2017 Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference

July 14-15
Disney's Boardwalk Inn/Walt Disney World Resort
Orlando, Florida
“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”

– John F. Kennedy

From the home of the Space Coast where innovative ideas have been launched, world champion surfers rise from the waters, and a genie blinked a little magic, Brevard County Bar Association welcomes you to a weekend of inspiring ideas for your voluntary bar association. Come join us for a complimentary Space-Coast themed frozen drink at the social hour on Thursday!

Proud to be representing our 650 outstanding Brevard County lawyer members:

Michelle P. Studstill, 2017-18 BCBA President
Bryan A. Lober, 2016-17 BCBA President
Leslie J. Castaldi, 2015-16 BCBA President
E. Ashley Hardee, 2009-10 President, VBLC Vice Chair & Conference Co-Chair
Douglas R. Beam, 1994-95, BCBA President
Geoffrey P. Golub, BCBA Director
David Alpizar, BCBA Director
Tino Gonzalez, BCBA Director
Gregory S. Hansen, BCBA Director
Guna Ose, BCBA Director
Andrew Pickett, BCBA Director
R. Scott Robinson, BCBA Director
Kelly Swartz, BCBA Director
Jay R. Thakkar, BCBA Director
Philip Zies, BCBA Director
Steven G. Casanova, BCBA Director
The stars are aligned.

2017-18 Florida Bar President Michael J. Higer joins us for a team huddle, town-hall style, and a chance to dialogue on what’s on the horizon for The Florida Bar. The conversation gets underway at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 15. The session is sure to be a winner with this five-star Bar leader.

Succeed like a mouse!

Everything Disney touches seems magical. It isn’t. It’s method. Learn the method and make your own magic. Lenn Millbower worked for Disney for 25 years. He ran attractions at Epcot and he opened Disney’s Animal Kingdom. He wrote customer service materials for the Disney Institute. He even designed the training for becoming Snow White. Millbower knows firsthand that it was the Disney method that created all the magic!

In this motivating and uplifting presentation, our keynote speaker will share the details of this 4C success formula. His presentation will leave bar leaders inspired, exhilarated, and motivated to conquer the seemingly impossible challenges of the association world. He will show us how to create a magical career and life and how to succeed like a mouse.

Aim high.

Upward and onward! This year’s closing session at the Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference will explore “Making the Magic Happen Through Your Leadership.” The session will address communication, behaviors and relationship attributes that can lead to a magical outcome for bar leaders. As the author of nine books and a Certified Image Consultant, Debbie Lundberg knows leadership. As our closing session speaker, Lundberg will offer a few spell-binding ideas for not only leading, but magically discovering new ways to lead with no wand, 8 ball, or spell book required!
A magical two days.

Welcome to the Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference and the magic of Walt Disney World. We are delighted that you are with us to explore timely topics, special networking events and dialogue with other voluntary bar leaders. And you will not want to miss the Grande Reception on Friday night! Don your favorite tropical attire and meet us at Sea Breeze Point for a special evening of great food, signature drinks and genuine camaraderie that is off the charts!

In good hands.

Voluntary Bar Leader Conference Committee members are your hosts for this conference. They will be wearing “star” lapel pins, if you need anything during the Conference or have a question.

Also, a special thanks to two local voluntary bars for their support. The special afternoon break of Mickey treats on Friday afternoon is provided by the Orange County Bar Association. Cool off on Friday evening at the Grande Reception with a special frozen beverage provided by the Brevard County Bar Association. We appreciate both organizations and the special treats! And for those bar leaders who attend the Grande Reception, you could be the big winner of a $250 check out credit toward your hotel bill.

Learn and earn.

This year’s conference has several tools you’ll want to have handy to 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, the conference is also good for 5.0 hours of general Continuing Legal Education credit and 1.0 hours of technology credit (Course #1608535N) from The Florida Bar.
FLORIDA BAR VOLUNTARY BAR LEADERS CONFERENCE
JULY 14-15, 2017

“Creating a Magical Year for Your Association”
Disney’s Boardwalk Inn/Walt Disney World Resort
Orlando, Florida

Friday, July 14

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  Registration and Sponsor Tables – Registration Desk and Promenade Lobby

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  “Early Bird” Roundtable Discussions for Voluntary Bar Leaders – Marvin Gardens A-B

In this session, attendees have an open forum to idea share and discuss current issues facing local bar associations.

Discussion Leader:
• Sarah Cortvriend, 2016-17 Chair, Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee

10:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  “Early Bird” Roundtable Discussions for Executive Directors – St. James

In this session, Executive Directors have an open forum to idea share and discuss current issues facing local bar associations.

Discussion Leaders:
• Melissa Byers, Executive Director, St. Petersburg Bar Association
• Braulio Rosa, Executive Director, Broward County Bar Association

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  Lunch on Your Own

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.  OPENING SESSION – Promenade East

Welcome and Introductory Remarks
Sarah Cortvriend, 2016-17 Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee Chair
E. Ashley Hardee and Lillian Ewen, 2017 Voluntary Bar Conference Co-Chairs

Welcome from The Florida Bar President, Michael J. Higer

Greetings from Brevard and Orange County Bar Presidents
Elizabeth McCausland, 2017 Orange County Bar Association President
Michelle Pruitt Studstill, 2017 Brevard County Bar Association President

Keynote Speaker:  2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Succeed like a Mouse:  Learn How to Apply Disney’s Methodology to Succeed as a Leader
Lenn Millbower, The Mouse Man

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  Break – Promenade Lobby

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  BREAKOUTS

3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.  VBLC BREAKOUT SESSION 1

Session A – Marvin Gardens A
Sprinkling Pixie Dust to Increase Membership Rolls & Retain Members

Learn proven techniques to increase your membership rolls and retain members in your bar association.
Moderator: Karen Fast, Strategic Marketing & Membership Manager, Orange County Bar Association
Panelists:
• Vanessa Cotto, Membership Chair, Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida
• Amanda Carl, President, Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers
• Karen Fast, Membership & Marketing Manager, Orange County Bar Association

