

FORUM 8

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Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, Inc.

January 2018

President's Message

By Meshon Rawls



Happy New Year! As we enter into 2018, I am excited about putting some things behind us and pressing forward toward those things that are before us. The EJCBA has much to rave about in terms of what we accomplished in 2017. Thus far, we have offered members a vast array of opportunities to develop professionally, serve

the community, and build relationships. Now, looking ahead, our committees have already begun moving forward with planning for the Spring.

I would like to highlight a few of the programs to give you an idea of what you have to look forward to. In January, Chief Judge Toby Monaco will give the State of the Circuit address, followed by a panel discussion on judicial elections and campaigns. In February, if you are interested in obtaining credit towards your technology CLE requirements, John Stewart will discuss "The Advances in Technology and the Practice of Law." In March, we will host The Gloria, our annual golf tournament and fundraiser for the Guardian ad Litem Program. Professor Scott Rogers is the March luncheon speaker. He will speak on the topic of "Mindfulness" and immediately following the luncheon we will have a CLE on "Mental Health and Wellness." In April, we will host the Spring Fling, the Leadership Roundtable, and the Professionalism Seminar. This year's roundtable topic is "Intergenerational Relationships in the Legal Profession." Chief Justice Jorge Labarga will give remarks during the luncheon and ABA President Hilarie Bass will give remarks during the roundtable discussion. Finally, in May, we will wrap up the year

with the new UF Women's Basketball Coach Cameron Newbauer. As you see, we have a full and exciting few months ahead of us - and I didn't even include the Law in the Library series and Ask-A-Lawyer events!

The EJCBA Board has been working diligently over the last several years to enhance your membership experience. However, we cannot provide this caliber of programming without the support and participation of our members. As you set your goals for 2018, we need you to make a commitment to dedicate some of your time to EJCBA. As the President, I am making the "ask" and I am also making my own commitment to a project. Greg McKeown, the author of "Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less," has convinced me of the value in making my highest contribution toward things that really matter to me. So, instead of doing 10 things and not doing them well, find one thing that you are most interested in, and go all out – GO BIG. In applying the concept to EJCBA, instead of asking members to be involved in every aspect of the organization, I ask that each of you commit to one thing and GO BIG. We have eighteen committees, and there are several people who are eager to propose new ideas for the organization. Now, I want you to ask yourselves these questions: Where can I be of the most service? Where can I lend my expertise? Where can I contribute an hour or two? Going BIG will vary from person to person. Your BIG may not be the same as my BIG. Consider your time, interests, knowledge, and experience. Then, determine how you can make the highest contribution at this time. No contribution is too small or insignificant.

As I thought about how I can GO BIG, I was inspired by a recent experience. At the conclusion of

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Contribute to Your Newsletter! From The Editor

I'd like to encourage all of our members to contribute to the newsletter by sending in an article, a letter to the editor about a topic of interest or current event, an amusing short story, a profile of a favorite judge, attorney or case, a cartoon, or a blurb about the good works that we do in our communities and personal lives. Submissions are due on the 5th of the preceding month and can be made by email to dvallejos-nichols@avera.com.

About This Newsletter

This newsletter is published monthly, except in July and August, by:

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Any and all opinions expressed by the Editor, the President, other officers and members of the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, and authors of articles are their own and do not necessarily represent the views of the Association.

News, articles, announcements, advertisements and Letters to the Editor should be submitted to the Editor or Executive Director by Email. Also please email a photograph to go with any article submission. Files should be saved in any version of MS Word, WordPerfect or ASCII text.

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Deadline is the 5th of the preceding month

Alternative Dispute Resolution

By Chester B. Chance and Charles B. Carter



Client Frustration and Mediation

Most if not all clients suffer from frustration during a personal injury mediation. They listen to both sides during the initial joint conference and quickly determine that the two sides disagree about some things, most things, or, everything. As

a result, the clients almost always make statements such as: "This is a waste of time;" "They are calling me a liar;" "Let's just go to trial."

