LIFE ON THE FLIPSIDE

CHANGES IN LATITUDES, CHANGES IN ATTITUDES

Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference
July 16-17, 2021
Margaritaville Resort Orlando

THE FLORIDA BAR
A SPECIAL WELCOME FROM
FLORIDA BAR PRESIDENT MICHAEL G. TANNER

After a long year packed with virtual events conducted through Zoom, I’m thrilled to be attending the 2021 Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference in person. It’s an honor to welcome you to the conference, and I look forward to our time together – face-to-face – over the next two days. Although I am thankful that technology granted us the ability to stay connected throughout the pandemic, there is something special about traveling to a new place, chatting with old and new friends over coffee in-between sessions, and having the opportunity to network with speakers and attendees one-on-one.

Prior to becoming president of The Florida Bar, I served as president of the Jacksonville Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) and have been a longtime member of the Jacksonville Bar Association. There’s no doubt that voluntary bar involvement provides the foundation for Florida Bar leadership – and I would not be where I am today without the skills and relationships built through voluntary bar service.

This year’s conference theme, “Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes” – which appropriately shares its name with Jimmy Buffett’s famous album – is a reminder to slow down and enjoy all that this unique event has to offer, from sharpening your knowledge of voluntary bar leadership to expanding your network of voluntary bar peers. Many thanks to Vivian Cortes Hodz, Kimberly Lopez, Amelia Beard, and Beth Feder for organizing what is sure to be an informative and entertaining conference.

Seas the Day: Learn and Engage

The conference is packed with educational and inspirational sessions that cover a wide range of topics related to voluntary bar leadership – from lawyer happiness and navigating the pandemic to cybersecurity protection and earning money through sponsorships. I encourage you to “seas the day” and attend as many sessions as possible, while also taking time to network with other voluntary bar leaders. A connection you make during the conference could turn into a friendship that lasts a lifetime.

Soak Up the Sun: Have Fun

Embrace the slower pace of Margaritaville and remember to “soak up the sun.” The conference is an opportunity to develop professionally and personally outside of your day-to-day work. Try to be present and enjoy it.

Make Waves: Be a Mentor

Throughout my career, I have been lucky enough to have extraordinary mentors who have shaped my life in a profound ways. It is my hope that, as voluntary bar leader, you will take the insights gained during this conference back to members of your associations. After all, they are the voluntary bar leaders of tomorrow.

I am delighted to be part of this event and especially look forward to hearing from you during our conversation on Saturday morning.

Enjoy the conference!

Michael G. Tanner
There’s Just Too Much to See, Waiting in Front of Me.

We are delighted that you are with us to explore timely topics, enjoy special networking events, and dialogue with more than 150 voluntary bar leaders. Just as the sun rises to start a new day, at this conference, it’s our goal to help all bars, adjust their sail and chart a course for organizations to thrive in the new bar year.

Borrowing a lyric from a famous Jimmy Buffet song “This year gone by ain’t been a piece of cake!” For many voluntary bars, large and small, it was a year of shifts in programming and pivots in plans.

As Changes in Latitudes and Changes in Attitudes suggests, nothing remains quite the same! We are all at a different place than pre-pandemic times and so are our associations. This conference is designed to provide information and practical ideas to address the next normal. 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 term ahead.

If We Couldn’t Laugh, We Would All Go Insane.

Networking with other bar leaders is one of the best ways to generate new ideas and enjoy this time together. Be sure to participate in the networking game and attend Flip Flops and Pop Tops Grande Reception on Friday night! It will be a special evening of food, spirits, music, genuine camaraderie and a magic kind of medicine, no doctor can prescribe.

Some Go With the Flow. Others Make a Splash.

All hands are on deck to make sure that our sponsors are recognized at every turn. Thanks to their generosity, we exceeded our goal 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.

The conference would also not be possible without the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee and its leaders. Vivian Hodz has served for two terms as Chair; Kimberly Lopez is the conference chair and will be leading us in 2021-22 as Committee Chair, Amelia Beard is Conference Co-Chair and will be serving as Committee Vice-Chair. We also welcome Beth Feder, who is heading up the registration desk this year, and serving as the 2021-22 Committee Vice-Chair. If you need anything during the conference or have a question look for these members and other SPLASH MAKERS wearing colorful island leis.

Valuable Takeaways Abound

This year’s 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 9.5 hours of Continuing Legal Education general credit and 1.0 of ethics credit from The Florida Bar. The course number will be provided to all attendees after the conference.
A CONVERSATION WITH THE CAPTAIN

Join us on Saturday morning after breakfast for dialogue with the new Florida Bar President, Mike Tanner. At this session, President Tanner will share his insight of what’s on the horizon and take questions on what’s important to voluntary bars and Florida lawyers.

GENERAL SESSIONS – LIFE ON THE FLIP SIDE

Be Happy By Choice - Your Attitude Determines Your Latitude!

After quarantine and the year-long challenges of COVID-19, we are all ready to laugh and feel inspired! Mark Eiglarsh, a formerly unhappy guy, made a career out of solving everyone’s problems but his own. Now, this successful criminal defense attorney, television and radio on-air legal expert, adjunct law professor, devoted husband and proud father has reclaimed his happiness. Eiglarsh will bring to the Conference his mission to share how bar leaders can lead happy, healthy and successful lives, in spite of the unique demands of their law practice and whatever other challenging circumstances they may be facing. He dazzles audiences with his infectious enthusiasm, unique humor and heartfelt authenticity.

A Different Trip Around the Sun

A year ago, the inescapable nature of the pandemic was only beginning to sink in. We have learned so much about our capability to flex and adapt during the past year. No one knows this better than The Florida Bar’s Immediate Past President Dori Foster-Morales. Her term started in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had already shut down courts, law offices, and in-person Bar activities. She passed the gavel as the legal system and public at large began inching back to normal life. Resilience and recovery was also the focus of the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee, led by Vivian Cortes Hodz. She led a Restart. Rebound. Recover effort to keep the voluntary bar community connected as the pandemic was forcing a reboot to a virtual mode of communication. Together the two will share perspectives from their lens of what we have learned and where we are going after such an unprecedented time.

Jumping In With Both Feet

The new normal pushed us to adapt and improve. Now, the focus turns to finding a path forward. New ways to serve our members and communities. This special two-part session on “Bouncing Back” features bar leaders from small, middle, and large size bars who learned effective ways to navigate their association while weathering the pandemic storm. Some kept things afloat and others dived in head-first. The variety of views will provide valuable takeaways to enhance opportunities for your voluntary bar.