Session B – Marvin Gardens B
Down the Rabbit Hole: Common Pitfalls to Avoid as Bar Leaders
Hear from prior bar leaders about pitfalls during their terms in leadership and how to avoid or overcome them.
Moderator: Sarah Cortvriend, 2016-17 Chair, Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee
Panelists:
• Ginger Boyd, Past President, Okaloosa and Walton County Bar Association
• Jamie Billotte Moses, Past President, Orange County Bar Association
• Francine Walker, Director, Public Information and Bar Services, The Florida Bar

Session C – Marvin Gardens C
A Spoonful of Sugar...Community Effort Initiatives Regarding the Florida Constitution Revision
Learn about community effort initiative ideas to implement in your local areas regarding the Florida Constitutional revision Commission.
• Annette Boyd Pitts, Executive Director, Florida Law Related Education Association
• Hon. Michelle Sisco, Circuit Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Session D – Promenade East
Illuminations: Website Design & Content
Critically examine your association’s website and content and learn ways to improve your website.
Moderator: Kim Homer, Executive Director, Orange County Bar Association
Panelists:
• Sze W. Liu, Co-founder & CEO, WM Digital
• Peggy Storch, Communications Manager, Orange County Bar Association
• Peter Boyd, PaperStreet Web Design

3:30 p.m. – 4:10 p.m. Break & Beverage Station hosted by Orange County Bar Association

4:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. VBLC BREAKOUT SESSION 2
Session A – How to Plan a Supercalifragilistic CLE Event – Marvin Gardens A
Gain all the information, lists, and tips, so you can leave ready with a handy checklist to implement a successful CLE program.
Moderator: Bryan Lober, Brevard County Bar Association
Panelists:
• Judge Jose Rodriguez, Circuit Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit
• John Sawicki, Treasurer, Tallahassee Bar Association
• Jessica Malloy, The Florida Bar, Legal Specialization and Education

Session B – Marvin Gardens B
Someday My Prince (or Princess) Will Come: Sealing the Deal with Sponsors
Learn practical techniques on how to successfully secure financial sponsors for your bar association. You will also discover how to connect with the business world and make your association and its members valuable to the business community.
• Rodd Santomauro, Chief Business Development Officer at Synergy Settlement Services, Washington, D.C.
• Seth Price, BluShark Digital
**Session C – Marvin Gardens C**  
Realizing a Year of Magic on a Shoe-String Budget with Limited Human Resources  
*This session is designed for small bar associations. Gain valuable tips on how to realize a year of magic for your small bar utilizing a shoe-string budget and limited human resources.*

- Lillian Ewen, Past President, St. Lucie County Bar Association  
- Wendy Fisher, Past President, Brevard County Women Lawyers Association

**Session D – Promenade East**  
To Infinity and Beyond: Technology Options for Membership Management  
*Explore technology options for membership management in your bar association irrespective of the current size of your membership.*

- Adriana Linares, Law Tech Partners  
- Braulio Rosa, Executive Director, Broward County Bar Association

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **The Grande Reception – Sea Breeze Point**  
Join us on the Boardwalk for social time, a scrumptious buffet of assorted foods and a complimentary frozen drink provided by Brevard County Bar Association.

**Saturday, July 15**

7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. **Be Our Guest for Breakfast and VBLC Roundtables – Promenade West**  
*In this informal and unstructured session, participants are invited over breakfast to idea share 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  
  - Table Host: Jamie Billotte Moses  
- Optional round table – Staffed bars with less than 1,000 members  
  - Table Host: John Sawicki  
- Optional round table – Non-staffed bars  
  - Table Host: Ginger Boyd  
- Optional round table – Bars with Executive Directors  
  - Table Host: Joann Gore

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

8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Break

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. **Town Hall on the Boardwalk with The Florida Bar President & Voluntary Bar Leaders – Promenade East**  
*During this interactive session, The Florida Bar President will address submitted questions posed by local voluntary bar leaders regarding issues of concern to local bars.*

- Moderator – Sarah Cortvriend, 2016-17 Chair, Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee  
- Michael J. Higer – President, The Florida Bar

9:50 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Break with Beverage Station – Promenade Lobby

10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. **VBLC BREAKOUT SESSION 3**  
**Session A – Marvin Gardens A**  
It’s a Small World After All: Diversity Programming & Initiative Ideas  
*Learn about programs that have earned diversity grants from The Florida Bar and how you can replicate these same programs in your local bar association. Also, learn about grants available through the Committee on Diversity & Inclusion to assist with funding your bar association’s diversity programming.*
Moderator: Ava-Gaye Marie Hue, Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee
Panelists:
• Arnell Bryant-Willis, Diversity Initiatives Manager, The Florida Bar
• Antonya K. Johnson, President of Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter National Bar Association
• Vivian C. Hodz, Past President of Tampa Hispanic Bar Association
• Brittany Maxey-Fisher, Chair, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Session B – Marvin Gardens B
Cast Members: Identifying, Recruiting and Training Leaders to Build Your Association
Moderator: John Kynes, Executive Director, Hillsborough County Bar Association
Panelists:
• Kimberly Lopez, Past President of Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida
• Melissa Condon Onacki, Florida Trial Court Staff Attorneys Association
• Lyndsey Siara, Co-Chair, Hillsborough County Bar Association Leadership Institute, 2017
• Scott Johnson, Co-Chair, Hillsborough County Bar Association Leadership Institute, 2017

Session C – Marvin Gardens C
Carousel of Progress: Effectively Utilizing Your Past Presidents Today!
• Doug Beam, Past President, Brevard County Bar Association
• Leora B. Freire, Immediate Past President, FAWL

Session D – Promenade East
Using Your Magic Wand: Motivating & Rewarding Volunteers in Your Association
Moderator: John Kynes, Executive Director, Hillsborough County Bar Association
Panelists:
• Kimberly Lopez, Past President of Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida
• Melissa Condon Onacki, Florida Trial Court Staff Attorneys Association
• Lyndsey Siara, Co-Chair, Hillsborough County Bar Association Leadership Institute, 2017
• Scott Johnson, Co-Chair, Hillsborough County Bar Association Leadership Institute, 2017

