

FORUM 8

Volume 59, No. 8

Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, Inc.

April 2000

President's Message



by Frank Maloney

Spring has sprung, and it is an exciting time of the year for upcoming Bar activities. Our March meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the Levy County Courthouse. Pan Zettler was our gracious hostess. Thanks, Pan.

Edith Osman, Florida Bar President, was the March Luncheon Speaker at the Sovereign. She highlighted the Florida Bar's future plans. Judge "Buzzy" Green had a blue ribbon panel of mediators for the CLE. We heard "war stories" and creative mediation strategies to avoid impasse.

On St. Patrick's Day, the Guardian Ad Litem and the Bar Association had the annual luncheon at the Sovereign again. Everyone was dressed in green and Irish for the day.

Mark your calendar for May 6th. We are having a family picnic at Kingsley Lake at Camp Blanding's Officers Club. The organizers (Judge Green, Phyllis Rosier and Mark Fraser) promise hot dogs and hamburgers and facilities will be available for launching watercraft. Children and grandchildren are invited.

Plans are well underway for all the Law Week activities. Craig Hall is heading up the golf tournament. Our members will be having law school for the public again, and going back to the 5th graders with Constitutions. A very good way to make our profession shine.

Can you Define it?

gazumping

See definition on page 10

Alachua County Courthouse



To Be or Not to Be

By Stephanie Casebeer

Counties don't build new courthouses on a whim – only Disney World retains the fantasy image of eternal perfection – so it's no surprise that talk of a new courthouse in Alachua County, when the current one is less than a quarter-century old, creates a countywide controversy. Ask someone what sort of courthouse the county should build, an entirely new one or an annex, or what they think about renovating the current courthouse, and you will hear a resigned sigh or a polite "Thank you, but I cannot comment."

What's the big deal about a new building? One might think the construction of a new courthouse would fall into the "How do we pay for it?" category. Wrong. Courthouses are special. They only come around once, maybe twice, in a century. You aren't supposed to outgrow a courthouse as quickly as Alachua County outgrew this one. But then, Alachua County has flourished far faster than anyone, least of all the architects and city planners, expected. The loaded question remains: "What do we do now?"

Alternatives discussed have consisted of remodeling the current courthouse to meet ADA standards and improve upon security issues; building "half a courthouse" out by the county jail or within downtown's limits; and constructing a totally new courthouse.

In a perfect world, most people prefer a new courthouse. Judges and lawyers illustrate their difficulties with tales of death threats and children weaving between the legs of shackled prisoners as they make their way down crowded hallways. Despite these difficulties, money is not plentiful, and other options had to be examined. Enter the Courthouse Location Steering Committee, formed just over a year ago expressly to discuss possible locations for a courthouse. Members of the group, comprised of representatives of several Alachua County and city groups, scoured Gainesville for an appropriate setting, looking at almost a dozen sites.

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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 by Email, or on 3.5" diskettes labeled with your name. Also, please submit a black and white photograph with your name written on the back. Diskettes and photographs will be returned. Files should be saved in any version of WordPerfect, or ASCII.

Deadlines are the 15th of each month.

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Nominees Sought For James L. Tomlinson Professionalism Award

Nominations are being sought for the recipient of the 2000 James L. Tomlinson Professionalism Award. The award will be given to an Eighth Judicial Circuit lawyer who has demonstrated consistent dedication to the pursuit and practice of the highest ideals and tenets of the legal profession. The nominee must be a member in good standing of The Florida Bar who resides or regularly practices law within this Circuit. If you wish to nominate someone, please complete a nomination form describing the nominee's qualifications and achievements and submit it to Raymond F. Brady, Esquire, 1216 N.W. 8th Avenue, Gainesville FL 32601. Nominations must be received in Mr. Brady's office by **May 26, 2000** in order to be considered. The award recipient will be selected by a committee comprised of leaders in the local voluntary bar associations and practice sections.

James L. Tomlinson Professionalism Award Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: _____

Nominee's Business Address: _____

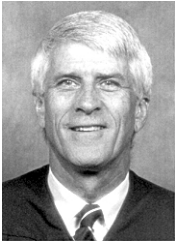
County in which Nominee resides: _____

The above named nominee exemplifies the ideals and goals of professionalism in the practice of law, reverence for the law, and adherence to honor, integrity, and fairness, as follows (attach additional pages as necessary):

Name of Nominator: _____

Signature: _____

James C. Adkins, Jr. American Inn of Court



by Judge Peter K. Sieg, President

The James C. Adkins, Jr. Inn of Court is a group of trial lawyers from all areas of practice, who meet monthly from September to May for fellowship and to discuss various legal issues. The purpose of the meetings is to improve the skills, professionalism and legal ethics of the bench and bar. Both lawyers and

Judges are involved in the program. Meetings begin with a social gathering at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner. Immediately after dinner the responsible team presents a program which is generally worth 2 CLE credits.

