I have attended almost every Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference since I was a young lawyer. I always enjoy the spirit of the event and marvel at the legacy of Florida Bar leaders who have cut their teeth by getting involved in local, specialty or state bar organizations. Since we’re exploring this adventure together these next few days, I wanted to say thanks for letting me come on board. I look forward to the great journey that Vivian, Kimberly, Lillian and Amelia have planned. I don’t know of four harder working volunteers than these women and all the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee members who put this conference together.

**Learn the Ropes**

Very fitting for this conference theme, the origin of the expression “learn the ropes” is from sailing, when the crew had to learn the complex system of ropes for rigging the ship’s sails. Much like sailors, new bar leaders need to know how to navigate their organization, help teach new recruits which ropes to pull, and importantly, how to adjust the sails to capture the wind most effectively.

One of the best take-a-ways that I’ve experienced at past conferences is the treasure trove of ways to learn the ropes. Being a bar leader of any size bar takes special skills. To learn or understand the basic details of how to do or perform a job, task, or activity is essential, and with a day and half of expanded workshops, you have the chance to soak it all in and take advantage of the knowledge and experience of the seasoned sailors who once were in your deck shoes.

**Know the Ropes**

It’s always fun to see our seasoned organizational leaders come back for this conference too. They’re familiar with the management and operational challenges that come from leading a bar, and they continue to find new and better ways of navigating the bar association seas. Many of them are back year after year to teach the fundamentals of how an association works and to share the ins and outs of guiding the ship.

**Show Someone the Ropes**

Chances are that before you were elected to lead an organization, someone shared their knowledge with you about doing certain tasks. In today’s terms you were “enlightened.” I’m a firm believer that hard work, skills and talent are not all it takes to get you to the top in any organization. My mentors have been extremely important sources of encouragement and advice, guiding me with clarity and inspiration. I have always admired mentors because they are leaders who believe that they must pass on the knowledge and opportunities they’ve had to other people. I too, believe that those of us who have had success in this business need to pass it on.

So when you take in all the next few days gives you, take something back to those who will follow you. The best thing you can do is make sure they put this conference on their calendar for next year and encourage them to come.

Finally, whether you are an old salt or a young deckhand, please take advantage of the breaks and the Grande Reception and the other great networking opportunities.

I look forward to our time together during the conference, especially hearing from you on Saturday morning. Thanks for all you do.

Enjoy the conference!
More wind in your sails!

Ahoy, Mateys! Welcome to the 2019 Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference and the beautiful Tampa Riverwalk. We are delighted that you are with us to explore timely topics, enjoy special networking events and interact with more than 150 voluntary bar leaders.

As our theme **Anchors Aweigh** suggests, we designed this conference to provide you with information and practical tools that will help you raise your bar association to a whole new level. We hope that you will leave this conference with more wind in your sails, increased confidence in your future leadership and full of ideas and excitement for your upcoming term.

Networking with other bar leaders is one of the best ways to generate new ideas. Be sure to participate in the networking game and attend the Grande Reception on Friday night! It will be a special evening of food, spirits and genuine camaraderie that is off the charts!

**A sponsor invasion.**

All hands are on deck to make sure that our sponsors are saluted at every turn. Thanks to their generosity, we were triumphant and exceeded our goal with flying colors in securing support for this event. Be sure to thank them as often as you can. They help keep this conference affordable year after year.

Also, kudos to all the vendors who donated to the goody bags. Finally, extra applause for Visit Tampa Bay for generously providing the networking game prize. We hope you will take time to explore one of Florida’s most diverse travel destinations.

**Highly valued content.**

This year’s expanded day-and-a-half conference schedule has many tools to help chart your course for success as an officer or director of your bar association. Not only have we brought together the best resources and professionals on timely topics for all — from first time attendees to seasoned bar leaders — the conference is also good for **12.5 hours of Continuing Legal Education general credit** and **1.0 of technology credit** from The Florida Bar, Course Reference #3238.
The St. Pete Bar proudly supports the 2019 Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference and the Wellness of all Attorneys and our Communities!

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Friday, July 12, 2019

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  Registration and Sponsor/Exhibitors – *(Florida Ballroom Foyer)*

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  **OPENING SESSION – *(Florida Ballroom)*

Welcome to Tampa

- William J. Schifino, Jr., Past President of the Florida Bar
- Hon. Ronald Ficarrotta, Chief Judge of the 13th Judicial Circuit

Anchors Aweigh and Introductory Remarks

- Lillian B. Ewen, 2018-19 Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee Chair
- Vivian Cortes Hodz and Kimberly Lopez, 2019 Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference Co-Chairs

9:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  **VBLC FRIDAY MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

9:40 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  **VBLC BREAKOUT SESSION 1**

Session A – *(Florida Ballroom V-VI)*

Taking Command of the Ship

An introductory session for first time conference attendees and new bar leaders. Hear from conference veterans about ways to maximize your participation, as well as meet fellow attendees and new leaders of voluntary bars throughout the state.

Discussion Leaders:

- Lillian Ewen, 2018-19 Chair, Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee; Past President, St. Lucie County Bar Association
- Kimberly Lopez, 2019-20, Vice Chair, Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee; Past President, Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida

Session B – *(Salon I-III)*

Ensuring Smooth Seas Ahead

A session for conference alumni and experienced voluntary bar leaders to reconnect and participate in a round-robin discussion of ways various bar associations can meet their 2019-2020 bar year goals.

Discussion Leaders:

- Amelia Beard, 2019-20 Vice Chair, Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee; Past President, Walton County Bar Association
- Vivian Cortes Hodz, 2019-20 Chair, Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee; Past President, Tampa Hispanic Bar Association
10:40 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  **VBLC BREAKOUT SESSION 2**

**Session A – (Florida Ballroom V-VI)**

**All Hands on Deck: New Board Member 101**

You’ve secured your position on the board. Now what? Come hear how you can hit the ground running, be an asset to your organization, and lend your vision to the board’s goals.

Panelists:
- Wendy Fisher, Past President, Brevard County Association for Women Lawyers
- Kyleen Hinkle, President, Florida Association of Women Lawyers
- Jason Whittemore, Past President, Hillsborough County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division

**Session B – (Salon I-III)**

**Keeping an Eye on the Prize: Non-Profits, Scholarships, and Community Partnerships**

A panel discussion on how voluntary bar associations can partner with non-profits and community organizations to establish scholarships and achieve other charitable goals.

Panelists:
- Felipe Guerrero, Past President, Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida
- Matthew Hall, Board of Directors, Past Chair, Hillsborough County Bar Association Military Veterans Affairs Committee
- Valeria Obi, 2018-19 President, George Edgecomb Bar Association

**Session C – (Salon IV)**

**Navigating the Waters of Lawyer Referral Services**

Come learn the ins and outs of lawyer referral programs and how your bar association can leverage The Florida Bar Lawyer Referral Service to maximize the revenue gains and expand service offerings.

Panelists:
- Teresa Conte, Executive Director, Clearwater Bar Association
- John Kynes, Executive Director, Hillsborough County Bar Association
- Craig Shoup, Executive Director, Jacksonville Bar Association

11:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  **VBLC BREAKOUT SESSION 3**

**Session A – (Florida Ballroom V-VI)**

**How to Get the Booty: Sponsorships**

Learn practical techniques on how to successfully secure sponsors for your bar association.

