

# COMMUNICATOR

The Volusia County Bar Association Newsletter | April 2025



Dear VCBA Members,

I encourage each of you to consider taking on a leadership role within the VCBA. We are now accepting applications for positions on the VCBA Board of Directors, as well as the Young Lawyers Board for those who qualify. Serving on the board is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the direction of our organization, make lasting connections, and help shape the future of our legal community.

If you have a passion for leadership, service, and the advancement of the legal profession in our area, I urge you to apply. Your voice and perspective are valuable, and we welcome members who are eager to make a difference.

I hope to see you all at the Bench & Barbeque!

Best regards,

Sarah Grover

*Executive Director, VCBA*



## VOLUNTEER

### **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 year to plan membership meetings, CLE seminars, social, networking and service activities.

### **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.

#### **Application Information:**

The deadline to apply is 5:00pm Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

The slate of nominees will be voted upon at the August 1, 2025 at the VCBA Annual Meeting.

Applications can be found via the links below and emailed to [volusiabar@gmail.com](mailto:volusiabar@gmail.com) for submission.

- [VCBA Board of Directors Application](#)
- [YLD Board of Directors Application](#)



# BENCH & BARBEQUE

## BENCH & BARBEQUE

Thursday, April 17th, 2025  
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Join us for our annual event celebrating the Volusia County Legal Community and our 50+ year members! With state of the Judiciary by Chief Judge Leah Case, updates from VCBA Board and the Young Lawyers Division. This year we are honoring Jerry Wells (55 years) and Daniel S. Wallace (50 years) and the retirement of Judge Warren.

**The Brannon Center, NSB**  
105 S Riverside Drive  
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168

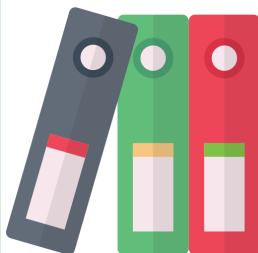
**4RIVERS BBQ Dinner**  
Cash Bar

\$30 Per Person (partners/spouses/legal friends, etc. all welcome)  
[Register by April 10!](#)  
Reminder: Casual Attire

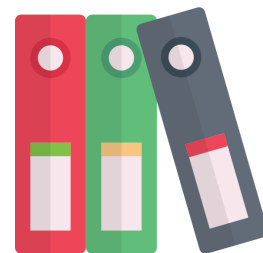


 **stewart**<sup>TM</sup>

**[REGISTER NOW!](#)**



**Free gently used binders!**  
**Check with Judge Jolley**



# VCBA WEBSITE UPDATE - “YOUR LOGO HERE”

## Showcase Your Firm or Business on the VCBA Website!

Enhance your visibility within the Volusia County legal community by displaying your logo and a direct link to your website on the Volusia County Bar Association's website!

[www.volusiabar.org](http://www.volusiabar.org)

**Exclusive Member Rate:** \$150/year for VCBA members

**Business Rate:** \$300/year for eligible legal community businesses in Volusia County

This is an excellent opportunity to increase your reach and connect with legal professionals and potential clients. Secure your spot today!

For more details or to reserve your placement, email [volusiabar@gmail.com](mailto:volusiabar@gmail.com).

## YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

### YLD St. Patrick's Day Social (RECAP)

March 26, 2025

Our St. Patrick's Social at Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery was a fantastic success! With a great turnout, members enjoyed an evening of networking, laughter, and camaraderie, all while celebrating the luck of the Irish.

A big thank you to our sponsor, **Stewart**, for making the event possible! And to everyone who wore green—cheers to scoring that free drink!

We appreciate everyone who joined us and look forward to seeing you at our next event!



# ELEMENTARY MOCK TRIALS

## Pine Trail Elementary

Feb. 21, 2025

Second and third grade students visited the S. James Foxman Justice Center for the Lion King Mock Trial, led by retired Judge Richard Orfinger. They also heard from Chief Judge Leah Case, Public Defender Matt Metz, and others. The visit gave students a firsthand look at the courtroom process and introduced them to the roles of judges, attorneys, and law enforcement.



