

2018 Reporters' Workshop Panelists and Speakers

AUGUSTUS DAVIS AIKENS, JR.

Second Judicial Circuit, County Judge
850-606-4456
aikensa@leoncountyfl.gov

Judge Augustus Davis Aikens, Jr., chair of The Florida Bar's Constitutional Judiciary Committee, was appointed by Gov. Lawton Chiles to the Leon County Bench in December 1997. He was re-elected in 2000, 2006 and 2012. Following three years in private practice, Judge Aikens began his career with the state of Florida as assistant general counsel for the Department of Administration in 1978 and was promoted to general counsel in 1985. He also was the chief legal counsel for the Division of State Employees Insurance and Division of Retirement. Judge Aikens was awarded the Bronze Star for his military service during Operation Desert Storm. Before his retirement in 2003 from the Florida Army National Guard, he held the rank of colonel. Judge Aikens served as a military judge, judge advocate, battalion and brigade staff officer, company commander, and had numerous other assignments as a military police and field artillery officer. His last assignment was as staff judge advocate, State Area Command, and Florida Army National Guard. Judge Aikens was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal "for exceptionally meritorious service throughout a long and distinguished career." Judge Aikens is assigned to handle all Veteran Court cases by Administrative Order 2014-05, Sixth Amendment, effective July 1, 2015.

CHARLES T. CANADY

Supreme Court of Florida
850-410-8092
OutlawJ@flcourts.org

Chief Justice Charles Canady was born in Lakeland in 1954. He received his B.A. from Haverford College in 1976 and his J.D. from the Yale Law School in 1979. Chief Justice Canady practiced law with the firm of Holland and Knight in Lakeland from 1979 through 1982 and with Lane, Trohn, et al., from 1983 through 1992. From November 1984 to November 1990, Chief Justice Canady served three terms in the Florida House of Representatives, and from January 1993 to January 2001, he served four terms in the United States House of Representatives. Throughout his service in Congress, Chief Justice Canady was a member of the House Judiciary Committee. For three terms, from January 1995 to January 2001, he was chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution. After leaving Congress, Chief Justice Canady became general counsel to Gov. Jeb Bush. He was appointed by Gov. Bush to the 2nd District Court of Appeal for a term beginning Nov. 20, 2002. On Aug. 28, 2008, he was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Gov. Charlie Crist, and he took office on Sept. 8, 2008. He served as chief justice from July 2010 through June 2012, and was named chief justice again in June 2018. He is married to Jennifer Houghton, and they have two children.

BILL COWLES

Orange County, Florida, Supervisor of Elections

407-254-6500

bill@ocfelections.com

Bill Cowles has been an integral part of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections office since 1989, after serving 13 years on the staff of the Central Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America. He was elected as the Orange County supervisor of elections in 1996, and re-elected in 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016. He supervises the fifth-largest county elections office in Florida. Cowles served on the Federal Elections Assistance Commission Board of Advisors from 2007 to 2011. His other professional involvement includes being past president of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, and past president of the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials, and Treasurers. Cowles graduated in 1976 with a degree in public administration from the University of Central Florida. He is a member of the Alumni Association Legislative Committee. Cowles is an elder at Quest Church, a board member for the Central Florida Council-BSA, a member of UCF Public Administration Advisory Board and a member and past-president of the Kiwanis Club of North Orlando. He has been married since 1978 to Cheryl and has two married sons and four grandsons.

MARK EARLEY

Leon County Supervisor of Elections

850-606-8683

Vote@LeonCountyFL.gov

Mark Earley has been supervisor of elections for Leon County since January 2017. He began his elections career in the fall of 1986 and played an integral role in the adoption of Leon County's first optical scan paper ballot voting system, which remained in place for more than 20 years. In early 2002, Earley joined a major election systems vendor as senior accounts manager, where he managed accounts across the nation, managed deployment of voting systems and state certifications, and was a member of several system design teams. In 2008, he returned to Leon County, as the voting systems manager for Leon County. He oversaw the acquisition and deployment of Leon County's state-of-the-art paper ballot voting system and helped consolidate operations from four warehouses and one administrative location into the new Leon County Election Center. Earley has a mechanical engineering degree from the FAMU/FSU College of Engineering, and several professional certifications, including the national Certified Elections Registration Administrator certification and the Master Florida Certified Elections Professional certification. He is currently treasurer of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, and as chair of the association's Cybersecurity Committee, he works closely with local, state, and federal agencies to continue hardening elections infrastructure against outside interference.

