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MCBA PRESIDENT, R. WAYNE RICHTER

In This Issue

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The due date for all advertisements, articles and announcements is the 1st of the month preceding publication.

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Message From the President

Martin County Bar President - R. Wayne Richter, Esq.

Welcome to 2024! I hope that you and yours enjoyed the holiday season. January is a month for optimism. A new year is like a blank canvas. We have before us the opportunity to leave the past behind and create a new vision for our personal and professional lives. January feels like a do-over for all the things that may have disappointed us in the previous year. Many of us make resolutions where we resolve to make changes or seek new goals in the coming year. I hope one of your resolutions is to become more involved with the Martin County Bar Association or to remain engaged. We have had a great line-up of speakers for our President's Speaker Series at our monthly CLE luncheons. Your attendance at the luncheons and the CLE credit is included free of charge as part of your membership dues. Plus, the luncheons are an excellent way to network and make new friends! The turnout for all our events to date has been outstanding.

It is with the above thoughts in mind that I have asked Melissa Byers, Executive Director of the St. Petersburg Bar Association, to be our January 19th CLE luncheon speaker. I first heard Melissa speak two years ago while attending the Florida Bar Voluntary Bar Leadership Conference. Melissa will join us to give her talk titled: Shift Happens - Surviving the Law Profession. Melissa's presentation should satisfy your Florida Bar Professionalism CLE requirement. Melissa will share real world tips and strategies on how to achieve wellness while facing daily professional challenges. Prior to joining the St. Pete Bar, Melissa worked at the world-renowned Golden Door Resort & Spa in San Diego, California. There she worked with clients such as former Good Morning America co-host Joan Lunden, actress Laura Dern, journalist Barbara Walters, and wine maker Robert Mondavi. Following her time in San Diego, Melissa moved to Los Angeles to privately train The Fresh Prince of Bel Air actress, Karyn Parsons, at Warner Bros. Studios. Melissa does a great job, and you owe it to yourself not to miss her presentation. Think of it as a New Year-New You opportunity.

You will also want to be present for the January luncheon where this year's Annual Banquet theme will be revealed. We have several amazing surprises in store for that revelation!

On January 11th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., please join your friends and colleagues in the shadow of the Roosevelt Bridge for a



New Year's Happy Hour at Hudson's on the River. It's a pretty location on the St. Lucie River and another opportunity for engagement. Please register by emailing our Executive Director Lynne Poirier at: martincountybar@gmail.com. Be sure to write "New Year Happy Hour" in the subject line. This will be a fun event with a few giveaways. Must be present to win!

Wishing all of you peace, prosperity, and wellness in the new year!

Happy New Year!

R. Wayne Richter, Esquire

R. Wayne Richte





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PRESIDENT'S SPEAKER SERIES

Presents:

Shift happens: Surviving the Law Profession with Melissa Byers, Executive Director, St. Petersburg Bar Association



Friday, January 19, 2024 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monarch Country Club

FREE to all MCBA Members including lunch, plus CLE Credit: General 1.0; Substance Abuse 0.5 and Mental Health and Wellness 0.5

RSVP REQUIRED BY 1.12.24

Email: martincountybar@gmail.com include in the subject line (Jan Lunch RSVP)

The billable hour, adrenaline addiction, and the badge of honor culture pervasive in law firms and today's society is leading to increased rates of burnout and unhealthy coping skills. What is true wellness? Based upon overwhelming research associated with increased alcohol/drug use, increased stress/anxiety/depression, and feelings of isolation plaguing the law profession, this seminar provides attorneys real world tips/guidance to achieve wellness while facing daily professional challenges.

You owe it to yourself (and your firm) to create a shift in how you approach your wellness.

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The Martin County Bar Association presents

President's Speaker Series



Save The Dates

Friday, January 19

Speaker: Melissa Byers, Executive Director from the St. Petersburg Bar Association "Shift Happens: Surviving the Law Profession"

Thursday, February 22 *NEW DATE

Speaker: The Honorable Jennifer Dorow

Judge Dorow, from the Waukesha County Circuit Court, joins us to discuss presiding over the tumultuous Darrell Brooks trial. This trial included twists and turns with no shortage of memorable moments. The case made national news as Brooks represented himself and was found guilty of all 76 charges against him for the Christmas Day parade crash killing innocent people. Judge Dorow will talk about being an ambassador of justice and what that means to lawyers and judges.