## Home School Group

Feb. 28, 2025

Homeschool students in grades K–8 stepped into the roles of judges, attorneys, and witnesses as they presented "The State of Florida vs. Gold E. Locks" at the Steven C. Henderson Judicial Center. Judge Wesley Heidt presided guiding students through the courtroom experience. In addition to the trial, students explored the law library and heard from representatives of the State Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, and the Volusia Sheriff's Office, gaining a deeper understanding of the legal system.



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## Mike Ciocchetti

Mike Ciocchetti is a dedicated attorney specializing in Property Insurance Claims & Litigation, Construction Defect, and Personal Injury. Born in Rhode Island, Mike moved to Daytona Beach at 12 and has called it home ever since. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida in 2000 before obtaining a JD/MBA from Stetson University in 2003.

Mike credits mentors Ted Doran, Aaron Wolfe, and Carolyn Ansay for shaping his litigation skills and acknowledges the talented attorneys he's litigated against for further refining his approach.

Outside the courtroom, Mike's passion for classic and collector cars has turned into a side hustle. He recently brokered the last Mercedes 300SL "Gullwing" ever produced—a rare 1957 model (1,400 produced) featured on *Jay Leno's Garage*.

When it comes to dining, he enjoys Oceanside Bar & Grill (formerly Betty's), whether at its Flagler Beach location or the new Ormond Beach spot.

Mike's dedication to his clients, community, and classic cars makes him a standout in our legal circle!



## Ann Phillips

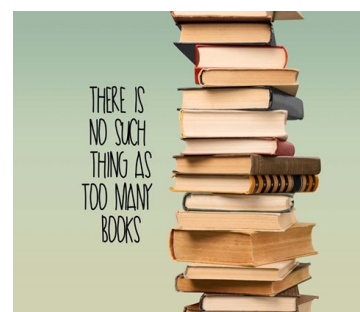
Ann Phillips is a criminal appellate attorney who has spent her career ensuring justice through thorough legal advocacy.

Born and raised in Sarasota, Florida, Ann has lived in the state her whole life. She earned her B.A. in Political Science from the University of South Florida and her law degree from the University of Florida.

Early in her career at the Attorney General's office, Ann was mentored by Kellie Nielan and Judge Wes Heidt, who helped her navigate the appellate process and encouraged her to push beyond her comfort zone. Their advice resonates with her to this day.

Outside of work, Ann enjoys dining at Santorini's Greek restaurant in DeLand and is an avid reader. She participates in five different book clubs, which expose her to a variety of books and perspectives.

If not practicing law, Ann would likely be in politics or governmental affairs.



# NOTICE



**STATE OF FLORIDA  
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns & Volusia Counties  
Steven C. Henderson Judicial Center  
125 E. Orange Ave.  
Daytona Beach, Florida 32114

**Mark A. Weinberg**  
Court Administrator

Phone: (386) 257-6097

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 19, 2025

**TO:** Circuit and County Judges  
Judicial Assistants  
Clerks of Court  
General Magistrates / Hearing Officers  
Mediators  
Staff Attorneys  
County Bar Associations

**FROM:** Mark A. Weinberg, Court Administrator

**RE:** Interest Rate on Judgments or Decrees Effective April 1, 2025

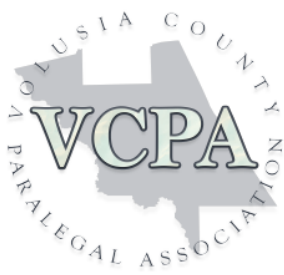
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Section 55.03(1), Florida Statutes, requires the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida to set the interest rate payable on judgments or decrees quarterly.

Please be advised that the interest rate for the quarter beginning April 1, 2025, has been reduced to 9.15% per annum or .0250685% per day.