LORI EDWARDS

Polk County Supervisor of Elections

863-534 -5888

loriedwards@polkelections.com

Lori Edwards was elected supervisor of elections for Polk County in November 2000. Before that, she was a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1992 to 2000. She began her career as a radio news director and then left radio to become a communications consultant. Edwards is active in the leadership of Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections and is a past president. She has earned designation as a Certified Elections Registration Administrator from the Election Center in association with Auburn University. She has a bachelor's degree in organizational management from Warner University in Lake Wales and a Professional Certificate in electoral processes from the International Center for Parliamentary Studies.

CAROLYN A. EGAN

Florida State University
General Counsel
850-644-4440
cegan@fsu.edu

Carolyn A. Egan is the chief legal officer for Florida State University. She is responsible for all legal advice rendered by university attorneys to the University Board of Trustees, the university president, senior administrators, staff and faculty. She has a B.S. degree in communication (cum laude) from Florida State and earned her J.D. (with honors) in 1998 from the Florida State University College of Law. She is a member of The Florida Bar and also is admitted to practice before the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida, as well as in the United States Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Egan was associate general counsel for Florida State University from August 2007 until December 2011. Before that, she was in private practice as a partner in a boutique litigation firm representing cities, counties and K-12 school districts in all areas of civil litigation. She acted as board counsel to local boards, special districts and commissions, and she has extensive experience in public official immunity.

GARY FINEOUT

The Associated Press
850-224-1211
GFineout@ap.org

Gary Fineout is a member of the Tallahassee bureau of The Associated Press. A veteran Tallahassee journalist, he joined the AP in 2011. He has covered state government since 1995, including coverage of politics, the budget, the judiciary and election law cases. Fineout has worked at the Miami Herald, the Tallahassee Democrat, the New York Times Newspaper Group and the Daytona Beach News-Journal. His work also has appeared in numerous other publications, including the New York Times, 850 magazine and the Daily Business Review. Fineout graduated from Florida State University with a degree in American and Florida studies.

KAREN GIEVERS

Second Judicial Circuit
850-606-4312
gieversk@leoncountyfl.gov

Circuit Judge Karen Gievers was elected to the Second Judicial Circuit Bench in 2010 for a term beginning in January 2011. She is currently assigned to the Leon County Civil Division, following Leon County assignments in the delinquency, probate and guardianship and dependency divisions and also has a three-year, part-time assignment as the Jefferson County circuit judge responsible for all divisions. She graduated from the University of Miami School of Law in 1978 and was in private practice, mostly in her own firm, until being elected to the bench. She was born in Southern California and has been a Florida resident since 1969.

PAT GLEASON

Attorney General's Office
850-245-0140
Pat.Gleason@myfloridalegal.com

Pat Gleason is special counsel for open government for Attorney General Pam Bondi. She also has served as the advocate for the Florida Ethics Commission and chief of the Administrative Law Section in the Attorney General's Office. She is a graduate of the Florida State University College of Law. She also is currently the editor of the Sunshine Manual and the Public Records Guide for Law Enforcement agencies.

TRIMMEL GOMES

The Rotunda Podcast
Gomes Media Strategies
772-342-4024
trimmel@gomesmedia.com

Trimmel Gomes has more than 15 years' experience as an award-winning journalist for major news outlets such as NPR and PBS. He has covered complex and important public policy issues while managing a statewide news team as news director of Florida Public Radio/WFSU-FM in Tallahassee. Gomes is often quoted as an expert on Florida politics, appearing on national and statewide media. He is a graduate of the College of Journalism and Communications at the University of Florida, a member of the college advisory council and an adjunct instructor in the College of Communication & Information at Florida State University. Gomes is president of Gomes Media Strategies LLC, a public relations and production firm. He serves on the boards of the First Amendment Foundation and LeMoyne Center for the Visual Arts. Gomes also hosts The Rotunda; a weekly public affairs podcast about the people and issues shaping Florida politics.

MARK HERRON

Messer Caparello, P.A.

