

COMMUNICATOR

The Volusia County Bar Association | Newsletter November 2024



Dear VCBA Members,

October was a month of remarkable events and exciting initiatives for our association.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended the Masquera de Ball. It was a spectacular evening filled with elegance, fun, and camaraderie. Special thanks to our sponsors and volunteers for making it all possible.

Additionally, we held a CLE session on "Tools and Tech of an Expert Private Investigator" on Oct 29 by Nathan Deschenes with Three Island PI. The session delved into the latest technologies and techniques used by private investigators, offering valuable insights that can enhance our legal practice.

As we move forward, I am thrilled to announce the formation of two new committees that will play a pivotal role in our association's growth and development. The first is the Technology Committee, which will focus on upgrading our current technology systems and developing a member platform to enhance communication and streamline processes. The second is the Professional Symposium Committee, which will be dedicated to organizing a Professional Symposium in 2025 that will provide valuable learning and networking opportunities for our members.

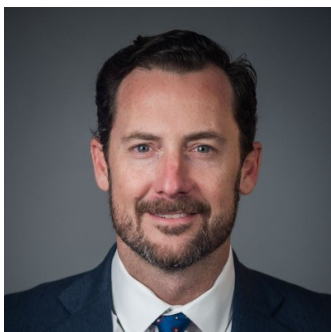
Our association thrives on the active participation of our members, and I am committed to creating an environment where everyone feels empowered to contribute, connect, and grow. Whether you are a seasoned attorney or just beginning your career, your voice and involvement are vital to the continued success of our organization.

Thank you for your dedication to the Volusia County Bar Association. We wish you and your family all the best in the holiday season ahead.

Warm regards,

David Ellzey

VCBA President, 2024 - 2025



MASQUERADE BALL RECAP

The Masquerade Ball held on October 18 was a resounding success, bringing together members of the Volusia County Bar Association for an evening of elegance and fun. The event hosted at the beautiful Brannon Center created an enchanting atmosphere that set the stage for a memorable night.

The night featured an electrifying DJ who kept the dance floor going with a fantastic mix of music. The beats and rhythms set the perfect tone for an unforgettable evening of dancing and celebration. A photobooth and balloon arch was set up for guests to capture fun and memorable moments with friends and colleagues.

Guests enjoyed a delicious cocktail hour and dinner of carved New York Strip and spinach and cheese stuffed chicken, graciously served by our local Chef Papa's Catering, as well as an open bar.

The Masquerade Ball was not only a night of glamour and entertainment but also an opportunity to strengthen the bonds within our legal community. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who attended and contributed to making this event a spectacular success.



MASQUERADE BALL - THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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“TOOLS AND TECH OF AN EXPERT INVESTIGATOR” CLE RECAP

“Tools and Tech of an Expert Investigator” presented by Nathan A. Deschenes, was an enlightening and engaging session that provided valuable insights into the latest investigative tools and techniques. With Nathan's extensive background in federal law enforcement for 25 years, including his work with the U.S. Secret Service, Department of Defense, and the Joint Terrorism Task Force, attendees gained a wealth of knowledge that is highly applicable to the legal and investigative fields.

Nathan covered a wide range of topics, including the benefits of using a private investigator, areas of practice, and various capabilities, legal aspects, and ethical considerations of investigative techniques and client protection. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in a lively discussion with Nathan, gaining deeper insights into the practical applications of the tools and techniques presented.

The event at [Venue 142](#) (DeLand) included a happy hour, where attendees enjoyed beer, wine, charcuterie, vegetable crostini, and chicken and waffles. This provided a relaxed atmosphere for members to connect, share ideas, and build valuable professional relationships.

Participants earned 1 CLE credit in Technology, enhancing their professional development and staying current with the latest advancements in investigative techniques.