Friday, March 22

Victor Ashe

American former diplomat and politician who served as United States Ambassador to Poland

Friday, April 19

Round table with the Judges

Friday, May 20

Steve Weagle, WPTV News Channel 5 Hurricane Prep: Protect your home and practice.

Support our President's Speaker Series so we can continue bringing quality programming to the Martin County Bar Association.

Contact Lynne at martincountybar@gmail.com

President's Speaker Series welcomes

JUDGE JENNIFER DOROW





THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024 11:30 - 1:00 Monarch Country Club

MCBA Members are FREE! RSVP Required by 2.15.24

email: martincountybar@gmail.com (include in the subject line: Feb Lunch)

Join us as we welcome the Honorable Jennifer Dorow from the Wisconsin Circuit Court. Judge Dorow recently presided over the tumultuous Darrell Brooks trial. From proclaiming himself to be a sovereign citizen and dismissing his public defenders, to childish outbursts and disrespectful remarks, Brooks' trial was one of the most bizarre cases to date. Brooks was found guilty of running over and killing six people and injuring sixty two others in the Waukesha Christmas Parade. Judge Dorow will discuss the case, *plus* talk about being an ambassador of justice and what that means to lawyers and judges.

This is a luncheon you won't want to miss!

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In matters of truth and justice, there is no difference between large and small problems, for issues concerning the treatment of people are all the same.



- - Albert Einstein

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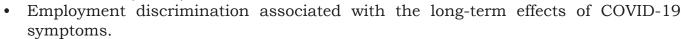
Employment Law

Chair - David Miklas, Esq. (representing employers only)

Employment law trends for 2024

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission warned employers that in 2024 they will be focusing on the following areas:

- Targeting discrimination, bias, and hate directed against religious minorities (including antisemitism and Islamophobia), racial or ethnic groups, and LGBTQI+ individuals.
- Protecting workers affected by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, including under the new Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA).



- Highlighting the continued underrepresentation of women and workers of color in certain industries and sectors, such as construction and manufacturing, finance, tech and other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.
- Misuse of artificial intelligence and machine learning, to target job advertisements, recruit applicants, and make or assist in hiring and other employment decisions.
- Addressing overly broad waivers, releases, non-disclosure agreements, or non-disparagement agreements when they restrict workers' ability to obtain remedies for civil rights violations.

Also, during the summer of 2023 the Supreme Court clarified the undue hardship standard for religious discrimination cases. *See Groff v. DeJoy*, 143 S. Ct. 2279 (2023). Many lower courts, had read a prior Supreme Court decision, *Trans World Airlines, Inc. v. Hardison*, 432 U.S. 63 (1977), to hold an "undue hardship" was "any effort or cost that is 'more than . . . *de minimis*." In *Groff*, a unanimous Court forcefully rejected this reading. The Court held that a showing of "undue hardship" requires something far greater: an employer must prove that the burden of accommodation "is substantial in the overall context of an employer's business." *Id.* at 2294.

Treasure Coast employers with 15 or more employees should be careful of this stricter standard that is being applied when an employer rejects a religious accommodation request.

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Wills, Trusts and Estates

Chair - Matthew Worsham, Esq.

Know Your Numbers: IRS Releases Inflation-Adjusted Figures for 2024

The Wills, Trusts, and Estates Committee hopes you had an excellent holiday season. On November 9, 2023, the IRS released its official 2024 inflation-adjusted figures for transfer tax. The exclusion amounts for the tax year of 2024 are as follows:

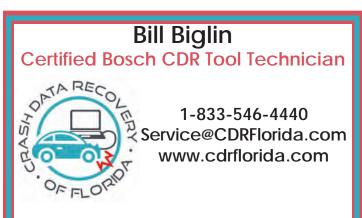
- Unified estate and gift tax exclusion amount: For gifts made and estates of decedents dying in 2024, the exclusion amount will be \$13,610,000 (it was previously \$12,920,000 for gifts made and estates of decedents dying in 2023).
- Generation-skipping transfer (GST) tax exemption: The exemption from GST tax will be \$13,610,000 for transfers in 2024 (it was previously \$12,920,000 for transfers in 2023).



