

# COMMUNICATOR

The Volusia County Bar Association Newsletter | September 2025



## YLD CHILI COOK-OFF

**October 19, 2025, 4:00pm @ Ormond Brewery**

The VCBA Young Lawyers Division invites you to bring the heat at our upcoming Chili Cook-Off! We're looking for chefs to show off their best recipes and compete for bragging rights. Whether your chili is spicy, mild, meaty, or veggie-friendly, this is your chance to shine.

And yes... judges will be judges – so bring your A-game!

Sign up today to cook and be part of the fun, email [volusia-bar@gmail.com](mailto:volusia-bar@gmail.com).



## UCBA YLD CHILI COOK-OFF

10.19.2025 **BRING THE HEAT!** 4:00 PM

Do you have what it takes to be  
voted best chili by our Judges?!

Sign up by emailing  
[volusiabar@gmail.com](mailto:volusiabar@gmail.com)



Ormond Brewery, 301 Division Ave. Unit 15, Ormond Beach, FL 32174

# FLORIDA BAR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



## Registration Is Open for Counsel to Counsel, The Florida Bar's Mentoring Program

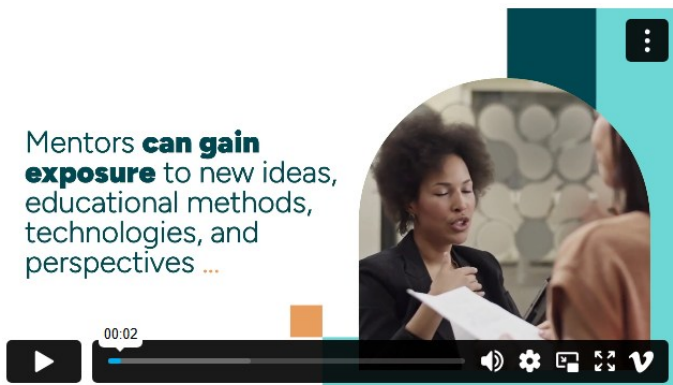
By Judge Katherine Hurst Miller

In 2023, The Florida Bar created Counsel to Counsel, a first-of-its-kind statewide mentoring program. The Florida Bar partnered with the MentorcliQ app to create a matching program for mentors and mentees, based on a personality survey, list of practice areas, and geographical location. Counsel to Counsel pairs lawyers with five or fewer years of practice in Florida (mentees) with lawyers with five or more years of practice in Florida (mentors). The matching program ensures that mentors and mentees share some common interests and are easily able to connect on professional topics. Together, the mentor-mentee pairs complete four milestone worksheets, from a menu of topics on career planning, lawyer-client relationships, lawyer-bar relationships, and client development/community involvement. Completing a milestone worksheet is as simple as having a cup of coffee and talking through some guided conversation prompts. Although many participants think of the mentor-mentee relationship as the main benefit, CLE credits are also available for both mentors and mentees.

On a personal note, I helped create this program, and I would love to see more Volusia attorneys be involved. This started as a concept from former Bar President Gary Lesser, and I have watched it grow from a kernel of an idea into a vibrant program with 500 participants last year and a graduation reception with recognition from Chief Justice Carlos Muñoz. I know VCBA members who have participated in the past and enjoyed the program, but Program Chair Jason Berger is looking to grow to 800 participants this year, so we need additional lawyers to sign up as mentors and mentees. And the more Volusia attorneys who sign up, the better your chances are of being paired with someone local. From personal experience as a mentor the last two years, I can tell you that the program is super easy and very rewarding. If you can meet a local mentor or mentee at your favorite nearby coffee shop or restaurant, it is even better.

To sign up for Counsel to Counsel and match with a mentor or mentee, **enroll [here](#)**. The deadline to sign up is **October 3, 2025**.

You can also visit [floridabar.org/mentoring](https://floridabar.org/mentoring) to enroll and to access how-to videos and FAQs.



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Therese Misita Truelove**

***\*\*New Firm Alert\*\****

***Banister & Truelove, P.A.***

1750 Ridgewood Avenue

Holly Hill, FL

(386) 256-3057

therese@banistertruelove.com

Therese practices in the area of Family Law, where her work reflects her lifelong passion for supporting and protecting children.

Although born in Massachusetts, Therese became a Florida native at just six months old. She grew up in South Daytona, graduating from Spruce Creek High School before going on to earn her degree from the University of Central Florida in 1996 and her law degree from the University of Florida College of Law in 1999.