In Part II, participants can choose which breakout group will benefit their bar the most and attend a focused session based on voluntary bar size. Both will be a good landing spot to compel bar leaders to take the next step.
# 2021 VOLUNTARY BAR LEADERS CONFERENCE

**FRIDAY, JULY 16**

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<th>Time</th>
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| 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | On-Site Registration  
Conference Center Pre-function Area |
| 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Exhibit and Sponsor Tables Open  
Conference Center Pre-function Area |
| 9:00 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. | Opening Session:  
Compass Rose Ballroom North/South |
| **Welcome**                          | **Michael G. Tanner**, 2021-2022 President of The Florida Bar  
**Introductory Remarks**  
- **Vivian Cortes Hodz**, 2019-2021 Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee Chair  
- Kimberly Lopez and Amelia Beard, 2021 Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference Co-Chairs |
| 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | Opening Session  
Keynote Speaker: The Happy Lawyer Mark Eiglarsh |
| 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. | PRO BONO CALL CENTER  
*Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida*  
*Hemisphere Dancer* |
| 10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Break with Beverage Station  
Conference Center Pre-function Area |
| 11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. | General Session: Pandemic Perspectives from The Top  
Compass Rose Ballroom North/South |
| Noon – 1:30 p.m. | Lunch (provided) – **Nautical Terrace** |

The pandemic forced everyone – including The Florida Bar – to change course and embrace technology. The Florida Bar President and Voluntary Bar Chair whose terms spanned the pandemic, will share their view from the top of what we have learned and where we are going after such an unprecedented time.

- **Dori Foster-Morales**, 2020-21 President, The Florida Bar  
- **Vivian Hodz**, 2019-21 Chair, Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee; Past President, Tampa Hispanic Bar Association
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.  General Session: Bouncing Back Part I – Compass Rose Ballroom North/South
How Voluntary Bars Weathered the Storm
The pandemic affected all aspects of life, including the operation of voluntary bar organizations. Now, VBAs are focused on coming back stronger than ever. Come learn what some leaders are doing and the resources available from other VBAs to help your bar bounce back.

- Braulio Rosa, Executive Director, Broward County Bar Association
- Courtney Kilbourne, President, Volusia/Flagler Association for Women Lawyers
- Onchantho Am, Past President, Greater Orlando Asian American Bar Association
- Aron Gibson, Past President, Broward County Hispanic Bar Association

2:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  Break – Conference Center Pre-function Area

2:40 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  BREAKOUT SESSION
Session A – Bouncing Back Part II – Small/Midsize Bars – Compass Rose Ballroom North/South
A continued discussion of how VBAs are bouncing back following the pandemic. This session will focus on bar organizations that are unstaffed and with less than 500 members.

- Sarah Corbett, President, Polk Association for Women Lawyers
- Brendalyn Edwards, Past President, Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association
- Jennifer Comella, President-elect, Walton County Bar Association
- Aron Gibson, Past President, Broward County Hispanic Bar Association

Session B – Bouncing Back Part II – Large Bars – Nautical Wheeler
A continued discussion of how VBAs are bouncing back following the pandemic. This session will focus on bar organizations that are staffed and have more than 500 members.

Panelists:
- Braulio Rosa, Executive Director, Broward County Bar Association
- Jenny Brown, Executive Director, Orange County Bar Association
- John Kynes, Executive Director, Hillsborough County Bar Association
- Kimberly Hosley, Past President, Florida Association for Women Lawyers

3:20 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.  Break with Beverage Station
Conference Center Pre-function Area

3:40 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  BREAKOUT SESSION
Session A – The Florida Bar Communications and Social Media – Compass Rose Ballroom North
The Florida Bar’s communication and social media team continues to generate impressive results. How do they keep the enthusiasm and passion high for the Bar’s social media? What best practices are used to drive the Bar’s communication strategy? And what role can voluntary bars play to perpetuate these programs?

- Jennifer Krell Davis, Interim Communications Director, The Florida Bar
- Danny Aller, Social Media Coordinator, The Florida Bar
- Clay Shaw, Creative Support Manager, The Florida Bar

Session B – Health and Wellness Programming – Compass Rose Ballroom South
With The Florida Bar’s focus on attorney health and wellness, programming in this arena is on the minds of many voluntary bar organizations. Panelists will share effective and creative ways to introduce the health and wellness component to your bar’s programming.
• Mandi Clay, President, Hillsborough Association of Women Lawyers
• Traci Koster, Director, Hillsborough County Bar Association
• Ciara Willis, Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors

Session C – Diversity Program Funding: Lessons Learned – Nautical Wheeler
Did you know there is funding available for diversity programming? Year after year we learn that not enough organizations apply or submit applications failing to meet the criteria. Learn the ins and outs of The Florida Bar Diversity Program funding from leaders who have successfully secured funding.

Panelists:
• Arnell Bryant-Willis, Florida Bar Diversity Initiatives Manager
• John Schifino, Past President, Hillsborough County Bar Association
• Valeria Obi, President-elect, George Edgecomb Bar Association; Co-Chair, The Florida Bar Diversity Pipeline Sub-Committee

4:30 p.m. – 4:40 p.m. Break – Conference Center Pre-function Area
4:40 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSION

Session A – Plug and Play Programming – Compass Rose Ballroom North
In 50 minutes, learn about exciting programs for your organization to implement this year (and walk away with materials!)—all already tested and improved!

Panelists:
• Beth Feder, Past President, Broward County Women Lawyers Association
• Craig Shoup, Executive Director of the Jacksonville Bar Association
• Lori Ward, Past President, Walton County Bar Association

Session B – Cybersecurity Concerns for VBAs – Compass Rose Ballroom South
At a time when technology is being maximized even by the most unsavvy, every organization needs to be aware of the cybersecurity threats and ways to protect and mitigate against fraud. If your organization ever accepts credit card payment or maintains a membership database with any information, then this session is a must.

Panelists:
• Greg Scansy, Chief Technology Officer, Cigent
• Steven W. Templer, Partner, Chair of Privacy and Cybersecurity Practice Group, MandelbaumSalsburg

Session C – Delivering Access to Justice – Nautical Wheeler
Join a dynamic panel for a discussion of the creative and unique pro bono projects and legal aid collaborations with bar organizations, including racial justice initiatives.

Panelists:
• Victoria Mesa, Past President, Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association
• Joseph Cordova, Florida Legal Services
• Leslie Powell, Legal Services of North Florida, Inc.

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Grande Reception – Flip Flops and Pop Tops – Seagrass and Terrace

SATURDAY – JULY 17
7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Breakfast / Optional Roundtables / Gift Basket Drawing
Seagrass Dining Room
In this informal and unstructured session, participants are invited to share and discuss at their round tables current issues of interest facing local bar associations over breakfast.