Gift tax annual exclusion: For gifts made in 2024, the gift tax annual exclusion will be \$18,000 (it was previously \$17,000 in 2023).

The increased estate, gift, and GST tax exemption amounts are due to sunset, absent Congressional action, on December 31, 2025, and will return to pre-2018 levels (\$5,490,000). The next two years will provide significant planning opportunities for high-net-worth individuals. If your clients have more than \$5.49 million in assets, they could likely benefit from a consultation with an experienced estate planning attorney.

Please contact me at mworsham@jonesfoster.com for inclusion on the Committee's emails and/or to share any potential speakers, topics, or articles.





Ioanne Zarro President

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Elder Law Attorney Corner

Paying for Nursing Home Care? Medicaid Allows a Person Eligibility... Even when they have Assets!

Gregory G. Glenn, Esq. Gregory Glenn, P.A. Elder Law Attorney



Many believe one must be broke to qualify for Medicaid. Not true! <u>Did you know a spouse of an individual applying for Florida Medicaid nursing home benefits can have up to \$154,100.00 of liquid countable assets in 2024 and the ill spouse will still qualify for Medicaid.</u> Medicaid laws permit an individual applying for Medicaid to continue to own assets and qualify for long-term care benefits. Now a Medicaid applicant can only have up to \$2,000.00 of Medicaid "countable assets" in his or her name. But there are planning options available to shift assets in order to obtain eligibility. Read on......

The objective of Medicaid asset preservation planning is to try to ensure my client maintains the highest quality of life possible and maintains his or her independence and dignity. This is accomplished by shifting assets and income to create eligibility while allowing the applicant access to those assets and income to pay for quality of life comforts and care above and beyond the benefits Medicaid provides.

I will cover examples of assets Medicaid does not count for eligibility purposes later in this article. This article only provides space to cover the Medicaid Asset eligibility criteria. There are also <u>medical need and income eligibility criteria</u> that are beyond the scope of this short article. Those topics will be covered in a later issue of the Elder Law Attorney Corner.

The foundation of Medicaid law is located in Federal Statute and Regulations promulgated by the Social Security Act. Each state also has its own laws related to Medicaid eligibility that track Federal Social Security Supplemental Security Income (SSI) law to various extents, depending on the state. See <u>42 U.S.C.</u> <u>1396, et seq.</u> and <u>42 U.S.C.</u> <u>1382, et seq.</u> for a general broad overview of the law regarding Medicaid and SSI benefits. If a person qualifies for \$1.00 of SSI, that person automatically qualifies for Florida Medicaid. Now, Florida Medicaid law does track SSI laws, however, Florida's eligibility criteria differs somewhat from SSI law (more lenient in some aspects). The State of Florida's Medicaid eligibility laws can are located in <u>Part III of Section 409 Florida Statute</u> and <u>F.A.C. 65A-1.709 to 1.713</u> and <u>F.A.C. 59G</u>. Florida follows Social Security's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility criteria.

Medicaid eligibility criteria for assets looks at the assets of the applicant, and if married, the spouse as well. Medicaid exempts certain assets when determining financial eligibility. Examples of some exemptions include: 1) Equity value in the primary home of an applicant (up to \$713,000.00 in 2024), 2) personal tangible property is presumed valued at \$2,000.00 (Household furnishings and clothes), 3) one automobile and all automobiles over 7 years old that are not "collectibles" or considered luxury vehicles, 4) prepaid funeral plans up to \$2,500.00 (Unlimited if plan is irrevocable), 5) burial plot for immediate family, 6) life insurance cash value up to \$2,500.00, 7) Term life insurance, 8) Assets placed in certain types of special needs trusts, 9) Business or property investments that generates fair market value income are exempt as an asset, 10) purchase of Medicaid compliant annuities, and 11) purchases of Medicaid exempt assets with Medicaid "countable assets". These are just a few examples. There are

Continued From Previous Page...

many planning techniques designed to stretch an applicant's assets while sheltering those assets from being counted as an asset for Medicaid eligibility purposes.

