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JANUARY 2019

Judicial Procession & State of the Circuit Meet the New Judges



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ON THE COVER

The Broward County Bar Association welcomes the newest judiciary of the 17th Circuit Court of Broward County. Pictured in the top row (left to right): Judges Frank Ledee, Stefanie C. Moon, Natasha DePrimo, Gina Hawkins & Corey Amanda Cawthon; second row (left to right): Judges Mariya Weekes, Peter Holden, Phoebe R. Francois, Daniel A. Casey, Jacqueline Powell; bottom row (left to right): Judges Shari B. Africk-Olefson, Susan Lynn Alspector, N. Hunter Davis & Tarlika Nunez-Navarro. Learn more about our new judiciary by reading this month's section on "A Dedication to Service".

5 Letter from the President

Edwina V. Kessler

7 Young Lawyers' Section Letter from the President

Brent M. Reitman

9 Debt. Lawsuit. Final Judgement. Garnishment: Now What?

Karen Williams North

14 New Judges

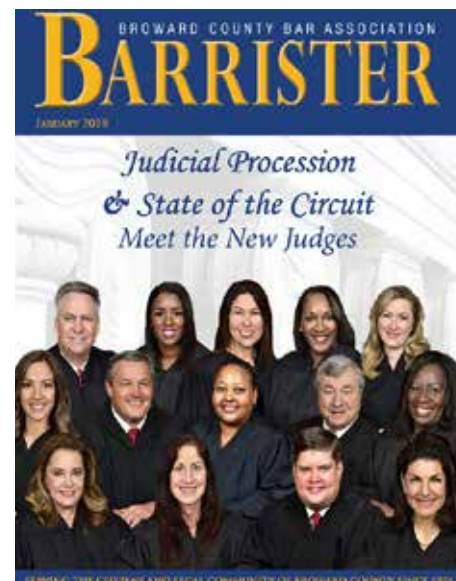
24 Florida Law Update

Debra P. Klauber

26 Resolve to be Positive

Jeni Meunier

27 Calendar of Events



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letter from the president



Edwina V. Kessler

It's that time of year again as we say goodbye to 2018 and welcome 2019. Now is a time to look forward to new beginnings and make resolutions for the New Year. Therefore, I challenge the members of the Broward County Bar Association ("BCBA") to get more involved, by getting involved with the Bar Association there are many benefits.

As you make your New Year's resolutions consider some of these top contenders regarding the Bar Association.

1. Take some time for yourself. Whether it is an exercise regime, going for a long walk, reading, or doing something that relaxes you. We all lead very busy lives and we need to make sure we take time for ourselves. Also, making time for friends and family is just as important.

2. Doing for others without an expectation of something in return. A good suggestion on

how to do this is to volunteer for a pro-bono case with Legal Aid or to volunteer for the legal aid hotline, which only takes a few hours out of one (1) day.

3. Write an article for the Barrister. The Publicity Committee which is the committee that organizes and writes the articles for the Barrister will be hosting an open house on the 17th day of January, 2019, at 5:30pm. Our normal meeting is typically the third Wednesday of the Month, however we are hosting an Open House for anyone who is interested in getting involved in the publicity committee and/or writing an article for the Barrister. The benefits of writing an article for the Barrister are that you are able to share your expertise with colleagues and receive recognition.

4. Attending an event and Continuing Legal Education. While learning and getting credit, take advantage of the networking opportunities at BCBA events. Make it a goal to meet a new person at every event.

5. Mentor a law student or new lawyer. Even if you are not paired with a mentee, practice by example.

The state of the BCBA is going strong. Late November we had over 500 attendees at the Annual Christmas party held at the Museum of Art. It was a new location which was well accepted and many people took advantage of viewing the art exhibit. Last month we launched the first Judicial Jaunt with Judge Haury. Judge Haury provided insight as to his procedures and answered questions for the audience. The Judicial Jaunt is a monthly series with a new Circuit Civil Judge. The next one will take place on January 11th with Judge Bidwill.

The Judicial Procession and State of the Circuit will take place on January 25th in the Jury assembly room. Chief Judge Tuter will present the State of the Circuit. Judges Raag Singhal and Mindy Solomon as well as the Mayor of Broward County, Mark D. Bogen will be the Friend of the Bar Awardees. The newly elected Judges, Shari Beth Africk-Olefson, Susan L. Alspector, Daniel Casey, Corey Amanda Cawthon, Stefanie Camille Moon, Jacqueline Powell, and Mariya Weekes will be introduced and sponsorships are still available.

Congratulations to the Honorable Raag Singhal (BCBA Judicial Liaison) on his nomination to Florida Supreme Court. Over half of the nominees are from the South Florida area. Of the eleven nominees, three will be chosen. While it will be a loss for the 17th Judicial Circuit to lose Judge Singhal, the State of Florida will benefit and we wish him the best of luck on this new endeavor!

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, BCBA staff we wish you a prosperous and Happy New year. We hope to see you at an event soon! 

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letter from the young lawyers' president



Brent M. Reitman

Happy New Year!

I, for one, am eagerly looking forward to begin a new and fulfilling year full of many new and exciting changes. Every New Year I find myself keeping track of “firsts” in order to get the year off to a great start. Keeping a mental note of the “first victory” of the year or “first case filing” of the year are little mental bench marks to keep track of progress as the year begins. For me, this year will be full of exciting “firsts”, which I will shamelessly say, includes the beginning of a new law practice – the Law Office of Liberman Cabrera Thompson & Reitman, PLLC.

But looking backward – this winter was also a number of “firsts” for the Young Lawyer Section. It was the first time we got to participate in the South Florida Legal Mentoring Picnic – where we got to meet and encourage the development of new lawyers and law students. It was the first time that our Golf Tournament broke the \$40,000 mark to donate to our charitable beneficiary – Experience Camps. It was also our first

Veteran Stand Down event where the YLS was able to support homeless and at-risk veterans to connect them with employment, education, housing, healthcare, hygiene, and legal assistance.

Also, in terms of “firsts” the Young Lawyer’s Section held its first ever LAW-LAPALOOZA event which featured judges and practitioners from around the County.