An application for membership is enclosed in this

newsletter. If you do not receive an application, please contact Lynn Schackow at 371-3000 to obtain one. Submit completed application and current resume to:

James C. Adkins Jr. American Inn of Court
 C/O Judge Peter K. Sieg, President
 Alachua County Courthouse
 201 E. University Avenue, Room 202
 Gainesville, FL 32601
 (352) 378-6118

Applications are due by June 1, 2000. Please be advised Inn membership is limited to 65. Upon acceptance, the Treasurer will inform you of the annual dues amount.

Application - American Inn of Court

Directory Information:

Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Position Sought: _____

Associate (0 to 7 years since law school graduation)
 Barrister (8 years or more since law school graduation)

EDUCATION

J.D. obtained at: _____

Year: _____

BA/BS obtained at: _____

Year: _____

Masters/other degree: _____

Year: _____

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Florida Bar (date admitted): _____

Other Bar admission: _____

Court admission: _____

:location and year: _____

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Position: _____

Firm/Employer: _____

Describe current job responsibilities: _____

Describe type of Litigation: _____

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND EXPERIENCE

List other organizations to which you have belonged and leadership positions held: _____

Other significant experience: _____

Sponsor Comments (if no sponsor, leave blank, sponsorship is not required for Inn membership)

Sponsor's signature (if any): _____

Applicant's signature: _____

Submit completed application and current resume to:

James C. Adkins Jr. American Inn of Court
 C/O Judge Peter K. Sieg, President
 Alachua County Courthouse
 201 E. University Avenue, Room 202
 Gainesville, FL 32601

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Minutes of the EJCBA Board Meeting

February 1, 2000



by Lauren Richardson

Members in Attendance: Frank Maloney, Jennifer Lester, Ben Hutson, Scott Krueger, Mary Adkins, Ray Brady, Brenda Chambliss, Beverly Graper, Jill Greaves, Rick Parker, Phyllis Rosier, Laura Varela, and Pan Zettler. Guests: Kathy Janous, Marcie Lockhart, Deryl Hunt, and Cary Sellers.

The meeting was called to order by Frank Maloney at 5:35 p.m. at the Steak and Ale on Archer Road in Gainesville, Florida. Several committee chairpeople in attendance were introduced.

The minutes of the January 4, 2000 Board of Director's meeting were approved.

Cary Sellers reported on plans for "Law Week." Laura Varela will be hosting the Law Fair at Oaks Mall on Sunday, May 21, from noon til 4. Bruce Brashear will be giving talks on the U.S. Constitution at the high schools. Craig Hall will be hosting the Golf Tournament. Mary Adkins and Cary Sellers will host a Tennis Tournament, place and date TBD. Courthouse tours will be arranged through Donna Conners. Cary is looking for a chair/host. Lectures will be given on DUI by attorneys at Santa Fe CC (in the classroom) as well as at some fraternity houses. These will be done throughout the month of May.

Marcie Lockhart presented Three Rivers' "2000 Private Attorney Involvement Plan" requesting approval by the Board. Nomination was made, and the topic was tabled until next meeting. Pro Bono Award recipients have been designated for the rest of the year.

Deryl Hunt reported on progress of selecting date and location for the Tech Fair. The Board recommended we hold the fair in September in conjunction with the first Bar Luncheon. Dates to consider would be a "home game" weekend. Locations visited were the downtown library and Savannah Grande. Possibly try hosting "Lunch with a Judge" at this function.

Pan Zettler will organize the March Board of Director's meeting. The Board will be meeting at the Bronson County Courthouse at 5:30 p.m. on March 7. Dinner, for those wanting it, will be brought in. See Pan for menu selection.

EJCBA has a General Liability Insurance Policy. Ray Brady sent a copy to all Board members before the meeting requesting they each review it. Items that need to be added are: Mid-year Retreat - alcohol may be served and it may be held in a restaurant; Law Week Tennis Tournament; Law Clerk Workshop; Holidays in January may be at various places since the Fun Factory closed; Camp Blanding Social.