850-222-0720

mherron@lawfla.com

Mark Herron, a lawyer with Messer Caparello, P.A., in Tallahassee, represents public officials and employees in matters relating to the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees before the Florida Commission on Ethics. He also represents candidates, political committees, political parties, corporate entities and individuals in matters relating to Florida and federal elections laws before administrative agencies, the legislature, and the courts. He is admitted to practice in The Florida Bar; The Georgia Bar; U.S. District Court (Northern District of Florida, Northern and Middle Districts of Georgia); U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit; and United States Supreme Court. He received a B.A. from Florida State University in 1972 and his J.D. from the FSU College of Law in 1975.

NANCY HOGSHEAD-MAKAR

CEO, Champion Women

904-384-8484

hogshead3au@live.com

Nancy Hogshead-Makar is a longtime advocate for access and equality in sports and in society. A gold medal-winning Olympic athlete, she is one of the nation's foremost experts on gender equity in sports, including legal enforcement of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. She is an internationally recognized legal expert on sports issues who also co-authored the acclaimed book "Equal Play, Title IX and Social Change." Hogshead-Makar is a graduate of Duke University and Georgetown University Law Center. She practiced law at Holland & Knight LLP, taught torts and sports law courses as a tenured professor of law for 12 years and worked with the Women's Sports Foundation for 30 years. In 2014, Hogshead-Makar founded Champion Women. The organization is dedicated to providing legal advocacy for girls and women in sports.

MAMIE JOEVEER

AXS Law Group

305-459-6628

mamiejoeveer@yahoo.com

Mamie C. Joeveer is Of Counsel with AXS Law Group, where she is a part of the Trial and Litigation Team. Joeveer formerly served in the U.S. Marine Corps, as a public affairs officer who achieved the rank of captain. Joeveer has also worked as a national journalist and contributor to Forbes, NBCUniversal and the Miami Herald, where she covered business and entertainment. She started her legal career as an assistant public defender in Broward County. Joeveer is often asked to appear as a military and legal analyst on MSNBC.

TOM JULIN

Gunster Yoakley & Stewart P.A.

305-376-6007

tjulin@gunster.com

Tom Julin has litigated free speech issues of almost every type in Florida and around the country and has been a leader in advocating for First Amendment rights of business. Most notably, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled favorably in *Sorrell v. IMS Health, Inc.* on Julin's contention in 2011 that data mining for target marketing is protected against regulation that cannot survive heightened judicial scrutiny. That precedent-setting opinion, which resulted in invalidation of three state laws, has been cited in more than 1,000 subsequent judicial decisions in which companies have challenged laws and regulations restricting advertising, pharmaceutical sales, securities offerings, labor practices, Internet communications and more. In the early part of his 35-year legal career, Julin's clients were primarily newspaper, magazine and book publishers, television stations and networks, wire services and media industry associations. Today, Julin, a shareholder in the Miami office of Gunster Yoakley Stewart, PA, has found that most businesses engage in extensive data collection, analysis and use and, as a consequence, all face increasingly complex regulatory and judicial challenges that implicate First Amendment principles. In 1983, Julin persuaded the Florida Supreme Court to enjoin Sunshine Law violations of the University of Florida College of Law and later obtained a consent decree against the Florida State University College of Law. Most recently, he led a journalist's campaign to declassify 28 pages of a congressional report regarding the Saudi government's possible support for the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the United States. The report had been kept secret for more than 13 years until it was declassified by President Obama in 2016.

DARA KAM

The News Service of Florida

850-570-1592

darakam@gmail.com

Dara Kam has spent two decades reporting on Florida government, politics and courts for the New York Times Regional Newspaper Group, Gannett Co., the Palm Beach Post and the Associated Press, where she was part of the award-winning team covering the Florida recount in the 2000 presidential election. Kam's body of work includes coverage of presidential, gubernatorial, U.S. Senate, congressional, state Cabinet and legislative races. She has provided complex and in-depth coverage of the death penalty, including detailed analyses of state and national court decisions regarding capital punishment, as well as stories that bring home to readers the emotions involved in executions. She has written extensively about state government, guns, prisons, same-sex marriage, medical marijuana and gambling, and has more than a decade of experience covering state and federal court decisions. Kam joined the News Service of Florida as senior writer in 2013.