For LAW-LAPALOOZA, with the help of Chief Judge Tuter, the Young Lawyers Section was permitted to take over the Broward County Courthouse for a full day of seminars, lectures, CLE credits, and socializing for the benefit of Young Lawyers across the County. Our aim was to improve upon our previously award-winning Boot Camp series – which offered informative seminars to Young Lawyers – in order to offer a wider assortment of substantive programming for our members. Many of the seminars had panelists who represented the perspective of the judiciary, the younger lawyer, and the experienced practitioner.

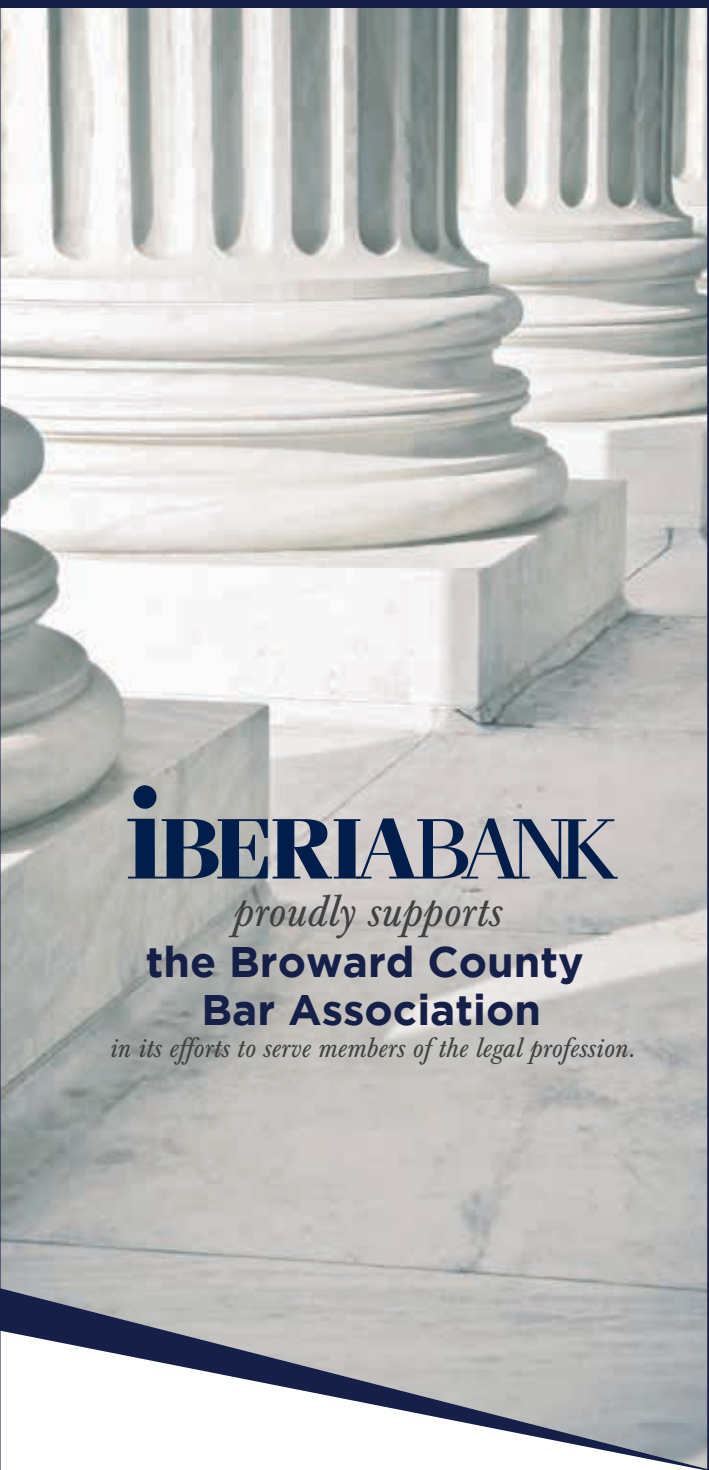
The event included plenary sessions where members were given information and updates on YLD by Christian George, Esq., the current president of the Florida Board of Governor’s Young Lawyer’s Division, a presentation on effective crisis management and communication by nationally renowned crisis communications specialist Bruce Hennes, as well as a presentation on appropriate use of social media and emerging issues in cyber security from Valerie and Bryan Barnhart.

We were also proud to have offered our members a LAW-LAPALOOZA “lineup” consisting of ten separate substantive breakout sessions that took place throughout the day including: Trial Practice, Personal Injury Law, Personal Injury Protection Law, Family Law, Depositions, Real Estate & Condominium Law, Criminal Law, Civil Practice & Procedure, First Party Property Claims, and Client Management. The event concluded with a happy hour at the historic Downtowner.

We were honored to have an amazing assortment of judicial speakers including the Hon. Mindy Solomon, Hon. Nicholas Lopane, Hon. Mariya Weekes, Hon. David Haimes, Hon. Tarlika Nunez-Navarro, Hon. Raag Singhal, Hon. Giuseppina Miranda and Hon. Yael Gamm. We also had outstanding presentations by Rae Chorowski, Esq., John Uustal, Esq., Gary Singer, Esq., Michael Weinstein, Esq., Jeffrey Wank, Esq., Aaron Jay Horowitz, Esq., Ross Abramowitz, Esq., Omar Giraldo, Esq., Todd Baker, Esq., Alixandra Buckelew, Esq., Lindsay Haber, Esq., and Andrea Haber, Esq.

We had approximately 70 young lawyers in attendance for this event that we look to continue into the future. I want to sincerely thank all of our speakers for their time and involvement in this program and all of the participants as well. I want to also thank the YLS Board of Directors for their assistance and participation. Above all, Braulio, Lauren, and Amanda were all instrumental in the planning and execution of the event.

Thank you all for your continued support during 2018 and I hope that this New Year is full of a plethora of new and exciting “firsts” for our entire community. Happy New Year. **B**



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DEBT. LAWSUIT. FINAL JUDGMENT. GARNISHMENT: NOW WHAT?

by Karen Williams North

Debt. Lawsuit. Final judgment. Garnishment. Clients at any of these four stages should obtain legal advice regarding exposure to garnishment.

Many times, clients will ignore debts they owe. Then they are sued. Sometimes they ignore the lawsuit, or even if they do not, they lose the lawsuit. Either way, a final judgment is entered against them. Sometimes they ignore the final judgment. They may also ignore the subsequent notice to defendant of writ of garnishment. But never, ever, do they ignore losing access to their bank accounts when the accounts are suddenly frozen, or that their wages are suddenly reduced because they are being garnished.