The By-laws Committee reviewed suggested changes to the by-laws. The proposed changes were handed out. Ray Brady reported that the By-Laws Committee did not

support the proposed change to Article X, Executive Director, Section 4. Terminations/Resignation of the Executive Director. Because this proposal died in committee, it was not brought to a vote. It was discussed that the proposed change to Article V, Committees, Section 3, Executive Committee was not needed without the adoption of the proposed change to Article X.

Ray Brady reported that a Medical/Legal committee has been created at the request of the medical society. This committee consists of 8 attorneys and 10 physicians (Shands heavily represented). The goal is to create standard guidelines for the circuit. The process is that the physicians present their recommendations. The attorneys then review and negotiate. After the group has come to a consensus, the EJCBA Board would approve or disapprove. The committee also plans to establish a grievance committee similar to the Bench/Bar Committee.

Ray Brady reported that the Professionalism Seminar would be organized the same as last year's. Stan Morris will be the keynote speaker. The seminar will be held March 31st from 1 to 5. Ray requested \$300 "seed" money (mail out, etc.). Kathy will work with Ray to get notices mailed.

Regarding the Tomlinson Award, the Board agreed that the professionalism committee (with the inclusion of last year's recipient) would be responsible for selecting a nominee for the Tomlinson Award.

Kathy Janous, Interim Executive Director, reported on several items: Kathy requested review of policies/procedures/guidelines. Jennifer Lester and Kathy Janous will work on cleaning up policies. Kathy handed out copies of current policies. Kathy requested policy on selling or giving directories to non-members. A motion was made that directories could not be sold to non-members for solicitation purposes or outside the legal profession. Seconded. Approved. Kathy reported that the new directory is in the final stages and is working to get them back from the printer in time to distribute at the February luncheon. Kathy reported reviewing membership and found several who had not renewed their membership this year. She has created a card to send these people as a reminder to pay their dues. Kathy reported that Paul Donnelly had sent her the "revised" contract for Members Only Association. She, in turn, sent the revised contract to Christopher Kunkle for Members Only review and approval. A request was received from the Florida Bar Foundation for a nominee of the Medal of Honor Award. It was decided that no one from this circuit would be nominated due to the strict guidelines.

Ben Hutson reported on the Law Clerk Workshop. This workshop will be a panel format, held in Bailey Courtroom, on March 21st. There will be no charge to

(continued on page 12)

Law Week 2000

The theme for Law Week 2000 is "Celebrate Your Freedom: Speak Up For Democracy, Speak Up for Diversity." Law Day is the biggest single public relations project conducted by the legal profession. It is observed throughout the nation each year on May 1, by joint resolution of Congress and Presidential Proclamation. Law Day is sponsored by the American Bar Association in cooperation with nearly 2,000 state and voluntary bar associations, community, military and judicial groups.

Florida Governor Lawton Chiles signed a bill establishing an official Law Day and designated Law Week during a ceremony on April 27, 1998. The law, adopted after years of being recommended by The Florida Bar, charges the Supreme Court with designating the theme of Law Week. Section 683.22, Florida Statutes.

The Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association's Law Week projects will be held throughout the week of May 15th. The following projects and dates have been confirmed:

Constitutions in the Schools - May 15 - 19, 2000. Bruce Brashear has once again agreed to chair this project. Volunteers will speak to area students about the constitution throughout the week. If you would like to volunteer please call Bruce at (352) 336-0800.

Courthouse Tours - May 18 - from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.- There will be a 30 person limit. Encourage someone you know to learn more about our courthouse and legal system by signing up with Marilyn O'Neal at (352) 374-3648.

Golf Tournament - Friday May 5, 2000. - (Craig Hall, Chair 375-2290) - This year's tournament will be held at Meadowbrook Golf Course.

Law Fair - Sunday, May 21, 2000 - (Laura Varela, Chair 375-7700) The Law Fair will be held at the Oaks Mall from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. Exhibitors from the courthouse, Three Rivers Legal Services and other law related organizations will be available to provide information to the public. In addition, Teen Court will hold two live trials.

We are trying to coordinate other projects for the month of May in recognition of Law Week. We will keep you informed. If you have any questions or suggestions for Law Week 2000, please call Cary Sellers at (352) 376-4694.

Celebrate Law Week

Eighth Judicial Circuit Golf Challenge

Where: Meadowbrook Golf Club

When: Friday, May 5, 2000. Lunch at noon.
Shotgun start at 1:00 p.m.