TROY KINSEY

Bay News 9/News 13 Capitol Bureau
President, Florida Capitol Press Corps
850-591-4220
Troy.Kinsey@charter.com

Troy Kinsey is the Tallahassee bureau chief for television stations Bay News 9 (Tampa/St. Petersburg) and News 13 (Orlando) and currently serves as president of the Florida Capitol Press Corps. Since joining the press corps in 2006, he has covered three governors, eight House speakers, seven Senate presidents and 13 regular legislative sessions. Every year, Kinsey helps organize the Capitol Press Corps Skits, a stage show that for more than 60 years has featured reporters lampooning the public figures they cover. He is known for his impressions of Gov. Rick Scott and former Gov. Charlie Crist. Kinsey He is a graduate of the University of Southern California, holds a master's degree in applied american politics and policy from Florida State University and is a commercial pilot.

TRICIA KNOX

Florida Supreme Court
413-8496
knoxt@flcourts.org

Tricia Knox is the deputy director of public information for the Florida Supreme Court. She has spent more than 26 years in state government, including 20 years in Florida's state court system. Her background includes planning, communications, education and outreach, curriculum development, public information, web accessibility, web administration and technology. Her experience and knowledge in communications, public information and web design helped guide the development of the Florida court system's 2016 communication plan.

C. ALAN LAWSON

Florida Supreme Court
850-921-1096
lawson@flcourts.org

Justice C. Alan Lawson was born in Lakeland. After earning an A.A. degree at Tallahassee Community College, he received a B.S. degree from Clemson University in 1983 and his J.D. from Florida State University in 1987. He was an associate and partner at Steel Hector & Davis in Miami and Tallahassee (1987-1995); general counsel at Verses Wear, Inc. (1996); and assistant county attorney in Orange County (1997-2001). He was a judge in the Ninth Judicial Circuit (2002-2005); a judge on the Fifth District Court of Appeal (2006-2016), serving as chief judge in his final year; and was named to the Florida Supreme Court by Gov. Rick Scott in 2016. Justice Lawson is a member of the Florida District Court of Appeal Budget Commission, Florida Courts Technology Commission, Appellate Court Technology Committee (Fifth District Representative) and Orange County Bar Association. He is a runner who finished the Boston Marathon in 2008. He is married to Julie Carlton Lawson, and they have two children.

FRANK D. LOMONTE

Professor and director, Brechner Center for Freedom of Information

352-392-2273

fломонте@ufl.edu

Frank D. LoMonte is a professor and director of the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information, a First Amendment think-tank with the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications. He was executive director of the Student Press Law Center from 2008-17. He has worked in every sector as a lawyer -- government, private practice, nonprofit, education -- after a career as an investigative reporter and political columnist. He was the Capitol correspondent for the Florida Times Union, Washington correspondent for Morris News Service and the Atlanta bureau chief for Morris. He received his bachelor's degree from Georgia State University in 1994 and his J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2000.

SUSAN A. MACMANUS

University of South Florida, Distinguished University Professor Emerita

813-503-0561

macmanus@usf.edu

Susan A. MacManus is a distinguished university professor at the University of South Florida in the Department of Government and International Affairs. She directed the annual USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Survey, the state's most extensive annual public policy survey of adult Floridians (sunshinestatesurvey.org). MacManus received her M.A. from the University of Michigan and Ph.D. from Florida State University. From 1998 to 2015, she was political analyst for WFLA News Channel 8 (Tampa's NBC affiliate). In 2016, she became the political analyst for ABC Action News (Tampa's ABC affiliate.) Since 2008, she has been a featured columnist on sayfierreview.com. She has appeared on every major broadcast and cable television and radio network and been interviewed by major newspapers in the United States and abroad. She is Florida's most-quoted political scientist. MacManus is not affiliated with any political party. MacManus has authored or co-authored a number of publications on Florida politics, including the newly-released "Florida's Minority Trailblazers: The Men and Women Who Changed the Face of Florida Government" (University Press of Florida, 2017); "Politics in Florida," 4th ed.; "Young v. Old: Generational Combat in the 21st Century?" and "Targeting Senior Voters." MacManus and her mother, Elizabeth, are the authors of two local Florida history books published by the University of Tampa Press: "Citrus, Sawmills, Critters & Crackers: Early Life in Lutz and Central Pasco County" and "Going, Going, Almost Gone: Lutz-Land O' Lakes Pioneers Share Their Precious Memories." She co-edits a series with David Colburn (University of Florida) on Florida politics for the University Press of Florida. She serves on the UF Bob Graham Center for Public Service Council of Advisors and on the Board of Directors of the Florida TaxWatch Center for Florida Citizenship. MacManus chaired the Florida Elections Commission from 1999-2003.

