



COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Volusia County Bar Association ~ November 2023

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

with Florida Bar President F. Scott Westheimer

sponsored by Southern Cross Media LLC

Wednesday, January 10 , 2024 ~ 11:45 - 1:00 p.m.
Halifax River Yacht Club, 331 S. Beach St., Daytona Beach

[REGISTER](#)

ELDER LAW SECTION MEETING

November

HOSPICE CARE

Thursday, November 16 ~ 9:00-10:00 a.m.
DeLand Courthouse ~ Jury Assembly Room

No charge to attend. RSVP required.

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ELDER LAW SECTION MEETING

January

Assisted Living: Senior Placement Options & Resources

Thursday, January 8 ~ 12:00 noon
Zinn Legal, 140 S. Beach St, Daytona Beach

No charge to attend. RSVP required.

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ELDER LAW SECTION MEETING

February

Alzheimer's & Dementia Care

Thursday, February 15 ~ 12:00 noon
Brookdale Ormond West

240 Interchange Blvd., Ormond Beach

No charge to attend. RSVP required.

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ELDER LAW SECTION MEETING

March

Veteran's Benefits & Resources

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Time & Location TBD.

[REGISTER](#)

BENCH & BBQ: An annual event celebrating the
Volusia County legal community.

**Sponsored by REV Physical Therapy and
Sports Medicine**

Thursday, April 18, 2024 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Brannon Center, 105 S. Riverside Drive,
New Smyrna Beach
\$20.00 per person

[REGISTER](#)

Cuba Trip with CLE credit: April 25-28, 2024
[Email for additional information](#)

CLE: Artificial Intelligence 2024: ***Thinking in a New Era***

Friday, January 12, 2024 ~ 8:30-12:00 noon
Daytona Beach Airport Meeting Room

Registration to open soon.

Catherine Taylor Lamb
2023/2024 President, Volusia County Bar Association



Greetings VCBA!

By way of introduction, I am an estate planning and probate attorney practicing with a fantastic collaboration of attorneys at Coronado Law Group in New Smyrna Beach. After being on my own for more than a decade, it was refreshing to join in with other lawyers and have the camaraderie I didn't realize I had been missing as a solo practitioner. Not that going solo wasn't wonderful. It was. I had just forgotten how nice it was to have other attorneys to talk through tough issues with, or to bounce around a new idea.

When we think of mentoring, we often think of newer attorneys who need the support and guidance of the more experienced members of our bar. However, mentoring doesn't necessarily need to stop there. We have many experienced practitioners who are perhaps changing practice areas or who would enjoy the fellowship of discussing challenging issues from time to time. Even after practicing in the estate planning and probate world for quite some time now, I still have a mentor I meet with monthly.

Learning and growing as a professional in our ever-changing legal world never stops. Mentoring, whether you are serving as the mentor or the mentee, can only make our bar stronger, both professionally as a whole and as individuals. If you are interested in mentoring on this level, we'd love to hear from you!

Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Catherine

As a side note: The VCBA board and I hope you are enjoying the updated format of our monthly newsletter, the *Communicator*. In addition to keeping you informed of the monthly happenings and events our VCBA has to offer, we are adding our Member Spotlight page each month in the hopes that our members can get to know one another a little better. If you know someone who is interested in being featured in our Member Spotlight, please email our director, Kathie Selover at volusiabar@gmail.com.

FAMILY LAW UPDATES

Sara E. Glover Family Law Section Chair

In addition to the major statutory changes this year, there have also been changes made to the Family Law Rules of Procedure. Here are the two changes that I find most significant:



Discovery Responses:

Discovery responses must state each discovery request *in full* as numbered, followed by the answer, objection, or other response.

This change will make the review of discovery responses much easier for practitioners and clients. No more having to do a side by side comparison between the response and the request to decipher what has been provided and what is objectionable!

Financial Affidavits:

Financial Affidavits do not have to be filed with the Court....

BUT, there has to be a joint verified waiver filed with an acknowledgment by the parties to all of the following:

1. That their current and past financial circumstances may be necessary for future court proceedings;
2. That the parties have exchanged fully executed and sworn financial affidavits in conformity with either the short or long form financial affidavit form as applicable;
3. That the responsibility to retain copies of all affidavits exchanged rests solely with the parties;
4. That the waiver does not automatically apply to any future filings; and
5. That the waiver can be revoked by either party at any time.

This change seems most appropriate for collaborative cases, cases where there are significant privacy concerns, and cases where modifications to child support and or spousal support are unlikely to be requested.

Local Updates

Supervised Timesharing: Children's Home Society is now able to supervise timesharing locally. Thanks to Pam Masters for sharing this information!

If you have local recommendations for mental health counselors, parenting coordinators, social investigators, financial experts, vocational evaluators, or other professionals, please email me. I am compiling a list of local family law resources to be shared with the family law section members.

You can join the family law section emailing Kathie Selover at volusiabar@gmail.com. There is no charge to join.



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Judge Rachel Myers

Practice Area: Volusia County Court Judge

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Ft. Bragg, NC and raised where my parents, grandparents and great grandparents were raised; DeLand!

College and Law School University of Florida 2008; and Liberty University School of Law 2011

Best thing about practicing law? Problem solving. Helping others in their time of crisis in a way that so few people can help is an honor.

Did you have a mentor at any point in your legal career and if so, what did that mean for you?