Usually, the first step when meeting a new client is to explain the reason for the garnishment since the majority of clients do not understand the process: Debt. Lawsuit. Final judgment. Garnishment. It must be explained that the party who wins the lawsuit, the judgment creditor, is entitled to a writ of garnishment. The writ of is court-directed to a bank, credit union, employer or other third party (i.e. "garnishee") which has in its possession money or other property for (anticipated) delivery to the judgment creditor.

Depending on the particular case or circumstance, there may be a legal basis to challenge the underlying judgment. Was service of process in the underlying lawsuit proper? Was the client the intended, correct defendant? (Occasionally a client has the same name as the intended Debtor and was erroneously served.) Was the notice of hearing mailed to the correct address? Was there a procedural error? If the client can successfully attack the underlying judgment, the writ will be dissolved.

Further, it is important to determine whether the notice the client received complied with the requirements of Florida Statute, § 77.041. Because garnishment

statutes are strictly construed, all time requirements must be followed. In each instance where a plaintiff/creditor requests a writ of garnishment, the defendant is to be sent a copy of the motion for garnishment, writ of garnishment and notice to defendant with instructions as to what to do if they have an exemption to claim and/or want to request a hearing. The documents must be sent to the defendant five business days after the writ is issued or three business days after the writ is served on the garnishee, whichever is greater.

There are also general garnishment exemptions that may apply. Many of these exemptions are listed in Florida Statute, § 77.041: wages of head of family, social security benefits, supplemental security benefits, public assistance, worker's compensation, unemployment compensation, veteran's benefits, retirement or profit-sharing benefits, disability income benefits, prepaid college trust fund, life insurance benefits, medical savings account etc. However, there are other exemptions not mentioned in the statute, such as proceeds from the sale of a homestead intended for another homestead, or, in some cases, interest/distributions of a limited liability company.

Florida Statute, § 222.11 (c) states that the "head of family" includes anyone that is providing more than one-half of the support for a child or dependent. Florida Statute, Section 222.11(2)(a) states that all of the disposable earnings of a head of family whose disposable earnings are less than or equal to \$750.00 a week are exempt from attachment or garnishment. If the disposable earnings are more than \$750.00 per week, then the head of household exemption can be waived by signing a waiver that complies with Florida Statute, § 222.11 (2)(b)(1)(2)(3). Head of household exemptions may encompass individuals who are supporting children or others with whom they are not residing.

Notably, head of household "earnings"

will not include money a person who owns or controls a business receives from time to time through profits. Such funds are not exempt from garnishment. Monies earned by a solo practitioner and deposited into a bank account to pay personal and business expenses are generally not exempt. Generally, discretionary payment from family-owned businesses will not be considered exempt from garnishment.

Sometimes a writ of garnishment is being sought against a client's property and that client is not a named party on the actual judgment. For instance, a judgment may be against a daughter or son, whose name is on an account, but the account contains monies only for a parent. In that instance, the parent may move to dissolve the garnishment. Additionally, if a judgment is only against one spouse, and the writ of garnishment is directed towards an account held by both spouses (opened at the same time), then the account should be exempted from garnishment.

For clients who cannot claim any exemptions or who have no legal basis to move to dissolve the garnishment, filing bankruptcy may be a viable option.

Due to publication limitations/guidelines, this article is not, by any means, exhaustive. On the contrary, it is an overview to alert practitioners that their clients may have issues surrounding garnishment that require more intensive scrutiny. **B**

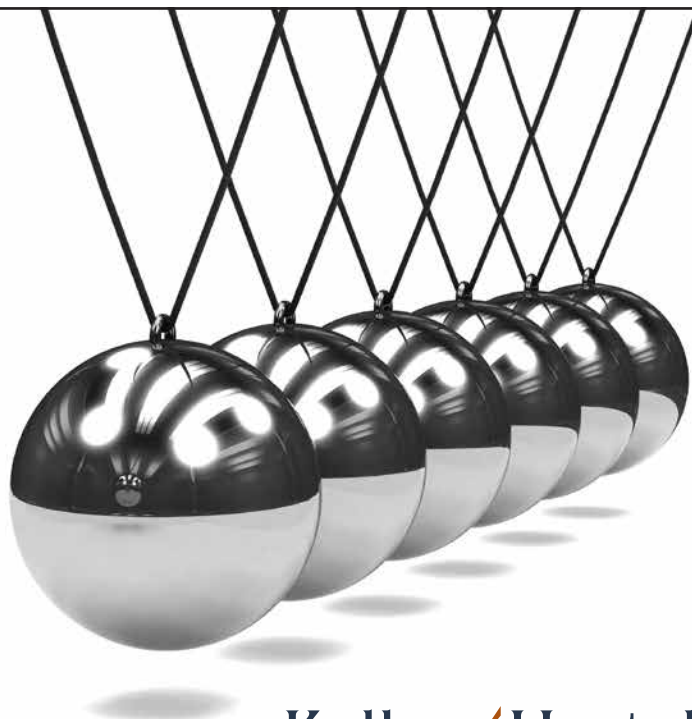


Karen Williams North is the founder of The Williams North Law Firm, P.A. She is a civil litigator with over 25 years experience handling matters pertaining to all aspects of real property, breach of contract and other civil matters, including defense of garnishment. Her office is in Plantation, Florida. She may be reached at 954.315.0235 or 954.474.9577 or kwn@williamsnorthlaw.com.