SIMONE MARSTILLER

Gunster, Yoakley, Stewart, P.A.

850-521-1702

smarsteller@gunster.com

Simone Marstiller is Of Counsel with Gunster, Yoakley, Stewart, P.A., in the firm's Tallahassee and Tampa offices, where her practice areas include appellate consulting and litigation, government affairs, procurement, and ethics and elections. She joined Gunster in 2017 after retiring from the First District Court of Appeal, where she was a judge for six years. She was a judicial law clerk in the Fifth District Court of Appeal and then an appellate counsel for the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). As senior appellate attorney and chief appellate counsel for AHCA, she represented the agency in the district courts of appeal, defending disciplinary action taken against the licenses of health care practitioners. In 2001, she became assistant general counsel to Gov. Jeb Bush. In 2002, she was named general counsel for the Department of Management Services (DMS), the administrative agency for state government. While serving in this capacity, Gov. Bush appointed her interim secretary of the agency. She returned to the Governor's Office in 2003 as deputy chief of staff. In 2004, Gov. Bush appointed her state chief information officer to head state government's central technology planning and policy organization, and in 2005 she became secretary of the Department Business and Professional Regulation, the state's largest regulatory agency. In 2007, Attorney General Bill McCollum appointed Marstiller associate deputy attorney general. When appointed to the appellate court in 2010, she was serving as executive director for the Florida Elections Commission. Marstiller was born in Monrovia, Liberia, and grew up in St. Petersburg, Florida. She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1988 from Stetson University in DeLand and her Juris Doctor (cum laude) in 1996 from Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport.

SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN

Tampa Bay Times

727-893-8642

susanskate@hotmail.com

Susan Taylor Martin, a native of New York City and a graduate of Duke University, covers real estate and the legal profession for the Tampa Bay Times. In her decades with the Times, she also has been deputy managing editor, a national reporter and an investigative reporter. From 1997 to 2011, she was the paper's foreign correspondent and covered the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

SHIELDS McMANUS

Law Office of F. Shields McManus, P.A.

772-285-2774

f.shieldsmac@gmail.com

Shields McManus was a Florida circuit court judge from 2007 to 2017, during which time he was assigned primarily to hear civil and family law cases. His docket included trials and hearings involving Sunshine Law and First Amendment issues. The parties included school

board members, county commissioners and news media, as well as private individuals and corporations. Now retired from the bench, McManus has a solo practice as a mediator, arbitrator, special magistrate and litigator in Stuart, Florida. Before serving as a circuit judge, McManus was a plaintiff's trial lawyer for more than 30 years. His litigation experience included claims against media companies for damages caused by defamation, slander, false light and unauthorized use of the client's image or ideas. He represented individuals and small businesses who sued public companies including a local television station, ESPN, ABC, the Pensacola News Journal, the Walt Disney Co., the Coca-Cola Co. and Playboy Enterprises.

DAVID OVALLE

Miami Herald
305-376-3379
dovalle@miamiherald.com

David Ovalle has been a staff writer with the Miami Herald since 2002. For most of his tenure, Ovalle has covered crime, law enforcement and criminal justice – including the past 10 years on the courthouse beat. Among the most high-profile trials he has covered: Derek Medina, the Miami man who rocketed to notoriety after killing his wife and posting a photo of her bloody body on Facebook; George Zimmerman, the Florida neighborhood watch member acquitted of murdering an unarmed teen named Trayvon Martin; and John Connolly, the corrupt Boston FBI agent convicted of murdering a gambling executive in Miami. He also has covered the Pulse nightclub massacre, the school mass shooting in Parkland, and hurricanes from Katrina in New Orleans to Irma in the Florida Keys and Maria in Puerto Rico. He has written extensively about death-penalty litigation; Florida's "stand your ground" self-defense law; juvenile sentencing reforms; police shootings; and problems within the Miami-Dade's jail system. A native of San Diego, Ovalle graduated from the University of Southern California.