10:50 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. VBLC BREAKOUT SESSION 4
Session A – Marvin Gardens A
Innovative Ideas to Re-Imagine Law Day in Your Bar Association
Moderator: Tammy Grys, Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee
Panelists:
• Jessica Travis, Co-Chair, Orange County Bar Association Law Week Committee
• Andrew Roy, Co-Chair, Orange County Bar Association Law Week Committee
• Angie Euell, Field Service Specialist, American Bar Association Division of Bar Services

Session B – Marvin Gardens B
Tomorrowland: Engaging Young Lawyers in Your Bar Association
Young Lawyers Division
• Zack Zuroweste, President, Young Lawyers Division
• Christian George, President-elect, Young Lawyers Division
• Shane Smith, Past President, Brevard County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division
Sheila Biehl, Esq. is an expert trial lawyer Board Certified in Business Litigation, and she holds the distinctive honor of having received the Martindale-Hubbell AV-Preeminent peer rating. In 2000, she established her own firm located in Stuart, FL. With years of experience in complex commercial and business litigation, mediation, arbitration, negotiations, and trials in both State and Federal Courts, the firm offers legal expertise in many areas, including real estate litigation, HOA/Condo litigation and probate litigation. The analytical skills and direct approach of the firm’s attorneys ensure strategic navigation of the complex business challenges facing today’s client.

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DANNY ALLER is the social media manager at The Florida Bar. 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 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 sections, groups and members learn and utilize 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 three-year tenure, the number of Florida Bar Twitter followers has grown from 800 to over 10,000, and the number of The Florida Bar Facebook followers has grown from 1,200 to more than 20,000. Aller holds a degree in English from Florida State University.

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DOUG BEAM has been a trial lawyer since 1985. His practice focuses on personal injury, criminal defense and civil trial work. Beam was named a Top 100 Trial Lawyer by The National Trial Lawyers, is AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell, is past president of the Brevard County Bar Association and past president of the Florida Council of Bar Association Presidents. Before opening Douglas R. Beam, P.A. in 1988, Beam served as a prosecutor for three years at the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, trying many jury trials, and started the Child Sexual Abuse Prosecution Unit. Beam also prosecuted one of the first cases in the country that relied on DNA evidence. Beam routinely takes his cases to trial and received the largest verdict in Brevard County history in 2012. Beam graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law (J.D.), where he was assistant editor and staff member of the Tennessee Law Review, Editor of “The Forum,” and recipient of the Dean’s Citation for Extraordinary Contributions to the University of Tennessee College of Law. Beam speaks around the country on topics such as trial techniques, traumatic brain injuries, and client and law firm management. In addition to his legal work, Beam is active at First United Methodist Church of Melbourne and has been happily married to his wife, Cathy, for 33 years.

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GINGER BARRY BOYD is a partner in the Destin office of Broad and Cassel and the co-chair of the firm’s business litigation department. She handles a wide variety of litigation matters, including real estate, securities, bankruptcy, contracts, foreclosures, employment, intellectual property litigation and general business litigation matters. Boyd has represented private and public clients, including the State of Florida, in employment discrimination litigation matters. She was named a “Rising Star” by Super Lawyers magazine for seven years in a row — from 2009 to 2015 — and is involved in a variety of professional and community organizations, including the Walton County Chamber of Commerce, Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women, Okaloosa-Walton County Bar Association and Rotary International. Boyd holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida and received her juris doctor from Florida State University College of Law.

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PETER BOYD is a Florida attorney who formerly practiced in the area of intellectual property law. Boyd has worked on more than 1,200 website projects since 1996. He founded PaperStreet during law school when he realized that many firms did not have a website, or had a poorly designed site. Boyd is a jack-of-all-trades and can design the initial website concepts, incorporate database technology, write custom code, SEO, PPC, and, of course, make projects a success. He also loves to talk about PS4, Xbox, Dolphins and running/cycling/swimming. Feel free to chat him up via email or on social media.

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ARNELL BRYANT-WILLIS is the Diversity Initiatives Manager for The Florida Bar and has a diverse background in leadership roles in both the public and private sector. Bryant-Willis received an associate’s degree from Hillsborough Community College, a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from Florida State University and a master’s in education from Florida A&M University. Prior to coming to The Florida Bar, Bryant-Willis was vice president of operations for EW Bryant Associates, a consulting and training firm, where she developed and conducted training in leadership, team building and diversity in addition to facilitating roundtable discussions and strategic planning sessions for
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fan, and lover of the outdoors, and she serves as a volunteer at 1823. In her spare time, Carl is an avid runner, die-hard Gator

AMANDA PERRY CARL is a corporate attorney at A. Duda & Sons, Inc. in Oviedo, a diversified land company engaged in agriculture, real estate development and related businesses. Carl graduated in 2003 summa cum laude from the University of Florida, where she majored in agricultural education and communications and minored in agricultural law. In 2006, Carl graduated from the University of Florida, Levin College of Law, in the top two percent of her class. She currently serves as a president of the Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers and is also the assistant adviser of the Central Florida Law and Government Explorers Post. Carl is a rare, native Floridian whose family has been in Florida since 1823. In her spare time, Carl is an avid runner, die-hard Gator fan, and lover of the outdoors, and she serves as a volunteer at local FFA chapters.

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LESLEY CASTALDI earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in French and international politics from Pennsylvania State University; she graduated from the University of Strasbourg, France for one term. She graduated from the Villanova School of Law. During law school, she clerked for a Pennsylvania appellate judge. She began practicing law in 1988 and is licensed in Florida, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Castaldi is a general magistrate for the 18th Judicial Circuit, hearing family law, Baker Act and Marchman Act matters. She served on the Board of Directors for the Brevard County Bar Association for five years and as president from July 2015 until July 2016. She also served on the Board of Directors of Brevard County Legal Aid for 10 years. Her hobbies include sailing, swimming, reading, music, and travel.