Panelists:
- Melissa Byers, Executive Director, St. Petersburg Bar Association
- Beth Feder, Past President, Broward County Women Lawyers Association

**Session B – (Salon I-III)**

**How to Get in Ship Shape: Membership Management Tools/Technology**

When used correctly, technology can be a bar association’s best friend. Hear from bar leaders on the various technologies out there (some even free) to assist voluntary bars with member management, event registration and more.

Panelists:
- Cornelius Demps, Membership Chair, George Edgecomb Bar Association
- Adria Dickey, President, North Tampa Bar Association
- Tiffany Hanson, Wild Apricot Site Administrator, North Tampa Bar Association
Session C – (Salon IV)

Don’t Just Sail Off Into the Sunset: How to Grow Future Leaders

A discussion on techniques and tactics to ensure you are training future leaders and guaranteeing the long term health and stability of your bar association. Panelists also will discuss ways to engage members in committee work and how to capitalize on volunteers.

Panelists:
• Kimberly Lopez, Past President, Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida
• Katherine Earle Yanes, Past President, Hillsborough Association of Women Lawyers
• Zack Zuroweste, Past President, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. VBLC BREAKOUT SESSION 4

Session A – (Florida Ballroom V-VI)

Controlling The Crew: Navigating Leadership Styles and Personalities

No two lawyers are the same, but often different lawyers must work together for the same cause. Come hear from a leading expert how to navigate different leadership styles and personalities and how to communicate more effectively as both an advocate for your clients and as a leader in your bar association.

Discussion Leader:
• Nora Riva Bergman, J.D., Certified Atticus Practice Advisor, Founder of Real Life Practice

Session B – (Salon I-III)

Protecting the Treasure Chest: Budgets and Finances

Poorly maintained finances can sink your ship, so learn how budgeting can steer you in the right direction. The panelists also will touch on the pros and cons of a voluntary bar association creating its own 501(c)(3) organization and will include the financial aspects and requirements in establishing and maintaining a 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6).

Panelists:
• Jane Muir, President-elect, Dade County Bar Association; Past President, Coral Gables Bar Association
• Andres Oliveros, Past President, Tampa Hispanic Bar Association and Highlands County Bar Association

Session C – (Salon IV)

A Storm is Brewing: Disaster Planning and Recovery

Learn from the first-hand experience of voluntary bar leaders who rose to the challenge amidst their communities being struck by disaster. Learn how your bar association can plan for disasters and assist the community in recovery.

Panelists:
• Colin McMenemy, Past President, Bay County Bar Association
• Carla Tharp Brown, Executive Director, Palm Beach County Bar Association
• Linda Anderson Stanley, YLD Disaster Legal Services Vice Coordinator, American Bar Association

3:50 p.m. – 4:10 p.m. Break & Beverage Station – (Conference Foyer)
3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.  
**VBLC BREAKOUT SESSION 5**  
**Session A – (Florida Ballroom V-VI)**  
**Drop the Anchor: CLEs 101:**  
*This workshop will provide the “how to” on hosting a CLE. Learn the mechanics, steps, and tricks to ensuring your program receives CLE credit, as well as ideas for innovative CLEs to recharge your bar association’s programming.*  
**Panelists:**  
- Amelia Beard, Past President, Walton County Bar Association  
- Maritza McGill, Assistant Director, The Florida Bar Legal Specialization and Education Department  
- Frances Werner-Watkins, President, West Pasco Bar Association  
**Session B – (Salon I-III)**  
**Your Ship Has Sailed: What To Do Next With The Florida Bar**  
*Hear personal stories about transitions from local to statewide bar service and about opportunities available for continued leadership after your service to your voluntary bar association ends.*  
**Panelists:**  
- Josh Chilson, The Florida Bar Board of Governors, 6th Circuit Representative  
- Paige Greenlee, The Florida Bar Board of Governors, 13th Circuit Representative  
- Scott Westheimer, The Florida Bar Board of Governors, 12th Circuit Representative  
**Session C – (Salon IV)**  
**Winning the Battle: Mental Health & Wellness**  
*Learn a specific health and wellness themed program that has already been approved for CLE credit. After this session, you will be ready to take it back to your bar association and deliver it yourself to your members.*  
**Discussion Leader:**  
- Mandi Clay, President-elect, Hillsborough Association of Women Lawyers  

4:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.  
**VBLC BREAKOUT SESSION 6**  
**Session A – (Florida Ballroom V-VI)**  
**Fire the Cannons: Utilizing Social Media**  
*Social media is a powerful tool, but only if it is leveraged properly by your organization. Hear from The Florida Bar’s social media rockstar on how you can use social media platforms to take your bar association to the next level.*  
**Panelists:**  
- Danny Aller, Social Media Manager, The Florida Bar Communications Department  
**Session B – (Salon I-III)**  
**We’re All in the Same Boat: Diversity and Inclusion**  
*Voluntary bars can be the champions of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, and this panel will discuss how your organization can play a role. Learn ways to collaborate with other board members to push the diversity and inclusion agenda forward.*  
**Panelists:**  
- Hon. Luis Delgado, Circuit Court Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit  
- Victoria Mesa-Estrada, President, Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association  
- Carmen S. Miller, Past President, Fred G. Minnis, Sr. Bar Association
Session C – (Salon IV)
You Be The Judge: All Things Judicial

Learn what drives value for judges to join your voluntary bar organization and how judges can help you increase membership and accomplish programming goals.

Panelists:
• Hon. Myriam Irizarry, County Court Judge, 6th Judicial Circuit
• Hon. Catherine McEwen, Federal Bankruptcy Judge, Middle District of Florida
• Hon. Miriam Valkenburg, County Court Judge, 13th Judicial Circuit

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Grande Reception – (Il Terrazzo)

Saturday, July 13, 2019

7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Breakfast and VBLC Optional Roundtables – (Location)

In this informal and unstructured session, participants are invited over breakfast to share ideas and discuss at their round tables current issues facing local bar associations that are of interest to participants in attendance.

• Optional round table – Staffed bars with 1,000+ members
• Optional round table – Staffed bars with less than 1,000 members
• Optional round table – Non-staffed bars North of Orlando
• Optional round table – Non-staffed bars South of Orlando

8:10 a.m. GIFT BASKET DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS – YOU MUST BE PRESENT IN THE ROOM TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN A BASKET!

8:50 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Break

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. Meet the Captain: A Conversation with The Florida Bar President – (Florida Ballroom V-VII)

During this interactive session, 2019-20 Florida Bar President John Stewart will address live questions posed by local voluntary bar leaders in an informal discussion style setting. Be sure to have your questions ready!

• John Stewart, President, The Florida Bar

9:50 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. VBLC SATURDAY MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. VBLC BREAKOUT SESSION 7

Session A – (Florida Ballroom V-VI)
Blast from the Past: Past Presidents Pass on Knowledge and Experience

Come hear the “should have, could have, would have” from past bar presidents. Learn from the experiences and mistakes of past bar leaders to keep your organization sailing smoothly.

