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BLSE Chair Report

I have the honor and privilege of serving as the 2023-2024 Chair of the Board of Legal Specialization and Education (“BLSE”). I submitted my application for Board Certification in Business Litigation 21 years ago. Little did I realize that that was the first step on a path that would lead to Chair of the BLSE.

While I had toyed with the idea of becoming Board Certified for several years, the encouragement from a Board Certified lawyer finally motivated me to submit an application. After a lot of studying, I passed the exam and became Board Certified in Business Litigation. Upon sharing the news, that same Board Certified lawyer immediately encouraged me to apply for the Business Litigation Certification Committee, something I doubt I would have thought to do on my own. Serving two (2) terms on the Business Litigation Certification Committee, the board certification path led to becoming Board Certified in Construction Law. Service on the Construction Law Certification Committee and my third certification in Real Estate Law soon followed, and now service on the BLSE.

I share this story because Board Certified lawyers need to encourage colleagues to seek Board Certification from the Florida Bar. Personal encouragement from fellow attorneys is more important than ever in today’s increasingly virtual world. Prospective clients use search engines and websites when seeking attorneys and attorney advertisements are in every medium. Being a Board Certified lawyer sets one apart and helps prospective and existing clients understand the education and experience of the attorney they hire.

The current rate of attorneys becoming board certified is not keeping pace with the retirement of Board Certified attorneys. As Board Certified attorneys, we need to be doing our part to keep the Board Certification program active and



DAVID CHARLES WILLIS, BLSE CHAIR

expanding in the State of Florida. Motivate, encourage and mentor younger lawyers to start down the path towards Board Certification early in their careers. Speak at events for your local Bar or Section regarding the requirements and steps towards certification. Volunteer to serve on an area certification committee. The success of all of us is dependent upon those who follow in our footsteps. Make your footprints big footprints.

Florida has one of, if not the, pre-eminent board certification programs in the country. No other state has as many state-approved certification areas as Florida. Other states look to Florida as an example when establishing or expanding their own board certification programs. The strength and success of Florida’s board certification program rests with dedication of those Florida Bar Board Certified members.

Any lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar, and who meets Supreme Court prescribed standards, may become board certified. Nearly 5,000 Florida lawyers are board certified. Not all qualified lawyers are certified. Those who are board certified have taken the extra steps to have their competence, education, ethics, and experience objectively assessed. Board Certified lawyers are “Evaluated for Pro-

fessionalism and Tested for Expertise,” and they are the only lawyers who may represent themselves to the public as Florida Bar Board Certified specialists or experts.

In Florida, the board certification program is administered by the BLSE which adopts the rules and policies for each of Florida’s certification areas, and oversees the committees that implement each area’s standards. Florida currently offers 26 specialty areas for which board certification is available. The BLSE also serves as an appellate review board for board certified members and applicants who seek further review of decisions made by The Florida Bar Committees overseeing the certification areas.

This year, the BLSE has continued its efforts to promote board certification through outreach programs to local bar associations and encouragement of CLE programs in preparation for board certification exams. The BLSE has a multi-year initiative to improve the certification examination and its grading across all areas. For several years now, a BLSE representative has participated in the ABA forum on legal specialization and certification, discussing the latest trends and challenges facing board certification programs across the United States.

I look forward to the challenges of the upcoming year. With the help and support of my fellow BLSE members, we will continue improving The Florida Bar Certification Program.



Get to Know your BLSE Members



John Eversole provides nearly forty years of experience in product liability and aviation litigation to serve his clients at Lytal, Reiter, Smith, Ivey & Fronrath. He holds several engineering and business degrees, obtained before he went to law school. Before entering the practice of law, Mr. Eversole was an Air Force Captain in Systems Command. In the Air Force, he flew test flights in F-15's, F-16's, F-4's and many other aircraft to test

air-to-air weapon systems and to determine the performance of the aircraft under certain extreme conditions, such as high Mach numbers, high altitudes, and various combat maneuvers and scenarios.