- 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

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  Exhibit and Sponsor Tables Open – Conference Center Pre-function Area

9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.  General Session: A Conversation with The Florida Bar President
Compass Rose Ballroom North/South

During this interactive session, 2021-22 Florida Bar President Mike Tanner will address live questions posed by local voluntary bar leaders in an informal discussion style setting. Be sure to have your questions ready!

- Michael G. Tanner, President, The Florida Bar

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

Session A – Engaging the Younger Surfers of Your Bar – Compass Rose Ballroom North
Learn strategies to attract young lawyers to join and actively participate in your bar association. Learn what the YLD is accomplishing at both the state and local levels.

Panelists:
- Todd Baker, President, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division
- Iris Elijah, President-elect, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division
- Brandon Sapp, Board of Governors, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division; Past President, Orange County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section.

Session B – Earning Your Spending Money – Compass Rose Ballroom South
Learn the practical techniques on how to successfully secure sponsors for your bar association – even in a virtual world! Come hear how to deliver value to your sponsors whether in-person or remote.

- Melissa Byers, Executive Director, St. Petersburg Bar Association
- Aaron Wallace, Marketing Director, Florida Lawyers Mutual Insurance

Session C – Singing the Praises of Your Members – Nautical Wheeler
Learn how concentrated and consistent efforts to recognize and appreciate your members can boost and stabilize revenue for your bar association.

Presenter:
- G.C. Murray, II, Special Counsel and Membership Consultant, Florida Justice Association

10:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.  NETWORKING BREAK
Conference Center Pre-function Area

11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  BREAKOUT SESSION

Session A – Before You Wave Bye Bye – Lessons Learned from Past Presidents – Compass Rose Ballroom North
Come hear from outgoing/past leaders about the advice/knowledge they wish they knew before they embarked on their bar leadership path.

Panelists:
- Rosalyn Sia Baker-Barnes, Florida Bar Board of Governors and Past President, Palm Beach County Bar Association
- Amelia Beard, Past President, Walton County Bar Association
- Ani Rodriguez-Newbern, Past President, Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida
Session B – Expanding the View of the Crew – CLE Planning – Compass Rose Ballroom South

Learn the “how to” of planning a successful and compliant CLE program, even in the virtual world. Learn the mechanics, steps, and tricks to ensure your program receives CLE credit, as well as ideas for innovative CLEs to recharge your bar association’s programming. As a bonus, attendees will leave with all materials needed to host an already approved CLE program.

- Matthew Frey, Vice President, Lake County Bar Association
- Maritza McGill, Assistant Director, The Florida Bar Legal Specialization and Education Department
- Leia Leitner, Past President, Greater Orlando Asian American Bar Association; Special Projects Director, Federal Bar Association Orlando Chapter

Please don’t forget to complete your survey next week and provide any additional comments or suggestions you may have regarding the Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference. Thank you for attending!
A Big Thank You to
Our Sponsors!

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Florida Defense Lawyers Association
Jacksonville Bar Association
Lee County Bar Association
North Tampa Bar Association
Palm Beach County Bar Association
Patrick Neale & Associates
Polk Association for Women Lawyers
Tampa Hispanic Bar Association
Danny Aller holds a degree in English from Florida State University and was hired as the Bar’s social media manager in February 2014. Prior to coming to the Bar, Aller worked as a sports reporter, designer, copy editor and editor for 10 years at a variety of newspapers in Florida and Georgia. During his journalism career, he interacted with the sports information staffs and athletic offices from the high school to professional level. Since coming to the Bar, Aller has helped various Bar sections, committees and divisions better learn and use their social media platforms to connect and reach their respective audiences. He has introduced new platforms and been at the forefront of helping Bar members strengthen communication and outreach through social media. During his 7 1/2-year tenure, the number of Florida Bar Twitter followers has grown from 1,200 to 20,000, and the number of Florida Bar Facebook followers has grown from 1,200 to more than 30,000.

Onchantho Am is the vice president of Quality and chief legal officer of IMPOWER Inc., where works diligently to improve the lives of children and families. She is the immediate past president of the Greater Orlando Asian American Bar Association, where she spearheaded several successful public service and community outreach including the Voter Initiative, Asian Fusion Nights – Cooking for a Cause, and the Stop Asian American Pacific Islander Hate panel. Am is an active board member of the local National Association of Asian American Professionals, a member of the Orange County Asian American Committee, and the scholarship chair of the Orange County Bar Association Foundation.

Todd Baker, a personal injury attorney with the Steinger, Greene & Feiner firm in Fort Lauderdale and Miami, is president of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division. He is active in the Broward County Bar Association, where he is a past president of the Young Lawyer’s Section. He is also active in the Broward County Justice Association and Florida Justice Association and serves as a director of the Stephen R. Booher American Inn of Court and the B’Nai B’rith Justice Unit #5207. He received his law degree from the University of Florida and his bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan.

Rosalyn “Sia” Baker-Barnes is a shareholder at Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley P.A. and serves on the firm’s executive committee. In her 20-year career, she has successfully pursued justice for victims in personal injury, medical negligence and product liability cases. Committed to professionalism, civility and service, Baker-Barnes serves on The Florida Bar Board of Governors, representing the 15th Judicial Circuit. She was recently appointed to the board’s executive committee, and serves on the strategic planning, legislative, program evaluation and communications committees. She is board liaison to the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee and is also active in The Florida Bar’s Trial Lawyers Section, where she serves as a member of its executive council. Baker-Barnes is a past president of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, the first African American female to serve in this role. She is also an active member of the F. Malcolm Cunningham Sr. Bar Association and the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (PBC FAWL). In 2018, PBC FAWL awarded Baker-Barnes its highest honor, the Justice Barbara J. Pariente Award. Baker-Barnes is an active member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Palm Beach County Justice Association, and a former member of the board of directors of the Florida Justice Association, where she served as chair of the Young Lawyers Section in 2008. Nationally, Baker-Barnes is an active member of the National Bar Association and is a past recipient of the organization’s Presidential Award. Baker-Barnes earned both her law and bachelor’s degrees from Florida State University.