Panelists:
• Carter Andersen, Past President, Hillsborough County Bar Association; The Florida Bar Board of Governors, 13th Circuit Representative
• Theresa Jean-Pierre Coy, Past President, George Edgecomb Bar Association
• Kristin Norse, Past President, Florida Association of Women Lawyers
Session B – (Salon I-III)
Bundling the Cargo to Deliver Access to Justice

Join this dynamic panel for a discussion of creative and unique pro bono projects and legal aid collaborations with bar associations.

Panelists:
• Jena Hudson, Pro Bono Manager for the Volunteer Lawyers Program of Bay Area Legal Services
• Kimberly Sanchez, CEO, Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida
• Wynn Smith, President, Marion County Young Lawyers Division

Session C – (Salon IV)
Growing Sea Legs: Engaging Young Lawyers in Your Bar Association

Learn strategies to attract young lawyers to join and actively participate in your bar association. Find out the latest information about what YLDs are accomplishing on both the state and local level.

Panelists:
• Santo DiGangi, President, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division
• Dane Heptner, President, Young Lawyers Division, Clearwater Bar Association
• Adam White, President-Elect, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division

10:50 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  Break with Beverage Station

11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.  VBLCC BREAKOUT SESSION 8

Session A – (Florida Ballroom V-VI)
Raising the Bounty: Getting More Members and Providing More Value

Learn how a bar’s efforts to provide value correlate to increased membership. Panelists will share different tactics and mechanisms used to increase membership and provide value across an organization’s membership pool.

Panelists:
• Matt Frey, Treasurer, Lake County Bar Association
• Dineen Wasylik, Past President, Women Lawyers of Pasco
• Karen Fast, Strategic Marketing and Membership Manager, Orange County Bar Association

Session B – (Salon I-III)
Looking Out Into the Horizon: Strategic Planning and Board Retreats

Learn how to set the tone for your bar association with board retreats and strategic planning sessions. Intended for both large and small bar organizations, panelists will discuss ways to engage your leadership team at a board retreat and the need for strategic planning sessions.

Panelists:
• Amber Donley, Past President, DW Perkins Bar Association
• Kristina Feher, Past President, Pinellas County Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers
• John Schifino, Immediate Past President, Hillsborough County Bar Association

Session C – (Salon IV)
Executive Directors: Special Session One

A special session designed for executive directors and staff to discuss relevant and timely issues, including discussions on technology, human resources/staffing, and volunteer/board management. Executive directors attending this session will be further divided into large bar and small bar groups for specific discussion relevant to the size of your voluntary bar association.

Discussion Leader:
• John Kynes, Executive Director, Hillsborough County Bar Association
11:50 a.m. – Noon  Break
Noon – 12:50 p.m.  VBLC BREAKOUT SESSION 9

Session A – (Florida Ballroom V-VI)
Finding Buried Treasure: Come Discover the Voluntary Bar Center and Clearinghouse

Don’t recreate the wheel. Unearth the treasure trove of resources for voluntary bar leaders available to you on The Florida Bar’s website.

Panelists:
• Jeff Doran, Manager, Bar Services, The Florida Bar
• Lillian Ewen, 2018-19 Chair of the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee

Session B – (Salon I-III)
Bringing on More Buccaneers: Law Related Education/Civics

Surveys show how little Americans know about our government, but voluntary bar associations play a big role in changing the narrative. Learn how your bar association can build programs – whether community civic sessions or law academies – to provide adult education and outreach opportunities to engage with your community.

Panelists:
• Annette Boyd Pitts, Executive Director, Principal Author of The Florida Bar Benchmarks Program

Session C – (Salon IV)
Executive Directors: Special Session Two

A special session designed for executive directors and staff to discuss relevant and timely issues, including discussions on bar operations/revenue, programming, and membership. Executive directors attending this session will be further divided into large bar and small bar groups for specific discussion relevant to the size of your voluntary bar association.

Discussion Leader:
• Braulio Rosa, Executive Director, Broward County Bar Association

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Tampa Marriott Water Street

Sign up recommended but not mandatory

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MEET THE 2019 VOLUNTARY BAR LEADERS
CONFERENCE DISCUSSION LEADERS, SPEAKERS
AND PANELISTS

DANNY ALLER holds a degree in English from Florida State University and was hired to be the Social Media Manager at The Florida Bar in February 2014. In this position, he manages the daily process to expand the reach of The Florida Bar’s immensely popular social media pages. Prior to coming to the Bar, Aller worked in journalism as a sports reporter, designer, copy editor and editor for 10 years at a variety of newspapers in Florida and Georgia. During this tenure, he interacted with the sports information staffs and athletic offices at different levels – from high school, to college, to the pros. Since coming to the Bar, Aller has helped various Florida Bar entities – from Sections to Committees to Divisions – better learn and utilize their own social media platforms to connect and reach their audiences. He has introduced new platforms and been at the forefront of helping Bar members adapt to new technology to strengthen communication and outreach through social media. During his 5 1/2-year tenure, the number of Florida Bar Twitter followers has grown from 800 to 16,000, and the number of The Florida Bar Facebook followers has grown from 1,200 to more than 26,000.

CARTER ANDERSEN is a shareholder with Bush Ross P.A. in Tampa. Andersen is the commercial litigation practice group leader, and he has served on both the Board and Compensation Committee of Bush Ross for many years. He is a past president of the Hillsborough County Bar Association. Andersen has served on the Judicial Nominating Commission for the 13th Judicial Circuit of Florida since 2010, having been appointed by both Governors Crist and Scott. He also serves as the current secretary of the University of Florida Law College Association Board of Trustees. Andersen’s focus in his law practice is to help clients be successful and to help clients solve their problems.

AMELIA HALLENBERG BEARD is an attorney in Clark Partington’s Santa Rosa Beach office and her practice is focused on commercial litigation, real estate transactions and litigation, estate planning, and personal injury. Beard is a 2019-2020 Fellow in Class VII of The Florida Bar’s Leadership Academy and a Vice Chair of the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee. She is the immediate Past President of The Walton County Bar Association, having served two terms as president. Beard was recently appointed to the Florida Bar Annual Convention Committee, serves on a Grievance Committee, and is a member of the First Circuit Bench & Bar Professionalism Committee. She also volunteers as an Attorney ad Litem for children in dependency cases in Walton County.

NORA RIVA BERGMAN is a law firm coach and author. She is the founder of Real Life Practice and a certified Atticus Practice Advisor. As a licensed attorney since 1992, Nora brings a deep understanding of the practice and business of law to her work with lawyers, law firms, and bar associations across the country. She has practiced as an employment law attorney and certified mediator and has served as an adjunct professor at both Stetson University College of Law and the University of South Florida. Bergman is a graduate of Villanova University’s Lean Six Sigma Program and teaches a course on Lean for Lawyers at Solo Practice University. She is the author of, 50 Lessons for Lawyers: Earn More – Stress Less – Be Awesome and 50 Lessons for Women Lawyers – From Women Lawyers, both available on Amazon.com.