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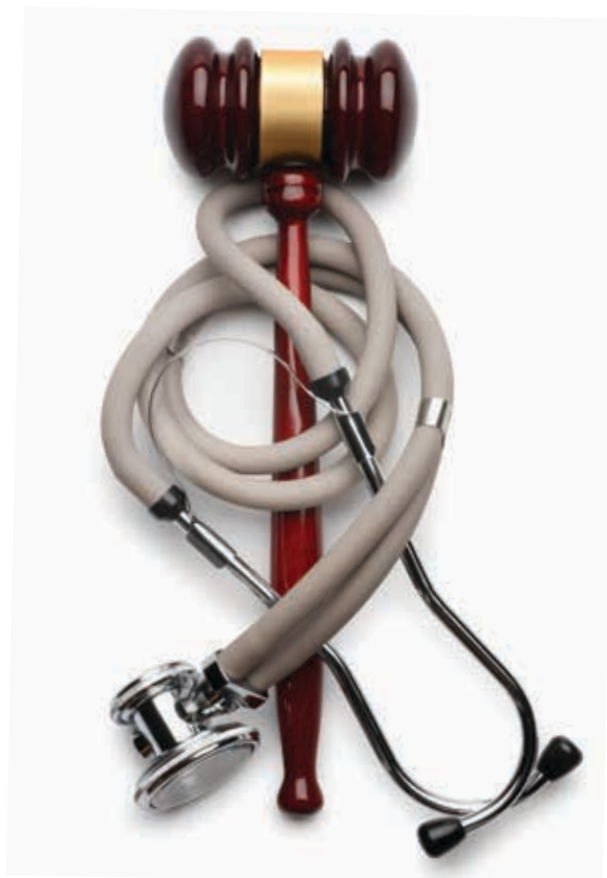
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Questions? Contact Lauren Riegler Capote at lauren@browardbar.org



A DEDICATION TO SERVICE

Welcoming our Newest Members of the Judiciary

On January 25, 2019, the BCBA and the 17th Judicial Circuit will host their 2019 Judicial Procession and State of the Circuit. Imbued with dignity and solemn pomp and circumstance, all the judges will process into the chamber announced individually. Chief Judge Jack Tuter will present his State of the Circuit speech. Afterwards, each new judge will speak to the attendees about his/her vision on service to the community via the Bench. This will be followed by the BCBA recognizing three of its members for service, "Friend of the Bar": two judges, one circuit and one county, and one attorney. This annual award has been established to recognize individuals for their efforts and commitment to the BCBA. This year, The Honorable Raag Singhal, The Honorable Mindy Solomon, and Broward County Mayor Mark D. Bogen will be the recipients. As a special bonus, Mayor Bogen will declare January 25, 2019, Broward County 17th Circuit Judiciary Appreciation Day. The ceremony is scheduled at the main courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, 1 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room, where lawyers, judges, and the community can gather in celebration. We thank ALL the judges for their dedication and commitment to serving the community. Please join us in welcoming and congratulating our new judges, as well as those who continue to serve.

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The Honorable Shari Africk-Olefson

By: Kerry Valdez, Esq.



Judge Africk-Olefson brings a wealth of experience and a diverse background to the Broward bench. After starting her career at the Broward Public Defender's Office, Judge Africk-Olefson transitioned to civil law by focusing on complex probate, real estate, and business transactions and litigation strategy. She became a leading expert on these topics and was consulted by the nation's leading lenders and government agencies. Along with practicing law for almost thirty years and being a Supreme Court certified mediator, Judge Africk-Olefson served as the CEO of a Fortune 300 real estate services joint venture, was the Director of The Carnegie Group think-tank, and has been extensively involved in policy and philanthropic work including child welfare, housing, equality, addiction, and mental health.

Adding to an already impressive background, Judge Africk-Olefson has published several books, with her latest, *Financial Fresh Start*, addressing the ways average Americans can navigate the rules and reforms enacted in the wake of the economic meltdown. Behind her endeavors is a thirst to keep learning, evidenced by her pursuit of a PhD in neuropsychology.

Judge Africk-Olefson has always anticipated becoming a judge. She takes the bench with life-long respect for checks and balances that distinguish our nation from others and a deep appreciation for how judges can impact the lives of others and hopes to impress upon the individuals who appear before her a sense of fairness and trust in our justice system. It is this diverse perspective, natural inclination to connect and empower others, devotion to holding herself to the highest standards, and desire to never stop learning that make Judge Africk-Olefson well equipped for the needs of Broward County.

The Honorable Susan Lynn Alspector

By: Kim Wald, Esq.



Judge Susan Alspector graduated, cum laude, from the University of Miami School of Law in 1991. Shortly after graduating, Judge Alspector opened her own law firm and has been practicing family law for over twenty-five years. She enjoys working with families and children through very difficult moments in their lives and helping them move past these disruptions. She has a sincere passion for the law and public service and ran for Judge because she wants to “help people on a larger scale.” Judge Alspector’s temperament, personality, dedication, and work ethic are some of the unique traits that make her an excellent Judge.

In her free time, Judge Alspector enjoys spending time with her husband and her stepson and loves to cook and watch football. A fun fact about Judge Alspector is that she once travelled throughout the country in a motorhome, a time she now cherishes as she was able to meet and befriend people from all over the country.

One of Judge Alspector’s passions is the work she does with Mission United Veterans of the United Way of Broward County. She has acted as Mission United’s volunteer coordinator and as a pro bono attorney, and was named Legal Aid of South Florida’s Pro Bono Attorney of the Month in July of 2017. She volunteers her time and has offered pro bono family law services to veterans in need. Judge Alspector enjoys working with veterans because she is able to “give back to our veterans in a meaningful way to show appreciation for their sacrifices in keeping us safe and free.” She was also named one of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Broward County’s 100 Outstanding Women of Broward in 2018.

The Honorable Daniel A. Casey

By: Derek A. Lewis, Esq.



Judge Daniel A. Casey was recently elected to the Bench, Broward County Court Group 43. Judge Casey grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was first in family to go to college, attending Wheeling College in West Virginia where he obtained a degree in Accounting. After college, Judge Casey attended Georgetown Law where he decided that he wanted to be a trial attorney.

Judge Casey began his career as an Assistant State Attorney in Miami-Dade County, Florida, prosecuting and supervising a wide range of capital cases and other serious criminal offenses under then-State Attorney Janet Reno, including service as Chief of the Narcotics Division and Chief of the Robbery Division. After a distinguished career as an ASA, Judge Casey joined a well-respected civil law firm where he eventually became administrative partner of the firm’s Miami office and sat on the firm’s Management Committee.

When asked why becoming a judge is important to him, Judge Casey believes: “If there is anything that I have learned from 36 years of practice in courtrooms across America, it’s that great state trial court judges are critically important to the communities they serve.” He further understands that applying the law to the facts is vital, but exercising solid judgment, based on years’ experience is the best way to give back to his community.