Pursuant to section 215.422(13), Florida Statutes, the interest rate for payments to health care providers remains at 1% per month.

For more information, contact the Bureau of Accounting of the Department of Financial Services at (850) 413-5511.



# VOLUSIA COUNTY PARALEGALS ASSOCIATION

**Mailing Address: 125 N. Ridgewood Avenue, Suite 100, Daytona Beach, FL 32**

**Email: [volusiaparalegals@gmail.com](mailto:volusiaparalegals@gmail.com) - Website: [volusiacountyparalegal.co](http://volusiacountyparalegal.co)**

We are excited to announce the Volusia County Paralegal Association, Inc. will be hosting our 2nd<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Bring Your Attorney to Lunch" event on Thursday, May 8th, 2025. 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 we are privileged to have Judge Michael S. Orfinger give a presentation which will be eligible for one hour of CLE.

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

[Vicepresident.volusiaparalegals@gmail.com](mailto:Vicepresident.volusiaparalegals@gmail.com)

(386) 295-8974

EIN# 93-3025546

## FLAGLER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

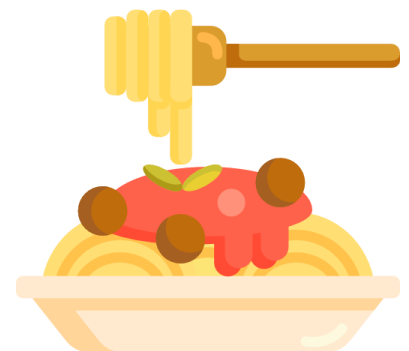
The Flagler Bar Association is hosting an attorney lunch open to VCBA Members!

When: Friday, April 25, 2025

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Olive Garden

Address: 5294 State Rte 100, Palm Coast, FL 32164



# JOB POSTINGS

**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.

Benefits:

- 401(k)
- Dental insurance
- Health insurance
- Life insurance
- Retirement plan
- Vision insurance

Schedule:

- 8-hour shift
- Monday to Friday
- On call
- Weekends as needed

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

[https://ats3.atenterprise.powerschool.com/ats/app\\_login?COMPANY\\_ID=IA000044](https://ats3.atenterprise.powerschool.com/ats/app_login?COMPANY_ID=IA000044)

Volusia County, located in the heart of the beautiful east coast of Florida, is a rapidly growing, progressive area. Sixteen municipalities make up the county, with Daytona Beach, DeLand, Deltona, Ormond Beach and Port Orange as the largest metropolitan areas. Conveniently located for easy access to Orlando, Jacksonville, Tampa, and Miami.

## The USDC, Florida Middle District has several positions open:

- #25-19 Judicial Law Clerk – Jacksonville, FL.
- #25-20 Judicial Law Clerk – Tampa, FL.
- #25-23 Judicial Law Clerk – Jacksonville, FL.

More information can be found here: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/flmd>.

Christen Price  
Human Resources Specialist  
USDC- Middle District of Florida  
401 W. Central Blvd.  
Orlando, FL. 32821  
(407) 835-8571



## Community Legal Services

### Family Law Staff Attorney (Hybrid; Daytona Beach)

Be a part of an organization making a difference in the Central Florida community. As an Orlando Business Journal's [2021 Best Places to Work](#) Honoree and Orlando Sentinel's 2022 Best Workplaces Honoree, Community Legal Services (CLS) is a full service civil legal aid law firm that promotes equal access to justice, specifically for the most vulnerable individuals in our society.