John Eversole provides national and international knowledge and experience that very few attorneys can provide by today's standards of specialization. His legal and investigative process is brought to every case and client.

According to the Florida Bar, 1 in 20 Florida attorneys can call themselves Board Certified in one of 27 areas of law. John Eversole is Board Certified in two - Aviation Law since 1996 and Civil Trial Law since 1993. Out of the 92,911 Attorneys in the state of Florida, eligible to practice and in good standing, only 47 of them are Board Certified in Aviation Law (as of August 2023). That is 0.0005% of attorneys in the State of Florida. John F. Eversole III is the head of our Aviation Litigation Department and ready to hold aircraft manufacturers and maintenance companies accountable for their negligence and defective products.



Kansas R. Gooden is a shareholder at Boyd & Jenerette, PA. where she chairs the appellate practice group and serves as the firm's general counsel. Ms. Gooden is board certified in Appellate Practice and is AV Rated by Martindale Hubbell. Ms. Gooden handles all types of civil appellate proceedings in the Florida Supreme Court, all Florida District Courts of Appeal, and the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. She is

often retained in cases at or headed to the Florida Supreme Court or is retained to develop statewide litigation strategy to effectuate change in the common law. She is one of the only attorneys—and likely the only woman—who has argued back-to-back cases on the same day before the Florida Supreme Court. Ms. Gooden currently serves as the Chair of the Florida Bar's Appellate Practice Section, Vice Chair of Board of Legal Specialization and Education, as a Commissioner on the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, and on the board of directors of the Third District Court of Appeal Historical Society. She previously served as Chair of the Appellate Board Certification Committee, President of the Florida Defense Lawyers Association, President of the Jacksonville Association of Defense Counsel, and Chair of the Jacksonville Bar Association's Appellate Section. She has been recognized by Florida Super Lawyers, Florida Trend, and Best Lawyers in America for appellate practice.



William H. Burgess, III, is a circuit court judge and a former trial attorney and prosecutor for the State of Florida. Mr. Burgess is Board Certified in Criminal Trial Law and is a member of The Florida Bar, the St. Petersburg Bar Association, the Clearwater Bar Association, the West Pasco Bar Association, the East Pasco Bar Association, and the Barney Masterson American Inn of Court. He is presently a member of The

Florida Bar's Board of Legal Specialization and Education, and he is a former member of The Florida Bar's Standing Committee on the Unlicensed Practice of Law, the Judicial Administration and Evaluation Committee, the Standing Committee on Professionalism, the Judicial Administration, Selection and Tenure Committee, and the Standing Committee on Criminal Law Certification. Mr. Burgess has also served as an adjunct professor at St. Petersburg College, lecturing on the law to future police officers. He has lectured on sentencing, evidence, professionalism, trial practice, and other law-related topics for The Florida Bar, the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association, the Florida Public Defender Association, the Broward County Bar Association, the St. Petersburg Bar Association, the West Pasco Bar Association, the Pinellas County Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the judges of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, and other professional associations throughout Florida. He has also taught trial advocacy as an adjunct professor at Stetson Law School. Mr. Burgess received his J.D. from Washington College of Law, The American University; his M.P.A. from Clark University; and his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts. Before entering the practice of law, he served in the U.S. Army from 1976 to 1995, in Infantry, Military Intelligence, and, for most of his career, Special Forces, including wartime command experience in the Persian Gulf. Mr. Burgess occasionally blogs about sentencing on The Florida Sentencing Blog, which can be found at <http://floridasentencing.blogspot.com/> and <https://floridasentencing.wordpress.com/>. Judge Burgess resides in Seminole, Florida and is an accomplished wildlife photographer in his spare time.



Douglas Greenbaum is an attorney in private practice in Fort Lauderdale, Florida since 1992. He specializes in family law, including work as a Guardian Ad Litem in Family Law Cases as well and practicing in the areas of Guardianship and Probate. Mr. Greenbaum also is out side counsel to the Department of Children and Families Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program in Broward County. He was chair of the Family Law Section for the Florida

from 2020-2021. Mr. Greenbaum is currently chair of the Florida Bar Continuing Education Committee. He is a Florida Supreme Certified Family Mediator and Circuit Civil Mediator and has been actively mediating since 1992. Mr. Greenbaum is an Arbitrator and volunteers his services for the fee arbitration panel for the Florida Bar. Mr. Greenbaum has served a Guardian Ad Litem in Broward County for over 18 years.