In addition to legal work, Judge Casey has also been involved in many community and charitable organizations such as: Guardian Ad Litem, Broward Outreach Center, YMCA of the USA and the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood. He has served on various local nonprofit boards and recently served on the Hollywood Charter Review Board. Judge Casey is exceptionally well-grounded by his family, which includes his wife, daughter and two sons.

The Honorable N. Hunter Davis

By: Ava-Gaye M. Hue, Esq.



A former State Attorney, Assistant State-wide Prosecutor for the Attorney General's office and Special Assistant United States Attorney, Judge N. Hunter Davis brings extensive trial experience to the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit's Family Division. Judge Davis, 38 years old, is a native of Chapel Hill, NC, where he earned his bachelor's degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He graduated from Washington and Lee University School of Law in Lexington, Virginia and later received his Master of Laws in Maritime Law at the University of Miami.

Judge Davis is involved with both the Miami-Dade and Broward County Bar Associations, serving on the Professionalism Committee Broward and the Bar Passage and Mentoring Committee in Miami-Dade. He is also engaged in serving the community through education as a part of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Red Ribbon Program, which focuses on teaching school-age children about the dangers of drug use and the illicit drug trade.

When asked about his approach to his new role on the bench, Judge Davis points to the following quote by Abraham Lincoln during the Cooper Union Address: "Let us have faith that right makes might, and that in faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

Judge Davis enjoys teaching, cooking French and Louisianan cuisine, fishing and carpentry when he is not in the courthouse. Judge Davis' wife is a Broward County native, who graduated from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. They attend Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church and are parents to a three-year-old son, Jackson.

The Honorable Gina Hawkins

By: Mary Beth Ricke, Esq.



Judge Gina Hawkins is a Broward County native. Prior to her legal career, she was a corrections deputy with the Broward County Sheriff's Office. She then graduated from the Shepard Broad College of Law at the Nova Southeastern University, working full-time while attending law school.

Prior to being appointed by Governor Rick Scott to the 17th Circuit Court bench assigned to the Family Division, Judge Hawkins was a practicing attorney in a variety of practice areas. As a practicing attorney, she spent most of her time as an Assistant State Attorney for the 17th Circuit State Attorney's Office- most recently in the capacity as a homicide prosecutor. She also has experience in the private practice, including experience with marital cases, foreclosure cases, family law cases, cases involving contracts, and cases involving wills and trusts. Judge Hawkins believes that her many years of experience, as well as her diversity in experience, will serve her well on the bench. Additionally, Judge Hawkins believes her temperament, humility, ability to listen, and ability to be fair and civil will benefit her on the bench. She believes that everybody deserves his or her day in court and has a right

to be heard. Judge Hawkins is prepared to listen to all litigants and make her rulings according to the law while treating everyone equally and with respect.

Judge Hawkins is an avid reader and singer. She has three children, and has been married to her husband for twenty-five years. She is heavily involved with the organization Fathers M.I.A. founded by her husband. The mission of this organization is to foster a connection between fatherless young ladies and a community that cares. The organization hosts an event annually, honoring twenty-five young girls at a gala called "As We Honor Her" where each young lady is paired with a police officer as an escort to "bridge the gap" left by their fathers. Judge Hawkins looks forward to serving the people of Broward County as a judge.

The Honorable Peter Holden

By: Joshua Lida, Esq.



Judge Peter Holden was born in Central Massachusetts in a town called Southbridge. Judge Holden attended Nichols college in Western Massachusetts where he earned a scholarship and played football as a middle linebacker. Judge Holden then made the journey to Florida at the age of 26 to go to law school at Nova Law School.

A mainstay in the Broward criminal law community, Judge Holden spent 29 and a half years at the State attorney's office where he held numerous positions. Most recently he was in the homicide unit for 16 years. He was also the chief in charge of the felony trial unit while simultaneously working in the homicide unit. Earlier in his career, Judge Holden also worked in the career criminal unit.

A lesson Judge Holden has learned through his years of experience in the courtroom is to "stop, think, listen and learn". Judge Holden, who sits in the family division, states you can learn something new every single day and that it is important to never make assumptions and to always be open to the fact that things may be different than you expect.

Something unique about Judge Holden people might not know is he is a small-town person with small-town values. For hobbies, having grown up playing sports, Judge Holden loves to watch sports including college football and baseball. Continuing the sporting tradition, Judge Holden enjoys raising his son who is also an athlete and plays soccer.

The Honorable Frank Ledee

By: Matthew Fornaro, Esq.



Frank Ledee brings a unique background and passionate dedication to public service to the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit as one of its newest Circuit Judges in the Civil Division.

Born in Puerto Rico, Judge Ledee grew up in the Caribbean islands of St. Barts and St. Maarten. Judge Ledee was also schooled at Florida Air Academy in Florida. While in the Caribbean, Judge Ledee became a licensed ship's captain and pilot, and also assisted in his family's liquor business.

Judge Ledee returned to Florida to receive his bachelors and MBA degrees at Barry University. While at Barry, a professor challenged Judge Ledee to press his personal and professional development and education further by attending law school at Nova Southeastern University.

Following graduation, Judge Ledee was employed by the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office in a special prosecutorial division dealing with international and complex crimes. Judge Ledee credits his professional development and legal knowledge to the attorneys and judges that he has encountered in that role for the last three decades.

As a tireless public servant, Judge Ledee is also proud of his service as a board member of the Memorial Healthcare System. He feels that this role allows him to interact with and give back to his home community of Hollywood.

Judge Ledee is married and has one adult son. He is eager to start the next chapter of his unique career of dedicated public service by bringing his knowledge, compassion and work ethic to the civil bench, and intends to raise the level of efficiency, professionalism, collaboration, legal knowledge and fairness in his division. Judge Ledee recognizes the sacrifice that his parents and grandparents made to provide him with the education and work ethic that allowed him to become the first lawyer and judge in his family, and is incredibly grateful to them. He is a welcomed addition to our judiciary in Broward County.

The Honorable Stefanie C. Moon

By: Harold F. Pryor, Jr., Esq.