Most of the time the client has never been to a mediation. Most clients are very subjective about their case and lack knowledge of legal concepts. Therefore, the client needs to understand that agreement on particular facts or issues is not necessary in order to resolve things at a mediation. The following parable may illustrate this concept:

Ask the client to assume he/she has a car for sale and they would love to sell it for \$4000 but realistically would sell it for as low as \$3200. A potential buyer examines the car and announces that the tires are completely bald and unsafe. The client argues the tires are not new but have some tread and are safe. The buyer states the car seems to have been repaired with bondo and thus was in an accident. The client advises the car has never been in an accident. The buyer claims the car is covered in rust while the client counters that the car has a bit of rust as it is not brand new. These criticisms and defenses go back and forth until the client is about to ask the buyer to leave. At that point the buyer asserts he will 'take the car off your hands for \$5000.' Bingo. All of a sudden the disagreement over the condition of the car has been rendered moot by agreement on the monetary exchange. Frustration over underlying facts disappears when the monetary number is an acceptable amount. What seller would refuse to accept the \$5000 until the purchaser was compelled to admit the tires were not bald, the car had not been in an accident, etc.? Any initial frustration becomes moot when there is a mutually acceptable agreement.

But being offered more than you expected does not always happen. Let's consider a second car-sale scenario. In the second scenario, the same assertion of defects about the car by the buyer occurs, but, this time the buyer and client reach an apparent



impasse when the buyer will not offer more than \$2400 and the client cannot go lower than \$3200. Assume the buyer makes a final offer to split the difference and pay \$2800 and the client considers the situation and the alternatives, and accepts the \$2800 offer. Why?

The client is asked to assume that if they do not sell the car they will have to fix it up, buy a new battery, pay for some engine work, and in the near future buy tires. Those items are needed to keep the car running, but, will not measurably increase the value of the car. Will the client realistically put as much as \$1500 into the car only to sell the car for \$3200 or accept the



\$2800 and avoid the expense of fixing up the car?

At a mediation, the case is the client's car. Money will need to be spent to fix the case up for trial: expert depositions, physician depositions, subpoenas, obtaining records, etc. As the client's case 'overhead' increases the case value itself may not appreciably change. The client can 'net' more prior to incurring costs and eliminate the risk of a trial result which may be disappointing (just like the car that is running fine unexpectedly and disappointingly blows its transmission.)

Hopefully, this car sale analogy illustrates to a client that frustration over the positions of two parties at a mediation need not get in the way of resolution. The court system has come up with only one way to resolve a personal injury case: by the payment of some monetary amount. Agreeing on a mutually acceptable amount eliminates the necessity of agreeing on underlying facts and issues

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Criminal Law

By William Cervone



Today we will have a lesson in many things ranging from “why we need more lawyers so that there are no pro se pleadings,” to “why mental health issues are such a societal problem,” to “why caseloads are so high,” to “why abuses of process waste time and money,” to - well, let me stop there.

Our subject is one “I, Lonnie, of the family name M.” I will stop there so as not to offend anyone, including him. And I will next quote from various pleadings filed *pro se* in what should have been an ordinary DUI case. They begin with an Affidavit Of Truth, which was not covered in any of my law school classes or subsequent CLE courses. In that pleading, to quote, I, Lonnie: of the family name M. alleges:

“I, Lonnie: of the family name M. was not driving, but was traveling (not using the highways for commercial purposes at the moment of Officer infringement of right to motion/travel...)”

FS 316.193 does not apply to ‘I, Lonnie: of the family name M because he is not a person in the context of state statutes...due to ‘The State of Florida’ (alleged) not rebutting affidavit of denial of corporate existence...

I, Lonnie ‘believes the Officer must have been under the influence due to Officer seeing things that did not occur’ and ‘seemed under the influence and very irritated.’

I, Lonnie ‘only possessed a body freshening Spray which the Officer ignored...and whatever the Officer thought he smelled’ was his ‘own breathe possibly forgetting he had a drink...’

Not to mention that ‘No contract has been presented, breaches thereof of the contract, no bond has been presented.’

Further, I, Lonnie has filed a ‘notice of default with opportunity to cure with the Prosecution, as well as the court’ which went unanswered. Whereupon, the ‘failure to cease and desist upon the service of this notarized affidavit; or to rebut EVERY statement within 30 days will result in all individuals/agencies/corporations who were served with a copy of this notice to face an additional fine of \$1 million dollars each.’ Of course and it goes without saying that ‘All terms and conditions within this notarized affidavit

are considered accepted upon serving of this document’ and the world in general or at least those others involved in the case ‘are subject to the fine listed...within the prior affidavit of denial of corporate existence/affidavit of truth which has been filed...’