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MELISSA BYERS has served as executive director of the 1,100 member St. Petersburg Bar Association since 2013. Prior to joining the St. Petersburg Bar Association, Byers served as the executive director of the Police Athletic League of St. Petersburg, in partnership with the St. Petersburg Police Department, from 2009 to 2013. Byers earned her B.A. in Public Relations/Journalism from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Prior to her executive director career, Byers worked extensively in the health and wellness field including The Golden Door Resort & Spa in San Diego, CA and Warner Brothers Studios in Los Angeles, CA. During her time at The Golden Door and Warner Brothers, she enjoyed training clients such as Joan Lunden, Barbara Walters, Laura Dern, Robert Mondavi, and many others. Her career also included owning Body Basics Wellness Studio.

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JOSH CHILSON is a past president of the Clearwater Bar Association. He currently represents the Sixth Judicial Circuit on The Florida Bar Board of Governors. Chilson practices exclusively in the areas of personal injury and social security disability, having represented clients in almost every type of personal injury matter. He is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates forum and has been recognized by multiple organizations for his dedication to the law including Florida Super Lawyers, Florida Trend Magazine’s Legal Elite and the Clearwater Bar Association, which awarded him its top honor, the 2016 Clearwater Bar Ralph Richards Award. He holds degrees from Newman University, Bachelor of Science, sociology & history (double major) (2003) and St. Thomas University, Juris Doctor (2006).

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SARAH CORTVRIEND’S focus is on real property and commercial litigation. Cortvriend represents national title insurance underwriters in matters involving title insurance claims, closing protection letter coverage, title agent defalcations, equitable subrogation forgeries, lien priorities, insurer bad faith, and quiet title. Cortvriend represents national lending institutions in state and federal courts in commercial mortgage foreclosures cases involving low income housing tax credits, often working with receivers and special masters. Cortvriend frequently represents institutional clients in federal and state courts in contractual and other commercial litigation disputes. Cortvriend is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell. She was recognized as a Florida Super Lawyer from 2013-2016, as a Rising Star from 2010-2014 by Florida Super Lawyers, and is listed in Florida Trend’s Florida Legal Elite. She is the past chair of The Florida Bar Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee. She is a member of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, American Land Title Association’s Title Counsel Committee and the ABA TIPS
Title Insurance Committee. Cortvriend serves on the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County and the Board of Directors of the Hanley Foundation.

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VANESSA COTTO has served as the membership chair for the Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida (HBACF) since 2013. The HBACF is a nonprofit organization that stands as the local voice for the concerns of Hispanics in the community, generally, and in the legal profession. Currently, the HBACF has more than 200 members in Orlando made up of judges, attorneys, magistrates, legal assistants, law students, and other members. Cotto is licensed to practice in Florida and is the current regional membership manager for the American Association for Justice (AAJ), formerly the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA).

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ANGELA COWDEN graduated from Florida Southern College with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry in 1986 and a master’s degree in business administration in 1989. Cowden attended Stetson University College of Law, where she graduated in 1993. Then-State Attorney Jerry Hill hired her in 1994 as a prosecutor, and she practiced in Polk County for nine years. Cowden was appointed to the Polk County Bench in 2003 by Gov. Jeb Bush. She had been on the county bench for five years when Gov. Charlie Crist appointed her to the circuit bench in 2008. Cowden had her very first circuit assignment in the family division in Highlands County where she was assigned for a one-year term. Judge Cowden then was summoned back to Polk County. She loved Highlands County so much that she asked to return when the next bench rotation came around. She returned to Highlands County on July 1, 2010, and has been there ever since. Judge Cowden has worked in all county court divisions, circuit criminal, juvenile dependency, juvenile delinquency, family, probate, guardianship, mental health (both in-house and at the Mental Health Institutions) and circuit civil.

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JEFF DORAN is a public information coordinator for The Florida Bar. In this role, he serves as the contact and liaison for more than 280 local, state and national bar associations in Florida. He staffs the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee and coordinates the annual Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference. Doran is also staff for the Law Related Education Committee and recently helped launch the #JustAdulting mobile app for Florida’s graduating seniors and college students. Prior to joining The Florida Bar, he enjoyed 28 years in state-level association management. In 1999, Doran imagined one of the first virtual walk in the woods interactive learning tools to help students explore the value of renewable resources. The multiple award-winning Florida Forest Forever program enjoyed 10 years of success and was adapted for shared use in 30 states. In 2007, Doran coordinated the first college effort to counteract greenhouse gas emissions created by an athletic event. Working with the University of Florida to reduce its carbon footprint, Doran arranged for the purchase of carbon credits to offset game day emissions. The event inspired Gator Neutral, the predominant brand for sports greening at UF. In addition, Doran helped launch the Log A Load For Kids program, a nationwide giving campaign by the forestry community to provide medical care to children. Log A Load For Kids is currently one of the nation’s top 10 CMN contributors. He holds a J.D. from Nashville School of Law and a B.S. in Communications from Middle Tennessee State University.

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ANGIE EUELL is the field service specialist for the ABA Division for Bar Services. She meets with bar leaders and executive staff across the country to share information about ABA resources, best practices in nonprofit administration and national trends in association management. She also assists in planning the ABA Bar Leadership Institute. Euell is a member of the National Association of Bar Executives and Association Forum of Chicagoland. Euell has an associate’s degree in business administration from McKendree College. She has three adult children and two grandchildren, all of whom reside in Louisville, Ky.

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LILLIAN EWEN is the senior appellate staff attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, overseeing all appeals from county court as well as petitions for writ of certiorari for local administrative cases on behalf of the judiciary. She was a fellow in the inaugural class of The Florida Bar Leadership Academy and currently serves as the vice chair of the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee and co-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 (currently serving as vice chair) 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 and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Humane Society of St. Lucie County. Ewen holds a J.D. and M.S.M. from the University of Florida and a B.A. in communications from Wake Forest University.

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KAREN FAST started as membership manager at the Orange County Bar Association 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 the Bench Bar Conference. Fast oversees Sponsorship and Advertising, Membership and the Events Department for the Orange County Bar Association. Fast came to the position with over 25 years of sales and marketing experience within the hospitality industry. She was sales and marketing manager for other restaurant groups including The Capital Grille and The Palm. With a B.A. in graphic design from The American University in Washington, D.C., Fast has a background that has enhanced advertising and promotional pieces used to assist sales growth. After leaving the hospitality industry in 2008, Fast attended the Notter School of Pastry Arts in Orlando.