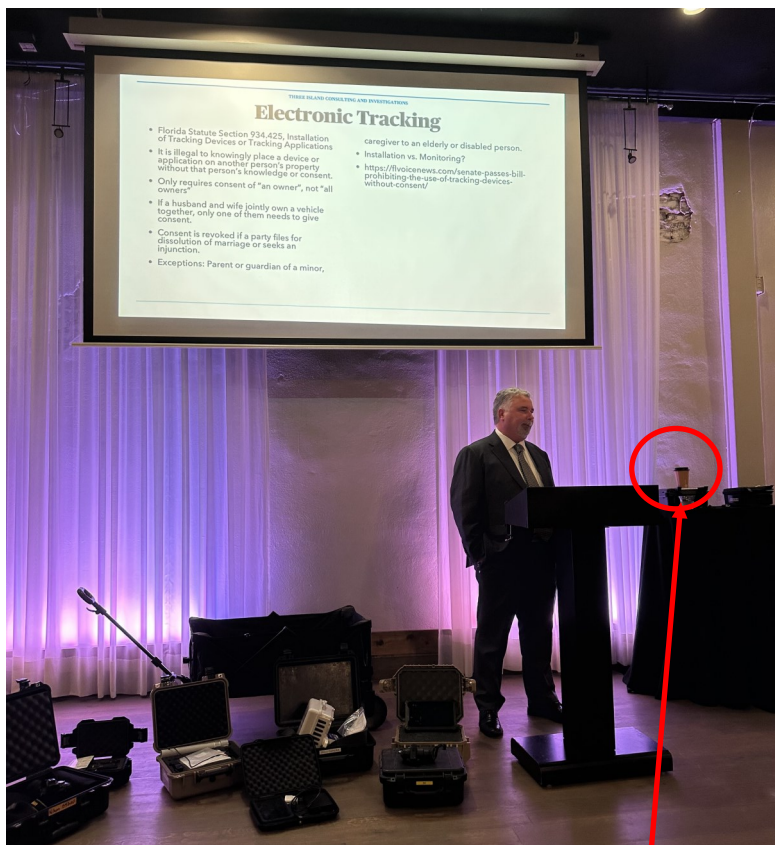
We extend our heartfelt thanks to Nathan for sharing his expertise and to everyone who participated.

Nathan A. Deschenes

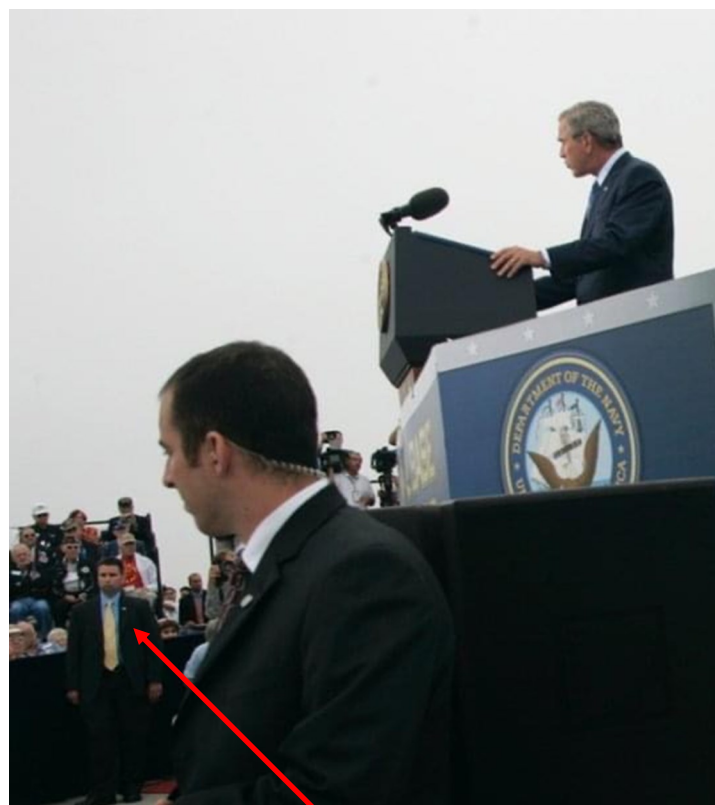
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Surveillance Coffee Cup!



Nathan serving on Secret Service for President Bush

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Kirk T. Bauer

Kirk began the practice of law in 1985 and established the law firm of Bauer and Associates in 1992 in DeLand. He concentrates his practice in business law, real property law, estate planning, probate and probate litigation matters. Kirk's son, Jeff, recently joined him as his partner in the firm. The firm represents individuals, public and private corporations, buyers and sellers, and non-profit groups. Kirk also owns and operates an independent title company, Ability Title, in DeLand.