Her journey into law was deeply influenced by her mentor, the late Nathan G. Dinitz. Before entering law school, Therese worked as his legal assistant, where he encouraged her to take the leap into a legal career at the age of 31. His support carried her through law school and her early years of practice. “I wish he was still with us so that he could see how much influence he had in my life,” she reflects.

While teaching was her original career path, circumstances led her away from the classroom and into the courtroom. Yet her heart for children has never changed. Early in her career, Therese represented children who suffered abuse in the foster care system, and today she continues to advocate for children through her family law practice. Outside of work, she treasures her role as aunt, pouring her love into her nieces and nephews, whom she calls her “heart and soul.”

When she’s not practicing law, you may find Therese enjoying a meal at her favorite local spot, *Down the Hatch*.

# VCBA SECTIONS

## UPDATE YOUR SECTION(S)

VCBA members can update their section preferences at any time, and you may select as many sections as you wish, **free of charge** to ensure you receive the most relevant communications.

Available sections include:

- Family Law
- Elder Law
- Solo/Small Firm
- State & Local Government
- Workers' Compensation

Stay connected with the topics and events that matter most to you!

Log in to your [VCBA member account via JoinIt here](#).



## SOLO/SMALL PRACTICE SECTION

Date/Time: Friday, Sept. 19, 2025 @ 1:00 pm

Location: Asahi Japanese Restaurant, Orange City, FL 32163

The VCBA Solo/Small Firm section is meeting for lunch the third Friday of each month. This month at Asahi, casual attire, cozy atmosphere.

We look forward to meeting you. Please RSVP to Julie E. Herring, Esq., [julie@herringlawpa.com](mailto:julie@herringlawpa.com) or R. Shawn McBride, Esq. [shawn.mcbride@rsmlawpllc.com](mailto:shawn.mcbride@rsmlawpllc.com)



# VCBA HALLOWEEN GET TOGETHER

## Edgar Allan Poe Speakeasy

The **Edgar Allan Poe Speakeasy** returns to Daytona Beach for a haunting sequel that delves even deeper into the macabre. This time, the Poe Historians bring four new tales from Poe's dark imagination to life, each paired with a fresh selection of classic cocktails.

Date: Friday, Oct. 17, 2025

Time: 8:00pm

Location: Anderson-Price Memorial Building, 42  
North Beach Street, Ormond Beach, 32174

[Buy your ticket directly from the website here.](#)

If you're interested in dining together beforehand, please rsvp to [volusiabar@gmail.com](mailto:volusiabar@gmail.com).



## OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY NEWSLETTER

Check out the [Summer 2025 community newsletter](#) for the Office of the State Attorney, Florida's 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit.

If you would like to receive our community newsletter, please [sign up](#) or email me.

For more updates, don't forget to follow us on [Twitter](#) (@SAO7FL) and [Facebook](#) (@SAO7FL)!

**Haley Harrison**

Public Information Officer/

Community Engagement Specialist

**Office of State Attorney R.J. Larizza**

251 N. Ridgewood Avenue

Daytona Beach, FL 32114



# VOLUSIA COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION



1725 W. International Speedway Blvd.,  
Daytona Beach 32114

## VCPA ANNUAL MEETING

September 25, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

Our presenter will be Michael Ciochetti, Esq. with Michael Ciochetti, PLLC who will present: "Insurance Law". You will receive 1 hour NALA Substantive CLE for the presentation (The Florida Bar recognizes NALA CLEs). We will be holding our 2026 Elections at this meeting. We will also be welcoming our 2025/2026 Daytona State College Paralegal students. Please join us for a special meeting with a great speaker and lots of networking.

New: To register for the meeting at the following link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/september-25-2025-membership-meeting-2> The dinner choices will be listed in the Zeffy Link. Note that all options come non-alcohol beverage i.e., soda, coffee, or tea. Alcoholic beverages are available at cost. You will be able to pay via credit card now, or you can choose to pay at the door. Please RSVP by September 24, 2025. The Link will allow you to 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. Anyone not showing up at the meeting without cancelling will be responsible for the meal cost.