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WENDY FISHER is the Injunction for Protection (IFP) program attorney at Serene Harbor Domestic Violence Center. Fisher provides legal representation to victims of domestic violence in Serene Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter and Brevard County during injunction for protection hearings. Fisher graduated with honors from the University of Central Florida with her B.A. in political science in 2011 and from Stetson University College of Law with her J.D. in 2014. While in law school, Fisher was the chief ambassador of the Ambassador Program and a board member of the Student Leadership Development Committee. She interned with the Hon. Judge Kovachevich of the U.S. District Court Middle District of Florida, and worked as an attorney for the City of Palm Bay before coming to Serene Harbor to build the Injunction for Protection Project. Fisher was the 2014 recipient of the Anthony S. Battaglia Excellence in Leadership Award for her exemplification of outstanding qualities of professionalism and promise of becoming an outstanding leader in the legal profession. Wendy is an active community member and was president of the Brevard County Association for Women Lawyers for the 2016-2017 term, appointed to The Florida Bar Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee, a member of the Brevard County Domestic Violence Task Force, the chair of the Preeclampsia Foundation 2017 Space Coast Promise Walk, and a member of the Vassar B. Carlton Inn of Court. Fisher has recently been selected as a 2017-2018 Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy Fellow.

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LEORA FREIRE, a shareholder with the firm Richman Greer, focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation, foreclosure matters, products liability and personal injury litigation. Freire, who joined the firm in 2005, has represented small-business owners and Fortune 500 companies in working to resolve litigation while also keeping clients’ business considerations at the forefront. She has prosecuted and defended disputes in state and federal courts throughout Florida, on cases involving breach of contract, fraud breach of fiduciary duty, non-competition, complex foreclosure matters, personal injury, and product liability claims. She also has experience in handling dissolution of business organizations. Her Florida professional involvement includes membership in the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, where she is immediate past president. She is also a past president of the Palm Beach County chapter of the organization. She is currently appointed to serve on the Volunteer Bar Liaison Committee of The Florida Bar, is a graduate of The Florida Bar Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy, and has previously served on a local Florida Bar Grievance Committee. At the county level, she has served on multiple committees of the Palm Beach County Bar Association and was co-chair for the commercial litigation section of the 2014 and 2015 Bench Bar Conferences. She is a member of the 2007 Class of Leadership West Palm Beach and a 2011 graduate of the Emerging Leadership Project. At the national level, she is an active member of NAWL, the National Association of Women Lawyers, and has served on several committees for the organization. She is a graduating member of the 2013-2014 Leadership Institute class of Meritas, an international organization of law firms. She also is a named fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

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CHRISTIAN GEORGE is office managing partner of Akerman’s Jacksonville office. His practice focuses on complex commercial and bankruptcy litigation, with an emphasis on counseling clients in the financial services sector. His work is routinely recognized by Benchmark Litigation, Jacksonville Business Journal and other publications. George is president of the Jacksonville Bar Association’s Young Lawyers’ Section, past chair of the Fourth Judicial Circuit Bench and Bar Professionalism Committee, past chair of the Fourth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee, member of the Chester Bedell Inns of Court and President-elect of the Young Lawyers Division of The Florida Bar. George graduated from the University of Florida Levin College of Law in 2007. He earned his B.A. from the University of Florida in 2004 with a degree in political science.

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JOANN GORE is executive director of the Tallahassee Bar Association. She joined the Tallahassee Bar Association in 2003 as part-time assistant executive director and served in that role until 2012, when she was promoted to executive director. Gore graduated with her Masters of Science degree in communication from Florida State University in 1989. She began her career in the communication/public information arena as director of communications for a statewide credit union. She has served as public information officer for the Florida Prepaid College Program, marketing director for Killearn Properties and a consultant for several law firms.

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MICHAEL HIGER is the 2017-2018 President of The Florida Bar. Born in Miami Beach, Florida, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1982 from the University of Florida and his Juris Doctorate degree with honors in 1985 from the University of Miami School of Law where he served as the Executive Editor of the Law Review. Now, as a Partner of Berger Singerman’s Dispute Resolution Team, and an experienced litigator and trial lawyer who has devoted his practice to commercial litigation and civil trial work, he is A/V rated by Martindale Hubbell®, the highest available rating. The Best Lawyers in America®, Florida Trend magazine’s Florida Legal Elite™ and Florida Super Lawyers have all repeatedly recognized him in his practice areas. Michael is also the only lawyer representing policyholders in first-party property actions that the prestigious legal publication, Chambers, has recognized in this practice area. And, he is widely regarded as one of the architects of the business courts established in Florida. The Florida Bar’s Business Law Section recognized him as its Outstanding Member in 2005, and he is a former chair of that section. Higer earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1982 from the University of Florida and his Juris Doctorate degree with honors in 1985 from the University of Miami School of Law, where he served as the executive editor of the Law Review. Immediately following graduation, he went to work as a commercial litigator with the law firm of Fine Jacobson Schwartz Nash Block & England, P.A. Shortly thereafter, he joined the law firm of Coll Davidson Carter Smith Salter & Barkett, P.A. where he became the first lawyer to be named a shareholder by the founding shareholders, and in 2006 former Higer Lichter & Givner, LLP.

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TAMI-LYN GRYS relocated to Florida in 2014, and is currently an attorney and the director of operations at St. Michael’s Legal Center for Women and Children, LLC. St. Michael’s is a non-profit organization that offers pro-bono legal assistance to qualifying families. Grys’ current areas of practice include most facets of family law, as well as foreclosure defense and bankruptcy. After receiving her B.B.A. in finance, Grys spent a number of years working in New York City in the financial services industry. She is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. She is currently a member of The Florida Bar’s Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee and is a 2017 graduate of the Hillsborough County Bar Leadership Institute. Grys is also a new member of the Junior League of St. Petersburg and the St. Petersburg Preservation Society.