‘Because the judgement has already been made by the truth,’ I, Lonnie ‘will then place a Public Advertisement, warning whomsoever may be concerned, that your creditworthimeness is henceforth highly suspect. I will inform Credit Reference Agencies to this effect. I would then be **LAWFULLY ENTITLED TO SIEZE ANY OF YOUR PROPERTY...’**

To be sure, ‘This process will occur in a **LAWFUL manner - because you are given the chance to **REBUT IN SUBSTANCE** - and I will thus retain entirely clean hands (unlike yourselves...’**

‘As a part of the Lien, I will demand a substantial sum in recompense/settlement of the damages in the sum total of \$1,000,000...including a \$50,000 commercial lien against ALACHUA COUNTY JAIL...’

To prove the point and his intent and ‘because it is a common law, **NOT A STAUTORY, process...this was your last and final warning. If I receive one further communication, prosecution, harassment, libel, defamation, attempts to induce me into contracts...by means of mail, phone calls, or knocks on my door, or orders, I will then undertake the Commercial Lien process against...’ everyone in the world.**

And by the way, regardless of things like court notices I, Lonnie ‘will only make special appearance at [the criminal courthouse] for the total amount of \$100,000’, and the failure to pay ‘will result in a late payment fee of an additional \$50,000 per day.’

I feel like this should all have ended with the admonition that everyone “Have a nice day.” At the time of this writing, I, Lonnie’s case remains pending, no one on the other side, most assuredly including me, has coughed up the requested amounts of money to appease I, Lonnie, and the wheels of justice spin towards some inevitable end that will not likely address I, Lonnie’s obvious issues. It’s a shame but maybe it’s explained by Florida now being, I am told, dead last in state funding for mental health care.

One hopes that this does not presage how 2018 is going to go. Happy New Year to all!

Happy New Year and Thank You from Three Rivers Legal Services!

By Marcia Green



As we enter this new year, I want to recognize and thank the attorneys in our community who have provided services, made donations and otherwise supported Three Rivers Legal Services in the past year. We are so grateful to those who help address the legal issues facing the low-income members of our community. Because of these attorneys, our accomplishments

are greater. It is a pleasure to share with you this list of very special lawyers, including those who are on the staff of Three Rivers Legal Services.

Amy Abernethy
Bob Ackerman
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Attorneys on this list recognize that there are residents in our circuit who need help in navigating the legal system, who face poverty, domestic violence, homelessness, and age and disability related impairments. Thank you for caring and helping to make so much possible.

* designates attorneys who have received the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award

** designates attorneys who have received the Florida Supreme Court's Law Firm Commendation

*** designates staff members at Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc.

My sincerest apologies to any names omitted in error or enrolled or donated after publication deadline.

Are you interested in joining this list? We can make it easy for you!!

If you become a volunteer, we will refer cases to you in your area of expertise or we provide training and information for you to assist in other areas of law. You can participate in clinics or outreach events. Our clients are pre-screened for financial eligibility and, if needed, we can connect you with attorneys who are willing to discuss the case with you to share their legal expertise. We provide malpractice insurance coverage, litigation cost reimbursement (if feasible and available) and, if needed, you can meet with your pro bono client at our office. We will try to make your experience positive while recognizing that our clients are often needy and confused with the legal system.

For those who donate money, we thank you for your kindness and generosity. As you are aware, funding for Three Rivers Legal Services is a constant challenge. Our program survives with good management, dedicated staff, generous donors and volunteers.

Please contact me to volunteer at marcia.green@trls.org or call me at 352-415-2327. Check out our improved website at <http://www.trls.org/> or stop by our new office location in northeast Gainesville. Look for cases to consider at <https://thefloridabarfoundation.org/floridaprobonomatters/>, a statewide website that lists available pro bono cases, or find resources at <https://www.floridaprobono.org>.

We look forward to working with you in 2018.