Whose Decision is it, who is Responsible, and Other Decision Making Dilemmas?

By Collett P. Small and David A. Hook

As elder law attorneys, we are consistently faced with complex considerations regarding capacity. The differing standards required for the execution of particular documents and the ability needed to provide informed consent are but two areas we grapple with. This article will look at decision making under guardianships, advanced directives, and supportive decision making and will also explore the question of whose decision is it really.

When faced with clients petitioning for guardianship of an alleged incapacitated person. The legislative intent of the Florida Guardianship Statute is to “...make available the least restrictive form of guardianship to assist persons who are only partially incapable of caring for their needs and that alternatives to guardianship and less restrictive means of assistance, including, but not limited to, guardian advocates, be explored before a plenary guardian is appointed”.¹ In parallel with this legislative intent, elder law attorneys strive to ensure our clients have those advanced directives in place that they may need if their capacity is called into question and decisions are needed. We so often hear clients say that they do not want anyone making decisions for them and that they can and will make decisions for themselves. But, does anyone really make (important) decisions purely autonomously? For example, when you last purchased a car did you ask a friend or neighbor for his or her opinion? Did you look up reviews online? You may have even been guided by the salesperson in deciding which options were the most important to you. This is an example of “supported decision making.” You knew what you wanted, but you turned to those you trusted to help you with



COLLETT P. SMALL



DAVID A. HOOK

your decision. In this kind of supported decision making, the responsibility for the decision is clear: your decision, your responsibility. You would probably not go back and blame your friend or neighbor for your action of buying the car you end up not liking. You might try blaming the salesperson for selling you

more than you wanted. But in the end, you know it was your choice and your responsibility; you get to pay for it.

This element of responsibility is critical as we think about other forms of “supported decision making” and “substituted decision making.” Florida Statute 744.358(1) states: A guardian is not liable, solely because of the guardianship, for the debts, contracts, or torts of their ward.² Of course, the guardian is liable if they “waste, embezzle or intentionally mismanage the assets of the ward.”³ The responsibility of guardian is clear when it comes to this question of responsibility.

The question of responsibility is a little foggier in less formal relationships. The question arises: did the decision maker get assistance with the decision or were they influenced in their decision? Most of us have seen or heard of situations where a family member utilizing a power of attorney moves money from one account to another (which benefits the agent in fact or AIF) and the AIF’s first defense is “Mom asked me to do that.” In other words, “I’m not responsible; I was only doing what she wanted.” Sometimes these situations are clearly exploitation. But sometimes it can be a question of whether this was an example of “supported decision making” gone bad? If there was undue influence, then their can be “responsibility” place on the influencer.

But what about situations where someone is simply helping to facilitate a person in the exercise of a decision, good or bad; is there any inferred responsibility? We need to ask this question of responsibility as we think about the issue of supported decision making. Not surprisingly this issue has the attention of advocates and legislatures and

currently there is new legislation on the horizon.

On September 20, 2023, Florida HB 73 entitled Supported Decisionmaking Authority was filed. This bill is sponsored by Representatives Tant and Koster. HB 73 seeks to codify supported decision making in Florida and ensure Florida courts are aware of the arrangement utilized by persons with disabilities to support their autonomy and independence.

The bill requires the court to consider the needs and abilities of person with developmental disability when determining whether to appoint a guardian advocate; provides requirements for petition to appoint guardian advocate; authorizes an agent (supporter) acting for principal (decisionmaker) through a supported decision making agreement; prohibits such agreement from acting as

durable power of attorney; provides certain communications shall be recognized as communication of principal; provides requirements for examining committee member to recognize a supporter when determining incapacitated person's ability to exercise his or her rights. The bill also ensures Florida's robust protections of vulnerable adults apply to supported decision-making arrangements. The bill is currently in subcommittees.⁴

As we review this legislation, ask the question "who is responsible, and to what extent", for the decisions which are being made for, or with, the person in need of assistance. As elder law attorneys and advocates, we are always in favor of tools which can safely and adequately be used to support our clients' autonomy and independence.