Amelia Beard is an attorney in Clark Partington’s Santa Rosa Beach and Destin, Florida offices. Her practice areas include estate planning, real estate and civil litigation. Beard is active in the local and state bar, having served two terms as president of the Walton County Bar Association (2017, 2018). She is a co-vice chair of the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee and vice-chair of this year’s Voluntary Bar Leadership Conference. Additionally, Beard is a member of the Annual Convention and Rules of Civil Procedure committees of The Florida Bar. She is a graduate of The Florida Bar’s Wm. Reece Smith Jr. Leadership Academy (2019-2020). Locally she serves on the First Circuit Bench and Bar Professionalism Committee and is a past member of the circuit’s grievance committee. Beard serves as a court appointed attorney ad litem representing children in dependency cases in Walton County.
MELISSA BYERS
Melissa Byers has served as the executive director of the 1,100 member St. Petersburg Bar Association (SPBA) since 2013. During her tenure, the association implemented the “Healthy, Happy, Holistic Attorneys” wellness program, earning the association The Florida Bar’s first Health & Wellness Award in 2018. Byers was also the recipient of the Bar’s 2020 Marshall R. Cassedy Sr. leadership award. From 2009 to 2013, Byers served as the executive director of the Police Athletic League of St. Petersburg, serving underprivileged youth and working with the courts to execute a city-wide truancy program. Previously, Byers worked extensively in the health and wellness field including at The Golden Door Resort & Spa in San Diego, California and Warner Brothers Studios in Los Angeles. Byers has been a featured speaker at various conferences including the 2017 and 2019 Florida Bar Voluntary Bar Leaders conferences, the 2018 National Association of Law Judiciary Annual Conference, the 2020 Raymond James Financial Conference, and a conference organized by the Stetson University College of Law. She was the featured speaker for The Florida Bar webinar, “Shift Happens – Implementing Wellness Initiatives that Stick.” Byers earned her bachelor’s degree in journalism/public relations from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

JENNY BROWN
Jenny Brown serves as the executive director of the Orange County Bar Association in Orlando, Florida. Brown has over 15 years of experience working in the nonprofit and association sectors, most recently having served as the director of Membership & Communications for the American Academy of Optometry, a national membership association for optometrists and vision scientists. Brown has an MBA with an emphasis in marketing from the Rollins College Crummer Graduate School of Business and holds the Certified Association Executive designation from the American Society of Association Executives.

ARNELL BRYANT-WILLIS
Arnell Bryant-Willis is the Bar’s diversity initiatives manager. Her diverse background in leadership roles includes public sector training experience at the state and national levels, and private sector experience as chief operating officer of the Coca-Cola Co. community-based organization for migrant and seasonal farmworkers. She served as a training consultant with EW Bryant Associates where she taught leadership, effective communication, diversity, and board and council development. As the Bar’s Diversity Initiatives manager, she develops programs to increase inclusion in the Bar and to enhance economic and employment opportunities for all lawyers. A Florida native, she holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Florida State University and a master’s degree in education leadership from Florida A&M University. Prior to becoming the first diversity initiatives manager for the Bar, Bryant-Willis served two terms on The Florida Bar’s Board of Governors as a public member.

MANDI CLAY
Mandi Clay is the Managing Attorney of Three Thirteen Law PLLC, a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Court Mediator, an arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association, a licensed real estate agent, and the founder of Use Your Words Florida LLC. A former clerk for two federal judges who has over 10 years as a commercial litigator, she provides freelance support to solo and small firms across the country. Clay is the immediate past president of the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers and an active member of The Florida Bar Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee and the Standing Committee on Mental Health and Wellness of Florida Lawyers. She is a support group facilitator with the Pasco County affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and often speaks about mental illness and the struggles it presents to those who live with it. Her interest in mental health issues is borne of personal experience, having survived suicide in 1998 and suffered from depression and panic disorder for almost 30 years.

JENNIFER COMELLA
Jennifer Comella is an attorney at Hand Arndell Harrison Sale in Destin, Florida. Her practice areas include community association law, real estate litigation, landlord-tenant, collections, construction litigation, local government law, workers’ compensation, and business/commercial litigation. Comella earned her law degree from Florida State University. During her time at FSU, she served as a legal writing teaching assistant, a mentor for the Summer for Undergraduates Program, and was active on the Moot Court team and Moot Court board. After law school, Jennifer spent a year practicing family law in the Jacksonville area and then four years practicing insurance defense in Panama City. Comella has been active in her local voluntary bars, serving on the board of Young Lawyers Division of the Okaloosa Bar Association from 2015 through 2018, on the board of the Okaloosa chapter of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers from 2016 to present, and on the board of the Walton County Bar Association from 2018 to present. She has been practicing law on the Emerald Coast since 2011 and is active in her community.

SARAH CORBETT
Sarah Corbett is a career staff attorney at the Second District Court of Appeal, working for the Hon. Andrea T. Smith. She began her career with the court in 2003, first as a central staff attorney and then as a senior staff attorney for the Hon. Judge Charles A. Davis Jr., from 2008 until his retirement in 2015. Corbett continued with the court as a career staff attorney, working for Hon. Judges Samuel J. Salario Jr. and John K. Stargel before joining Judge Smith’s suite in 2021. Corbett serves on the Bar’s Standing Committee on Technology and The Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee. She currently serves as president of the Polk Association for Women Lawyers, previously serving as president elect and director of Web Content and Social Media. Corbett is also a member of the Lakeland Bar Association, a barrister in The Bruce R. Jacob-Chris W. Altenbernd Criminal Appellate Inn of Court and serves on the National Conference Planning Committee for the Christian Legal Society. Corbett received her law degree with honors from The University of Florida in 2003 and
was admitted to The Florida Bar that same year. She graduated summa cum laude from Florida Southern College with a bache-
lor’s degree in computer science and mass communication.

JOSEPH CORDOVA
Joseph Cordova is an attorney with Flori-
da Legal Services and serves as the proj-
ect manager for its FHA/HUD Education & Outreach Initiative. Cordova has worked with communities throughout North Flori-
da, providing “Know Your Rights” presen-
tations and related community lawyering services to community advocate programs, vulnerable populations and regional organizations. Cordova worked as an Equal Justice Works fellow from 2018 to 2020 and was the 2018 Helen Gibel Blechman Memorial Community Service Award recipient. As the FHA project manager, his work focuses on helping community members understand fair hous-
ing rights and access legal remedies for identified violations.

VIVIAN CORTES HODZ
Vivian Cortes Hodz practices exclusive-
ly marital and family law in Tampa with the law firm of Cortes Hodz Family Law and Mediation P.A. She is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Law Mediator and a qualified parenting coordinator. Hodz is a past president of the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association; serves on the board of direc-
tors of the Hillsborough County Bar Association, Bay Area Legal Services and the Mayor’s Hispanic Advisory Council; is a gradu-
ate of Class II of The Florida Bar The Wm. Reece Smith Jr. Lead-
ership Academy, and served two terms as chair of the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee of The Florida Bar. She is the founding presi-
dent of the Florida Hispanic Bar Association. Hodz has received a number of awards for her service to the legal profes-
sion; most recently she received The Florida Bar President’s Award of Merit for her work during 2019-2020 as chair of both the Annual Convention and Voluntary Bar Liaison committees. Hodz received her bachelor’s degree in criminology in 1999 and her law degree in 2002, both from Florida State University.