President's Message

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a dependency proceeding where I represented the child client, I was overwhelmed. No one did anything unprofessional. The hearing was conducted properly - all the parties had a chance to speak, my client had a lawyer to represent her interests, and a decision was made that aligned with the law. For all intents and purposes, we met the standard of providing access to justice. However, the real problems that the Court, all the legal professionals, and all the other professionals could not resolve were the social issues embedded deep beneath the surface of the legal issues. Where does a teenager who is adjudicated dependent in Alachua County live? Why are there only a small number of foster homes for teenagers? How can we keep teenagers in this area, the place that they identify as home? I had no control over these circumstances. I felt defeated, until I looked at the proceedings through a different lens.

Although my client may not have obtained the specific outcome she desired, she would not have had an opportunity to have her voice heard if I had not been appointed to her case. (In terms of priority, speaking to the Judge was number two on her list.) Unfortunately there are many others in our Circuit, both children and adults, who aren't afforded the luxury of having an attorney to assist them and represent their desires. I sigh and shake my head when I say "luxury" because having an attorney should not be classified as one, but it is the reality for many people who cannot afford to hire an attorney.

So you see, going BIG for me is finding ways to address the issue of access to justice and specifically, identifying ways to increase Pro Bono involvement. I encourage you to take the time to find ways that you want to GO BIG for the EJCBA. I will conclude with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Human progress is never automatic nor inevitable...Every step towards the goal of justice requires ... the tireless exertions and passionate concerns of dedicated individuals." Thank you for your service and I look forward to you making your highest contribution in 2018. GO BIG!



Santa (EJCBA Board Member Rob Birrenkott) with EJCBA President Meshon Rawls and attorney/photographer Stacey Steinberg at the 2017 Holiday Project



Santa with one of the Head Start classrooms at Wiles Elementary School



Santa hands out presents during the 2017 EJCBA Holiday Project while elves Dominique Lochridge-Gonzales and Meshon Rawls stand ready with more gifts

Sexual Harassment: Limiting Employer Liability

By Laura Gross



With the tumble of highly visible claims of sexual harassment and the recent “me too” environment, employers in all industries are double-checking their risk management efforts to ensure best practices. In claims involving hostile work environment harassment without an adverse employment action, employers may use their sexual

harassment policies and practices as an affirmative defense where the complaining employee unreasonably fails to complain. Notably, this defense has been applied to claims of hostile work harassment on the basis of other protected statuses (i.e. race, religion), too.

Employers should:

1. Implement an effective policy against harassment. This should be a formal written policy that is communicated to each employee who should acknowledge in writing receipt of the policy. The policy should have examples of unacceptable behavior and warn of the penalties for violation. It is also required by law to post the “EEO is the Law” poster in a conspicuous place in the workplace where notices to applicants and employees are customarily posted.
2. Ensure employees have effective and alternate routes to complain. It is not sufficient to require employees to report violations to their supervisors when the supervisors may be the offenders. Rather than directing complaints to multiple lower level supervisors throughout the company, complaints should be directed to the human resources manager and another high-level manager who has been trained to receive such complaints. People designated to receive complaints must be viewed as both receptive and responsive.
3. Investigate the complaint promptly and take appropriate remedial action when warranted.
4. Protect the complainant from retaliation. Retaliation against an employee for making a complaint of sexual harassment in good faith is unlawful. Unfortunately, it is often harder to defend against retaliation claims than the underlying claim.

Circuit Notes

The following local law firms are proud to announce their recognition among the “Best Law Firms” for 2018 as ranked by US News and Best Lawyers®:

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ADR

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and eliminates the feeling of frustration. Oddly, the two sides often leave a mediation with a monetary resolution and yet still completely disagree on facts and issues. However, it does not mean that a party can ignore the other side’s perspective and position. At the risk of stretching an analogy: maybe the tires are bald or maybe a jury may think the tires are bald. Understanding that may help reduce client frustration and at the same time allow the client to at least consider a different perspective. But most importantly it may allow the client to overcome frustration and to continue to participate in a mediation so as to allow a mutually acceptable agreement to occur.



Edith Richman will retire before long and wants another attorney to take over her law office. Call 352-495-9123 or email erichman@cox.net for more info.