Collett P Small, is a partner at Slater & Small PLLC with offices in Pembroke

Pines and Coral Springs. She is Florida Bar Board Certified in Elder Law. Ms. Small is a Past Chair of the Florida Bar Elder Law Section 2017—2018 and current Vice Chair of the Florida Bar CLE Committee. She is also an adjunct Professor at St Thomas University School of Law.

David A. Hook is a partner at Hook Law Group in New Port Richey. He is Florida Bar Board Certified in Elder Law. He is a Past Chair of the Florida Bar Elder Law Section 2015-2016. Mr. Hook also served as Past President of the West Pasco Estate Planning Attorneys Association and Past President of the North Sun Coast Estate Planning Council.

Endnotes

- 1 FS§ 744.1012(2)
- 2 F.S § 744.358 (1)
- 3 F.S § 744.359 (2) (c)
- 4 <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/73/?Tab=BillText>

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Justice Harry Lee Anstead Award for Florida Bar Board Certified Lawyer of the Year

The Justice Harry Lee Anstead Award, presented annually to a Florida Board Certified lawyer or judge, recognizes exemplary professionalism, excellence, character and commitment to The Florida Bar's certification program and to the practice of law.



2023's winner is : Judge Robert L. Dietz who passed unexpectedly in 2022.

Accepting for him: his wife, Mrs. Laura Dietz and their children John and Stephanie.

Award for Excellence in the Promotion of Board Certification

This annual award recognizes excellence and creativity by a Florida Bar Board Certified lawyer or a law firm in advancing the public's knowledge of and appreciation for legal board certification.



2023's winner is: The Firm of Plata Schott Law in Jacksonville, FL.

Partners: Belkis Plata and Shannon Schott accepting.

Significant Changes to Adoption Intervention Statute

by: Mary K. Wimsett of the Law Office of Mary K. Wimsett and member of the Adoption Law Certification Committee

Senate Bill 1322 amended Florida Statute §63.082(6) resulting in significant changes effective July 1st, 2023. Since its inception in 2003, the intervention statute has provided a dearth of litigation and case law. Attorneys who practice adoptions, dependency and family law should familiarize themselves with the statute and its revisions. Upon the consent of a parent, t

The amended statute contains legislative findings that recognize the significance of permanency in a child's life in §63.082(6)(a):

1. The Legislature finds that there is a compelling state interest in ensuring that a child involved in chapter 39 proceedings is served in a way that minimizes his or her trauma, provides safe placement, maintains continuity of bonded placements, and achieves permanency as soon as possible.
2. The Legislature finds that the use of intervention in dependency cases for the purpose of adoption has the potential to be traumatic for a child in the dependency system and that the disruption of a stable and bonded long-term placement by a change of placement to a person



MARY K. WIMSETT

or family with whom the child has no bond or connection may create additional trauma.

3. The Legislature finds that the right of a parent to determine an appropriate placement for a child who has been found dependent is not absolute and must be weighed against other factors that take the child's safety, well-being, and best interests into account.
4. It is the intent of the Legislature to reduce the disruption of stable and bonded long-term placements that

have been identified as prospective adoptive placements. Id.

This is the first acknowledgment of the trauma a disruption of placement can cause in Chapter 63, as well as a heightened understanding and acknowledgment of the significance of the bond between a child and their placement.

Perhaps the most remarkable change to the statute is found in §63.082(6)(b) which adds that the "consent to adoption of a child with an adoption entity or qualified prospective adoptive parents is valid if executed during the pendency of the chapter 39 proceeding up to and including the 30th day after the filing of the petition for termination of parental rights pursuant to s. 39.802." Id. The law previously allowed an intervention to be filed at any time prior to the actual termination of parental rights: even during a termination of parental rights trial. This change is consistent with the efforts of the legislative changes to support the bond of the child with the current caregiver and prevent intervention proceedings from delaying permanency.