CARLA THARP BROWN, the executive director of the Palm Beach County Bar Association since September 2016, is a transplant from Atlanta, Georgia. She served as the director of the Atlanta Bar Association’s Lawyer Referral and Information Service and Modest Means Program for 14 years. Brown received her bachelor’s degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing from Ohio University. She operated as a consultant for the American Bar Association’s Program of Assistance and Review. Brown has served as a mentor for the Truancy Intervention Project in Atlanta and is a current member of the National Association of Bar Executives and the Conference of Metropolitan Bar Associations.

MELISSA BYERS has served as executive director of the 1,100 member St. Petersburg Bar Association since 2013. Prior to joining the St. Pete Bar, Byers served as the executive director of the Police Athletic League of St. Petersburg, serving underprivileged youth, from 2009 to 2013. Byers earned her bachelor’s degree in journalism/public relations from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Prior to her executive director career, Byers worked extensively in the health and wellness field including The Golden Resort & Spa in San Diego and Warner Brothers Studios in Los Angeles. During that time, she enjoyed training clients such as Joan Lunden, Barbara Walters, actress Karyn Parsons from the “Fresh Prince of Bel Air,” and many others. During her tenure at the St. Pete Bar, she incorporated her wellness background into the “Happy, Healthy, Holistic Attorneys” wellness theme to assist in creating a cultural shift that embraces wellness in law firms. The St. Pete Bar was awarded The Florida Bar 2018 Healthy Hour Challenge award.
JOSHUA T. CHILSON is a respected leader in the legal community having served as president of the Clearwater Bar Association. He currently represents the approximately 4,000 lawyers and judges of the Sixth Judicial Circuit on The Florida Bar Board of Governors which regulates the practice of law in the State of Florida. Josh practices exclusively in the areas of personal injury and Social Security disability, having represented clients in nearly all forms of personal injury matters. During law school, Chilson was selected for prestigious internships with the Honorable David L. Levy, the then Chief Judge of Florida’s Third District Court of Appeal, and in United States Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of Florida. He is a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, and is the 2016 Clearwater Bar Ralph Richards Award recipient - the highest honor awarded by the Clearwater Bar Association. Chilson also has been recognized by multiple organizations for his legal skills and professionalism including Florida Super Lawyers and Florida Trend Magazine’s Legal Elite.

MANDI CLAY has been practicing law in Tampa for the past 10 years and is the founder and managing attorney of Thirteen Law, PLLC. She is a civil litigator with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Florida Atlantic University and a law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law. Clay is a Certified Circuit Court Mediator and has experience in a variety of subject matters. She is the president-elect of the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers (HAWL), as well as an active member of the George Edgecomb Society and two Florida Bar Committees: the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee and the Standing Committee on Mental Health and Wellness of Florida Lawyers. Her interest in mental health issues is borne of experience. When she was 18 years old, Clay attempted to end her life. Her heart stopped but she was brought back to start what she calls “her second life.” She still struggles with depression, anxiety, and panic attacks – but has learned a lot about coping and is passionate about helping others out of the darkness. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to share what she’s learned with other attorneys through her voluntary bar work.

THE HONORABLE LUIS DELGADO was elected to the Circuit Court of the 15th Judicial Circuit in 2016. He currently presides over juvenile delinquency, juvenile dependency and unified family court matters in Delray Beach. He presides over a diversion program designed to keep children out of the court system in conjunction with Inlet Grove high school as well as frequently visits its elementary schools to discuss the court system to children. He is a past president of both the Young Lawyers Section of the Palm Beach County Bar (YLS) and the Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association. He also served as a member of the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division with a constituency of approximately 40,000 attorneys and on the Code and Rules of Evidence Committee of The Florida Bar identifying evidentiary issues for lawyers in Florida. Judge Delgado currently serves on the University of Florida Law Alumni Council, an exclusive group of alumni who serve to continue building upon the success and traditions of the UF College of Law. He also was a member of Leadership Palm Beach County and many non-profit organizations that work with children and veterans issues.

ADRIA BEENHAKKER DICKEY is an Elder Law Attorney and practices in the areas of estate planning, probate, estate administration and medicare planning for nursing home care. She has been practicing in the Tampa Bay area for 19 years. Dickey attended the University of South Florida in Tampa where she received a bachelor’s degree in speech pathology and audiology in 1997. In 1998, she attended Stetson College of Law in Gulfport on a partial scholarship. In 2000, she received her Juris Doctor degree, cum laude from Stetson, with a concentration in elder law.

Adria is a member of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar and a member of the Elder Law Section of The Florida Bar. She is active in the North Tampa Bar Association, where she serves as a member of the Board of Directors and is currently the president. Dickey is passionate about
helping her clients. She is a Tampa native enjoys spending time with her family, faith based activities, traveling, baseball and outdoor activities.

**SANTO DIGANGI** is an attorney at Critton, Luttier & Coleman in West Palm Beach. His practice focuses on complex commercial and business litigation as well as personal injury. He is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been recognized as a Rising Star in 2017, 2018 and 2019 by Super Lawyers. DiGangi is on the Board of Directors for the Palm Beach County Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section, is a member and former Board of Directors member of the Craig S. Barnard Inns of Court, a member of The Florida Bar Judicial Nominating Procedures Committee, immediate past-president of the Kiwanis Club of West Palm Beach, and president of the Young Lawyers Division of The Florida Bar. DiGangi graduated from the University of Florida Levin College of Law in 2009 and earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida in 2006 with a double major in political science and criminology.

**AMBER R. DONLEY** is a compassionate and zealous attorney and the owner of Donley Law Firm, P.L.L.C. in Orange Park, Florida. Donley is a Miami native and alumna of Bethune-Cookman University. In 2007, she relocated to Jacksonville to pursue her childhood dream of becoming an attorney. After earning her Juris Doctor in May 2010, she made Northeast Florida her home and opened her law firm in 2015. Donley is a graduate of the William Reece, Jr. Leadership Academy, Class IV; past president of the D.W. Perkins Bar Association, the vice chair of the 4th Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee 4D, and former vice chair of the Jacksonville Bar Association Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

**JEFF DORAN** is manager, Bar Services, for The Florida Bar. In this role he serves as the contact and liaison for more than 280 local, specialty, state and national bar associations in Florida. He staffs the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee and coordinates the annual Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference. A primary focus of his job is working with voluntary bar leaders to develop and maintain the Voluntary Bar Center, which includes an online listing of voluntary bars, The SideBar newsletter and an informational clearinghouse. The clearinghouse includes a library of practical resources and association management and leadership tools to simplify the complex business of running a voluntary bar. Prior to joining The Florida Bar, he enjoyed 28 years in state-level association management. Most recently, he completed a 12-hour online Qualified Association Specialist (QAS) Certificate Program hosted by the Florida Society of Association Executives. He holds a juris doctor from Nashville School of Law and a bachelor’s in Communications from Middle Tennessee State University.

**LILLIAN B. EWEN** is the senior appellate staff attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, overseeing all appeals from county court and code enforcement, as well as petitions for writ of certiorari for local administrative cases on behalf of the judiciary. Ewen was a fellow in the inaugural class of The Florida Bar Leadership Academy and is the 2018-19 chair of the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee and a past chair of this conference. As president of the St. Lucie County Bar Association, Ewen oversaw a rapid expansion of the membership and the events calendar, including the planning and execution of several judicial investitures. She is a founding member of the executive committee of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel and is active in the Justice Major B. Harding American Inn of Court. She is an adjunct professor at Indian River State College in the Criminal Justice Department. Ewen holds a bachelor’s degree in communications from Wake Forest University and a law degree and master’s from the University of Florida.