He is a past president of the Volusia County Bar Association and has served on the Statewide Nominating Committee for Workers Compensation Judges, 7th Judicial Circuit Florida Bar Grievance Committee, and other local municipality committees, homeowners' association boards, bank boards, and volunteer positions. As a young lawyer, Kirk's first bosses were Craig James and James B. Clayton (Kirk's father-in-law) who taught him the benefits of preparation, diligence, being truthful, and caring for your clients.

Born in Connecticut, he grew up in Branford until high school when he and his family moved to Shelter Island, New York. With his home always being close to water, he spent much time on a boat enjoying fishing and water sports. Following high school, he moved to Florida to attend Stetson University in DeLand and then Stetson Law School in St. Petersburg.

Kirk and his wife, Martha, have been married 42 years and have four children and six grandchildren. With most of the family living in the DeLand area, they are blessed to be able to spend a great deal of time together. Kirk and Martha enjoy traveling and have visited many of our National Parks. Kirk is an instrument-rated private pilot and enjoys in-shore and off-shore fishing and hunting.

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

As part of our commitment to enhancing the services we provide to both the public and our members, the Volusia County Bar Association (VCBA) has established a Technology Committee. This committee is tasked with modernizing our systems to offer improved efficiency and convenience, including streamlined dues payments for the 2025 calendar year.

Keep an eye on your inbox in the coming months for updates and instructions on the new features. These enhancements are designed to make managing your membership smoother and more convenient. We are excited about these advancements and are confident that they will add significant value to your experience with the VCBA.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement!



FIRM SHOUT OUT



Firm President Bill Lowman is an Oviedo resident and received his JD from University of Miami and his LL.M from University of Florida.



ShuffieldLowman Recognized as a 2024 Top Workplace by the *Orlando Sentinel*

ORLANDO, FLORIDA – ShuffieldLowman has been recognized as a 2024 *Orlando Sentinel* Top Workplace for the fourth consecutive year. The firm ranked #58 in the small business category, an achievement that highlights ShuffieldLowman’s commitment to creating a positive, inclusive, and engaging work environment.

The *Orlando Sentinel*’s Top Workplace awards are determined entirely by employee feedback gathered through anonymous surveys. These surveys measure several key factors related to workplace culture, including employee engagement, organizational alignment, leadership, communication, and workplace flexibility. The process ensures that only those organizations where employees feel truly valued and supported receive this honor.

ShuffieldLowman’s scores across these critical areas allowed the firm to once again secure its place on the 2024 Top Workplace list. As part of the small business category, the firm was compared against other organizations with similar employee sizes, and its high aggregate score reflects the positive feedback received from employees.

According to the firm’s President, William R. Lowman, Jr., “Our ongoing focus on employee well-being and organizational transparency has not only resulted in a highly engaged, cohesive team, but also reinforces the firm’s reputation for delivering outstanding client service across all areas of practice.”

ShuffieldLowman’s five offices are in Orlando, DeLand, Port Orange, Tavares* and Lake Nona*. The firm is a 55 attorney, full-service law firm, practicing in the areas of real estate, litigation, estate planning, and corporate law. Specific areas include commercial real estate, labor and employment, estate planning and probate, tax law, securities, mergers and acquisitions, commercial and civil litigation, fiduciary litigation, guardianship and elder law, construction law, intellectual property, planning for families with closely held businesses, tax controversy – Federal and State, non-profit organization law, banking and finance, land use and government law, association law, bankruptcy and creditors’ rights, and mediation.

INVESTITURE



You are cordially invited to attend the investiture of

**The Honorable
Robert W. Pickens, III**

as

Circuit Judge
of the

**Seventh Judicial Circuit
State of Florida**

Friday, December 13, 2024
3:30 PM

Historic Volusia County Courthouse
120 West Indiana Ave
DeLand, Florida

Reception to follow

NOTICE - 7th CIRCUIT

CONTACT: Travis Mydock, Chair
Seventh Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission
Phone: (904) 864-3002
Email: tmydock@mydocklaw.com

SEVENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION NOTICE OF APPLICANTS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CIRCUIT COURT

SAINT AUGUSTINE, Fla. – Gov. Ron DeSantis has requested that the Seventh Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission convene for the purpose of selecting and submitting a list of highly qualified lawyers for appointment to the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court. The Seventh Circuit includes Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns, and Volusia counties. This appointment will fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Terence Perkins.