Consumer Arbitration: Quick Results, But at What Cost?

By Krista L. B. Collins



Arbitration has been in the news a lot recently. From the repeal of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's rule on forced arbitration, to Equifax's removal of arbitration language from its credit-monitoring program's terms of service after a consumer uproar, to Harvey Weinstein filing a private arbitration claim alleging wrongful termination, arbitration

has been all over the news. Most consumers probably don't know that their rights to pursue legal action against large corporations are regularly altered by the fine print of terms and conditions they never read. (Honestly, how many of us lawyers have actually read all of the terms and conditions of our car rental, cell phone contract or computer software?) And even if they're aware that an arbitration clause exists, many don't know what that actually means.

So, if your client, a consumer, has to use arbitration rather than the courts, what does that actually mean? It means that the ability to form a class-action suit involving many plaintiffs with fairly minor individual damages is often foreclosed. In 2014, federal judges upheld class-action bans in 134 out of 162 cases.¹ It means that even those consumers who have the means to take the fight through arbitration often don't emerge victorious. The New York Times has reported that two-thirds of consumers who contest credit card fraud, fees or loans in arbitration receive no monetary award.²

It also means that the process changes significantly from that of a lawsuit. One of the main differences lies in discovery, or lack thereof. Discovery is much more limited and informal in arbitration than in a traditional lawsuit. As several courts have noted, the purpose of litigation under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is a search for the truth. *Kennedy v. Am. Express Travel Related Services Co., Inc.*, 646 F.Supp.2d 1342, 1346 (S.D. Fla. 2009), (citing to *Ward v. Estaleiro Itajai S/A*, 541 F.Supp.2d 1344, 1352 (S.D. Fla. 2008)). But the Federal Arbitration Act ("FAA") is not the same "wide open search for truth." *Id.* at 1346. In fact, the FAA doesn't even mention discovery. The closest the FAA gets to discovery is Section 7, which provides that arbitrators "may summon in writing any person to attend before them or any of them as

a witness and in a proper case to bring with him or them any book, record, document, or paper which may be deemed material as evidence in the case." 9 U.S.C. §7.

In *Kennedy*, the Court made it clear that this summons power extends only to hearings; an arbitrator may not issue summonses for pre-hearing depositions and document discovery from non-parties. The Court further noted that the effect of its reading of Section 7 "is to limit parties to an arbitration to the discovery of documents from non-parties through the calling of them as witnesses at a hearing before the arbitrator." *Id.* at 1345.

The Revised Florida Arbitration Code at least mentions discovery, but does not guarantee it: Section 682.08(3), *Fla. Stat.*, provides that, "An arbitrator *may* permit such discovery as the arbitrator decides is appropriate in the circumstances, taking into account the needs of the parties to the arbitration proceeding and other affected persons and the desirability of making the proceeding fair, expeditious, and cost effective." [emphasis added]

In *Angels Senior Living at Connerton Court, LLC v. Gundry*, 210 So.3d 257, 258 (Fla. 2d DCA 2017), an arbitration agreement between an assisted living facility ("ALF") and its resident contained a discovery clause that limited discovery "to production of written documents and depositions of opposing parties, treating physicians and expert witnesses. No other individuals may be deposed." The trial court found that this discovery limitation violated public policy and denied the ALF's motion to compel arbitration. *Id.* The Second District Court of Appeal disagreed stating that, "Even if the discovery clause does not provide the full panoply of discovery available under Florida Rule of Procedure 1.280(b), we are reluctant to conclude that the provision violates public policy." *Id.* at 259. However, in its decision, the Court specifically referenced the ALF's agreement to allow its employees to be deposed, and a provision of the applicable American Health Lawyers Association ("AHLA") arbitration rules that states the arbitrator should permit discovery that is relevant to the claims and defenses and may depart from any contract provision that is inconsistent with that rule. *Id.* at 260. The Court noted that the possibility of additional discovery based upon the AHLA provision "minimizes

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Opportunities To Represent The Eighth Circuit

Leadership Academy:

The Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy Applications are available [here](#) and due January 16, 2018. This is a multi-session training program designed to assist a diverse and inclusive group of lawyers in becoming better leaders within the legal profession while enhancing their leadership skills.