ANDREW PANTAZI

The Florida Times-Union
904-742-4445
apantazi@jacksonville.com

Andrew Pantazi has worked at the Florida Times-Union for five-and-a-half years, covering prosecutors, defenders and judges. He specializes in using data to tell stories about why things go wrong. Pantazi is a Jacksonville native.

BARBARA PARIENTE

Supreme Court of Florida
850-488-8421
wiliamb@flcourts.org

Justice Barbara Pariente is the second woman to serve on Florida's Supreme Court and was its chief justice from 2004 to 2006. She is state coordinating committee co-chair for the National Association of Women Judges' Informed Voters Project. She began a successful 20-

year legal career in 1975, first as a Florida federal district court law clerk and then as one of South Florida's pioneering female trial attorneys. Since her appointment to the court in 1997, she has championed drug courts, Florida's nationally praised program to rehabilitate people who commit minor crimes because of substance abuse rather than send them to prison. She has been a driving force behind Florida's Unified Family Courts, a judicial approach to help ensure that each family's legal problems are managed comprehensively by a single judge or team. In 2003, Justice Pariente turned a personal setback – breast cancer – into a public victory by sharing her successful treatment with Florida and national media. She graduated with highest honors from Boston University before attending George Washington University Law School. On March 11, 2008, she was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame.

ANNETTE PITTS

Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc.

850-322-8223

staff@flrea.org

Annette Pitts is founding executive director of the Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc., a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that for more than 30 years has advanced law-related and civic education in Florida's K-12 public schools and adult education forums. Pitts is the recipient of the National Improvements in Justice Award. In 2014, Pitts was recognized by the National Center for State Courts with the Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Advancements in Civic Education. The award was presented by Justice O'Connor and honors an organization, court or individual who has promoted, inspired, improved or led an innovation or accomplishment in the field of civics education related to the justice system. Pitts is the principal author of The Florida Bar Benchmarks program activities under the direction of the Constitutional Judiciary Committee. Pitts serves as education chairwoman for the National Association of Women Judges Informed Voters Project and has worked with Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente in developing materials. Pitts is recognized nationally and internationally for her innovative justice education programs. She has trained in more than 25 countries to advance education for democracy efforts. Pitts was instrumental in advancing civics instruction in Florida's middle schools. She has assisted the Florida Supreme Court in implementing an annual teachers' institute as well as a high school moot court competition and worked with Justice R. Fred Lewis to develop lessons for Justice Teaching.

RICKY POLSTON

Supreme Court of Florida

850-488-2361

adkinst@flcourts.org

Ricky Polston is a justice on the Supreme Court of Florida. A native of Graceville, he earned his bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, in 1977 from Florida State University and his J.D., with high honors, in 1986, from the FSU College of Law. A certified public accountant, he had a public accounting practice from 1977-1984. He was in private law practice from 1987-2000 and was a judge in the First District Court of Appeal from 2001 until 2008, when he

was appointed to the Supreme Court by Gov. Charlie Crist. He is married to Deborah Ehler Polston, and they have 10 children, including an adopted sibling group of six.

JAMES SAMMATARO

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, LLP

305-789-9388

jsammataro@stroock.com

James Sammataro, head of Stroock's Media and Entertainment Group and managing partner of the Miami office, is an entertainment lawyer with a national practice and a global reach. He has represented Fortune 500 companies, media clients, industry-dominating celebrities and professional sports teams in high-profile disputes. His trial experience spans copyright, trademark, defamation, First Amendment, rights-of-publicity, non-compete, idea-submission and profit-participation disputes. Sammataro has litigated defamation and First Amendment cases involving Sean Penn, Lee Daniels, Damon Dash, Prince Royce and Jenni Rivera, and he conducts pre-broadcast risk assessment for a number of leading news corporations and production companies. Sammataro represented Enrique Iglesias in a just-settled litigation against Universal, alleging the systematic underpayment of streaming royalties and challenging the manner in which streaming income from Spotify, Google and Apple was treated. He also represents leading media defendants in copyright infringement actions, including Spotify, Televisa, Spanish Broadcasting System, Sony, Amazon, Shazam and The Orchard. The author of "Film and Multimedia and the Law," Sammataro frequently is called upon to provide legal commentary. He is a fixture in the entertainment trades, commenting on emerging trends and pivotal legal decisions for the Hollywood Reporter, Billboard, Deadline, Variety, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Entertainment Tonight and USA Today.