BRENDALYN EDWARDS
Brendalyn Edwards is associate general counsel for Universal Property & Casualty Insurance Co. Prior to joining Universal, Brendalyn served as the acting director of Gaming Enforcement for the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Justice, where she managed and supervised all functions of the governmental entity responsible for enforcing the casino laws of the territory. She also served as assistant general counsel for the 11th Judicial Circuit of Flori-
da, representing and advising judicial officers and staff. In this capacity, she provided counsel regarding the court’s contracts and administrative matters, conducted ethics training programs for judges and hearing officers, and served as adviser to the court’s Professionalism Committee. Edwards is the immediate past president of the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association and currently serves as a director of the Broward County Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section. She previously served on the boards of the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Flori-
da Association for Women Lawyers and the Dade County Bar Association. Edwards is a graduate of Florida State University College of Law and received her bachelor’s degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

MARK EIGLARSH
Mark Eiglarsh, a successful trial lawyer for over 28 years, is the founder of the South Florida based Law Offices of Mark Eiglarsh, specializing in state and federal criminal defense and personal injury mat-
ters. He graduated with honors from the University of Florida and obtained his law degree from Loyola School of Law. Eiglarsh enjoys an “AV rating” from Martindale-Hub-
bell (the highest rating obtainable), has been voted by his peers as one of the “Best of the Bar” and each year is named as a “ Super Lawyer” as well as one of Florida Trend’s “ Legal Elite.” At the start of his career, Eiglarsh was hired by former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and served as a prosecutor in Miami. He currently serves as an adjunct law professor at the University of Miami School of Law. He’s a public-
ished author and frequently sought-after lecturer. His recently published book is, “ Be Happy By Choice. Happiness Guaran-
teed...or Your Misery Back.” He frequently provides the media with legal commentary, often appearing weekly on major radio and television networks.

BETH FEDER
Beth Feder is a senior associate attor-
ney at Winston Law Firm in Davie, Florida, where she practices civil trial work in the areas of personal injury and family law. She is admitted to practice law in Flori-
da and New York, as well as the Feder-
al courts in the Southern District of New York. She is a member of the Florida As-
sociation of Women Lawyers, Broward County Women Lawyers Association, Broward County Bar Association, Broward County Justice Association, Florida Justice Association, Florida Bar As-
sociation and American Bar Association. Feder currently serves on the board of directors of the Broward County Women Law-
yers Association, is the chair of the Mindfulness Committee of the Broward County Bar Association and was recently named vice-chair of The Florida Bar Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee. She is a proud guardian ad litem and was named 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.

IRIS ELIJAH
Iris A. Elijah serves as the associate general counsel for Florida International University focusing on student and aca-
demic matters, the police department, and public records requests. Prior to join-
ing Florida International University, Elijah was the assistant general counsel for Flori-
da A&M University and assistant general counsel for the State University System of Florida, Board of Governors. Elizah was the first Black attorney for Florida Interna-
tional University and the State University System of Florida, Board of Governors. Elijah is the president-elect of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, a member of the Miami-Dade Flori-
da Association of Women Lawyers Foundation board of direc-
tors, a member of the Gwen S Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association, and a member of the Miami Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.
DORI FOSTER MORALES

Immediate past Florida Bar President Dori Foster-Morales is managing partner of Foster-Morales Sockel-Stone, a boutique marital and family law firm in Miami. She is Florida Bar Board Certified in Marital and Family Law and is a certified Family Law Trial Advocate of the National Board of Trial Advocacy. She is a fellow in the American and International Academies of Matrimonial Lawyers, and is also a fellow of The Florida Bar, American Bar and American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers foundations.

Elected to the Board of Governors in 2008, Foster-Morales chaired the Certification Plan Appeals Committee and the Annual Convention Committee. Most recently, she chaired the Bar’s high-profile Committee on Mental Health and Wellness of Florida Lawyers.

MATTHEW FREY

Matthew Frey is entering his sixth year as an officer for the Lake County Bar Association, previously serving as treasurer and vice president, and now currently serving as its president. A Florida native, Frey grew up in Orlando, studied history at George Washington University, and obtained his law degree from the University of Florida. He has practiced law with Campione & Hackney in Tavares since he graduated, practicing a variety of civil law, bankruptcy, and real estate litigation. Frey is entering his fourth year on The Florida Bar’s Voluntary Liaison Committee as a representative from the Fifth Judicial Circuit.

ARON GIBSON

Aron J. Gibson of Gibson Lawyers began his legal career as an assistant state attorney in Broward County. He is immediate past president of the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association, and president-elect of the Stephen R. Booher Inn of Court. He also serves on the boards of the Broward County Bar Association and the Broward County Trial Lawyers Association. He has completed dozens of trials in his career, the most recent of which were on zoom. He has been a featured panelist on several CLE courses teaching how to conduct litigation and pretrial work, as well as mindfulness and the practice of law.

KIMBERLY HOSELY

Kimberly Hosely received her bachelor’s degree cum laude from Stetson University, majoring in economics, international studies and political science with a minor in Spanish. She earned her law degree from Emory University School of Law. Hosely’s commitment to women’s issues began during her undergraduate studies upon taking a class on intersectional feminism, which led to her being chosen by faculty to serve as the student representative on the university’s Women and Gender Studies Committee that shaped the university’s curriculum in that area of study. She is known as a fierce advocate for diversity, as well as for children in foster care in Florida. She has served as a pro bono attorney guardian ad litem for over 15 years. She is the president of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, served as president of the Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers, is the immediate past president of the Board of Trustees of the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, and the immediate past chair of The Florida Bar Legal Needs of Children Committee. Her work for children in foster care led to the adoptions of her three children. Hosely practices in the areas of real estate and business – both transactional and litigation – at The Orlando Law Group PL and is co-owner of The Orlando Title Group LLC.

COURTNEY KILBOURNE-HAYES

Courtney Kilbourne-Hayes is the shareholder attorney and owner of Coastline Legal, formerly the Law Offices of Courtney Kilbourne, established in 2012. She went to the University of Florida and Nova Southeastern University, interned at former state Sen. Rod Smith’s office studied abroad in Costa Rica and Greece, and handled litigation cases statewide until settling back in the Volusia/Flagler area where she grew up. She handles cases in the areas of estate planning, general civil litigation/contract disputes and animal law Kilbourne-Hayes is a member of the Dunn Blount Inns of Court and the Volusia County Bar Association; is the past president of Volusia Flagler Association of Women Lawyers, and serves on two Florida Bar committees: Military & Veterans Affairs and Mental Health & Wellness of Florida Lawyers.