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E. ASHLEY HARDEE is the 2017-18 Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee chair and conference co-chair. Hardee is a senior trial court staff attorney in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, where she has served for the past 22 years. Hardee graduated from the Florida State University College of Law and the University of South Florida. In addition to serving as a trial court staff attorney, Hardee taught several courses as an adjunct legal professor for the University of Central Florida. She has served as president of three Florida voluntary bar associations: the Florida Council of Past Bar Presidents (2015 and 2014), the Florida Trial Court Staff Attorneys Association (2014 and 2001), and the Brevard County Bar Association (2009-2010). Hardee has also served since 2008 on the Supreme Court of Florida’s Florida Court Personnel Committee, whose mission is to develop and maintain educational programs for Florida court personnel. Hardee received the Brevard County Bar Association’s Professionalism Award for Government Lawyers in 2005 and was named the Brevard County Bar Association’s Board Member of the Year in 2004, 2005 and 2006. She received the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit’s Employee of the Month Award in 2002. Hardee received the Vassar B. Carlton Inn of Court’s Mentor of the Year Award in 2009. In 2011 and 2003, the Florida Trial Court Staff Attorneys Association awarded Hardee the Kathy Pugh Leadership Award. In 2015, the Florida Trial Court Staff Attorneys Association awarded Ashley the statewide Lifetime Achievement Award.

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KIMBERLY HOMER serves as the executive director of the Orange County Bar Association. Previously, she served as the as director of the OCBA’s Foreclosure Mediation Program and has served as the OCBA’s assistant executive director. She began working for the Orange County Bar in 2010 and became the executive director in 2014. Homer has a J.D. from Cumberland Law School in Birmingham, Alabama, and has been admitted to practice law in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Montana. Homer’s legal career and love of pro bono service began with her experience working at Stewart, Melvin and Frost, LLP, in Gainesville, Georgia. She later worked as a Georgia Legal Services Program attorney; as an assistant district attorney in the Northern District of Georgia; and as a sole practitioner in Georgia, Alabama and Montana. In addition to being an active member of the Orange County Bar Association, she has served as a volunteer Guardian ad Litem for the Legal Aid Society of the OCBA, Inc. on multiple cases and currently provides pro bono legal services for the Legal Aid Society of the OCBA through the AIDS Wills Project.

AVA-GAYE HUE is an associate at Bernstein, Lipman and Gregoire, PLLC. Hue practices exclusively in the areas of matrimonial and family law. Prior to joining the firm, she represented financial institutions across the State of Florida in creditors’ rights actions and participated in numerous non-jury trials. Hue began her legal career as an assistant public defender with the Broward County Public Defender’s Office. During her tenure as a public defender, she represented defendants in misdemeanor and felony cases, serving as primary counsel in more than 20 jury and nonjury trials. Hue served as a legislative assistant in the Florida Senate’s 34th District and as an aide in Florida’s 23rd Congressional District before becoming a practicing attorney. She has also organized fundraisers and forged key relationships in the South Florida community on behalf of a local reading foundation, as its director of development. A devoted Florida Gator, Hue is a fervent supporter all of the school’s sports teams. She also enjoys painting, traveling and spending time with her family.

ANTONYA JOHNSON: graduated from Florida A&M College of Law in 2006 and immediately began her career as an assistant state attorney in Fort Lauderdale where she has litigated cases in the felony, sexual battery and traffic homicide units. After six years as a prosecutor, Johnson broadened her career in litigation by joining a large firm representing major financial institutions in creditor disputes. She has since returned to the State Attorney’s Office to her true passion of criminal litigation and currently prosecutes cases in the Career Criminal Unit. She is the president of the Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association, a bar affiliate liaison on The Florida Bar Board of Governors, executive council member of The Florida Bar Criminal Law Section, executive board member of the Broward County Bar Criminal Law Section, and past president of the T.J. Reddick Bar Association. Johnson was selected by Sun Sentinel’s Legacy Magazine as one of 25 Most Influential Black Women in Business and Leadership in South Florida, awarded the 2015 Paul May Professionalism award from the Broward County Bar Association, and was a Class III Florida Bar Leadership Academy Fellow.

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 affairs and administrative experience at the federal, state and local levels. From 2000 to 2006, Kynes served as district director for then U.S. Rep. Jim Davis in Tampa. Previously, Kynes served as director of intergovernmental relations for the city of Tampa, and 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. Kynes 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.

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KIMBERLY LOPEZ is a partner in Akerman LLP’s Orlando office, focusing her practice in commercial litigation. Since becoming licensed in 2008, Lopez has been involved with various bar organizations, including the Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida (HBACF), Orange County Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association. She has held several leadership roles, including president of the HBACF in 2013 and chairing the joint voluntary bar efforts then known as Holidays in January. In 2016, Lopez was appointed to serve as a member on the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee, where she continues to serve today. Lopez also serves as deputy regional president (Orlando) for the Hispanic National Bar Association. She has attended the VBL conference several times and is a frequent attendee of the HNBA conventions and conferences. Lopez credits her bar involvement to active recruitment efforts by senior bar leaders. As such, during her term as HBACF president she encouraged her board to constantly recruit, retain and promote members into the leadership ranks. She continues to promote this mentality when speaking to bar leaders today.

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JESSICA MALLOY graduated from Florida State University in 2011 and is the education compliance and accreditation manager in the Legal Specialization and Education Department of The Florida Bar. She has been employed by The Florida Bar since 2015. As the education compliance and accreditation manager, Malloy ensures timely and accurate processing of education compliance requirements, delinquencies, reinstatements and CLE submissions for accreditation. In addition, she serves as the staff custodian managing the records of the department in a manner that complies with all applicable laws, rules and industry standards.

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DONNA MARINO is the statewide development director for The Florida Bar Foundation, leading the strategic planning and implementation of all of the Foundation’s giving programs. Volunteer contributors support programs she administers, including the Fellows program, annual giving, major gifts and planned giving. The Florida Bar Foundation provides greater access to justice in Florida through strategic grant-making and investments in assessment, training, technology and technical assistance to help grantees build capacity and operate efficiently and effectively. This work helps the Foundation provide funding that links 28 legal services programs statewide to form a comprehensive, statewide delivery system. Marino is experienced in advisory board management, capital campaigns, annual campaigns, major gift solicitation and planned giving and volunteer management. Marino serves on the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) International Foundation Board, was president of Central Florida AFP and staffed the funding subcommittee for Florida’s Commission on Access to Civil Justice. Marino has a Master’s of Business Administration from Belhaven University and a bachelor’s in business management from the University of Central Florida. In September 2009, she was awarded the Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) designation and later obtained her certificate in proposal writing from Rollins College’s Edyth Bush Institute for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership. She is currently a member of the Southeastern Council of Foundations and has presented at local AFP events and at the national Management Information Exchange for Legal Aid fundraising conference.