Find more information here: <https://careers.hireology.com/communitylegalservicesofmid-florida/2267964/description>

# Thank you sponsors!

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DaytonaBusinessLawyers.com  
386.310.7997

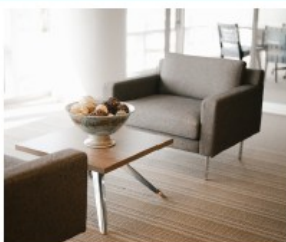
*Erum S. Kistemaker*  
Managing Attorney

DaytonaBusinessLawyers.com | 386.310.7997 | 120 E. Granada Blvd., Ormond Beach, FL  
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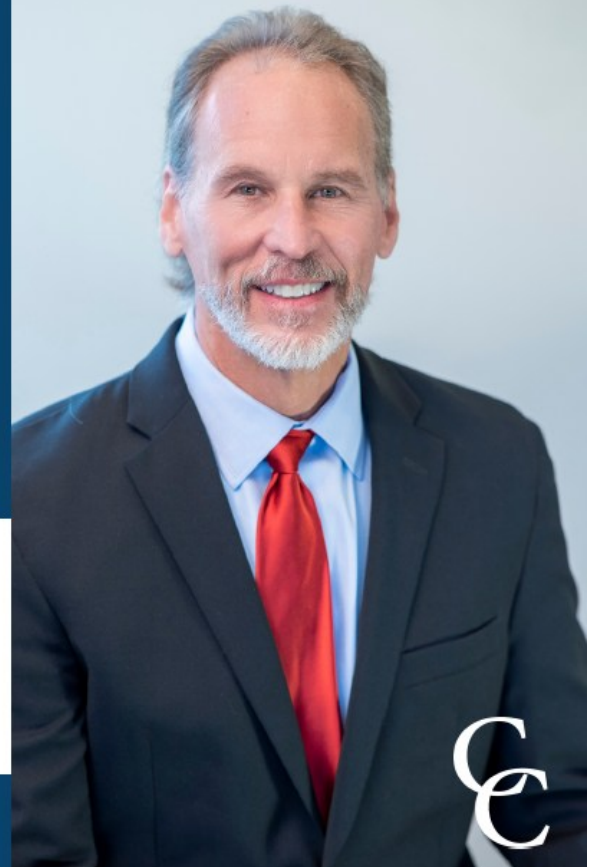
## SCOTT W. CICHON CERTIFIED MEDIATOR

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Jennifer Barnes  
Owner

[jennifer@prevailtechconsulting.com](mailto:jennifer@prevailtechconsulting.com)



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## Volusia County Law Library

### Westlaw

Extensive Florida and Federal database and Westlaw Today Legal News are available at the DeLand and Daytona Beach law libraries, and the VCLL computers in the Ormond Beach, Deltona and New Smyrna Beach public libraries.

### FLSSI Forms

New 2025 Florida Bar approved FLSSI forms for Guardianship and Probate.

Forms are available on the desktops in the DeLand and Daytona Beach courthouse law libraries.

### Other Desktop Resources

- Civil Procedure Forms
- Criminal Law Forms
- Family Law Forms
- Florida Law Weekly
- Landlord/ Tenant
- Small Business Resources
- Legal Topics A-Z

[vclawlib.org](http://vclawlib.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-25

### **2024-25 VCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

David Ellzey, *President*  
Lori Sandman, *President Elect*  
Tonya Cromartie, *Treasurer*  
Michael Ciocchetti, *Secretary*

#### **VCBA Directors**

Charley Vega	Mark Cressman
MaryCatherine Crock	Sundria Ridgely
Mel Stack	Tammy Jaques
Maria Indelicato	Michele Simonsen
Maria McCorkle	

### **2024-25 YLD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Carleen Leffler, *President*  
Hunter Morrill, *President Elect*  
Alyson Bryant, *Treasurer*  
Sydney Cichon, *Secretary*

#### **YLD Directors**

Jeffrey Bauer	Christy Earls
Angela Burke	Kelsey Hansen-Walter
Taylor Carley	Edwin Thiruchelvam

### **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  
1440 N. Nova Road, Suite 101  
Daytona Beach, FL 32117  
Phone: 386-253-9471  
[volusiabar@gmail.com](mailto:volusiabar@gmail.com)  
[www.volusiabar.org](http://www.volusiabar.org)