TRACI KOSTER

Traci Koster began working with Nelson Koster in June 2016, exclusively focusing on general family law matters, including dissolution of marriage, equitable distribution, custody, child support and adoptions. She graduated magna cum laude from Stetson University College of Law in 2009. Prior to joining Nelson Koster, Koster practiced general civil litigation for several years at a private Tampa law firm. She has been named a Rising Star by Super Lawyers every year since 2014. She is immediate past president for Hillsborough County Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division and the co-founder and co-chair of Tampa Bay Pro Bono Partners. For her work with Tampa Bay Pro Bono Partners, Koster received the 2016 Outstanding Pro Bono Service by a Young Lawyer Award from the 13th Judicial Circuit. In law school, she received the Stanley Milledge Award and the William F. Blews Pro Bono Service Award. In November 2020, Koster was elected to the Florida House of Representatives representing parts of Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

JENNIFER KRELL DAVIS

After graduating law school and working as a staff attorney for the Florida House of Representatives, Jennifer Krell Davis joined The Florida Bar Public Information Office in 2001 to assist with special projects and there began her career in communications and public relations. She moved on to the Florida Chamber of Commerce as communications director where she led messaging efforts for legislative advocacy and political and grassroots outreach. From there she became communications director for the Florida Department of State, covering the arts, corporation, and historical divisions as well as the 2008 presidential election. After that she served as press secretary for then Attorney General Pam Bondi and then vice president of Public Affairs for the Florida Ports Council. She rejoined The Florida Bar staff in 2016 as deputy director of communications leading internal
and external digital communications for the Bar, including supervising the website and social media and email communications. She has also served as budget coordinator, committee staff and general communications assistance wherever needed around the Bar. She became interim communications director in 2021. Davis received her undergraduate degree in English literature from Florida State University and her law degree from the University of Florida.

**JOHN KYNES**

John 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 former 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. Kynes serves on the development council of Bay Area Legal Services, and has served on the boards of the Salvation Army, Tampa Bay Little League, Exchange Club of Tampa and the Moffitt Cancer Center Foundation.

**LEIA LEITNER**

Leia Leitner is an associate at Shepard, Smith, Kohlmyer & Hand P.A. in Orlando, where she focuses on international commercial litigation cases, business litigation, public entity defense, insurance defense relating to claims filed under the Fair Debt Collection Practices and Telephone Protections acts, intellectual property, and internet law. Leitner served and continues to serve on the boards of the Orlando Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers, the Greater Orlando Asian Bar Association and the Orange County Bar Association’s Young Lawyer Section. Leitner is a graduate of the Wm. Reece Smith Jr. Leadership Academy Class VIII. Prior to joining SSKH, she was an associate attorney at a boutique intellectual property and technology law firm in Orlando, where she litigated complex commercial cases in both federal and state courts. Her practice focused on all aspects of copyright and trademark protection and complex business litigation, government investigations and qui tam actions under the federal False Claims Act. Leitner received law degree from Florida A&M University College of Law in 2011 and her bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of California San Diego in 2003. While in law school, Leitner served as a certified legal intern at the state attorney’s office in Orlando. She also earned a Certificate of Completion of Deposition Skills from the National Institute of Trial Advocacy in 2018. Leitner was named by Super Lawyers® as a Rising Star in intellectual property litigation 2019-2021.

**KIMBERLY LOPEZ**

Kimberly Lopez is a commercial litigation partner in Akerman LLP’s Orlando office, where she 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. Since she was admitted to the Bar in 2008, Lopez has been involved with various bar organizations. She is chair of the 2021 Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference and served as the 2013 president of the Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida (HBACF). Lopez is an active member of the Hispanic National Bar Association, frequently attending conferences throughout the nation. An advocate for diversity and inclusion initiatives, she currently serves on Akerman’s Equality and Inclusion Committee and was a 2019 fellow for the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.

**MARITZA MCGILL**

Maritza McGill is a graduate of Florida State University and is the assistant director of the Legal Specialization and Education (LSE) Department of The Florida Bar. McGill was employed by the Bar from 1982 to 1997 as a program administrator, and returned in 2012, as assistant to the director of LSE. In 2015, she was promoted to certification specialist and then again in 2018 to assistant director of LSE. As assistant director, McGill supervises the certification program and education compliance and accreditation. McGill, in coordination with Diana Kellogg, LSE director, ensures timely and accurate processing of education compliance requirements, delinquencies, reinstatements, and CLE submissions for accreditation.

**VICTORIA MESA-ESTRADA**

Victoria Mesa-Estrada is a civil rights and employment law attorney with the Immigrant Justice Project at Southern Poverty Law Center in Miami, Florida. Throughout her years of work, she has been a zealous advocate for workers, immigrants and women. Mesa-Estrada is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. She is the past-president of the Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association and an active member of multiple voluntary bar associations including the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, the Florida Hispanic Bar Association and the American Immigration Lawyers Association-South Florida Chapter. Mesa-Estrada was recently appointed to serve for a four-year term on the Federal Judicial Nominating Conference for the Southern District of Florida.

**G.C. MURRAY II**

G.C. Murray II is special counsel and Membership Consultant at the Florida Justice Association. Murray also operates Association GC, which focuses on nonprofit management and consulting. Murray’s numerous community leadership roles include serving as governor for The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, member of Leadership Tallahassee Class 32 and Leadership Florida Connect Class VII. Murray is nationally recognized for his legal
acumen and philanthropy. He founded the Innovative Community Engagement (ICE) Foundation – a nonprofit structured around mentorship, service and professional development – that brings real-life benefits to underserved segments of society. Under his leadership, the ICE Foundation grew from one chapter in Tallahassee to a national nonprofit recognized in the Congressional Record by the U.S. House of Representatives. Murray was the youngest chair of The Florida Bar Code and Rules of Evidence Committee, the youngest fellow of the Wm. Reece Smith Jr. Leadership Academy, and one of the youngest to receive the Designated Professional Lobbyist (DPL) designation. In 2020, he was named the Graham Center’s Young Floridian of the Year. Murray graduated from Florida International University’s Honors College as a presidential scholar. He earned his law degree from Florida State University, where he was both a Mason Ladd and Calvin Patterson scholar.

LESLEY POWELL-BOUDREAUX
Leslie Powell-Boudreaux is the executive director of Legal Services of North Florida (LSNF). Previously she worked as senior attorney of LSNF’s Pensacola office, where her primary areas of practice were housing and consumer issues; and representing victims of domestic violence. Leslie received her undergraduate degree from North Carolina State University and her law degree from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Law. Leslie serves as president of United Partners for Human Services and vice president of the Florida Civil Legal Aid Association. She is also appointed to the Florida Courts Technology Commission by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court and to the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee of The Florida Bar.