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LIZ McCASULAND graduated from the University of Florida with both her Bachelor of Arts and J.D. degrees. After graduating, she practiced civil litigation representing both individuals and national corporations before starting her own firm. McCausland now concentrates her practice in bankruptcy and mediation of bankruptcy and circuit civil matters. She served on committees to establish both the Orlando Bankruptcy Division’s Mortgage Modification Mediation Program as well as the Orange County Mortgage Modification Program. She has conducted over 3,200 mortgage modification mediations in every district in Florida, as well as in Indiana, California, Nevada and Arizona. She travels throughout the United States to teach other attorneys and mediators how to successfully obtain and mediate mortgage modifications in bankruptcy. McCausland has served in leadership positions in many voluntary bar associations and has won awards for her devoted service. She is the President of the Orange County Bar Association, a unique voluntary bar that requires all 3,400 members to take pro bono cases or pay an in lieu fee. She has served on The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division and now serves on The Florida Bar Leadership Academy Committee and the Solo and Small Firm Section Executive Committee.

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MELISSA ONACKI has been a staff attorney with the First Judicial Circuit for more than ten years and is the current president-elect of the Florida Trial Court Staff Attorneys Association (FTCSAA). In the past, she has actively served on the FTCSAA executive board in the capacity of treasurer (2014-2016) and before that time served as First DCA representative. She has chaired and worked on numerous FTCSAA committees throughout the years and this year she is the chairwoman of the FTCSAA Communications Committee and the editor-in-chief of FTCSAA’s newsletter “The Circuit Courterly.” Onacki received the Kathy Pugh Outstanding Florida Trial Court Staff Attorney Leadership Award in 2013, 2015, and 2016. Onacki graduated from Florida State University in 1996 with a B.A. in English. In 2000, she obtained her Juris Doctor from the University of Maine School of Law. Onacki is a member of the Connecticut, Georgia, and Florida bars. She is actively involved in her church, where she serves on the Church Council, the Board of Trustees and the Endowment Committee and also enjoys singing in the choir.

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ANNETTE BOYD PITTS is the Executive Director of the Florida Law Related Education Association. In this role she has worked with Florida judges, lawyers, and educators over the last three decades to strengthen public education models addressing the courts, the Constitution, and the American legal system. Pitts is principal author of The Florida Bar Benchmarks program, an initiative of the Constitutional Judiciary Committee. She has authored a wide range of articles in state, national, and international professional journals including an article entitled Raising the bar on civic education published in The Florida Bar Journal (May 2016) and Ordinary People published in Voir Dire (Summer 2015), the national Journal of the American Board of Trial Advocates. She has worked in 25 countries to share civic and law-related education programs, policies, and practices. She has been instrumental in the design of the Florida Supreme Court Justice Teaching Institute where all seven Justices serve as faculty; the Florida high school and middle school mock trial competitions; and a wide range of law-related programs. Pitts is the recipient of the National Improvements in Justice Award, the American Bar Association Isidore Starr Award, and the Sandra Day O’Connor Award for Advancements in Civic Education presented by the National Center for State Courts. She serves as national education chair for the National Association of Women Judges IV-Fair Judges Project.

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JOSE RODRIGUEZ has been a circuit judge in the Ninth Judicial Circuit since 1994. He is currently assigned to the Probate, Guardianship and Mental Health Division. From 1987-1993, he served as a county court judge in Orange County. He earned his B.A. from the University of Central Florida and his J.D. from Florida State University. He is an adjunct professor of law at Barry University Law School and has been a Certified Judicial Instructor since 1991. Judge Rodriguez is looking forward to sharing some of the knowledge acquired over the years of working with judges and attorneys regarding continuing education with voluntary bar leaders. In his spare time, he enjoys surfing and competing in sprint triathlons.

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RODD SANTOMAURO has been involved in bar leadership service at the local, state and national levels for the past 15 years. From the Board of Directors of the Brevard County Bar Association and the Florida Justice Association, to committee work in Washington, D.C. for the American Association for Justice and Public Justice, Santomauro continues to advocate for consumers across the country. He has been recognized for his efforts and achievements through multiple awards and articles from both colleagues and clients. Pro bono legal service through the DC Volunteer Lawyers Project for families in need, coupled with voluminous daily work on attorney listserves and monthly CLEs to educate and empower attorneys, are just a few ways Santomauro gives back to legal communities around the country. Santomauro has made appearances in many courts, from local county courts to the U.S. Supreme Court. Santomauro is currently the vice president of business development for Synergy Settlement Services in Washington, D.C.

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JOHN SAWICKI founded Forensic Data Corp in 2011, to provide computer forensics services to organizations in Florida. Today, FDC provides computer forensics, ediscovery and data recovery services to companies, law firms and government agencies throughout the southeastern United States. Sawicki holds a Master of Science degree in digital forensics from the University of Central Florida, and is a certified computer forensics examiner. He is a licensed private investigator in Florida and Georgia. Sawicki is a seasoned attorney, with experience representing employers in labor and employment litigation in state and federal court, and counseling employers in employment related matters. Sawicki graduated from the Florida State University College of Law and is admitted to practice law in Oregon and Florida. He is the treasurer of the Tallahassee Bar Association and chair of the TBA’s Legal Community Conference Committee.

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PEGGY STORCH is the communications manager at the Orange County Bar Association, where she has produced the bar’s publication, The Briefs, since 2006. She has written copy and managed design and production of the bar’s collateral material, managed the development and expansion of a custom website and handled media relations for 12 years. Previously, she worked in public relations, marketing and education in the health care industry and was the publicist during the founding year of the Orlando Shakespeare Theater, serving in that capacity for another five years. Storch has an undergraduate degree in theater from Florida State University and a master’s in English literature from the University of Central Florida in 2011.