More good news for married couples. There are instances where a well spouse who is living in the community can retain Medicaid countable assets above the \$153,100.00 threshold for 2024 and the ill spouse still qualifies for benefits. The planning strategy is referred to as "spousal refusal". How it is implemented is important related to timing of the planning strategies, when the application is submitted, and dates documents are signed. This is a sophisticated planning technique that requires the elder law attorney to have extensive knowledge of Medicaid laws.

You may have heard about a 5-year look-back by Medicaid for "gifts" or "transfers for less than fair market value" made by an applicant or his or her spouse. Yes, that is true. The look-back is 5 years from the date of application for Medicaid. There is a penalty for gifting of assets. The penalty divisor for Florida long-term care Medicaid programs in 2024 is 1 month of eligibility for every \$10,209.00 of assets gifted away. There are limited strategies available to address undoing of previous gifting depending on the then-current circumstances when the gifts were made and the extent to which gifted funds have already been "given back" or whether the gift itself can even be returned properly at all. Dealing with gifting issues require a complete understanding of Medicaid laws dealing with gifting issues. One positive note on gifting is that there is NO PENALTY for "gifting" to a spouse or certain disabled persons. One final note on gifting. There is a gift planning strategy to reduce countable assets to withing eligibility parameters. However, both topics require extensive discussion that is beyond the scope of what this short article can cover.

In closing, an elder law practice that includes offering of Medicaid Planning requires extensive knowledge of a complex set of Federal and State Medicaid and SSI laws that are interrelated in many aspects. It requires a high level of competencies in Federal and state Social Security and Medicaid related laws.

I will cover more aspects of Medicaid eligibility in future articles. Next up will be Income eligibility standards...... Stay tuned. Greg.



Gregory G. Glenn started his practiced with a focus on serving the elderly and disabled back in 1995. He is a nationally Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation. His elder law practice today focuses on Medicaid planning, estate planning for the over 55 and disabled, special needs trust planning for the disabled, incapacity planning, and probate. Prior to law school he worked as an accountant for Coopers & Lybrand, CPA's assisting clients with cash management as well as tax preparation and planning. He has offices in Stuart and Boynton Beach. Phone: 561-347-1071 Website: www.Bocaelderlaw.com



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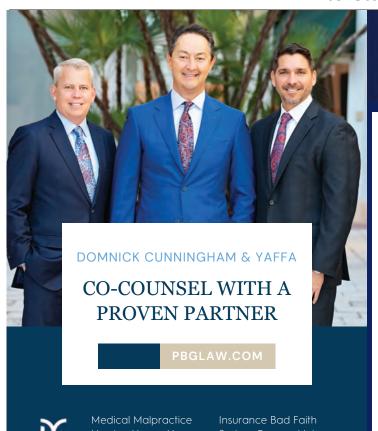
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Gene Zweben

Race to the Courthouse 5k Run/Walk

We are looking forward to another great event this year! The Race will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024, so there is plenty of time to get out there and start training! We are still looking for sponsors and committee members. For more information, please contact Gene Zweben at gene@zwebenlawgroup.com or 772-223-5454.





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Judicial Relations Committee

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January 16 - Magistrate Lillian Ewen February 20 - Judge Jennifer Waters March 19 - Judge Brett Waronicki April 16 - Judge William Roby May 21 - Judge Leatha Mullins





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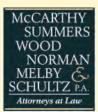
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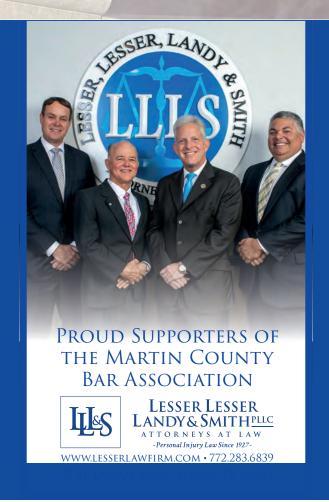
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Solo & Small Firm Committee



Invites you for Lunch:

Wednesday. January 31, 2024

11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Berry Fresh Cafe -1429 SE Federal Highway - Stuart

Topic:

Next Gen Marketing: Ethical Considerations for a New Era INCLUDING: CLE GENERAL 1.0; ETHICS 0.5 AND TECHNOLOGY 0.5

Please RSVP so we know how many members to expect. You'll order off the menu and pay for your own meal.