The Commission published a notice of vacancy and received nine (9) applicants. The applicants will be interviewed in alphabetical order as follows:

Date: **Tuesday, November 19, 2024**

Location: **Richard O. Watson Judicial Center, Courtroom Annex**
4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, FL 32084

9:30 am	Clifton, Jacquelyn Roys
9:45 am	Ditslear, Christopher Robert
10:00 am	Indelicato, Maria Kristin
10:15 am	Miller, Hon. Arthur Christian
10:30 am	(Break)
10:35 am	Miller, Zachary Watson
10:50 am	Phillips, Ann Muenzmay
11:05 am	Pitts, Kevin Jeffrey
11:20 am	Thomas, Sarah Elizabeth
11:35 am	Urbanak, Andrew John
11:50 am	(Adjourn Public Meeting)
	Executive session for confidential deliberations of the Commission pursuant to Article V, Section 11(d) of the Florida Constitution

The Commission encourages and seeks comments regarding the qualifications of the applicants.

All correspondence regarding an applicant should hereafter be sent to Travis Mydock, Chair, at tmydock@mydocklaw.com, by no later than 12:00 pm on November 18, 2024. All correspondence will be forwarded by the Chair to the Commission. All correspondence constitutes a public record pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.

All proceedings of the Seventh Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission are open to the public, except for deliberations.

The current members of the Seventh Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission are:

Travis Mydock, B.C.S. (Chair)
Terrence White, Esq. (Vice Chair)
Casey Arnold, Esq.
Kelly Parsons Kwiatek, Esq.
Andrew Morgan, Esq.
John Reid, B.C.S.
Raven Sword, Esq.
Erica White, Esq.

VOLUSIA COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

125 N. Ridgewood Ave., Suite 100, Daytona Beach, FL 32114
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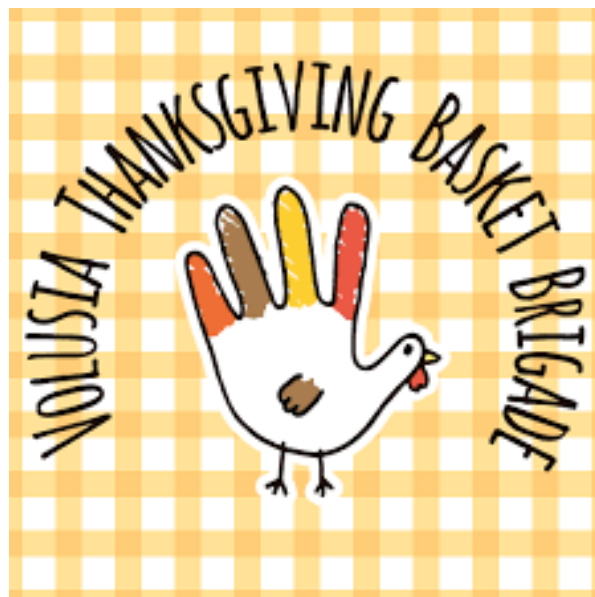
BASKET BRIGADE

The Volusia County Paralegal Association is teaming up with the Volusia Thanksgiving Basket Brigade! We have committed to 20 boxes. The approximate cost to fill a box is \$35-45. If you or your firm would like to contribute, we will be happy to pick up all donated items for package and delivery during the week of November 15th-22nd. Don't have time to shop and still want to contribute? Donations are accepted and we will do the shopping for you! Below is a suggested list of items, but additional items are welcome.

- Green Beans (3)
- Canned Corn (3)
- Brownie Mix (2)
- Yams (2)
- Boxed Stuffing (2)
- Gravy Package Mix
- Mini Marshmallows
- Corn Bread Mix
- Scalloped Potatoes (2)
- Mashed Potato Mix (2)
- Cranberry Sauce (2)
- Cream of Mushroom Soup (2)
- Fried Onion Strings
- \$10-\$15 Gift Card for a Turkey*

*VCPA will provide the gift cards for every filled donated box.