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HON. MICHELLE SISCO. In Hillsborough County, Judge Sisco is currently assigned to Trial Division 1 – handling both civil and criminal trials – and Circuit Criminal Division J – handling Post-Conviction Relief matters. Judge Sisco has previously been assigned to the Circuit Civil, Circuit Criminal, Juvenile Delinquency, Domestic Violence, County Criminal and County Civil divisions. Judge Sisco is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and the University of Florida Levin College of Law. Before her appointment to the bench in 2002 by Gov. Jeb Bush, she was an assistant state attorney and an associate with Trombley & Hanes, P.A. Judge Sisco is board certified in criminal trial law. She is the chair of the Constitutional Judiciary Committee and served as vice chair from 2013 to 2015.

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SHANE SMITH is an attorney in Melbourne, practicing plaintiffs’ personal injury, insurance, and business litigation. Smith was inducted into the Million Dollar Advocates Forum at the age of 33 and is currently the president of the Young Lawyers’ Division of the Brevard County Bar Association. Smith was born and raised in Sergeant Bluff, Iowa. He graduated undergraduate and law school from the University of South Dakota (J.D., 2010) and went on to earn his LL.M. in taxation from the University of Florida in 2011.

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Lyndsey Siara is a senior staff attorney at the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. After graduating from Santa Clara University School of Law in California, Siara began working for the Thirteenth Circuit. A staff attorney for six years, Siara is currently assigned to five circuit Civil Division judges. In this role, she works closely with the judges conducting legal research, advising and counseling on a variety of legal issues, and drafting proposed orders and memorandums of law. Siara is a member of the Hillsborough County Bar Association and served as co-chair for the HCBA Bar Leadership Institute Class of 2016-2017. She also serves on a Florida Bar Unlicensed Practice of Law Committee. Siara was recently elected as a director for the HCBA Young Lawyers Division. Outside of her professional life, Siara is a member of The Junior League of Tampa, volunteering in the Tampa area through its numerous community projects.

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Florida (UCF). She has been adjunct writing instructor at UCF and Valencia State College, has co-edited a series of children’s books, has served as an editor for the International Journal of Nursing in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and has taught a writing workshop at Barry University School of Law.

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MICHELLE PRUITT STUDSTILL is a seasoned family law practitioner who dedicates her practice exclusively in the area of family law. Prior to joining Widerman Malek, PL she was a partner in the law firm of Nassar & Studstill, PL where she also practiced exclusively in the area of family law. Studstill is active in various legal organizations at both the county and state level. She is the President of the Brevard County Bar Association and has served on the Board of Directors for the Brevard County Bar Association since 2013. She is a member of the Brevard County Association of Women Lawyers and a past member of the Board of Directors. On the state level, Studstill was appointed to the Volunteer Bar Liaison Committee of The Florida Bar in 2012 and was re-appointed to the committee until 2019.

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RENEE E. THOMPSON is a mediator at Upchurch Watson White & Max, mediating in both federal and state courts, and an adjunct law professor at the University of Florida Levin College of Law in the area of practice management and technology. She is an active leader in The Florida Bar, serving as the Fifth Circuit representative on the Board of Governors, currently serving as the Program Evaluation Committee chair and on the Budget and Technology committees. She is a former president of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division (2010-2011) and former president of the Marion County Bar (2014-2015). Thompson was the recipient of the Bar President’s Award of Merit in 2014 and 2015 and the General Practice, Solo Small Firm Section’s 2016 Walter Crumbly Award for Practice Management.

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LISA TIPTON is a nationally accredited public relations professional who implements communications and marketing strategies for legal associations, law firms, nonprofits and corporate clients. Her more than 30 years of public relations experience includes 12 years as a consultant to The Florida Bar, promoting its board certification program, Solo & Small Firm and Family Law sections and numerous special events. She also manages communications and event promotion for the Tallahassee Bar Association. PR Florida Inc. is her communications consulting company. Her professional career spans the public and private sectors, encompassing diverse roles like congressional press secretary, adjunct professor, advocate for the homeless, social media coordinator, law firm marketer and fundraising events manager.

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JESSICA TRAVIS graduated from Stetson University in 2004 and Barry University School of Law in 2007. After graduation, Travis worked for the Ninth Circuit State Attorney’s Office as assistant state attorney. While there, Travis prosecuted cases ranging from second-degree misdemeanors to first-degree felonies. She was lead counsel for more than 30 jury trials and over 60 bench trials. In 2012, Travis started her own law firm as a solo practitioner and she has been practicing criminal defense since. Ms. Travis is board certified in criminal trial, and is the incoming chair of The Florida Bar Criminal Certification Committee. Travis was also inducted as a fellow of the American Bar Foundation in 2016, and has a Martindale-Hubble AV Rating. Travis has coached Barry University’s trial team since graduation. Travis is active in the local voluntary bar association and was chair of the Orange County Bar Association Criminal Committee from 2012 through 2014, and co-chair of the Law Week committee from 2015 through 2017. Travis was selected as a Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

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FRANCINE ANDÍA WALKER, APR, CPRC, is director of Public Information and Bar Services for The Florida Bar. She joined The Florida Bar in February 2000 and is responsible for media relations, consumer awareness programs, the voluntary bar liaison program, law-related education and the website, www.floridabar.org. She also works closely with the leadership on strategic communications initiatives. Nationally accredited in public relations (APR), Walker is also a Florida 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 she is a graduate of Leadership Tallahassee. A Jacksonville native, she graduated from Episcopal School of Jacksonville in 1977 and received a Bachelor of Science in journalism from the University of Florida in 1981.

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ZACK ZUROWESTE is a 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 of Business Administration. Since graduation, Zuroweste has been active in voluntary bar associations and other professional organizations. He has been active in The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors, Clearwater Bar Association, Barney Masterson American Inn of Court and Pinellas County Trial Lawyers Association. Zuroweste has served as president of the Clearwater Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, and is currently President of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors.

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