



PRESIDENT'S SHOWCASE

The Florida Bar Continuing Legal Education Committee and the
Criminal Law Section present

Justice Lost and Found; Gilbert King and Conviction Integrity in Florida

Friday, June 28, 2019, 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

COURSE CLASSIFICATION: INTERMEDIATE

Course 3212

jdorminy@floridabar.org

AGENDA

- 2:30 p.m. – 2:35 p.m. **Welcome & Introduction**
Honorable Thomas N. Palermo, Tampa
- 2:35 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. **Gilbert King: Author of *Devil in the Grove* and *Beneath A Ruthless Sun***
Gilbert King, New York
- 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Panel Discussion: Florida's New Conviction Integrity Units**
Melissa Nelson, Jacksonville
Shelley Thibodeau, Jacksonville
Andrew Warren, Tampa
Teresa Hall, Tampa
Benedict Kuehne, Miami, Moderator



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GILBERT KING: AUTHOR OF *DEVIL IN THE GROVE* AND *BENEATH A RUTHLESS SUN*

Pulitzer Prize-winner, Gilbert King, will speak about his newest book, *Beneath a Ruthless Sun: A True Story of Violence, Race, and Justice Lost and Found*; the story of a small town with a big secret during Florida's civil rights era.

PRESENTERS



GILBERT KING is the author of *Beneath a Ruthless Sun: A True Story of Violence, Race, and Justice Lost and Found*, published by Riverhead Books in April, 2018. His previous book, *Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America*, was awarded the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction. The book was also runner-up for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Nonfiction, and a finalist for both the Chautauqua Prize and the Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime. King has written about race, the death penalty, and United States Supreme Court history for the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, and *Smithsonian* magazine's history blog, *Past Imperfect*. He is also a contributor to The Marshall Project, and the author of *The Execution of Willie Francis: Race, Murder, and the Search for Justice in the American South*, published in 2008. King lives in Brooklyn, N.Y.

PANEL DISCUSSION: FLORIDA'S NEW CONVICTION INTEGRITY UNITS

In 2018, Melissa Nelson, State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit, created Florida's first Conviction Integrity Unit. This panel will discuss the Conviction Review Units in Jacksonville and Tampa. Participants will include State Attorney Melissa Nelson and Conviction Integrity Unit Chief Shelley Thibodeau (4th Circuit); State Attorney Andrew Warren and Conviction Review Unit Chief Teresa Hall (13th Circuit).

PANELISTS



MELISSA NELSON took office as State Attorney for Florida's Fourth Judicial Circuit on Jan. 3, 2017. She leads a group of more than 100 attorneys and 200 staff who represent the people of Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties, primarily in criminal matters. Nelson spent 12 years in the office as an Assistant State Attorney from 1997-2009. During that time, she prosecuted capital homicides, white collar matters, sex crimes, and crimes against children. In 2009, she joined McGuireWoods and worked in private practice for seven years. Since taking office, Nelson has committed to employing new public safety measures, including the deployment of strategic prosecutorial initiatives. She also is committed to leading the implementation of modern criminal justice reforms and ensuring the office's work is done in a fair, transparent manner for the people it serves. Recognized for her ethics, integrity, professionalism, and collegiality, Nelson recently was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers. She is a member of the Chester Bedell Inn of Court, the Jacksonville Women's Lawyers Association, and previously served on the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Fourth Judicial Circuit. Nelson earned both her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Florida. Nelson and her husband, Jason, live in Jacksonville where they raise their three children.

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SHELLEY THIBODEAU joined the Fourth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office in January of 2018 as the Director of the newly created Conviction Integrity Review unit. Prior to joining the State Attorney's Office, Shelley was in private practice, primarily representing criminal defendants in state and federal court, and at the appellate level, for over 20 years. Shelley received her law degree from Florida State University College of Law in 1995 and graduated from Florida State University in 1991 with her B.A. in communications. While in law school, Shelley interned at the Florida House of Representatives, the Public Defender's Office, and the Children's Advocacy Center. Shelley is a member of the Florida Bar and the Jacksonville Bar Association and is admitted to practice in the United States

District Court for the Middle District of Florida. While in private practice, Shelley was a certified Family Law Mediator, member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Northeast Chapter of FACDL, the Florida Family Law American Inn of Court, and the American Inn of Court.