Please contact Michelle Williams at mwilliams@lawdaytona.com if you are willing to participate in providing a Thanksgiving meal to families in need in our community. For additional information regarding the Volusia Thanksgiving Basket Brigade, please visit <https://www.volusiabasketbrigade.com/>



JOB POSTING!!

PCI Municipal Services is working with Volusia County to formalize an off-street parking program. In search of a legal partner that will adjudicate escalated appeals.

Contact Michael Bandy
at mbandy@municipalparking.com for inquiries.



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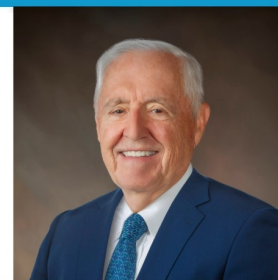
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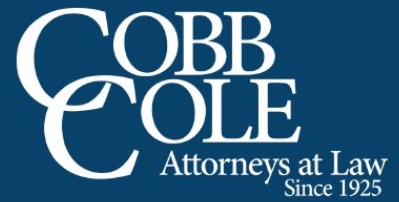
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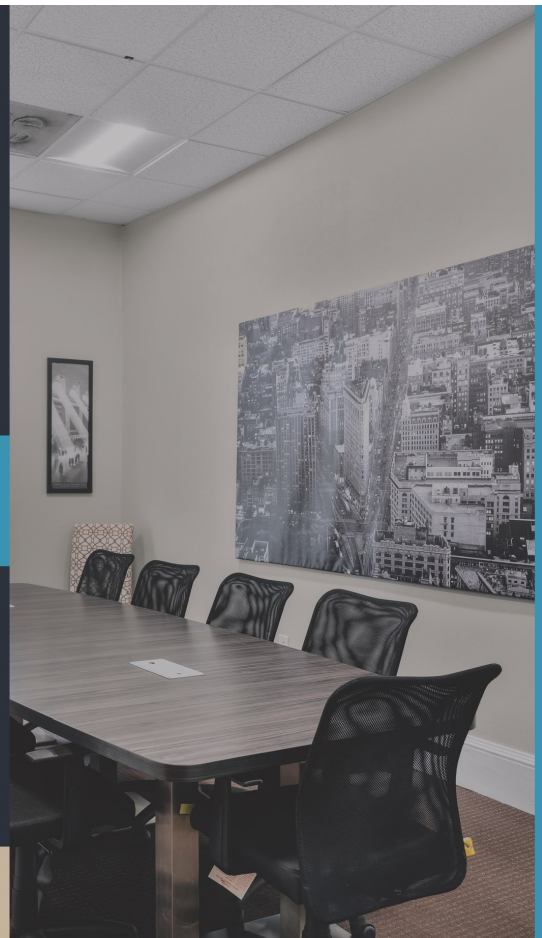
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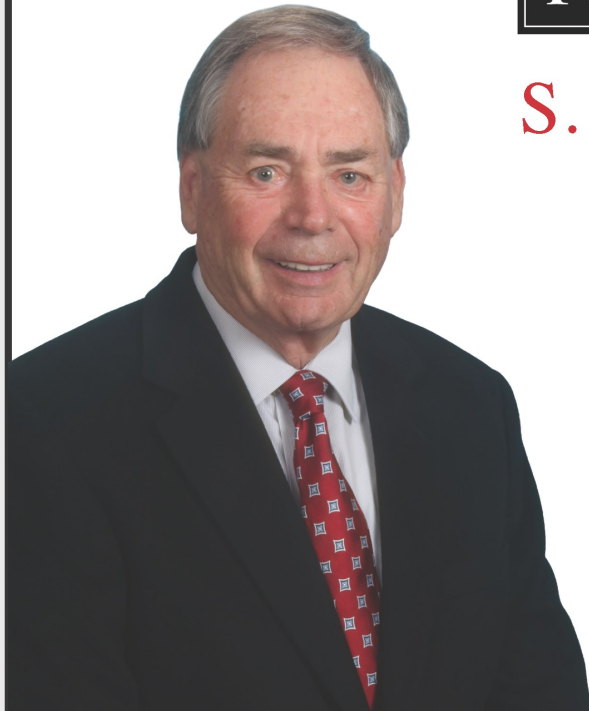
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-25

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

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Volusia County Bar Association

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