**KAREN FAST** started at the Orange County Bar Association as membership manager in 2010. She was promoted to strategic marketing manager in 2012 and has assisted in the development of the Orange County Bar’s educational programs Leadership Law, New Lawyer Training Program, Paralegal Boot Camp, Transform Your Law Practice and Bench Bar Conferences. Fast oversees the Sponsorship and Advertising, Membership and the Events Department. Fast came to her position at the Orange County Bar Association with more than 25 years of sales and marketing experience within the hospitality industry. She worked for Morton’s Steakhouse for 15 years and assisted with the growth of the concept from 7 to 61 restaurants within her tenure. Fast was a key figure in developing a marketing strategy which brought the New York restaurant private dining sales more than $1.5 million per year.

Fast earned a bachelor’s in graphic design from The American University in Washington, D.C., which gave her a background that has enhanced advertising and promotional pieces used to assist sales growth. In 2008, Fast attended the Notter School of Pastry Arts in Orlando.

**BETH FEDER** is an associate at Winston Law Firm, P.A., in Davie, where she practices civil trial work in the areas of personal injury and family law. She is admitted to practice law in Florida and New York, as well as the federal courts in the Southern District of New York. Feder currently serves as the immediate past president for the Broward County Women Lawyers Association. She is a member of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, Broward County Justice Association, Florida Justice Association and American Bar Association. She is also the 2018 Guardian Ad Litem of the year for the 17th Judicial Circuit. She is a graduate of the New York Law School and Rutgers College.
KRISTINA FEHER is the managing member of Feher Law, PLLC, in St. Petersburg, where she practices in the areas of bankruptcy, family law and small business matters. Feher received her bachelor’s in criminology from Barry University and her law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. She is a St. Petersburg native and is the immediate past president of the Pinellas County Chapter of the Florida Bar Association for Women Lawyers. Feher also serves on the 6th Circuit’s Grievance Committee and previously served as a 6th Circuit Representative for The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division of Governors. She is also an adjunct professor for St. Petersburg College’s paralegal studies program.

THE HONORABLE RONALD FICARROTTA is a judge of the 13th Judicial Circuit Court. He was appointed by former Governor Jeb Bush in 1999. His current term expires in January 2019. Ficarrotta received his bachelor’s degree in Advertising from the University of Florida in 1979 and his law degree from the South Texas College of Law in 1982. He also attended Magdalen College in Oxford, England, where he received a diploma in international law in 1982. Ficarrotta began his career in 1983 as a prosecutor at the State Attorney’s Office in Tampa. He later became a felony division chief of that office. In 1994, then-Gov. Lawton Chiles appointed him to the Hillsborough County Court. He was elevated to the circuit court in 1999.

WENDY L. FISHER is an attorney with Taylor and Associates and handles a broad range of transportation and business litigation matters. She is an active member of the community and has served as president of the Brevard County Association for Women Lawyers. She also has been appointed to the Florida Bar Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee and Leadership Academy Committee. She is a past fellow of The Florida Bar Leadership Academy and has served as a Code Enforcement Board member of the City of Palm Bay. Fisher was the recipient of the Brevard County Association for Women Lawyers Outstanding Leadership Award in 2017 and spear-headed the Brevard County Association for Women Lawyer’s initiative to incorporate a room for nursing mothers at the 18th Judicial Circuit Courthouse in Melbourne, Florida. Fisher also was the recipient of the Anthony S. Battaglia Excellence in Leadership Award in 2014.

MATTHEW FREY is entering his fourth year as treasurer for the Lake County Bar Association, a non-staffed bar with more than 150 members. A native Floridian, Frey grew up in Orlando, studied history at George Washington University, and obtained his juris doctor from the University of Florida. He is proud to be working with the same small law firm in Tavares, Florida, since graduation, practicing a variety of civil law, bankruptcy, and real estate litigation. Frey is one of the newest members of The Florida Bar’s Voluntary Liaison Committee.

PAIGE A. GREENLEE is a commercial litigator with the law firm of Greenlee Law PLLC in Tampa and has extensive experience representing clients in complex commercial litigation matters. Paige currently serves on The Florida Bar Board of Governors and was the 2012-2013 President of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division. She has also held leadership positions in several local voluntary bar associations, including the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers. She is a member of the William Reece Smith, Jr. Inn of Court. Greenlee has been involved in The Florida Bar and has served on several of its committees, including the Annual Convention Committee and the Code and Rules of Evidence Committee. She currently sits on the Executive Council for both the Business Law Section and the Solo and Small Firm Section of The Florida Bar. In addition, she serves on the Board of Directors of The Florida Bar Foundation and chairs its Development Committee. Greenlee has served on the Board of Directors for the Hillsborough County Bar Association since 2013 and has been active in local bar organizations since she moved to Tampa in 2002.

FELIPE GUERRERO is an attorney in Dean Mead’s Orlando Litigation Department. He focuses his practice in the areas of commercial and real estate litigation. As a litigator, he has experience in a variety of commercial matters, including contract and business disputes, commercial landlord/tenant disputes, commercial foreclosures, and enforcement of creditors’ rights under defaulted loan transactions and court judgments. Guerrero’s voluntary bar experience includes the Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida, where he served as president and now serves on the Board of Directors of its Foundation. Additionally, he is co-chair of the Real Property Committee of the Orange County Bar Association and is a graduate of Leadership Orlando Class 75 and The Florida Bar Leadership Academy.

MATTHEW HALL practices commercial litigation at Hill Ward Henderson, focusing on contract disputes and insurance coverage litigation. He received his juris doctor from the University of Florida Levin College of Law and previously served in the U.S. Army, deploying with the 4th Infantry Division to Iraq in 2003. Hall is an active and committed leader at the local and state bar levels. Locally, he has served on the Hillsborough County Bar Association Board of Directors for the past two years. Prior to serving on the Board, he served as co-chair of the HCBA Military Veterans and Affairs Committee for two years. In that role, he oversaw the development and expansion of The Veterans Legal Assistance Registry, MVCAC’s efforts at the Judicial Pig Roast and 5K Pro Bono River Run, and numerous successful seminars and events, including honoring Hillsborough County’s veteran judges, and career development programs for local military lawyers at MacDill AFB. At the state level, Hall serves on The Florida Bar’s Federal Court Practice Committee where he served as the committee’s chair in 2018-2019.

Hall also serves as a mentor for the 13th Circuit Veterans Treatment Court and as judge advocate and Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 4321. Additionally, he was instrumental in establishing UF Law’s first endowed scholarship for military veterans.
TIFFANY HANSON is a freelance, certified paralegal serving estate planning/estate administration attorneys. In addition to her work as a paralegal, Tiffany assists her clients with various technology-related tasks such as managing WordPress websites, managing Wild Apricot membership sites and automating legal documents.