VALERIA OBI
Valeria Obi currently serves as staff counsel for Midland Credit Management Inc., where she is responsible for providing legal advice on business operations and supporting corporate compliance with laws and regulations governing debt collection and related activities. She received her bachelor’s degree from Florida State University and her law degree from Stetson University College of Law. Obi is the Immediate past president of the George Edgecomb Bar Association and serves as treasurer for the Hillsborough County Bar Association as well as president-elect of the Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association. Obi also serves as co-chair of the Pipeline Subcommittee for The Florida Bar’s Standing Committee on Diversity & Inclusion and serves on The Florida Bar’s Small Claims Rules Committee. She is a member of the Ferguson White American Inn of Court. Obi is a graduate of The Florida Bar’s William Reece Smith Jr. Leadership Academy, Class VI. From 2017 to 2019, she served on the board of directors for a nonprofit organization called Solita’s House and served as a Big Sister through Big Brother Big Sister of Tampa Bay. She previously served as co-chair of the Hillsborough County Bar Association’s Leadership Institute from 2017 to 2018, after graduating from the class in 2016. Obi received the George Edgecomb Bar Association’s Outstanding Young Lawyer’s Award in 2015 and its President’s Award in 2017. She was selected as a 2017 Notable Nole, a recognition program honoring young FSU alumni, and received the Tampa Bay Business Journal’s 2017 Under 40 Under 40 Award as well as its 2021 Top Corporate Counsel Award.

ANI RODRIGUEZ-NEWBERN
Ana “Ani” Rodriguez-Newbern has been an attorney at Tangel-Rodriguez and Associates since 2013 representing the State of Florida Department of Revenue in Child Support Enforcement cases in Orange County. She attended Florida State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Communication, and attended Barry University School of Law where she served her community in various law student leadership roles including the 2011-2012 Barry Women Lawyers Association President.

Rodriguez-Newbern was the 2017-2018 President of the Orange County Bar Association Foundation and the 2018 President of the Central Florida Hispanic Bar Association. Most recently, she was appointed to the board of directors of the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Inc. She is a member of The Florida Bar Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee and a member of The Florida Bar Leadership Academy Class VII.

BRANDON SAPP
Brandon Sapp is an attorney in the downtown Orlando office of Morgan & Morgan practicing plaintiffs’ premises liability and civil litigation. Sapp was born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and received both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Florida. In law school, he served as the president of the Black Law Students Association and president of the Law College Council. After law school, Sapp served as a public defender, trying numerous cases before going into private practice. Sapp serves as a Ninth Circuit governor of the board of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, including currently serving as co-chair of the Affiliates Committee. He is immediate past president of the Young Lawyers Section of the Orange County Bar Association and an executive council member of the Orange County Bar Association (OCBA). He’s also a past member of the Legal Aid Society of Orange County Board of Trustees, past pres-
ident of the Paul C. Perkins Bar Association, a regional ambassador with the National Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, a member of the UF Law Alumni Council, and panelists with the Ninth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel.

Sapp has been recognized with the Paul C. Perkins Bar Association Outstanding Service Award, the OCBA YLS Award of Excellence, the FAMU Black Law Students Association Continued Commitment to Service Award, OCBA Presidential Leadership Award. Other honors including the National Bar Association Young Lawyers Division “Young Lawyer of the Week,” Orlando Family Magazine Awesome Attorney in Civil Litigation, Florida Super Lawyers “Rising Star,” and Florida Trend Legal Elite “Up and Comer.”

GREGORY SCANSY

Greg Scansy is the CTO of Cigent Technology Inc., where he leads the strategic and technological vision for the company’s cybersecurity products and services, including network and endpoint cyberdefense software, offensive and defensive cybersecurity services, incident response, threat hunting, expert cybersecurity consulting and training. Scansy has over 20 years of information technology and information security experience and holds a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University. During his career, Scansy has researched, implemented and designed intrusion detection and prevention systems, performed vulnerability and threat assessments, performed penetration testing and adversary emulation, designed and implemented deceptively cybersystems, implemented security and information management systems, designed and implemented incident response programs, and designed multiple threat and research labs. Greg is a seasoned speaker, educator and adviser, providing training, keynote presentations, guest lectures and governance for organizations such as NASA and the IRS.

JOHN SCHIFINO

John Schifino is a trial and appellate lawyer with the Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart law firm. His practice area is business litigation and labor and employment law. He is also a mediator and enjoys working with parties to resolve cases before trial.

From 2018 to 2019, John had the privilege of serving as president of the Hillsborough County Bar Association, one of the largest voluntary bar associations in Florida with a membership of close to 4,000 lawyers and judges. From 2016 to today, he has also served as a member of The Florida Bar’s Standing Committee on Professionalism, and as a Vice Chair of The Florida Bar’s Standing Committee on Diversity and Inclusion.

Over the past several years, John has been recognized by Florida Super Lawyers and Florida Trend Legal Elite, and in 2019 and 2020, Florida Super Lawyers recognized John as one of the top 100 lawyers in the state of Florida, and top 50 in the Tampa Bay area. John has also been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America for his work in Appellate Practice and in Labor and Employment Law.

John enjoys speaking about diversity, equity, and inclusion.

CLAY SHAW

Clay Shaw is the Creative Support Manager and Podcast Producer at The Florida Bar. He began his career at the Bar in 2002 in the Membership Records department, and in 2005 he transferred to the amazing Creative Support team to assist in crafting section newsletters, flyers, social media graphics, and other creative pursuits. Due to his internet content and social media prowess, in 2006 he was chosen as Time magazine’s ‘Person of the Year’ which only increased his desire to dive deeper into the creative field. Clay was the driving force behind the creation of The Florida Bar’s Podcast Network and is currently producing three podcasts, as well as recording and editing videos for various uses and functions around the Bar.

CRAIG SHOUP

Craig Shoup was named executive director of the Jacksonville Bar Association in February 2019. In this role, he oversees the day-to-day operations of the approximately 2,000-member organization. Prior to being named executive director, he was the chief of staff for the Jacksonville Bar Association from December 2017 to February 2019. In this position he worked closely with the executive director to handle day to day operations and special projects. Before that, he served in the administration of the Fourth Judicial Circuit Public Defender’s office for nine years and was a special assistant to the Clerk of the Court in Duval County. Shoup has a bachelor’s degree from Flagler College in St. Augustine. His community involvement includes the board of directors for the DePaul School of Northeast Florida and the Zoe Gaudet Endowed Scholarship Fund at the Community Foundation of Jacksonville.

MIKE TANNER

Florida Bar President Mike Tanner practices business commercial litigation and appellate and election laws with Gunster in Jacksonville, where is a shareholder. He served on the Board of Governors since 2011, including on the Legislation Committee since 2013 and has chaired or co-chaired that committee three times.

He has also served on the Program Evaluation Committee, was chair for the 2016-17 Bar year, and chaired the board’s Constitution Revision Committee.

Tanner served on the Trial Lawyers Section Executive Council from 1992-99 and served as section chair in 1999-2000. He also spent five years on the Board of Legal Specialization and Education, including one year as chair.

