects with a tight budget and learning the ins and outs of the legal world to offer a quality program to benefit the members. .

So, thank you:

- Members, for your membership and participation in Bar events. It's not bar association
 without members! I appreciate all who volunteered to speak (or create) a CLE seminar,
 judged a high school mock trial, sponsored events and attended meetings, seminars and
 projects.
- Board members, for the guidance and trust to ensure Volusia County would continue the now 95 year tradition of a vital voluntary bar.
- Judges, for becoming a more vital part of the VCBA by attending meetings, speaking at seminars and meeting the members.
- Beth King, Judge Belle Schumann and Jeff Brock for hiring me! Who knew it would be a 20 year gig?

What's next for the VCBA?

Your new Executive Director, Sarah Grover has accepted the position and will begin working with me in May. I am positive you will welcome her with open arms and offer support and encouragement as you did me.

What's next for me?

Bob and I plan on traveling, volunteering and spending time with family. When not doing those things, I will be creating. I envision my retirement as one continuous craft project!

Best wishes with love and gratitude,

Kathie Selover



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Community Legal Services Staff Attorney Family Law (Daytona Beach)

Application Link

The Staff Attorney is to provide high quality legal services by representing and advising clients regarding their family law matters.

This position is responsible for representing low income and/or vulnerable clients on a broad range of family legal matters which includes regular court appearances, hearings, and trials in both State and Federal courts.

This position also includes regular client interaction including completing intakes, conducting interviews, and providing advice and counsel.

The candidate in this role will research and interpret laws, rulings, and regulations applicable to cases assigned as well as prepare and review legal writings such as pleadings, orders, discovery, and other documents for the court or government agencies.

The individual in this key role will negotiate and draft settlement agreements and conduct or participate in outreach events or activities of the unit and organization.

This is a Full-time position with the ability to work both scheduled and flexible work hours, including some evenings/weekends, based on business needs to perform duties, attend meetings and/or other functions throughout the CLS 12 county service area.

Qualifications:

- Must be admitted in good standing to practice law in Florida. Bilingual (English/Spanish) highly preferred.
- Minimum of 3 5 years' experience in civil litigation or working with low-income and/or vulnerable clients and communities on civil legal matters.
- Experience with subject matter areas within the area of family law, with a high capacity to prioritize, manage simultaneous tasks, and meet strict deadlines within a rapid-paced environment.
- Ability to advocate consistently and zealously for clients in the regions we serve.
- Successful candidate will have highly approachable presentation, organizational skills, and the ability to effectively and consistently engage and collaborate with a diverse constituency of community stakeholders and organizations.
- Must possess excellent legal and community partnership skills and be computer literate (Microsoft Office 365).
- Valid Florida automobile license, use of own auto, and proof of insurance necessary.

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Welcomes Sean M. O'Toole and Jeff DeRosier to its firm.



Sean is a native Floridian. His practice focuses on land use, business and corporate matters, as well as commercial and residential real estate matters, estate planning, probate, and trust law. Mr. O'Toole graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Boston College in 2003 and received his JD from Vanderbilt University Law School in 2010, where he completed the Law and Business certificate

After law school, Sean practiced with larger law firms in the Orlando market, where he focused on corporate, real estate, land use and planning issues, and healthcare matters. Since then, Sean has focused on assisting developers, homebuilders, and investors in real estate and land development matters throughout the Southeast United States. Contact Sean at sotoole@surfcoastlaw.com.



Jeff was proudly born and raised in Massachusetts and has a deep and abiding hatred of the Yankees, Lakers, and Canadiens. He graduated cum laude from Barry University School of Law in 2006, then earned his LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Florida in 2007. His practice includes business litigation and transactions, tax controversy for individuals and businesses, tax planning for businesses and individuals, and he is a Certified Circuit Mediator. Tax issues permeate every area of the law, so Jeff frequently consults with colleagues to identify and resolve those issues, even if the client was unaware the issue existed. For example, when litigating business issues, a tax attorney can help avoid adverse tax consequences when it comes to drafting a final order. When creating a patent or trademark, or investing in any business expense, a tax attorney

can advise the client of the deductibility of the expense. In any business-related transaction, a tax attorney can work with your CPA or other advisor to ensure minimal tax expense. An on-staff tax attorney can be an invaluable resource no matter the legal issue, a resource that Wright & Casey now has, so take advantage of it. Contact Jeff at iderosier@surfcoastlaw.com.



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Other Computer Resources - Access to Florida Law Weekly, FLSSI Probate and Guardianship forms, Family Law Forms, Landlord/Tenant Forms.

Practice Manuals & Form Books - Covering legal topics from A—Z.

CLE Courses - Visit the Law Library's website to view a complete list of titles available to rent. Rental policy applies.

Law Practice Management Collection - Titles available for attorneys to borrow for free. See the Law Practice Management titles on the Law Library's website.

www.vclawlib.org

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