DANE HEPTNER is a civil trial attorney who practices in the areas of auto accidents, premises liability, workers’ compensation, medical malpractice and social security disability. Dane has tried cases ranging from simple auto accidents to multi-week malpractice cases. He is a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, National Trial Lawyers Association, and Florida Super Lawyers. He currently serves as president of the Young Lawyers Division of the Clearwater Bar Association and sits on the Board of Governors for The Florida Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division.

KYLEEN A. HINKLE focuses her practice in the areas of general liability, professional liability, long-term health care defense and medical malpractice defense. Hinkle is active in various professional associations. She was named Leader in the Law by the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (PFAWL) in 2012. She is a past president of PFAWL and is the 2019-20 president for the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, a statewide organization. Hinkle also serves as the FAWL liaison to both The Florida Bar’s standing committee on diversity and inclusion and the National Conference of Women Bar Associations. In addition, she is a member of PFAWL, ABLE (Accountants, Bankers, Lawyers & Engineers) and the Hillsborough County Bar Association. She attended Stetson University College of Law in 2008, where she was awarded the Leadership Certificate and served as president of the Internal Law Society. She earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2003.

VIVIAN CORTES HODZ practices exclusively marital and family law in Tampa with the law firm of Cortez Hodz Family Law and Media- tion, P.A. She is a Supreme Court Certified Family Law mediator and a qualified parent- ing coordinator. Hodz is a past president of the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association, a board member of the Hillsborough County Bar Association and Bay Area Legal Servic- es, a graduate of Class II of The Florida Bar Leadership Academy and serves as the 2019-20 Chair of both the Voluntary Bar Liaison and Annual Convention Committees of The Florida Bar. She is co-chair of The Florida Bar 2019 Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference. Hodz received her bachelor’s degree in criminology in 1999 from Florida State University and her Juris Doctor in 2002 from Florida State University College of Law.

JENA HUSON is an attorney with Bay Legal Services, Inc., where she has served since 2000. Hudson currently is the pro bono manager for BALS’ Volunteer Lawyers Program and manages VLP’s pro bono pro- grams in both Tampa and Clearwater. Hudson served on the Board of Directors for the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers from 2007-2017 and held several lead- ership positions, including vice president of membership and secretary. She was selected as one of the top non-profit attorneys by Florida Trend’s Legal Elite from 2011 through 2016 and again in 2019. Hudson is an active member of HAWL, the Hillsborough County Bar Association and the Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association, where she currently serves as chair of the public relations committee.

THE HONORABLE MYRIAM IRIZARRY was appointed Pinellas County Court Judge on July 13, 2015, by former Gov. Rick Scott. She was re-elected to the position in August 2016. She currently sits in the Unified Fam- ily Court Division after having served on the misdemeanor bench at the Criminal Justice Center, Clearwater, Florida. She served as president of the Clearwater Bar Association, which consists of more than 900 lawyers.

She is a member of the St. Petersburg Bar Association and immediate past president of the Intercultural Advocacy Institute for the Hispanic Outreach Center. In May 2013, Judge Irizarry received the Clearwater Bar President’s Award, and in 2012 she was the recipient of The Florida Bar’s President Pro Bono Award for the Sixth Judicial Circuit for her active participation in legal, self-help related activities in the community. She also received the Clearwater Bar’s Ralph Richard Award for leadership and support to the bar and the community. In that same year, she re- ceived the Hispanic Leadership award from the Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. for her work with the Hispanic community.

THERESA JEAN-PIERRE COY is the founder and owner of Jean-Pierre Coy, P.A. located in Tampa. She practices criminal defense and personal injury law. She is the immedi- ate past president of the George Edgecomb Bar Association. She sits on the board of the Solo and Small Firm Executive Council and is a member of the Mayor’s African- American Advisory Council. In 2017, she was appointed by the mayor as the attorney for the Tampa Civil Service Board. She is fluent in Creole and takes great pride in helping the Haitian community of Tampa Bay.

JOHN F. KYNES has served as executive director of the Hillsborough County Bar Association since 2011. His background includes more than 19 years of public af- fairs and administrative experience at the federal, state and local levels. From 2000 to 2006, Kynes served as district director for former U.S. Rep. Jim Davis in Tampa. Previously, he served as director of intergov- ernmental relations for the City of Tampa, and also as an assistant to Florida Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay in Tallahassee. From 1983 to 1987, Kynes worked as a legislative aide to U.S. Sen. Lawton Chiles in Washington, D.C. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Florida and a master’s degree in journalism and public affairs from American University in Washington, D.C. Active in the community, Kynes serves on the development council of Bay Area Legal Services.
and the Salvation Army, and he previously served on the board of Tampa Bay Little League and the foundation board of the Moffitt Cancer Center.

**Kimberly A. Lopez** is a commercial litigation Partner in Akerman LLP’s Orlando office and a Vice Chair of the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee. Since becoming licensed in 2008, Lopez has been involved with various bar organizations and served as the 2013 President of the Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida (HBACF). An advocate for diversity and inclusion initiatives, she currently serves on Akerman’s Equality and Inclusion Committee and was named a 2019 Fellow for the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity. Lopez is an active member of the Hispanic National Bar Association, frequently attending conferences throughout the nation. In her litigation practice, Lopez represents secured lenders in prosecuting defaulted commercial debts and works with mid-size and large corporations to produce results in litigation aligned with business objectives.

**The Honorable Catherine Peek McEwen** is a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida (appointed August 2005). She is also an adjunct professor at the Western Michigan University Cooley Law School. Judge McEwen was elected into the American Law Institute in 2012. Among her other honors are the Hillsborough County Bar Association Jimmy Kynes Pro Bono Service Award (2008), the Florida Association for Women Lawyers Leaders in the Law inaugural class designation (2010), the Tampa Bay Hispanic Bar Association’s Luis “Tony” Cabassa Award (2012), the George Edgecomb Bar Association’s Delano S. Stewart Diversity Award (2015), and the Bay Area Legal Services Inc. Judge Don Castor Justice Award (2016). In 2017, she was appointed by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. to be the non-voting bankruptcy judge observer at the Judicial Conference of the United States for a two-year term.

**Maritza McGill** is a graduate from Florida State University and is the Assistant Director of the Legal Specialization and Education (LSE) Department of The Florida Bar. Maritza was employed by the Bar from 1982-1997 as a program administrator and returned in 2012 as assistant to the LSE director. In 2015, she was promoted to certification specialist and then again in 2018 to LSE assistant director. As assistant director, McGill serves a dual role as supervisor for the certification program and education compliance and accreditation. In coordination with the LSE director, she ensures timely and accurate processing of education compliance requirements, delinquencies, reinstatements and CLE submissions for accreditation. In addition, McGill serves as the staff custodian managing the records of the department in a manner that complies with all applicable laws, rules and industry standards.

**Colin L. McMichen** is an attorney at the law firm of Manuel & Thompson, P.A. in Panama City, Florida. He is a graduate of Auburn University and Florida State University College of Law. He has an “AV Preeminent” rating by Martindale-Hubbell and a “Superb” rating by Avvo. His practice areas include personal injury, insurance disputes, eminent domain and probate. McMichen is admitted to practice in Alabama and Florida. He is a member of the Bay County Bar Association and has served as president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. He also has served as treasurer and secretary of the St. Andrews Bay American Inn of Court.