Judge Stefanie Moon has been practicing law for 22 years. She is a fifth generation native of Palm Beach County, Florida and in November she was elected to the Circuit Court bench by Broward County voters. Judge Moon is “incredibly humbled by the trust” that voters have put in her and she is “determined to make them proud.” When considering Judge Moon’s background and career highlights, there is no doubt that she will validate that trust. Judge Moon attended Loyola University and immediately thereafter attended Southern University Law Center. Upon graduation Judge Moon was an Assistant State Attorney in Palm Beach and then moved onto the Attorney General’s office as an Assistant State Wide Prosecutor then eventually serving as an Assistant United States Attorney. Following her stint as a prosecutor Judge Moon was an associate at Berger Singerman before starting her own firm focusing on complex civil and criminal litigation matters.

When asked about advice given to her as she begins her new chapter as Judge, the sage advice was “remember what it was like on the other side as an attorney,” she continued that “being considerate and respectful to attorneys and/or litigants is advice that will serve me well.” In her quest for excellence on the bench, Judge Moon said that she admires and would emulate US District Court Judge Ursula Ungaro because she has a “sharp mind, sense of humor, and manages a docket efficiently.”

A couple unique facts about Judge Moon is that she is a past winner of Miss Riviera Beach USA beauty pageant and she enjoys horseback riding. But more importantly her greatest passion is her family and being a good wife and mother.

The Honorable Tarlika Nunez-Navarro

By: Solimar Rodriguez, Esq.



Public service, compassion and dedication are some of the basic elements we expect from our judges to bring to the bench. Judge Tarlika Nunez-Navarro embodies these qualities. She also has a broader vision of how the legal system can be and the way to get there.

Since her appointment in March of 2018, Judge Nunez-Navarro brings to the Unified Family Court of the 17th Judicial Circuit devotion, humanity and passion to help others. This is what fuels her spirit and allows her to excel when handling the affairs of other people’s lives. Leading by example, her father showed her that public service is the key to being close to her community and making a difference in the world.

Judge Nunez-Navarro undergrad studies in journalism and anthropology at the University of Miami, gave her the opportunity to travel the world. After graduating, she culturally immersed herself in different countries teaching English to children and learning about international law. As a Colombian-American it is important for Judge Nunez-Navarro to bring to the Courts a sensibility towards minorities and opening the space to those that feel that they do not have a voice.

During her law studies at St. Thomas University School of Law, Judge Nunez-Navarro fell in love with litigation, a skill that won her mock trial competitions throughout the State and defined her future. First, she interned at the Public Defender’s office, then assumed the role of prosecutor for the State Attorney’s Office; later becoming a State and Federal criminal defense attorney.

Since Family Court can be very stressful, Judge Nunez-Navarro finds balance by starting her day meditating and practicing yoga. This helps her be a powerful liaison between attorneys, the Court and litigants, bringing harmony and ease for those who need it most.

In retrospect it’s easy to see that Judge Nunez-Navarro’s future and calling was to be appointed as a Judge. Her presence, charisma and empathy towards others win her the respect and integrity to be called Honorable.

Note to all family law attorneys: She loves Memorandums of Law!

The Honorable Mariya Weekes

By: Jorge A. Abreu, Esq.



Judge Mariya Weekes is a former Assistant State Attorney and civil litigator who was recently elected to the Broward County Circuit Court Group 46. She brings an extensive amount of criminal and civil litigation experience with over 100 trials which have resulted in a verdict or judgment. As an Assistant State Attorney, she prosecuted individuals charged with murder, manslaughter, attempted first-degree murder, armed carjacking and robbery firearm cases. In addition to working as an Assistant State Attorney, Mariya worked as an associate for multiple firms managing a portfolio of over two hundred complex civil litigation cases involving creditors' rights, overseeing and managing appellate cases, and attended and mediated numerous complex litigation issues in both Federal and State court. Therefore, Mariya believes her extensive experience in both Criminal and Civil courtrooms gives her a unique perspective on how to operate a docket more efficiently and fairly.

Judge Weekes also knows that her "advocacy" hat has to come off and the "listener" in her must be emphasized for her to be an effective Circuit Court Judge. Therefore, her approach on the bench is to listen to what everyone has to say first before rendering the best decision possible.

Judge Weekes is also very active in the community. She regularly attends charity drives with her twins, Isabella and Trey, and her criminal defense attorney husband, John Weekes. Additionally, Mariya knows it is important to stay physically active and enjoys outdoor activities such as bike rides and paddle boarding with her family. With her extensive background and experience, Ms. Weekes believes she has the right temperament for the Circuit Court.

COUNTY COURT

The Honorable Corey Amanda Cawthon

By: Alejandra R. Mendoza, Esq.



Prior to her recent election to the Bench, Broward County Court Group 9, Judge Corey Amanda Cawthon was a practicing attorney for 7 years. During that time, Judge Cawthon was a civil litigator in Broward County, where she represented individuals and businesses in a variety of different cases, including personal injury protection, contract disputes, business transactions and litigation, real estate transactions and litigation, foreclosures and estate planning.

Judge Cawthon is honored to have the opportunity to serve as a member of the Broward County judiciary and takes great pride in contributing to the community she calls her home. Her desire to serve the public motivated her to become a judge. Her extensive experience in litigation, patience, integrity, and civil law background are some of the great qualities that Judge Cawthon brings to the bench. She believes that all parties must be treated with respect and intends to remain compassionate and understanding through any obstacle she faces on the bench. Judge Cawthon also believes that reading and preparing before hearings is key to having more intelligent discussions with those who appear before her and to more efficiently and productively handle her caseload.

Judge Cawthon is regularly involved with the Plantation Junior Woman's Club, which hosts a number of fundraising events for both the Make-A-Wish Foundation and local student scholarships. In her spare time, Judge Cawthon enjoys cooking, camping, and spending time outdoors and with her family. She also enjoys playing with her adopted dogs, Aussie and Misha.

The Honorable Natasha DePrimo

By: Lindsay Massillon, Esq.



As the first Asian female to take the bench in Broward County, Judge DePrimo is honored to serve the people as a member of the 17th Circuit Judiciary. The daughter of a single mother, Judge DePrimo attributes her life-long desire of being an attorney to her grandparents who helped raise her. Her grandparents instilled within her a passion for giving a voice to the voiceless, and the value of hard work. A graduate of the University of Florida Levin College of Law, Judge DePrimo wants to ensure that all who enter her courtroom feel they have been adequately and fairly heard and were treated with respect.