MICHAEL L. SCHNEIDER

Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission

850-488-1581

mschneider@floridajqc.com

Michael L. Schneider is executive director and general counsel for the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission. Before working for the commission, he was an assistant state attorney for the Second Judicial Circuit from 1990 to 2006, an assistant public defender from 1986 to 1990, a law clerk to Judge Douglass Shivers in 1985, and in private practice in Cleveland, Tenn., from 1979 to 1984. He is admitted to practice in Florida and Tennessee, the U.S. Sixth and Eleventh Courts of Appeal, the U.S. District Court, Northern Florida and the U.S. District Court Eastern District, Tennessee.

DAVID M. SNYDER

David M. Snyder, P.A.
813-258-4501
dmsnyder@dms-law.com

David M. Snyder is a media lawyer in Tampa and an adjunct professor in the Department of Journalism & Media Studies at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Licensed to practice law in New York, Florida and a number of federal courts since 1983, Snyder has helped consumers, taxpayers and the media access information and protected their right to publish it, first as a law clerk in The New York Times Co. legal department, then as an associate or partner in major law firms and in solo practice since 1995. At USFSP, he teaches graduate courses in Digital Media Law and Ethics, Mass Media Law Seminar and News Coverage of Public Life and undergraduate courses in History and Principles of Communications Law, Public Affairs Reporting, Senior Seminar, Research Methods and Writing for Mass Media. He was a staff writer/beat reporter for the Clearwater Sun and St. Petersburg (now Tampa Bay) Times (1975-79). He also served 34 years (1967-2001) in the Naval Reserve as a military journalist NCO and public affairs officer, retiring at the rank of captain. He was a U.S. Navy spokesman for the peacekeeping forces in Beirut, Lebanon, in the months following the terrorist attacks on U.S. forces there. Snyder received a B.A. in English from the University of South Florida, where he was managing editor of the Oracle and won a Distinguished Service Award from the Department of Mass Communications. He received a J.D., summa cum laude, and graduated first in his class from Stetson University College of Law, where he was editor-in-chief of the Stetson Law Review. Among his publications, "Rediscovering Florida's Common Law Defenses to Libel and Slander," co-authored with George K. Rahdert and published in the Stetson Law Review, has been cited by the Florida Supreme Court, among others, as a foundational work on defamation defense in Florida.

ALISON M. STEELE

Alison M. Steele, P.A.
727-849-6400
alison@asteelalaw.com

Alison Steele is a 30-year lawyer whose practice focus has always been helping journalists and other non-fiction publishers of news and commentary. She advises and represents print, digital, audio and film publishers on access to government records and proceedings, defamation and invasion of privacy, and subpoenas. Her clients include the Tampa Bay Times and Poynter Institute for Media Studies. Steele is a 1984 graduate of Stetson University (B.A. English), where she was editor in chief of Florida's oldest collegiate newspaper, the Stetson Reporter. She is a 1987 cum laude graduate of Stetson College of Law. She served as a law clerk to U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas G. Wilson (Middle District of Florida).

MICHELLE R. SUSKAUER

Dimond Kaplan & Rothstein, P.A.
President, The Florida Bar
561-671-1920
michelle@dkrpa.com

Michelle R. Suskauer is the president of The Florida Bar for 2018-19. She is the sixth woman to serve as Bar president and is the first former public defender to hold the office. Suskauer is a partner with Dimond Kaplan & Rothstein, P.A., in West Palm Beach, where she heads the criminal defense practice. She practices in state and federal courts. She has been a member of The Florida Bar's Board of Governors since 2010 and has chaired the Board Disciplinary Review Committee, Board Strategic Planning Committee, the Board Communications Committee and the 2013 Annual Convention Committee. She also has served on the Executive Committee for the past four years. She has served as president of the Palm Beach County Bar Association and the Florida Association for Women Lawyers-Palm Beach County Chapter, and she is currently president of the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County. Suskauer earned a B.S. from Boston University in 1988 and her J.D. from American University in 1991. She began her legal career at the Office of the 15th Circuit Public Defender in West Palm Beach. In 1997, she joined her husband, Scott Suskauer, at Suskauer Law Firm, P.A. Suskauer is a nationally recognized legal analyst. She has earned numerous awards, including Florida Trend's 500 Most Influential Business Leaders in 2018; "Fastcase 50" Honoree 2018; 2017 Woman of the Year from the South Palm Beach County Women Lawyers Association; the Daily Business Review 2017 Top 10 Women in Law; the Serving Justice Award from the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County; the Justice Barbara Pariente Award from FAWL, Palm Beach County; Leader in the Law from FAWL, Palm Beach County; Woman of Grace Award, 2016; Women in Power Award, National Conference of Jewish Women; and the Character Counts Award from the School District, Palm Beach County.