**Note:** If you are vegan or have other dietary needs, please let us know and we can help you with options.

- Membership cost with dinner: \$ 23.00
- Membership cost without dinner: \$7.00
- Non membership cost with dinner: \$28.00
- Non membership cost without dinner: \$10.00



### *Invitation to Annual CLE Seminar*

## ***"Leveraging AI in Legal Practice: Innovation, Integration, and Intellectual Property"***

*Featuring Guest Speakers including VCBA President, Lori Sandman*

**CLE:** 3 General CLE Credits  
for attorneys and FRPs

**DATE:** October 25, 2025

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Fairfield Inn & Suites  
Daytona Beach Speedway  
1820 Checkered Flag Blvd.  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

**COST:** \$45 (Nonmember Attorneys)

### **We will explore:**

- Intellectual property concerns when using AI;
- Ways AI is being integrated into paralegal programs, and how that training can be leveraged by law firms
- How legal professionals can increase efficiency by using AI; and
- Ethical concerns when using AI

***Visit us at [volusiaparalegal.com](https://volusiaparalegal.com) to register***

# PARTNER ASSOCIATIONS

## FLAGLER COUNTY BAR

The Flagler County Bar will be having their 2026 Annual Meeting on **Friday, December 12, 2025**. Please save the date and more information will follow.

If there are any questions, please let me know.

**Regina Ranier-Sprague, Executive Director**

Flagler County Bar Association

[flaglerbar@gmail.com](mailto:flaglerbar@gmail.com)

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

## You're Invited!



Join WV FAWL and Community Legal Services for a **Free CLE AND FREE LUNCH** at the DeLand Courthouse

### Trial Strategies: Insights from the Courtroom

Presented by Criminal Trial Expert **Jeanne Stratis**



**DeLand Courthouse**

101 N Alabama Ave, DeLand, FL 32747

Jury Assembly Room – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor



**Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**



**10:00AM – 12:00 PM**

**Jeanne Stratis Esq.**, a seasoned trial attorney and expert in criminal litigation, will share practical trial strategies, real courtroom experiences, and tips to enhance your advocacy. Whether you're new to trial work or a seasoned litigator, this CLE will offer valuable takeaways for every practitioner.

#### 1.0 General CLE Credit Approved

Lunch will be provided.

Open to all members of the legal community.



**RSVP** appreciated – Savanna N. Gaslin or Courtney Jones

[[Savanna@arwanilawfirm.com](mailto:Savanna@arwanilawfirm.com)]; [[courtnevi@clsmf.org](mailto:courtnevi@clsmf.org)]

We look forward to seeing you there!

# NOTICES

## SEVENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION NOTICE OF TWO (2) CIRCUIT COURT VACANCIES AND REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Please see notice below of two vacancies and request for applications.  
Deadline is **September 15, 2025**.

[See the notice here](#)

*\*\*Also sent via email on August 25, 2025.*



**LAURA E. ROTH**  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - VOLUSIA COUNTY  
P.O. BOX 6043 DELAND, FLORIDA 32721-6043 - WWW.CLERK.ORG

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 8, 2025  
TO: Clerk's Office Employees  
FROM: Laura E. Roth  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
RE: 2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

*LER*

The Volusia County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Laura E. Roth, has designated the following holidays that will be observed by the Clerk's Office in 2026:

Thursday	January 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY
Monday	January 19	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
Monday	February 16	PRESIDENTS DAY
Friday	April 3	GOOD FRIDAY
Monday	May 25	MEMORIAL DAY
Friday	July 3	INDEPENDENCE DAY
Monday	September 7	LABOR DAY
Friday	September 11	ROSH HASHANAH
Monday	September 21	YOM KIPPUR
Wednesday	November 11	VETERANS DAY
Thursday & Friday	November 26 & 27	THANKSGIVING
Thursday & Friday	December 24 & 25	CHRISTMAS



# COMMUNITY EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join us for the 18th Annual Glitter & Gold Gala on Saturday, September 6, 2025, at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach. Enjoy an evening of dinner, drinks, entertainment, and auctions—all in support of families facing childhood cancer.

[Buy gala tickets](#)

[View sponsorship packet](#)

Donate an auction item: Contact us at [childhoodcancerfoundationinc@gmail.com](mailto:childhoodcancerfoundationinc@gmail.com)

No parent should have to choose between keeping the lights on or getting their child to treatment.



*You are cordially invited to attend the investiture of*

**The Honorable  
Michele S. Simonsen**

*as*

**Volusia County Court Judge**  
*of the*

**Seventh Judicial Circuit  
State of Florida**

♦ ♦ ♦

Friday, September 5, 2025  
3:30 PM

The Mori Hosseini Center at Daytona State College  
1200 West International Speedway Blvd.  
Daytona Beach, FL  
Reception to follow



PRESENTS



## Dancing Through The Decades

Friday, September 12, 2025  
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort

*Cut a rug for a cause, and enjoy a plated dinner and complimentary valet parking while supporting Council on Aging's mission to keep thousands of seniors in their homes.*

**Tickets: \$55.00**



Interested in being a sponsor? Call 386.253.4700, ext. 239 or email [dwillett@coavolusia.org](mailto:dwillett@coavolusia.org)

Proceeds benefit Council on Aging of Volusia County's programs and services that support our area's most vulnerable seniors.