Prior to her appointment by Gov. Rick Scott, Judge DePrimo spent the first decade of her legal career in private civil litigation before leaping into the public sector as an Assistant State Attorney; first in Palm Beach County, and then in Broward. Making such a drastic change after 10 years in private practice forced Judge DePrimo to move out of her comfort zone and offered her the opportunity to hone her trial skills. After her tenure as a prosecutor, Judge DePrimo continued her public service

as counsel for the Florida Department of Transportation. Judge DePrimo's unique and varied experience makes her a welcomed addition to the 17th Circuit.

As a member of the judiciary, Judge DePrimo hopes to be known as a judge who serves with the utmost integrity and is humbled to serve the citizens of Broward County, a place she has called home since 2005.

Judge DePrimo enjoys spending time with her husband of eighteen years, and her three boys. When she is not reading the latest court opinions, Judge DePrimo tries to keep up with her sons' reading interests, including the latest Harry Potter and Percy Jackson novels. Judge DePrimo hopes to inspire others to always, in the words of Theodore Roosevelt, "dare greatly."

The Honorable Phoebee R. Francois

By: Allison Mattocks, Esq.



The Honorable Phoebee Francois has aspired to a judgeship for as long as she can remember. Her grandfather, Clement Romulus, was a judge in Haiti, and would spend summer visits regaling her with tales from his island courtroom- a tradition that had a profound effect on Judge Francois's career trajectory. She is proud to be known for the more than fifteen attempts it took to rise to the Broward Bench, as she applies this dogged persistence to all things. Hard work and indefatigable tenacity define not only her work in the law, but all aspects of her momentous life.

After graduating from St. Thomas University School of Law in 1994, Judge Francois's mother took ill. Characteristically resolute, Judge Francois studied for the Florida Bar from the ICU. Despite well-intentioned advice to "sit it out," Judge Francois passed the Bar on her first try. All who have come to know Judge Francois during her successful career as a hearing officer, Broward public defender, and as a litigator of varied practice areas know well that had she not passed, Judge Francois would simply have taken it until she did.

Outside the courtroom, Judge Francois serves the community with involvement in Meals on Wheels South Florida, Broward Community Action Agency, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Community Access Center in Miramar. She is also an active mentor through the TJ Reddick Bar Association and Haitian Lawyers Association. "The only way we can get younger lawyers to be good lawyers," she says, "is to support them and teach them what they need to know."

The Honorable Jacqueline Powell

By: Maria Schiuma Fischer, Esq.



Judge Jacqueline Powell recently won election to the Broward County Court, Group 19. She brings years of criminal and civil experience to the Bench, where she will begin her tenure as a judge handling first appearance court. She makes history as the first female Broward judge to be born in Jamaica, where she lived for 16 years before coming to the United States.

After completing high school in New York City, Judge Powell joined her high school sweetheart in South Florida. She earned her college degree from Florida Atlantic University and worked as a paralegal for now-retired Judge Marc Gold and his wife Barbara Heyer in their Fort Lauderdale law firm. Judge Powell quickly found mentors in Judge Gold and Mrs. Heyer, who instilled in her an appreciation and passion for the law.

Married and with two young children, Judge Powell earned her law degree from Nova Southeastern University in 2003. She gained tremendous courtroom experience as an Assistant Public Defender for 8 years before transitioning into civil litigation. She comes to the Bench from her own law firm, Jackie Powell & Associates, where she has specialized in family law, criminal law, and foreclosures.

Outside of work, Judge Powell holds many important roles in our community. She is an active member of the Gateway Church in Fort Lauderdale, volunteering as a parishioner, the Youth Director, and the Associate Pastor of Outreach Ministry. She is also a certified Guardian Ad Litem and mentors high school students preparing for college. Judge Powell will be an incredible asset to Broward County's judiciary.



THE BROWARD COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
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The Honorable
Raag Singhal



The Honorable
Mindy Solomon



Mark D. Bogen
Mayor Broward County

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEWLY ELECTED JUDGES

The Honorable Shari Africk-Olefson, The Honorable Susan L. Alspector, The Honorable Daniel A. Casey, The Honorable Corey Amanda Cawthon, The Honorable Natasha DePrimo, The Honorable Frank Ledee, The Honorable Stefanie C. Moon, The Honorable Jacqueline Powell & The Honorable Mariya Weekes

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Florida Law Update

by Debra P. Klauber

Florida and federal rule changes. Welcome to 2019.

No additional days for responding to documents served by email.

Nine years after the Florida Supreme Court created its Joint Email Service Committee, and six years after the Florida Supreme Court adopted mandatory email service for all cases in Florida, the “extra days” allowed for service by mail, or email, have come to an end. The Florida Supreme Court adopted a number of changes to Florida’s procedural rules, the result of which is that, as of January 1, 2019, email (or e-service) is now considered instantaneous and no additional time is allowed for responses to documents served by email. This includes amendments to the Rules of Judicial Administration, and will also impact various Rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure (counterclaims and cross claims, substitution of parties, production of documents, subpoenas, setting action for trial, proposals for settlement, summary judgment). The decision also approved changes to the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure which extend response times in various appellate contexts (replies on original proceedings, notices of cross appeal, jurisdictional briefs, answer briefs and reply briefs, responses to motions, requests for oral argument, etc.). The actual rule changes can be reviewed at: *In re Amendments to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, and the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure – Electronic Service*, Case No. SC17-882, --- So. 3d ---, 2018 WL 5289342 (Fla. Oct. 25, 2018).

Rule Amendments – Southern District of Florida

The Southern District of Florida also adopted a number of changes to its local rules, which became effective in December 2018 and are available on the court’s website.

1. Emergency motions and expedited motions.

In addition to emergency motions, Local Rule 7.1 now also allows for “expedited” motions. The new changes detail the requirements for properly filing and certifying such motions.

2. Retiring the certificate of service.

Given the CM/ECF procedures that have now become routine, and through which service is automatic, the Southern District no longer requires a certificate of service for documents that are filed electronically, unless the document is served other than through CM/ECF. Documents electronically filed using an attorney’s login and password are considered signed when the attorney’s name appears on the signature block; in other words, electronic signatures are acceptable (except when an original signature is otherwise required).