**Victoria Mesa-Estrada** is a solo practitioner at Mesa-Estrada Law P.A. She has successfully handled major class actions on behalf of more than 1,000 migrant and domestic workers for violations of federal and state employment and discrimination laws. Mesa-Estrada is the 2019 president of the Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association, past chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Palm Beach Chapter of FAWL and past member of The Florida Bar Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Throughout her career, she has been a zealous advocate for workers, immigrants, and women. She spent more than 10 years in the non-profit sector working for human rights, international development and civil rights organizations, and she remains involved with many of these campaigns to this day.

**Carmen Miller** is a solo practitioner handling criminal, juvenile, Baker Act, family and elder law cases. Prior to her private practice, Miller worked for more than eight years as an assistant public defender in the 13th Circuit. She served on The Florida Bar’s Juvenile Rules Committee and was a juvenile division chief for more than four years. Miller continues to provide seminars on juvenile delinquency, sealing/expunction, child support and the Baker Act. She is an alumna of the University of Georgia School of Law and the University of Oklahoma, where she graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor’s in psychology.

**Jane Muir** is a Miami attorney whose practice focuses on commercial litigation, especially relating to fraud and recovery. She is active in the legal community, having served as the 2012-2013 president of the Coral Gables Bar Association and she currently serves as the president-elect of the Dade County Bar Association. For her contributions, Muir has been recognized with several significant honors and awards such as The Florida Bar’s 2015 Young Lawyers Division’s Lynn Futch Most Productive Young Lawyer Award.

**Kristin Norse** is a partner at Kynes, Markman & Felman P.A., where she practices exclusively in the areas of appellate practice, litigation support and trial consulting in state and federal courts. Norse has more than 20 years of experience in appellate practice. She received her juris doctorate from Boston University School of Law and bachelor’s degree in English, cum laude, from Boston University’s College of Arts and Sciences.
She previously served as a senior staff attorney for the Honorable Chris W. Altenbernd at the Second District Court of Appeal. Norse is a past chair of the Appellate Practice Section and Appellate Court Rules Committee. She is a past president of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers and the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers. She has served on The Florida Bar’s Citizen’s Advisory Council as a lawyer member and on the Special Committee on Gender Bias.

**Valeria Obi** currently serves as staff counsel for Midland Credit Management Inc., where she is responsible for providing legal advice in connection with the business’s operations and supporting corporate compliance with laws and regulations governing debt collection and related activities. Outside of the office, Obi is heavily involved in various community activities. She served as 2018-19 president of the George Edgecomb Bar Association and was selected as a fellow for The Florida Bar’s Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy.

**Andres N. Oliveros** is a two-time president of the Highlands County Bar Association and the immediate past president of the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association. His law practice is exclusively focused on personal injury law, with offices in Tampa and Sebring. A graduate of Duke University and the George Washington University Law School, Andres joined the U.S. Marine Corps as a judge advocate immediately after law school and served as trial counsel overseas in Japan and as an operational lawyer in Iraq soon after the 2003 invasion. Upon being honorably discharged, Oliveros returned to his hometown of Sebring and later opened his law practice in 2008 after settling in Tampa, where he now lives with his wife and two children. Oliveros’s practice consists entirely of the prosecution of motor vehicle negligence and premises liability cases.

**Annette Boyd Pitts** is a nationally recognized law education and civic learning advocate and entrepreneur. She is the principal author of The Florida Bar Benchmarks Adult Civic Education Program and currently serves as director of the Justice Teaching Center. Pitts is the Florida director for numerous national civic and law-focused initiatives including Project Citizen, the United States Senate Youth Program, and mock trial, among others. She has worked with various committees within The Florida Bar and the Florida Department of Education to assist in the development of state standards in civics and government. Pitts assisted in the development of the inaugural Florida Supreme Court Teacher Institute, a multi-day training program for Florida teachers established under the leadership of Chief Justice Gerald Kogan.

**Braulio Rosa** received his undergraduate degree from Florida Atlantic University and went on to earn two master’s degrees there: one in Education and the other in Public Administration. Rosa has been at the Broward County Bar Association, which has over 3,400 members and a budget of more than $1 million, since 2011 and serves as its executive director. Rosa’s prior experience includes 18 years of working at high levels in local government and education overseeing various programs including marketing, advertising, community relations, special event management and strategic planning, as well as many administrative programs. Rosa is a member of The Florida Bar Voluntary Liaison Committee, Executive Committee of the 17th Judicial Pro Bono Committee, Broward College Paralegal Advisory Committee and Voices for Children Advisory Council.

**Kimberly Sanchez** is the chief executive officer of Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida. After graduating from the University of Miami School of Law in 2005, Sanchez began her legal career in the public interest unit with Legal Services of Greater Miami. After a few years in private practice representing Central Florida consumers, she then came to CLSMF where she led CLSMF’s Housing and Fair Housing Units until her promotion to advocacy/deputy director. Sanchez has taught as an adjunct professor at the Florida A&M University College of Law and the University of Miami School of Law. She is an active member of The Florida Bar Public Interest Section (PILS), the Florida Project Directors Association. She has been appointed to The Florida Bar Committee on Technology and the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services.

**Bill Schifino** is managing shareholder of the Gunster law firm Tampa office and is a board-certified specialist in the area of business litigation. His practice focuses on litigation and trial practice, including securities litigation and arbitration, professional negligence, business litigation. His practice focuses on litigating and trial practice, including securities litigation and arbitration, professional negligence, business litigation and intellectual property litigation. Schifino served as president of The Florida Bar for the 2016-2017 term. He is also a member of the board of trustees for the University of Florida Levin College of Law. He was selected by Senate President Joe Negron to serve on the Florida Constitution Revision Commission as one of 37 commissioners responsible for studying, researching and making recommendations for revising Florida’s Constitution. Presently, Schifino is a member of the State of Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission. He previously served eight years as a member of the 13th Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission, appointed by both Govs. Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist, and served as its chair. Schifino is a frequent speaker and lecturer on a number of litigation and trial topics, including deposition strategies and techniques, expert witness procedures and discovery, and trial issues in Florida. After law school, he worked for Taub & Williams, P.A., subsequently establishing Williams, Schifino, Mangione & Steady P.A. in 1991, where he was a founding shareholder, president and then managing director before the firm combined with Alabama-based Burr & Forman in 2012. In 2018, Schifino joined Gunster and assumed the role of managing shareholder of the firm’s Tampa office.

In addition to his law practice, Schifino serves on the board of directors for Quantum Capital Partners, a Tampa-based venture capital firm.
JOHN SCHIFINO is a trial and appellate lawyer experienced in handling cases in the areas of business litigation, labor and employment law and environmental law. Schifino is also a certified state court mediator and has experience mediating a variety of business disputes. His business litigation and appellate practice involves complex contract disputes, business torts, shareholder disputes, premises liability, real estate disputes, professional malpractice claims, employer/employee disputes, litigation arising out of environmental contamination, trademark and copyright infringement litigation, and First Amendment matters. In addition to his trial practice in Florida’s state and federal courts, Schifino has represented numerous clients in appeals before Florida’s District Courts of Appeal and before the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

CRAIG SHOUP was named executive director of the Jacksonville Bar Association in February 2019. Prior to being named executive director, Shoup served as chief of staff for the association. His experience in the North Florida legal community includes working nine years for the Fourth Judicial Circuit Public Defender’s office in its administration and two years as a special assistant to the Duval County Clerk of the Court. A lifelong resident of Jacksonville, he holds a bachelor’s degree from Flagler College.