Another important change to the statute is the addition of a rebuttable presumption found in §63.082(6)(e). If the child has been in adoptive placement for at least nine continuous months or



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fifteen of the last twenty-four months, there is a rebuttable presumption that the placement is stable and it is in the best interests of the child to remain in that placement. §63.082(6)(e). The court must also give the placement limited party status for the “limited purpose of filing motions and presenting evidence pursuant to this subsection.” Id.

In order to rebut the presumption, the intervenor must prove by clear and convincing evidence that it is in the best interests of the child using a list of factors (add footnote with the factors). These factors are similar to the previous best interest factors in the statute with the legislature keeping the previous first seven factors but striking the eighth factor which was “The right of the parent to determine an appropriate placement for the child.” §63.082(6)(f)8 (2022).

If the intervention is granted, a provision for a required transition plan is

now in the statute, §63.082(g)2-3. The Court must allow for a reasonable time period to transition the placement and this plan must be developed by the department after they have consulted with the parties and the Guardian ad Litem. Id. Monthly supervision reports are required, and the adoption entity is responsible for filing those until the adoption finalizes. §63.082(g)4. Additionally, the department is responsible for providing information about parenting classes available in the community of the adoptive family and receipt of this information must be filed with the court by the department. Id.

Finally, the statute requires that the birth parents be provided with written notice listing the right to participate in an intervention as well as a list of the seven factors the court must consider when ruling on an intervention. §63.082(i). This is now required in the petition for dependency as well as the

adjudication and dispositions orders, instead of only at the arraignment order as was the case with the past version of the statute. Id.

We see a true shift to recognize the significance of attachment and bonding with these changes to §63.082(6) as well as an effort to encourage parents to exercise their right to pursue an intervention earlier in the process to avoid the legislatively recognized trauma caused by the disruption of long-term placements. There will likely be constitutional challenges given the nature of the changes as well as continued litigation. Moreover, there are a number of issues the changes to the statute left unresolved such as procedures if only one parent has consented, or discovery issues related to the intervenors access to the full dependency file. Practitioners should continue to carefully monitor this area of the law given the complexities and likely constitutional challenges.

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 Lylyli Meagan Van Whittle – Tallahassee

Wills, Trusts and Estates

Hayley Elizabeth Ray Donaldson – Ft Myers
 Monique Lavender Greenberg – Coral Gables
 Michelle Adams Gumula – Oviedo
 Eduardo S. Lombard – Tallahassee
 Alexander Germaine Platt – Ft Lauderdale
 Marianna R. Sarkisyan – West Palm Bch
 Brett H. Sifrit – Punta Gorda

Workers' Compensation

Holley Nicole Akers – Jacksonville
 Kenneth E. Ehrlich – Stuart
 Robert "Ted" Roemer – North Miami Beach

Board Certified Lawyers

IN THE NEWS



Jeffrey A. Adelman of Brotman Nusbaum Ibrahim & Adelman in Boca Raton has become president of FLABOTA.



Jennifer Diaz of Diaz Trade Law participated on panel on exporting medical devices and how to comply with US regulations and moderated a panel with FDA experts on how to successfully import medical devices into the U.S. at the 2023 Florida International Medical Expo in Miami Beach.



Rob Blank of RumbergerKirk in Tampa has been selected to join the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), a national organization of experienced trial lawyers and judges.



Sharon Quinn Dixon of Stearns, Weaver, Miller, Weissler, Alhadeff & Sitterson P.A. receives 2022-23 Distinguished Estate Planner Award by the Estate Planning Council of Greater Miami.



Kimberly Carlton Bonner's article, "What Do Judges Need to Know About Gen Z?," was published in the latest *Judicature*, a publication of Bolch Judicial Institute at Duke law school.



Rebecca G. Doane of Doane & Doane in Palm Beach Gardens has been elected president of the nonprofit Friends of the Mounts Botanical Garden.