Format: Two person scramble*
(Limited to first twenty-four teams to enter)

Prizes: Top 3 teams (gross and net)

Plus: Hole prizes and post tourney putting contest

Cost: \$80.00 per team.
Includes: Pre-tourney lunch (at course)
green fees, Cart, prizes and trophies,
on-course Refreshments.

Celebrate law week with a great afternoon of golf at Meadowbrook Golf Club, 3200 N.W. 98th Street, Gainesville, Florida. Select your partner and sign up today!

*** At Least One Member Of Team Must Be Member In Good Standing Of Eighth Judicial Bar Association. Spikeless Golf Shoes Required.**

Golf Challenge Entry Blank

| <u>TEAM #1</u> | Handicap |
|--------------------|----------|
| (A) _____ | () |
| (B) _____ | () |
| <u>TEAM #2</u> | |
| (A) _____ | () |
| (B) _____ | () |

State attorney Rod Smith has promised a full and rigorous investigation of any "sandbagging" on handicap.

Make Checks Payable To:
Hall & Hall, P.A., Trust Account

MAIL TO: Craig F. Hall
Post Office Box 2188
Gainesville, Florida 32602

Alachua County Courthouse *(continued from page 1)*

City Commissioner John Barrow held a position on the committee for about nine months, and at the time, he says, it was discussing two options – building a new courthouse or adding on to the existing structure. An annex was never discussed.

Barrow joined the committee before he became a commissioner. A former professor, Wayne Drummond, the dean of the College of Architecture at the University of Florida and chairperson of the steering committee, asked him to join because of his background in design and architecture. Barrow emphasized that his main concern was to keep the courthouse downtown while embracing good urban design, which included buildings close to the street and pedestrian-friendly, not glass-and-concrete behemoths surrounded by parking lots.

"I didn't think it was totally out of the question" to remodel the courthouse, Barrow says. Plans to renovate were rejected due to the noise factor and the need for extensive improvements required to bring it up to code. Barrow seems to disagree with that assumption. "Having lived in a big city (New York) where they commonly add on to not just the big buildings but skyscrapers," he says, "there's always construction going on, and those facilities are being used at the same time. There are ways to deal with all that. . . You can work through those issues."

While on the committee, Barrow said they never considered an annex. So after rejecting several options because of their lack of amenities -- such as parking -- or their size, the committee settled on two locations with the intention of establishing a brand-new courthouse on the land: the space occupied by the County Administration building, Barrow's preferred locale (although he admits to being biased because a concept for the area was designed by Jay Reeves, an architect Barrow worked with); or six city blocks on South Main Street.

Barrow believes building a brand-new courthouse on such an expanse of land defeats recent efforts to revitalize Gainesville's downtown. "Six full square city blocks and all the streets in between them is quite a bit of area. It seems like what we might very well end up with is the kind of thing that I was avoiding altogether, which is a building surrounded by parking lots."

During the course of choosing a site, the committee also discussed the expenditures. An entirely new building (200,000 square feet) would run \$35 million, not including the cost of obtaining the land and building additional parking. Barrow estimates that the six city blocks could run \$2 million, while a parking garage, contributed by the city and intended for both court officials and the public, could cost about \$4.5

million. On the other hand, modernizing the existing courthouse would cost about \$17 million to increase the square footage, alleviate security difficulties and update the building to current standards.

Unfortunately, the plans of the steering committee hit a roadblock. The county commission capped the amount of money spent for the courthouse at \$24 million, effectively erasing plans for a completely new building. At this point, the county and city were left with little but to construct half a courthouse, like it or not.

Barrow says this means looking at the same issues again, which can be frustrating. "There has never been a clear direction on what's going to be built or where. . . No one has said 'Here's how much money we have to deal with; what's the best strategy?'"

Barrow believes it would be "nice to do the whole nine yards" and build the whole courthouse at once. "Ultimately it will cost less," he says, and it would be far more efficient. But he, along with the other members of the city commission – sitting as the Community Redevelopment Agency – voted 5-0 in favor of erecting the proposed annex on the South Main property. Barrow says "we don't have the money. . . we cannot afford a new building without help."

Amid the controversy that has enveloped the courthouse, the annex is the most easily achieved. Barrow puts a positive spin on the idea, saying "a criminal annex would remove security issues," and building on this site not only keeps the courthouse downtown, it could conceivably aid in redeveloping the less-than-attractive area behind the proposed location on South Main. In fact, Barrow says, now that the county is focusing on an annex, "I think there



City Commissioner John Barrow

are probably better sites than even the two that have been talked about most recently for a court annex." One is the aforementioned, grassy area next to the County Administration building; the second is the site across from Harry's, recommended at one point by County Commissioner Robert Hutchinson.