ANDREW WARREN, since taking office on January 3, 2017, has been reforming the local criminal justice system. He has been tough on violent criminals, fraudsters, and repeat offenders who threaten the safety of our neighborhoods. He has utilized innovative reforms and created successful diversion programs to hold low-level offenders accountable while steering them away from the downward spiral of the system, including civil citation programs for juveniles and adults. Warren has focused on treatment, prevention, and rehabilitation for offenders with substance abuse and mental illness in order to reduce recidivism rather than further the revolving door of the criminal justice system. He has minimized poverty traps that criminalize people because they are poor. He has embraced data-driven approaches that improve safety, cut crime, and save taxpayer dollars. Additionally, Warren has emphasized transparency and civic engagement to build trust with the community that he serves. Warren previously served as a federal prosecutor with the United States Department of Justice. After initially prosecuting street crime in Washington, DC, he spent the majority of his career with the Justice Department prosecuting complex financial fraud all across the country—crimes that victimized retirees, investors, and taxpayers. Among other high-profile cases, he successfully prosecuted Robert Allen Stanford and other executives at Stanford Financial Group for orchestrating one of the largest frauds in history, a \$7 billion Ponzi scheme. As a prosecutor, Warren earned multiple accolades from the Justice Department and federal law enforcement agencies, including the 2013 Attorney General Award for Trial Litigation. He has lectured and served on panels across the United States and abroad regarding criminal justice, and he was an instructor at the Justice Department's national training center.

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Warren studied economics and political science at Brandeis University before receiving his law degree from Columbia University. Following law school, he clerked in federal district court in San Francisco and then practiced complex criminal and civil litigation with an international law firm in New York and Washington, DC. Born and raised in Gainesville, Florida, Warren returned home to the Sunshine State to continue his public service. He lives in Tampa with his wife and two daughters.



TERESA HALL comes to Florida after residing in Indianapolis, Indiana. Ms. Hall has a varied background with thirty years of experience in health care and over seventeen years of experience as a practicing attorney. Ms. Hall was admitted to practice law in the State of Indiana in 2001 and then in Florida in 2017. During her legal practice, Ms. Hall has represented the indigent in criminal defense, worked in supervision for homicide prosecutions for the Marion County Prosecutor's Office in Indianapolis, Indiana, and previously held a judicial position for criminal law courts from 2010 to late 2012. During her legal career Ms. Hall has conducted and/or presided over more than one hundred and twenty criminal jury trials. She enjoys teaching and mentoring to fellow attorneys and law students.

Ms. Hall has presented on topics pertaining to criminal law on a local, state and national level, including presentations for the National District Attorney's Association. Currently, Ms. Hall is the Supervising Attorney for the Conviction Review Unit for the State Attorney's Office of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Hillsborough County, Florida and has recently been accepted as an Adjunct Faculty member of the Stetson University College of Law. Ms. Hall enjoys time with her family and getting to know her new home of Tampa, Florida.



BENEDICT P. KUEHNE Known as the "Iron Lawyer" both for his successes and accomplishments in complex, protracted trials and appeals, as well as for his achievements as an Ironman athlete (140.6 miles of swim, bike, and run), Benedict P. Kuehne has made his formidable career in trial and appellate courtrooms throughout the State of Florida and across the nation. While he is best known for his significant representations as a white collar criminal defense and civil trial lawyer, he is also one of the premier election law specialists in Florida, having represented Vice President Al Gore and the Gore/Lieberman Recount Committee as trial and appellate cocounsel in the 2000 election recount trial and the appeals

to the Florida Supreme Court, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. In 2012, leading a legal team, Ben obtained the fifth highest verdict in the United States, \$155 million, for his successful representation of an internationally accomplished educator who sued as a whistle blower for her wrongful termination. Ben is often referred to as a "go to" lawyer for public officials and professionals involved in investigations and inquiries, disciplinary and ethics proceedings, and criminal litigation. In a nationally watched and precedent-setting case, Ben prevailed against the



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U.S. Department of Justice in a test case in which he was charged, as a lawyer, with money laundering for reviewing and approving the propriety of legal fee payments to another prominent criminal defense lawyer for representation of a high-profile client prosecuted for drug trafficking. In a favorable decision of first impression, the Eleventh Circuit unanimously declared that legal fees paid for criminal defense representation were exempt from money laundering enforcement. The Department of Justice dropped all charges, resulting in Ben's immediate vindication the day before Thanksgiving 2009. Ben's case stands as one of the most important precedents confirming the fundamental role of the Sixth Amendment right to effective representation. Ben is a Past President of the Dade County Bar Association, a former member of the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar, a Past President of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers-Miami, a Life Member of its Miami Chapter, a Founding and Life Member and past board member of the statewide Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and a Charter Member of the Rosemary Barkett Appellate Inn of Court. He previously served as Chair of the Criminal Law Section, the Appellate Section, and the Council of Sections of The Florida Bar, was President of the Florida Council of Bar Association Presidents, and Chair of the Appellate Certification Committee and the Criminal Certification Committee of The Florida Bar. He is triple certified by The Florida Bar in Criminal Trial Practice, Appellate Practice, and Criminal Appellate Law, and by the National Board of Trial Advocacy as a Criminal Trial Advocate. He is also credentialed as a Certified Fraud Examiner (Life Member) and a Certified Legacy Advisor.

CLE Credit

General: 3.0 hours

Certification Credit

Criminal Trial: 3.0 hours
Criminal Appellate: 3.0 hours
Juvenile Law: 3.0 hours