As soon as I could I registered to be a mentor through the FL Bar Counsel to Counsel program. Mentoring is a passion, and I am very excited about the statewide launch. Mentoring is essential in the preservation of our beloved practice. To this day I am grateful to the people who took the time to mentor me. Through the VCBA mentor program I was assigned Beth King as a mentor. She was so welcoming and supportive of my early career. I will always be grateful for her support as a young lawyer. As a prosecutor so many senior attorneys were happy to teach or guide me. Later, in private practice, my interest in Collaborative Divorce led me to Pam Masters. Without her even knowing it I sought Pam as a mentor. She was always willing to lend a hand when I was dealing with a hard case or difficult situation. It's important to give back as a mentor but it is equally as important for young lawyers to have the courage to seek out mentors excelling in their careers.

Sports fan? Always a Gator Girl.

Favorite vacation spot? I've been fortunate to have done a little travelling, Italy and Hawaii topping the list, but I feel the most peace vacationing in my happy place, New Smyrna Beach.

One thing others might be surprised to know about you. My birthday is on Christmas Day! And, yes, I love it.



Laura Roth

Practice Area: Government (Clerk of Court)

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, but only because my mother went into labor while returning from Europe as the plane was landing there. My parents actually lived in California at the time. I grew up in numerous places as my father was a Navy officer and fighter pilot. I mainly lived in California, Maryland, and Virginia as a child.

College and Law School B.A. from Eckerd College, Saint Petersburg, Florida, 1998 and J.D. from University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, 2003

Best thing about practicing law? Problem solving. Helping others in their time of crisis in a way that so few people can help is an honor.

Did you have a mentor at any point in your legal career and if so, what did that mean for you?

What a great idea! There was an attorney assigned to handle interns at the law firm where I worked for a time during law school, and he mentored me by taking the time to thoroughly review my work and by encouraging my strengths. His feedback helped me build confidence in what was possible in the future. A mentor is a good source of hope!

Sports fan? I've adopted my husband's favorites due to his family's dedicated enthusiasm to all Kansas football teams, especially K-State. Also I've grown to love UCF Knights, where my husband went to college and I love the Orlando area.

Favorite vacation spot? Anna Maria Island on the Gulf of Florida, and Asheville and the surrounding towns in North Carolina. The only thing almost as wonderful as a Florida beach are the mountains!

One thing others might be surprised to know about you. That my first true love in life was poetry. I was an enthusiastic and committed poetry consumer and amateur writer from elementary through law school. I won an honorable mention in a national poetry contest in high school and dreamed I'd one day be a published poet myself. The busyness of law school got me out of the habit. Even still, when rarely I come across a great poem, I'm in awe.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Walter Snell

Practice Area: Bankruptcy; Wills; and Probate

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

Daytona Beach, FL

College and Law School University of Florida (1983) and Nova Southeastern College of Law (1987)

Best thing about practicing law? Helping clients of varied backgrounds with real results that positively change their lives.

Did you have a mentor at any point in your legal career and if so, what did that mean for you? My Father, as sole practitioner, gave me the guidance necessary to understand Bankruptcy, Real Estate and Probate, which are often inter-related and, an emphasis in the importance of practicing with honesty and integrity.

Sports fan? Florida Gators and Miami Dolphins

Favorite vacation spot? Any tropical beach with surf

One thing others might be surprised to know about you. That I still surf as often and as well as I did 30 years ago.



Katherine Hurst Miller

Practice Area: I am Board Certified in Condominium & Planned Development Law. I also practice civil and appellate litigation.

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Lubbock, Texas.

College and Law School Vanderbilt University, 2003. Stetson College of Law, 2006.

Best thing about practicing law? Being part of the legal profession is a privilege. As a condo & HOA attorney, I get to advise my clients and advocate for them. I enjoy wearing both hats and making a difference in both roles. I also enjoy the collegiality of my law firm, Wright & Casey, and of our local bar.

Did you have a mentor at any point in your legal career and if so, what did that mean for you? My first job as a lawyer was at Cobb Cole, which had a wonderful mentoring program. Andrea Kurak was my mentor as a summer clerk, and she taught me much about writing and getting involved in the community. Bruce Hanna was my litigation mentor, and we worked together for 15 years. Bruce had a tremendous impact on the way I practice law. He cared deeply about professionalism and putting in the time to prepare, but his whole life was not defined by work. I've also had numerous informal mentors at work, in the Volusia Bar, and in The Florida Bar. Even if you are not part of a formal program, connecting with and learning from other lawyers are important parts of the profession.

Sports fan? Team name(s) I'll root for anyone in the SEC when they are not playing (and beating) Vandy.

Favorite vacation spot? Love Palm Beach! Love Islamorada! Too many good places in Florida to name.

One thing others might be surprised to know about you. One thing others might be surprised to know about you? I was an art history major in college. One of my favorite ways to spend an afternoon is a visit to a museum or art gallery.



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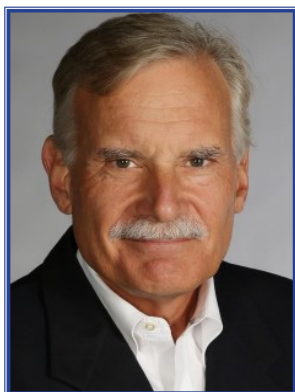
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- Ability to advocate consistently and zealously for clients in the regions we serve.
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