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Deadline to register is 1.24.24

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MCBA Annual Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee will meet within the next few weeks to pick its three (3) scholarship winners for the school year.

Scholarships are made possible with proceeds from our annual Sobel Cup Golf Tournament. This is our only source of funding for the program. If you're a golfer, please save the date and join us for a round of golf on Friday, May 31, 2024 at Monarch Country Club. We'll begin with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start followed by cocktails and awards.

To play as a foursome, individual player, or for sponsorship opportunities, please contact Lynne at <a href="mailto:mailt

If you're not a golfer, but would like to support our scholarship efforts, please send your donation made payable to the MCBA, and mail it to P.O. Box 2197, Stuart 34995. Donations made by May 1 will be recognized at the tournament and in the SideBar. Any level of support is appreciated.





MCBA SOBEL CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monarch Country Club Friday, May 31, 2024 1:00 P.M. Shotgun Start

Supporting the MCBA Scholarship Fund

\$150.00 per player \$500.00 foursome includes cocktails, awards and more!

Sign up! Contact: martincountybar@gmail.com



Real Estate and Commercial Litigation Update

Florida Real Property and Business Litigation Report

-Manuel Farach



PRN Real Estate & Investments, LTD. v. Cole, Case No. 22-11118 (11th Cir. 2023).

Based upon *Husky Int'l Elecs., Inc.* v. *Ritz*, 578 U.S. 355 (2016), and *In re Gaddy*, 977 F.3d 1051 (11th Cir. 2020), the Eleventh Circuit holds that a creditor can file an adversary action for actual fraud under 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(2)(A).

Santos v. Healthcare Revenue Recovery Group, LLC., Case No. 22-11187 (11th Cir. 2023).

A consumer does not have to prove actual damages to recover statutory damages under the Fair Credit Reporting Act,15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(1)(A).

Stone v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Case No. 22-13217 (11th Cir. 2023).

A whistleblower to the Internal Revenue Service has no ability to compel the Service to institute enforcement proceedings against offending taxpayers in order that the taxpayer may collect their whistleblower commission under 26 U.S.C. § 7623(b).

In Re: Amendment to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.280, Case No. SC2021-0929 (Fla. 2023).

The Florida Supreme Court adopts as final the changes to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.280 regarding the Apex Doctrine.

Diggs v. Cushman, Case No. 1D2022-0926 (Fla. 1st DCA 2023).

An "access and utility easement" permits use of the servient tenement both for utilities and access.

Knapp v. Harling, Case No. 1D2022-2256 (Fla. 1st DCA 2023).

A proposal for settlement is invalid if does not contain the requirement of Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.442 that the proposal resolve "all damages that would otherwise be awarded in a final judgment in the action."

DJB Rentals, LLC v. City of Largo, Case No. 2D22-693 (Fla. 2d DCA 2023).

Upon rehearing, the Second District re-affirms that an as-applied constitutional challenge may not be raised for the first time in a lien foreclosure action, i.e., the issues must have been raised first in an appeal from the magistrate's order confirming the lien.

Continental Connections USA, LLC v. D.O.D. Holdings, LLC, Case Nos. 4D2022-1786 & 4D2022-1787 (Fla. 4th DCA 2023).

Claims seeking return of capital contributions to the company were not compulsory claims in a prior suit against a former member for breach of fiduciary duty.

FLOPRO, LLC v. EOX Technology Solutions, Inc., Case No. 4D2023-000

Computer-assisted legal research, postage, mileage, and meals are not taxable costs under the Statewide Uniform Guidelines for Taxation of Costs and applicable law.

Dirty Duck 16004 LLC v. Town of Redington Beach, Case No. 2D23-251 (Fla. 2d DCA 2023).

Municipal ordinances enacted between January 1, 2016 and June 30, 2018 which permit customary use of "dry sand beach area" are not rendered void by Florida Statute section 163.035.

Dooley v. Gary the Carpenter Construction, Inc., Case No. 3D22-1460 (Fla. 3d DCA 2023).

Damages awarded under unjust enrichment theories, unlike those awarded under breach of contract theories, do not need to be awarded under an all-or-nothing basis and may be apportioned between a plaintiff and a defendant.