Tanner has received awards, recognition, and membership from many peer-evaluated. He is board certified in both civil trial law and business litigation and is rated “AV-Preeminent” by Martindale-Hubbell Inc. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member and past Jacksonville branch president of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Tanner is a graduate of the University of Florida Levin College of Law and has been a Bar member since 1978. He is a member of the Appellate Practice, Real Property, Probate and Trust Law, and Trial Lawyers sections.
STEVEN TEPPLER
Steven leads the cybersecurity and privacy practice at Mandelbaum Salsburg, and focuses his practice on proactive, preventive and remedial cybersecurity and privacy work for clients, as well as advising on potential class action and mass tort liability arising from security vulnerabilities and code defects in technology-enabled devices and services. Steven is an ISACA Certified Data Privacy Solutions Engineer, and teaches electronic discovery at Nova Stenn Shepard Broad School of Law, and Ave Maria Law School. He also teaches cybersecurity as a Professor of Practice at the University of South Florida.

AARON WALLACE
Aaron Wallace is an attorney, legal marketing specialist, brand strategist, and bestselling author who serves as director of marketing for Florida Lawyers Mutual Insurance Co. Wallace became the first in his family to attend college when he enrolled at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he became the first undergraduate in his department’s history to teach a course for other undergraduates. He went on to earn degrees in both communication studies and English. He later attended Wake Forest University School of Law, where he received the Russell E. Twiford scholarship, graduated from the court externship program during his first year and went on to receive his law degree. Having been admitted to the North Carolina State Bar in 2010, he entered practice as an associate attorney at the Law Offices of Amos & Kapral LLP before relocating to Florida to pursue a career in writing, marketing, television advertising and consulting. His television commercial work includes projects with Google, Ford, Budweiser, Coca-Cola, and a Super Bowl ad for Chrysler. Wallace is the author of three books, each appearing on the Amazon and Barnes & Noble bestseller lists in their respective genres, and has been featured in The Washington Post, Buzzfeed, and The New York Daily News. He serves as contributing editor for Central Florida at BroadwayWorld.com. As marketing director for Florida Lawyers Mutual, he represents the company in public communications and is its principal liaison to The Florida Bar and to the statewide voluntary bar community.

LORI ELLEN WARD
Lori Ellen Ward, Florida Bar Board Certified in real estate law, is owner of Priority Title – a real estate closing company – and in-house counsel for The Legendary Cos. (she’s done a bit a everything connected to real estate over her 20 plus years on the Emerald Coast). Outside her 9-to-5 job, Ward is a past president of the Junior League of the Emerald Coast, a founding Evergreen member of Impact 100 of Northwest Florida, and past president of the Walton County Bar Association. She currently serves on the boards of directors for both Legal Services of North Florida Inc. and Food for Thought Outreach Inc., an organization dedicated to eradicating childhood food insecurity in Walton and Okaloosa counties. She is also a member of The Florida Bar Volunteer Bar Liaison and Annual Convention committees, and the vice chair of the Law Related Education Committee. Born and raised in Marianna, Ward has both her undergraduate and law degrees from Florida State University.

CIARA WILLIS
Ciara Willis focuses her practice on civil litigation in state and federal courts, primarily in matters involving business and contract disputes, condominium associations, homeowner associations, real estate, employment litigation, and other general commercial litigation matters. Willis also serves as general counsel for a variety of residential and professional community associations, as well as Community Development Districts. Willis was a judicial intern to the Hon. Justice Barbara J. Pariente at the Florida Supreme Court, where she was responsible for making recommendations on petitions for discretionary review and preparation of memoranda for review by the court. Additionally, she has worked with in-house counsel at Bankers Financial and Raymond James and has interned with the Hon. Judge Paul Huey at the 13th Judicial Circuit General Civil Business Court. In her first year of practice, Willis was appointed to, and now currently serves on as an elected representative of, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors. Willis also currently serves on the boards of the Stetson Law Alumni Association, the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers and the Hillsborough County Bar Association Young Lawyer Division.
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Voluntary Bar Leadership Coaching!

Trying to take your game to the next level or need a few tips to guide you to success in specific areas after the conference? Whether you’re a rookie or seasoned player, everyone can lean on the support offered through the Voluntary Bar Leadership Coaching Program! Available to all bar leadership, regardless of size of the bar or the number of players on your team!

To learn more, see the insert in the conference program or visit the Voluntary Bar Center webpage – Coaching Program.

Thank you to the “Coaches - On the Bench”

Jason Berger, Martin County Bar
Carla Brown, Palm Beach County Bar
Jenny Brown, Orange County Bar
Melissa Byers, St. Petersburg Bar
Mandi Clay, Hillsborough Assoc. of Women Lawyers
Kristina Feher, Florida Assoc. of Women Lawyers
Graceann Frederico, Manatee County Bar
Matthew Frey, Lake County Bar

Jaime Karpman, Jacksonville Women Lawyers
Kelly Karstaedt, Jacksonville Justice Bar
John Kynes, Hillsborough County Bar
Sarah Mannion, Jacksonville Women Lawyers
Victoria Mesa-Estrada, PBC Hispanic Bar
Gregory Redmon, D.W. Perkins Bar
Ani Rodriguez-Newbern, Orange County Foundation
Craig Shoup, Jacksonville Bar

See the webpage for a listing of coaches available to answer your bar leadership questions. Coaches are listed by size/staff and specific coaching categories.
Broward County Bar Association

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For useful tools to develop and enhance Bar associations.
Along with the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee, the Voluntary Bar Services Center has the purpose of facilitating communications between Florida Bar leadership and local, specialty and state-wide bar leaders.

We establish and maintain close relationships with local bar associations with the following elements:

Information Clearinghouse
An online library of sample documents and useful materials to assist voluntary bar leaders in managing and leading a voluntary bar:

- ABA RESOURCES
- AWARDS/CEREMONIAL
- BUDGET/FINANCE
- CLE INFORMATION
- COMMUNICATION/TECHNOLOGY
- DISASTER RECOVERY
- DIVERSITY/INCLUSION
- GOVERNANCE/LEGAL
- HEALTH AND WELLNESS
- LAW DAY
- LEADERSHIP

Voluntary Bar Associations Calendar
The activities of the voluntary bar associations are important to The Florida Bar. A calendar is maintained to post information regarding voluntary bar activities and events. Send by email to vbevents@floridabar.org.

Attorney Contact Information
Bars may request lists based on the counties or circuits they serve and demographic they seek to reach (i.e. gender, year licensed, section, etc.). The lists will take 7-10 days to process. Lists will be emailed in an Excel attachment. To request membership data, use this link:


jdoran@floridabar.org 850.561.5773
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