The Florida Bar Leadership Academy Fellows of the Eighth Judicial Circuit would like to strongly encourage lawyers from the Eighth Judicial Circuit to take advantage of this amazing opportunity. Each year since its inception we have had representation from our circuit and we would like to make sure we continue to be represented. If you are interested in applying and would like to speak to a fellow about their experience, feel free to contact any of the following individuals:

Robert Birrenkott, Esq. Class I - UF Levin College of Law, rbirrenkott@law.ufl.edu
Whitney Untiedt, Esq. Class I - Akerman LLP, Akerman LLP, whitney.untiedt@akerman.com
Meshon Rawls, Esq. Class II - UF Levin College of Law, rawls@law.ufl.edu
Ryan Gilbert, Esq. - Class III - Dan Newlin & Partners, rlgilbert@gmail.com
Lindsay Hanson, Esq. - Class III - Department of Children and Families Children's Legal Services, lindsay.hanson@myflfamilies.com
Gloria Walker, Esq., Class III - Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. gloria.walker@trls.org
Laura dePaz Cabrera, Esq., Class IV - Bice Cole Law Firm, P.L., cabrera@bicecolelaw.com
Carla Newman, Esq., Class V - State Attorney's Office, newmanc@sao.org
Jennifer Salter, Esq., Class V - Michael P. Maddux, P.A., jsalter@madduxattorneys.com

Florida Bar Committees:

For those interested in serving on a standing committee of The Florida Bar, committee preference forms are now available [online](#) and are due January 15, 2018. Serving on a statewide committee can be an incredibly rewarding experience. Take advantage of this opportunity to enhance our profession and to improve the services we provide the citizens of our state and members of The Bar.

President-elect Michelle Suskauer will make about 500 appointments to over 70 committees and she wants to make sure she has a diverse group of lawyers from which to choose. Every Florida Bar Committee and its

description with current membership can be found on the Bar's website.

JNCs:

There are two vacancies on each of the 26 Judicial Nominating Commissions, including the JNCs for the Eighth Judicial Circuit, First District Court of Appeal, and the Florida Supreme Court. Applications must be submitted no later than 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 3, 2018 and are now [available](#) from the Bar's website, www.floridabar.org, or call (850) 561-5757 to obtain the application.

Consumer Arbitration

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the [Plaintiff's] concern about being unable to fully present its case." *Id.* Whether the same result would be reached in a case without those safeguards remains to be seen.

Unfortunately, the search for truth seems to have no place in arbitration. Rather, speed, cost-effectiveness and efficiency are the goals. See *Booth v. Hume Pub., Inc.*, 902 F.2d 925, 932 (11th Cir. 1990); *MetroPCS Communications, Inc. v. Porter*, 225 So.3d 843, 845 (Fla. 3d DCA 2016); *Koch v. Waller & Co., Inc.*, 439 So.2d 1041, 1043 (Fla. 4th DCA 1983). While these goals are laudable, when they come at the cost of truth or justice, the price is too high.

1 Jessica Silver-Greenberg and Robert Gebeloff, Arbitration Everywhere, Stacking the Deck of Justice, N.Y. Times, Oct. 31, 2015, at <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/01/business/dealbook/arbitration-everywhere-stacking-the-deck-of-justice.html>.

2 *Id.*



Florida Bar President Michael Higer speaks at the December EJCBA luncheon.

Reserve Now for the EJCBA January 2018 Luncheon & CLE



WHEN: Friday, January 19, 2018 — 11:45 a.m.
WHERE: The Wooly — 20 N. Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32601
PROGRAM: Chief Judge Toby Monaco — State of the Circuit Address
COST: **Members: \$17.00, Non-Members: \$25.00***
Chef's choice luncheon buffet, including meat or vegetarian entrees, seasonal sides, and dessert
DEADLINE: Register on or before **Monday, January 15th at Noon at <http://www.8jcba.org/event-registration/jan-2018-luncheon/>**

***\$25.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members, not having made prior reservations.** If you are reserving at the last minute, or need to change your reservation, email Judy Padgett at execdir@8jcba.org or call **(352) 380-0333**. Note, however, that after the deadline, EJCBA is obligated to pay for your reserved meal and we make the same obligation of you. Thank you for your support.