Tatlici v. Tatlici, Case No. 4D2022-061 (Fla. 4th DCA 2023).

A Florida administrator ad litem may try foreign causes of action in Florida even if the cause of action arose in a foreign jurisdiction between foreign individuals and under the law of the foreign jurisdiction.

North Florida Mango, LP v. LLS Holdings, LLC, Case No. 4D2022-203 (Fla. 4th DCA 2023).

The term "business as currently run" in a real estate sales contract is ambiguous and renders incapable of summary judgment a contract dispute over whether a

Continued On Next Page . . .

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buyer acquiesced in taking a property with a running business on the premises.

Mercado v. Sridhar, Case No. 3D23-0223 (Fla. 3d DCA 2023).

Unsigned addenda to a fully executed and integrated real estate sales contract do not become part of the contract; the contract is enforceable but the addenda are not.

Property Registration Champions, LLC v. Mulberry, Case No. 5D22-2341 (Fla. 5th DCA 2023).

A forum selection clause titled "Consent to Jurisdiction" does not indicate the clause is permissive if the text of the clause indicates the "consent" is exclusive as to one jurisdiction.

Bowein v. Sherman, Case No. 6D23-608 (Fla. 6th DCA 2023).

A real estate sales contract which states in one part that one property is being sold while stating in another that four properties are being sold is patently ambiguous and is accordingly void. Offices at Grand Bay Plaza Condominium Association, Inc. v. Grove at Grand Bay

Condominium Association, Inc., Case No. 3D22-1889 (Fla. 3d DCA 2023).

Even if entry of a temporary injunction is proper under law, failure to require the posting of a bond is reversible error.

Manny Seafood Corporation v. The City of Miami, Case No. 3D23-0357 (Fla. 3d DCA 2023).

Even if the settlement agreement affects a nearby business and property owner, a non-party that is not an intended third party beneficiary lacks standing to enforce a settlement agreement between a municipality and the state of Florida.



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SAVE THE DATE FOR THE MCBA GATOR BASKETBALL AND GYMNASTICS WEEKEND

The MCBA 2024 Gator Basketball and Gymnastics weekend will be held on Friday, February 23, Florida Gators v. LSU Gymnastics Meet and Saturday, February 24, Florida Gators v. Vanderbilt Commodores Basketball game.

The hotel block has been reserved. \$149 a night (no two-night minimum)

Booking Link:

https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=GNVGLD T&groupCode=CDT917&arrivaldate=2024-02-23&departuredate=2024-02-25&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT

Double Tree by Hilton 3726 SW 40th Street, Gainesville, FL 32608 352.375.2400 Ext 6011

Basketball Game Ticket Link https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Martin-county-bar-association

Gymnastics Ticket Link (to be provided at a later date)

Jason Berger and Scott Konopka





Legal Resources / CLE

Christine Moreno, Legal Resources Committee Chair

FREE LEGAL RESEARCH: All members are reminded that our Martin County Public Library has free legal research available which is accessible at all branches of the Martin County Public Library System. If you forget to bring your USB for copying the research results, then one might be obtained for a nominal charge from the librarian, or you can always email your research results to yourself or print the results for a minor charge per page (although copying to USB is usually better).



CLE MATERIALS: Visit our Website or the Clerk's website for available FL CLE programs. Our current offerings include:

2022 Florida Survey of Law

2023 Florida Survey of Law

2023 Wills, Trust & Estates Certification Review Course

2023 Advanced Real Estate Certification Review Course

Our materials generally include a disc for pdf course materials

Currently corporate sponsors are enlisting to provide specialty FL CLE courses to our members, so check back to our MCBA website or Clerk's website for updates on CLE course offerings.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES: Discounts are available for many administrative resource materials. Please inquire if you are interested in any such services. Also, our Florida Bar offers free CLE courses as well as administrative materials at the FloridaBar.Org website under the heading "Legal Fuel". One valuable & FREE resource is the current "NOTA" online trust accounting program. I am still awaiting information on the security and encryption aspects of NOTA, since it is an on-line platform, but it looks promising.

Call (772) 485-6767 if you are interested in joining our Legal Resource Committee. See you at our upcoming Bar Luncheon,

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NEED HELP?