# JOB POSTINGS



## LEGAL NOTICE

### GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE CITY OF EDGEWATER

The City of Edgewater is requesting proposals from qualified attorneys or law firms who are interested in providing professional services as the City of Edgewater General Legal Counsel.

Respondents must be current members in good standing with the Florida Bar with an admission of a minimum of 5 years and direct knowledge of, and experience as legal counsel with, municipal, state or county government. Additional information including the Scope of Services can be found on the City of Edgewater website via this link: <https://www.cityofedgewater.org/>

Any questions/inquiries should be directed via email to: [purchasing@cityofedgewater.org](mailto:purchasing@cityofedgewater.org) no later than 12:00pm EST on September 2, 2025

Proposals/Letters of Interest should be submitted in pdf format to [purchasing@cityofedgewater.org](mailto:purchasing@cityofedgewater.org) by 4:00pm EST on September 12, 2025.

The City of Edgewater reserves the right to reject all responses/replies.

# JOB POSTINGS

## Smith Bigman Brock, P.A. is Hiring | Insurance Defense Associate

Smith Bigman Brock is seeking a dedicated and experienced attorney with 3 – 6 years' experience to join our insurance defense practice group. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in insurance defense. Trial experience is preferred but is not required. We provide our employees with a stellar work environment, excellent compensation, commensurate with experience, and full benefits package including, but not limited to, Health, Dental, Life, AD&D insurance; 401(k) and 401(k) employer matching; Bar Dues and CLE expenses; Professional Development; Generous PTO; Paid, private parking.

### Responsibilities

- Represent clients in court or before government agencies
- Prepare and draft legal documents on behalf of clients
- Negotiate settlements for legal disputes
- Comply with all legal standards and regulations
- Perform administrative and management functions related to the practice of law

### Qualifications

- Licensed member of the Florida Bar, in good standing
- Previous insurance defense law practice experience
- Strong working knowledge of Florida & Federal civil practice
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Excellent research, writing and organizational skills
- Familiarity with case management software

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and references via email to [dkowalski@daytonalaw.com](mailto:dkowalski@daytonalaw.com).

At Smith Bigman Brock we are proud of our commitment to excellence in all that we do! If you have what it takes, don't miss this opportunity to join our team and grow with us.

## WE ARE HIRING!



### **CORPORATE TRANSACTIONS ASSOCIATE**

Cobb & Cole, P.A. is seeking a corporate/business law attorney with a minimum of 5 years' experience to support a shareholder with 30+ years' of corporate and business law practice.

#### Requirements:

Must be capable of independent work in basic contract review and drafting, mergers and acquisitions, entity formation and structuring, and general business advice.

**COMPENSATION IS COMMENSURATE WITH EXPERIENCE. A BOOK OF BUSINESS IS NOT REQUIRED.**

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At Stewart, we are proud supporters of the Volusia County Bar Association. We believe in the power of community and the importance of building strong connections within our industry.

**Let's make a difference together.**



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## Board Certified Specialist in Condominium and Planned Development Law



Wright & Casey, P.A. is pleased to announce that **Barbara C. Reid, Esq.** has achieved board certification in the area of **Condominium and Planned Development Law.**

Attorneys at Wright & Casey, P.A. have represented community associations in Volusia and Flagler Counties for over 40 years in a wide range of legal matters, including covenant amendment and enforcement, statutory compliance, litigation, appeals, and more.

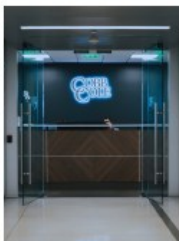
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340 North Causeway, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169  
(386) 428-3311

## 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.

- Conference rooms in DeLand & Daytona Beach
- No mileage or travel fees for off-site mediations
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## EDWARD H. THOMPSON CERTIFIED MEDIATOR

Mr. Thompson is a Florida Supreme Court Circuit Civil Mediator. He mediates personal injury, product liability, premises liability, and insurance disputes statewide.

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# VOLUSIA COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

## Volusia County Law Library

### CLE COURSES

The Continuing Legal Education rental program provides legal education credit courses for attorneys.

### BOOK SALES

The Law Library offers discounted used law books for sale. Receive 10% off when you donate any used books.

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-26

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### VOLUSIA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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