STEPHEN THOMPSON

Sixth Judicial Circuit
Administrative Office of the Courts
727-453-7176
sthompson@jud6.org

Stephen Thompson is the public information officer for the Sixth Judicial Circuit, which includes Pinellas and Pasco counties in west-central Florida. He is a product of the northeast, having attended Boston University and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, with a stint in the Peace Corps in between, in West Africa. He was a newspaper reporter and editor for newspapers in Tampa and Massachusetts for more than two decades, with much of his career spent at the Tampa Tribune covering police and courts, before he took the job of PIO for the Sixth Circuit in 2014.

MIKE VASILINDA

Capitol News Service

850-224-5546

mikev@flanews.com

Mike Vasilinda received a Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Political Television Journalism in 2005 for his enterprising coverage of the controversial "Felons List" during the 2004 election cycle. He is the longest continuously serving member of the Capital Press Corps, beginning his career covering Florida politics while he was still a student at Florida State University. In January 1974, he founded what is today Florida Public Radio's "Capitol Report." Today, he reports for 10 Florida TV stations and previously produced "Facing Florida," a 30-minute weekly wrap-up of Florida political news that is seen on eight TV stations in seven markets.

FRANCINE ANDÍA WALKER

The Florida Bar

850-561-5666

fwalker@floridabar.org

Francine Andía Walker, APR, CPRC, is director of communications for The Florida Bar in Tallahassee, a position she has held since 2000. Walker held several positions in hospital and association public relations in Jacksonville before relocating in 1996 to Tallahassee with the Florida Medical Association as vice president of Communications, Education and Meeting Services. Nationally accredited in public relations (APR), Walker is also a Certified Public Relations Counselor (CPRC). She has held leadership roles in the Public Relations Society of America/North Florida Chapter and in the Florida Public Relations Association, and served as chair of the Communications Section of the National Association of Bar Executives (NABE). At The Florida Bar, Walker works with leadership on strategic communications and is responsible for media relations, consumer education/awareness programs, the voluntary bar liaison program, law-related education and the website www.floridabar.org. A Jacksonville native, she graduated from Episcopal High School in 1977 and received a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the University of Florida in 1981.

CRAIG WATERS

Supreme Court of Florida

850-414-7641

watersc@flcourts.org

Craig Waters is an attorney and the director of the Public Information Office at the Florida Supreme Court, where he also is its communications counsel, chief web administrator and social media supervisor. He is best known as the spokesman for the Florida Supreme Court in the 2000 presidential election appeals known as *Bush v. Gore*, an event reprised in the fictionalized HBO movie "Recount," in which he is portrayed by the actor Alex Staggs. In nearly 32 years at the court, Waters was the court's first web administrator and was executive assistant to Chief Justice Gerald Kogan in 1996 to 1998. It was in this role that he established the court's Public Information Office in 1996, began the then-novel use of the

Internet to distribute court documents to the public and organized the first live gavel-to-gavel video broadcasts and web streaming of all Florida Supreme Court appeals. Later, he made the Florida Supreme Court a pioneer in the use of social media for outreach to the public. He is the founding president of the Florida Court Public Information Officers, Inc., (FCPIO). In 2016, the Florida Supreme Court assigned him as its liaison to FCPIO when the latter was tasked with implementing a statewide court communications plan now widely viewed as a model in the United States and elsewhere. Waters earned his law degree with honors from the University of Florida in 1986 and his undergraduate degree with honors from Brown University in 1979. He is active in Bar activities and committees. A native of Pensacola, he is the author of several books and many articles on legal subjects, and he was an award-winning reporter with the Gannett Newspapers before he left to attend law school. Most of his journalism career was spent reporting on courts and Florida state government, including the Florida Supreme Court.