If you are feeling isolated, worried about your practice, your family, your employees, reach out - to a friend, a spouse, a colleague OR call the Florida Bar Helpline at 833-FL1-WELL

The Florida Bar Helpline

Bar members will be able to dial the helpline (833-351-9355 or "833-FL1-WELL") and speak with a mental-health professional who can provide crisis intervention and a referral for up to three free visits with a locally based, licensed mental-health professional.

ONLINE RESOURCES OFFERED BY THE MCBA

Notice: Your clients and the public at large can now access online courses directly through the MCBA website. They are fast, convenient, and inexpensive - available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All instructions are included online and programs can be started/stopped, picking up where you left off, as many times as you like. Help the MCBA promote this community service while generating income to support local initiatives!

Florida Online Traffic School Courses:

- Basic Driver Improvement 4-hour course (Traffic Ticket TCAC)
- First-time Driver 4-hour course
- Advanced Driver Improvement 12-hour course (ADI / Judge-ordered class)
- Florida Mature Driver Program 6-hour course

All traffic courses are approved by the Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles and sponsored by the American Safety Council.

Parent Education and Family Stabilization Online Course:

This 4-hour course is required by Florida law for concerned parties seeking to obtain a final judgment of dissolution of marriage in Florida when minor children are involved. The course is approved by the Department of Children & Families and provided by a division of the University of Continuing Education.

The courses are provided via the American Safety Council which is the leading source for online driver education, workplace safety training, continuing education, online business and security solutions, and more!

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Florida Free Legal Answers Program

Did you know that The Florida Bar provides free virtual legal information through its cooperative effort with the American Bar Association to low-income Floridians via the Florida Free Legal Answers Program?

Members of the public can go to: https://florida.freelegalanswers.org/ to sign up and answer a few questions to see if they qualify to use the service.

Florida lawyers may enroll to join the effort by visiting clicking on "Volunteer Attorney Registration" and agreeing to the attorney agreement.

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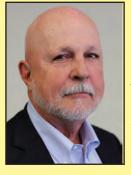
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Website at www.martincountybar.com for upcoming events, committee meetings and more! find us online

Links, Jobs and Legislation

19th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida

Court administration, judicial assignments, programs, job opportunities and other resources:

www.circuit19.org

Emergency Hotline / Info: 772.742.9229

Visit

www.martincountybar.com

for resources, links, events and member contact & practice area information.



Florida Bar Appointments / Vacancies

For applications and complete details, visit: www.floridabar.org

19th Circuit Appointments / Vacancies

For applications and complete details, visit: http://www.circuit19.org/careers.html

Track Legal Legislation

For more detailed information on specific legislation being tracked by the Bar, visit the Legislation Committee's webpage on the Bar website at this link:

http://www.floridabar.org/cmdocs/bd160.nsf/WDOCS



Martin County Ordinances

All Martin County ordinances may be found on the County website:

https://www.martin.fl.us

Click on Departments, County Attorney, County Code & Ordinances.

See ordinance list on right side of web page (ex: Ordinances 800-849).



City of Stuart Ordinances

All City of Stuart ordinances may be found on the City website:

www.cityofstuart.us

Click on link at the bottom of the page.

January

2024

Martin County Bar Association

Upcoming Events:

March 9, 2024 – MCBA Tennis Tournament – Willoughby Golf & CC April 10, 2024 – Race to the Courthouse 5K May 31: 2024 – Sobel Cup Golf Tournament



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	New Years Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	Membership Happy Hour	12	13
14	Martin Luther King Day	Judicial Relations Lunch	17	18	January Luncheon	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Small & Solo Committee Meeting			



Please join us for MCBA's CLE Monthly Meeting, Friday, January 19, 2024

When: Friday, January 19, 2024

11:30 a.m. networking; 12:00 p.m. lunch

Where: Monarch Country Club

1801 SW Monarch Club Drive, Palm City

Speaker: Melissa Byers, Executive Director from the St. Petersburg Bar Association

CLE General 1.0 - Substance Abuse 0.5 & Mental Health and Wellness 0.5

RSVP to: martincountybar@gmail.com No later than Thursday, January 11, 2024

PLEASE BE SURE TO RSVP TO EXPEDITE ACCESS AT THE GATE

There is no charge for paid MCBA members.