Steven L. Brannock of Brannock Berman & Seider was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society Board of Trustees.



Maria C. Gonzalez co-presented with General Magistrate Lucy Ramos Miller on, "Paternity," at the Broward County Bar's Raising the Bar Family Law Conference in Ft. Lauderdale



Michael P. Carolan of Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman has been named to the board of directors of the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida



Lonnie Groot of Daytona Beach Shores instructed the City of Sanford's Race, Equality, Equity & Inclusion Committee relating to the laws of open government and transparency.



R. Scott Costantino of the Costantino Law Firm, P.A., was elected secretary-treasurer of the International Society of Barristers at the ISOB annual meeting in Barcelona.



John H. (Jack) Hickey of Hickey Law Firm moderated a panel on, "Building Blocks of the Traumatic Brain Injury Case," at the American Association for Justice's Winter Convention in Phoenix. He also has been reappointed to the American Association for Justice's board.



Jennifer Ierman of Stearns, Weaver, Miller, Weissler, Alhadeff & Sitterson P.A. presented “Florida Land Use and Environmental Dispute Resolution Act: Settling Local Land Use Disputes” at CLE International’s Florida Land Use Law Conference.



Luke Newman was sworn in as president of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers at the association’s 36th annual meeting in Palm Beach County



Kim Kolback of Law Offices of Kimberly Kolback in Miami was a panelist on, “Getting Into The World of Entertainment, Arts & Sports Law,” at the Nova Southeastern University Law’s Sports and & Entertainment Law Society Annual Symposium.



Kim Nutter of Brinkley Morgan in Ft. Lauderdale wrote a blog titled, “Greyson’s Law Signed into Florida Law to Overcome Presumptions to Safeguard Children at Risk of Parental Harm.” Ms. Nutter has also been appointed to serve on the Advisory Workgroup on the Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Forms.



Howard S. Krooks of Cozen O’Connor in Boca Raton participated in a 2023 Case Law Update panel at the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys’ Annual Conference.



Leslie King O’Neal of JAMS has been honored with the Cornerstone Award from the ABA Forum on Construction Law.



Steven B. Lesser of Becker in Ft. Lauderdale has been appointed as a special advisor of the ABA’s Standing Committee on Specialization, which approves accreditation of lawyers nationally.



Mark Osherow of Osherow, PLLC, and **Mark Rickard** of Law Guard presented, “The Frivolity Conundrum: Threat of Sanctions,” a webinar presented by the Broward County Bar.



Leslie Lott of Lott & Fischer served as the mediator in a live role-playing mediation at the International Trademark Association meeting in Singapore. The session focused on mediating across cultural differences



Eugene K. Pettis of Haliczzer Pettis & Schwamm and Rev. John F. White II of the Immanuel Temple hosted a Zoom discussion focused on combating healthcare disparity issues in marginalized communities.



Wendy A. Mara of Mara Law, P.A., presented, “Guardian Advocacy and Estate Planning for Persons with Special Needs,” at the Estate Planning Council of the Fun Coast.



Duane L. Pinnock of Baker Donelson has been named a Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellow for 2023.



Janet Goldberg McEnery of Stearns, Weaver, Miller, Weissler, Alhadeff & Sitterson P.A. presented “remote Work: Is IT Working?” for HR Florida State Council, Inc. Conference & Expo.



Woodrow ‘Woody’ Pollack of Shutts & Bowen in Tampa received the Tampa Connection’s 2023 Betty Tribble Citizen of the Year Award.



Thomas C. Shaw of ForsterBoughman presented, “Should I Stay or Should I Go? International Tax Planning and Structuring,” to the Estate Planning Council of Greater Miami.



Thomas J. Seider of Brannock Berman & Seider was appointed chair of the Florida Justice Association’s Appellate Practice Section.



Robert Turk of Stearns, Weaver, Miller, Weissler, Alhadeff & Sitterson P.A. presented “How does Florida’s recently passed labor legislation and the required use of E-Verify impact your company?” for CareerSource Broward.