Mark your Calendars for EJCBA Upcoming Events

Trial Skills Workshop CLE — Friday, February 23, 2018
Charity Golf Tournament benefitting the Guardian ad Litem — Friday, March 2, 2018
Spring Fling — Wednesday, April 4, 2018
Leadership Roundtable — Friday, April 13, 2018
Professionalism Seminar — Friday, April 20, 2018

Judicial Elections & Campaigns

Please join us for a discussion on running and campaigning for a judicial office. Kim Barton, Alachua County Supervisor of Elections and judges from the Eighth Judicial Circuit will share their knowledge and experience on the process. The discussion will take place immediately following the January luncheon. CLE credit is being requested.

Save the Date:

Trial Skills Spring Workshop - February 23, 2018

Judge Hulslander will present another session of his popular Trial Skills Practice & Protocol series in February, 2018, so mark your calendars now. This half-day workshop will be held Friday, February 23, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Alachua County Civil and Family Justice Center.

Topics will include:

- Direct and Cross Examination
- Using Real and Demonstrative Evidence
- Common Objections and responses and how to avoid them
- Impeachment
- And much more...

Up to five hours of CLE credit is anticipated. All are welcome to attend, however as this course is sponsored by the EJCBA, you must be an EJCBA member in good standing to receive credit.

For more information visit www.educatethe8th.com and register for the mailing list to receive workshop information.

Save the Date:

Professionalism Seminar Inexpensive & Enlightening CLE Credits

By Ray Brady

Mark your calendars now for the annual Professionalism Seminar. This year the seminar will be held on Friday, April 20, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.) until Noon at the Trinity United Methodist Church on NW 53rd Avenue. Our speaker will be Mayanne Downs, past President of The Florida Bar (topic TBD)

We expect to be approved, once again, for 3.5 General CLE hours, which includes 2.0 ethics hours and 1.5 professionalism hours.

Watch your email and the *Forum 8* newsletter for reservation information in early February. Questions may be directed to the EJCBA Professionalism Committee chairman, Ray Brady, Esq., at 373-4141.

January 2018 Calendar

- 1 New Year's Day observed – County and Federal Courthouses closed
- 3 EJCBA Board of Directors Meeting, Three Rivers Legal Services, 1000 NE 16th Avenue, 5:30 p.m.
- 5 Deadline for submission to February Forum 8
- 10 Probate Section Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Chief Judge's Conference Room, 4th Floor, Alachua County Family & Civil Justice Center
- 15 Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. observed, County and Federal Courthouses closed
- 16 Family Law Section Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Chief Judge's Conference Room, Alachua County Family & Civil Justice Center
- 19 EJCBA Luncheon, Chief Judge Toby S. Monaco, "The State of the Circuit," The Woolly, 11:45 a.m., followed immediately by EJCBA Free CLE Panel Discussion, "Judicial Elections & Campaigns," The Woolly, 1:00 p.m.

February 2018 Calendar

- 5 Deadline for submission to March Forum 8
- 7 EJCBA Board of Directors Meeting – Room 355D, UF Law, 5:30 p.m.
- 14 *Valentine's Day – show the love!*
- 14 Probate Section Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Chief Judge's Conference Room, 4th Floor, Alachua County Family & Civil Justice Center
- 16 EJCBA Luncheon, John Stewart, "The Advances in Technology & the Practice of Law," The Woolly, 11:45 a.m.
- 19 President's Day Holiday – Federal Courthouse closed
- 20 Family Law Section Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Chief Judge's Conference Room, Alachua County Family & Civil Justice Center
- 23 Trial Skills Spring Workshop w/Judge Hulslander, Alachua County Civil and Family Justice Center, 1-5:00 p.m.
- 24 2018 Law & Justice Youth Conference, UF Levin College of Law, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Have an event coming up? Does your section or association hold monthly meetings? If so, please fax or email your meeting schedule to let us know the particulars, so we can include it in the monthly calendar. Please let us know (quickly) the name of your group, the date and day (i.e. last Wednesday of the month), time and location of the meeting. Email to Dawn Vallejos-Nichols at dvallejos-nichols@avera.com.