WYNN SMITH is a graduate of Florida State University and Stetson University College of Law and works as a felony prosecutor in the Fifth Judicial Circuit in Ocala. Smith also serves as the secretary for the Marion County Bar Association, president of the Young Lawyers Division of the MCBA, and a board member for Community Legal Services of Mid Florida. She is an active member of Junior League of Ocala and the D.R. Smith American Inn of Court, and she plays (poorly) in an adult soccer league.

LINDA ANDERSON-STANLEY is a staff attorney at Bay Area Legal Services Inc. in Tampa, where she assists individuals with limited access to legal services with their civil legal needs. Stanley focuses primarily on disaster relief (such as FEMA appeals and insurance claims), housing law, consumer law, and some veteran issues. Stanley is licensed to practice in Florida and Illinois. She also serves as the ABA YLD Disaster Legal Services Vice Director and will serve as the director of the program in the upcoming bar year. Stanley has served on many disaster law panels and continuing legal education programs across the country in her capacity as YLD DLS vice director. She was most recently chosen to serve on Legal Services of North Florida’s statewide training incubator for disaster relief whereby experts in the area of disaster relief will develop and grow the legal aid training program in Florida utilizing new technology.

JOHN M. STEWART is a partner at Rossway Swan in Vero Beach and a third-generation Florida lawyer. Since 2007, he has been the representative of the 19th Circuit on The Florida Bar’s Board of Governors, and, in June 2019, he was sworn in as president of The Florida Bar. Stewart serves on The Florida Bar’s Executive Committee and chairs the Bar’s Strategic Planning Committee and the Special Committee on Technology Affecting the Practice of Law. In 2018, he received the Judge Walter S. Crumbly Award presented by The Florida Bar’s Solo and Small Firm Section for his outstanding contributions in the area of Practice Management. Stewart was elected to the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar’s Young Lawyers Division in 1999, and he served as the Young Lawyers Division’s president in the 2006-2007 bar year. In 2016, Stewart was selected to the Fastcase 50 honoring the law’s “smartest, most courageous innovators, techies, visionaries and leaders.” He speaks regularly on technology and the law, including multiple sessions at the 2016 and 2017 American Bar Association TECHSHOW.

THE HONORABLE MIRIAM VALKENBURG was elected as a County Court Judge for the 13th Judicial Circuit in 2016 and currently is assigned to the county civil and county criminal divisions. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Valkenburg was in private practice following a career with the State Attorney’s Office, Department of Justice and Department of Corrections. Throughout her legal career, she has been actively involved in various bar organizations, including the Hillsborough County Bar Association, Tampa Hispanic Bar Association, Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers and Hillsborough County Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. In each of these organizations, Judge Valkenburg was involved at all levels - from committee chair to the Board of Directors. She currently serves on the Florida Supreme Court Standing Committee on Fairness & Diversity and has previously served on The Florida Bar Diversity & Inclusion and Grant Committees.

DINEEN PASHOUKOS WASYLIK is the only Florida lawyer simultaneously certified in both intellectual property law and appellate practice. Wasylik focuses the intellectual property side of her practice on copyright, trademark, and trade dress litigation and counseling. She also has extensive experience litigating trade secrets and business torts cases, often securing a positive resolution for the client without the need of a trial. She was among the first lawyers to litigate the scope of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act safe harbor provisions and helped protect internet service providers from subpoenas from the recording industry. Wasylik’s appellate practice began with a clerkship for the Honorable Susan H. Black of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. She has written both merits briefs and amicus curiae briefs before the United States Supreme Court and numerous federal courts of appeals. Wasylik also frequently appears in each of the Florida district courts of appeal. Martindale-Hubbell recognizes Wasylik as an AV rated lawyer, the highest such rating available to any individual lawyer. She is a charter member and past president of Women Lawyers of Pasco, and she is a member of the Federal Bar Association, Tampa Chapter, the Hillsborough County Bar Association and Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers. She is a graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center.
FRANCES WERNER-WATKINS is a partner at the firm of Laporte, Mulligan and Werner-Watkins, PA in Pasco County. The firm handles criminal defense and personal injury. Werner-Watkins has been licensed to practice since 1998 and has primarily focused on criminal law. She is a former Assistant State Attorney for the Sixth Judicial Circuit and has now become a criminal defense attorney since leaving the SAO. She has been on the executive board for the West Pasco Bar Association for many years, most recently serving as president. Werner-Watkins has helped to facilitate numerous CLEs for her local bar. The local bar presents programs that have great participation from judges, members and guest speakers around the state. She is eager to share some of the West Pasco programs that have been quite successful with other voluntary bar leaders.

ADAM J. WHITE is a partner at Emmanuel Sheppard & Condon P.A., in Pensacola. He primarily practices civil litigation with an emphasis on construction law, contract disputes, commercial litigation and employment law. White earned his Juris Doctorate in 2010 from Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville, graduating summa cum laude. In 2019, White was elected as president-elect of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors.

F. SCOTT WESTHEIMER is the managing partner of Syprett Meshad, in Sarasota, where his practice involves the representation of plaintiffs in wrongful death and other complex personal injury matters. Westheimer received his juris doctorate, with high honors, from the University of Florida Levin College of Law. He currently serves on the University of Florida Levin College of Law Board of Trustees.

JASON WHITTEMORE is a shareholder at Wagner McLaughlin P.A., where he represents individuals in claims involving personal injury and professional negligence. Whittomore currently serves as president of the Hillsborough County Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors, where he has served for the past six years. In his capacity as president of the YLD, he also serves on the HCBA Executive Board. Whittomore also serves on the Advisory Board for the First Tee of Tampa Bay and the Tampa Bay Trial Lawyers Association. He previously served terms on the Board of Directors for the Florida Justice Association and Best Buddies of Tampa Bay, and he is a past chair of the Florida Justice Association Young Lawyers Section Board.

KATHERINE EARLE YANES is a partner in the Tampa law firm Kynes Markman & Felman, P.A. Yanes concentrates her practice in the areas of criminal defense, appeals and postconviction relief and has successfully represented defendants at the trial, appellate and postconviction phases of criminal litigation in federal and state courts, as well as in government investigations.

ZACK ZUROWESTE is shareholder at Persante Zuroweste P.A., in Clearwater. He practices probate and trust litigation, business litigation and securities litigation. Zuroweste graduated from Stetson University College of Law in 2006 with a joint degree in law and a master’s in business administration. Since graduation, he has been very active in voluntary bar associations and other professional organizations. Zuroweste has been active in The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors, Clearwater Bar Association, Barney Masterson American Inn of Court, Pinellas County Trial Lawyers Association. Zuroweste has served as president of the Clearwater Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, and he recently served as the 2017-2018 president of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors.
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