Michelle Otero Valdes of The Law Offices of Michelle Otero Valdes spoke at the Federal Bar Association’s Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., on, “Collaborations Between the FBA and Other Bar Organizations,” and, “Integrating Diversity and Inclusion Plans into FBA Sections and Divisions.”



Jeffrey P. Wasserman, of counsel at Shapiro, Blasi, Wasserman & Hermann, presented, “Collaborative Ethics and The Law in Collaborative,” at the 11th Annual FACP Conference



Michael Wilson of Nelson Mullins in Orlando presented to the Florida Construction Bar and participated in the joint presentation, “Up, Up and Away: Managing Escalation and Supply Chain Challenges.”

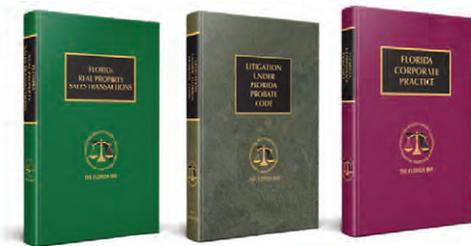


Julia Wyda of Brinkley Morgan in Boca Raton has been appointed co-chair of the Unified Family Practice Committee of the Palm Beach County Bar Association.



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Board Certification Calendar

Application Filing Periods & Examination Dates

<p>First Cycle Filing Period: July 1 – August 31</p> <p>Areas: Admiralty and Maritime Law Adoption Law Appellate Practice Aviation Law Civil Trial Law Condominium & Planned Development Education Law Elder Law Immigration & Nationality Law International Law Labor & Employment Law Marital & Family Law Tax Law</p>	<p>Second Cycle Filing Period: September 1 – October 31</p> <p>Areas: City, County & Local Government Law Construction Law Criminal Appellate Law Criminal Trial Law Health Law Intellectual Property Law International Litigation & Arbitration Juvenile Law Real Estate Law State/Federal Government & Administrative Practice Wills, Trusts & Estates Law Workers' Compensation Law</p>
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There are no alternative dates or make-up exams.

All 2024 handwritten exams will be held at the Renaissance Orlando Airport
Hotel: 5445 Forbes Place, Orlando, FL 32812 – 407.513.7225

FIRST CYCLE AREA EXAM DATES	
<p>Thursday, March 7, 2024: Admiralty & Maritime Law Adoption Law Aviation Law Civil Trial Law Condominium & Planned Development Immigration & Nationality Law International Law</p>	<p>Friday, March 8, 2024: Appellate Practice Education Law Elder Law Labor & Employment Law Marital & Family Law Tax Law</p>
SECOND CYCLE AREA EXAM DATES	
<p>Thursday, May 9, 2024: Construction Law Intellectual Property Juvenile Law Real Estate Law State & Federal Government & Administrative Practice</p>	<p>Friday, May 10, 2024: Business Litigation City, County & Local Government Law Criminal Appellate Law Criminal Trial Law Health Law International Litigation & Arbitration Wills, Trusts & Estates Law Workers' Compensation</p>

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Needing More Review for your Certification exam? Look no further!

2024 Certification Exam Reviews are being held in the following areas:

January 25	Labor & Employment	February 16	Appellate Practice (Virtual)
January 26 – 27	Family Law	March 7 -8	Health Law (In person & Virtual)
February 1-2	Civil Trial	March 20-24	Construction Law
February 2-3	Real Estate (Live & Virtual)	April 10, 11 & 12	C.C.L.G. (Virtual)
February 2-4	Condo Law	April 18-19	Worker’s Comp
February 2-4	Wills, Trusts and Estates		



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Contact your Section Administrator <https://www.floridabar.org/about/section/section002/> for further information



Ben Shenkman in Malaga, Spain



Manuel Farach climbs Mt. Sherman in Colorado

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If interested: please reach out to Maritza McGill, Director, Legal Specialization and Education at (850) 561-5655 or mmcgill@floridabar.org.

The Capstone Magazine is released twice a year and is posted on Social Media, on the Bar website and shared at various events.