3. Sealed documents.

Through changes to CM/ECF procedures, the Southern District has also clarified how motions to seal documents should be handled, and how such documents should be filed with the court and served on other parties.

4. Third party discovery.

The court has adopted new procedures related to third party discovery and requires all parties receiving objections, documents, electronically stored information or other things in response to a subpoena to “promptly” notify all other parties and share the information in a cooperative manner.

5. Privilege logs.

Rule 26.1 has been modified to provide a due date for privilege logs, which are due, absent an agreement of the parties or order of the court, 14 days following the service of answers to interrogatories or responses to a request for production. **B**



Debra P. Klauber, Esq., a partner with Haliczzer Pettis & Schwamm, oversees the firm’s trial support and appellate guidance to litigators throughout Florida. Debbie can be reached at 954-523-9922 or dklauber@hpslegal.com.

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Linda A.
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Barbara Prager, Esq.



Juliet Roulhac, Esq.



Adele Stone, Esq.

Resolve to be Positive

by Jeni Meunier

Another year begins! Most of us celebrate it with new resolutions to give up something – make a negative habit go away; lose the extra weight; or give up the vice we’ve indulged in for many years.

Instead of giving up, let’s resolve to begin afresh by cultivating or improving our outlook in positive ways. This year, of all years, brings more of a challenge as we end the second decade of the 21st century amid unrest and rising fears. Being part of the legal profession presents us with a better opportunity than most to make great changes to succeed where others may not be so dedicated. We, as in no other field, are prepared to meet challenges head on and have the dedication needed to follow through. It took commitment to rise in our profession AND we have the capabilities and experiences to take things further.

As lawyers, judges, paralegals and legal staff in all areas, we have the knowledge and abilities to develop and apply the law as it has been outlined clearly in our Constitution, Bill of Rights and Amendments. When times get challenging and sometimes incomprehensible, we have the experience to practice with integrity and honesty according to the rules of law. What better time to step forward and make a difference? New challenges are presenting themselves daily. Staying within the rules of law offers a unique chance to stretch the



intellect to broaden our scope, to define not only what is written down as standards, but to determine the ethics and morals behind the written word. We delve into our profession with the knowledge that there are always two sides to each opinion. By maintaining the high road with newly perceived ideas and brilliantly thought-out concepts, we will bring the best outcome to one and all.

While our profession is of the utmost importance, we also need to bring those positive qualities to every part of our life. As individuals, in order to represent our profession at its highest and best, we need to incorporate our positive beliefs into our personal lives as well. What is accomplished on the outside begins on the inside. A well-balanced person needs to nurture every aspect of life; self, family, friends, hobbies and fun. Enjoyment in one area radiates to every other area in life.

Taking care of yourself is as important as taking care of a relationship with your spouse and kids. Often, there doesn’t seem to be enough time in the day to fit it all in, but there truly is. It isn’t just the organized person who knows how to make it all work; it starts with the desire and intent to make it work. As we all have heard

many times before, it isn’t the quantity of time spent but the quality. Scheduling time to have a date night, a family outing or a gathering of family and friends can be simply and effortlessly arranged into the monthly routine. First start each day by taking 30 minutes to enjoy something just for yourself, whether it be reading a book that is not work-related, exercising the body with a few sit-ups or a moment of yoga or finding a quiet time to be grateful for all the personal good things that have come your way. This not only relaxes the brain but opens the heart.

Life can be fun by turning around and looking at it through fresh new eyes with a tweak here and there. To find your answers, ask yourself, if you had all the time and money in the world, what would you like to do the most. Take a moment and find that “thing” or at least that “feeling” and incorporate it into your day. That may just kick start the impetus you need to find that deep down desire to make a difference. **E**



Jeni Meunier is a Director at Trustpoint.One. Trustpoint.One provides end-to-end eDiscovery capabilities, in forensic consulting, processing, hosting, review/staffing, production and court reporting and translation services. Jeni can be contacted at Jeni.Meunier@Trustpoint.One

5 Guardianship Class - 8 Hour Adult
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Venue: BCBA Conference Center
Cost: \$180; No Walk-ins accepted

10 Immigration CLE: Intersection of Business and Immigration
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Venue: BCBA Conference Center
Cost: \$20 BCBA Member; \$30 Non-Member

11 YLS Breakfast with the Broward County Judiciary
Time: 7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
Venue: Broward County Courthouse - Law Library
Cost: \$10 YLS Member; \$15 Non-Member

11 Judicial Jaunt Series: Judge Bidwill
Sponsored by: Rissman, Barrett, Hurt, Donahue, McLain & Mangan, P.A.
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Venue: BCBA Conference Center
Cost: \$20 BCBA Member; \$30 Non-Member

12 Guardianship Class-4 hr Minor
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Venue: BCBA Conference Center
Cost: \$100; No Walk-ins accepted

16 Solo/Small Networking Dinner
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Venue: Dave & Buster's Hollywood
Cost: \$40 BCBA Member; \$55 Non-Member *\$5 price increase on 1/09/2019

17 Hispanic Lawyers Committee Judicial CLE Luncheon
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Venue: BCBA Conference Center
Cost: \$20 BCBA Member; \$30 Non-Member

23 Construction CLE: Roofing
Sponsored by: Construction Defect Professionals, Inc.
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Venue: BCBA Conference Center
Cost: Free BCBA Construction Section Member \$15 BCBA Member; \$30 Non-Member

25 2019 Judicial Procession and State of the Circuit
Sponsorships Available!
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Venue: Broward County Courthouse - Jury Assembly Room

29 Appellate CLE Luncheon
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Venue: BCBA Conference Center
Cost: \$20 BCBA Member; \$30 Non-Member

31 IP CLE: Avoiding Unintentional IP Infringement
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Venue: BCBA Conference Center
Cost: \$20 BCBA Member; \$30 Non-Member

Save the Date!

Visit our online Calendar for more information.

February 22, 2019
2019 Workers' Compensation Conference

March 8, 2019
International Women's Day: A Celebration of Women in the Legal Community
"Broward's Women Pioneers"

April 5, 2019
2019 Raising the Bar

May 3, 2019
2019 Law Day Luncheon

June 22, 2019
2019 Annual Installation Gala Dinner

Register for BCBA Events
www.browardbar.org • 954-832-3618





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