Of course, no definite plans have been established. Judge Robert Cates, who issued an order demanding the county find a site by December 1, 1999, has extended his deadline, giving the county until 2004 to provide a new courthouse, and a layperson gets the feeling the county will take every day it can get.

After speaking to John Barrow and trying to keep the convoluted flip-flopping straight, I asked several attorneys their opinion of the courthouse brouhaha: did they want an annex, or did they prefer a new building? What about revamping the current building? Many answered, a few didn't (or wouldn't). Here are some responses (including those of

the people reluctant to form an opinion):

- Rick Parker, Public Defender of the Eighth Judicial Circuit- "It sucks." (*Clearly stated.*) Although he says the decision is best made by the people paying the bills, Parker would, in a utopian world, build a new courthouse housing both civil and criminal divisions. The current courthouse, he says, has a number of critical problems, the main problem being the movement of inmates from jail to the courthouse. Also, "the staging area is inhumane," and the way inmates are moved in an elevator is "inappropriate." Shortages of space mean inmates often cannot have confidential conversations with their attorneys. Parker says he often is left with no option but to stand in a corner with an inmate and whisper. "The facility has been inadequate for many years," Parker says. "This is not a new problem."
- [I] "like it there; I do not want to have to go out to an annex."- Lauren Varela, Attorney
- Leonard Grill, Director of Legal Services at Shands - "The present court was designed to be expanded," he says. "It should be expanded out toward the library," giving the community eight new courtrooms. He adds that closing 3rd Avenue in order to complete such an expansion is "less offensive" than a new building. Secure and clear land for parking and build a new building later." (*Grill was happy to discuss the courthouse since I wasn't calling to harass him about his letter to the Editor in the last edition of the newsletter.*)
- "I don't think there's necessarily a problem building a new one." - Michael Weiss. Although, he says, if the criminal division is the main problem in the current courthouse, it "would've been better to build that separate building right out there where the jail is." The cost concerns Weiss; he says there needs to be a limit in order to avoid what he calls the "Taj Mahal effect" reflected in buildings such as the library on University Avenue.
- While Attorney Frank Maloney finds it "inappropriate" to comment on the Alachua County Courthouse since he rarely practices law in Gainesville and doesn't pay Alachua County taxes, he did say in an e-mail: "As a citizen, I am always concerned about transporting inmates across town to take them to court. I have had several cases involving escape attempts and vehicular accidents on such transports."
- "We need some kind of new or expanded facility that provides not only more courtrooms, but larger courtrooms for the expanding dockets that the judges are encountering." - Robert Griscti, Attorney. He says that large dockets hinder conversation between clients and their attorneys, but "a larger facility would overcome that sort of problem. It really is needed because we have such a high case load...It's probably less a problem for civil, but it is a growing problem for criminal court." Right

now the problems are not insurmountable, Griscti says, adding it is "probably an issue of budget, what funds are there, but regardless of what funds there are, there is a need, and hopefully the funds will follow."

- "I don't think they need it. If they're going to do it, it ought to be a criminal annex out by the jail.. That would solve all their problems." Only the clerks and judges would be inconvenienced "because they would have to go out there."- Jim Clayton, Attorney.
- "We need more room in our courthouses." "It's certainly clear that we need a new courthouse facility and that the county could provide better services to litigants..." - Jennifer Lester, Attorney. Asked her opinion of the current plan to build an annex, she says, "I think it's a bad idea. You make life very inconvenient for people who have business in the courthouse because you're going to split services. Things that take one trip would now take two. It's a stop-gap measure. They ought to do it once and do it right."
- "I have no complaints with the way it is now. . . For civil matters it's fine the way it is." - Barbara Cusumano, Attorney. Cusumano is aware of the problems facing the criminal court, and she adds, "I support anything that makes the process smoother."
- "I hate how this courthouse looks. It's ugly." Indeed, it looks like a classic government-style building from the late 70's, early 80's, and worse, there is "a lot of wasted space." - Gary Edinger, Attorney. Also, Edinger thinks the clerk's office needs to be bigger, and if we could be so fortunate to get a new courthouse, he says "I would like to see that happen." Of course, an annex is "not a horrible idea," although it has the potential to confuse out-of-town attorneys directed to the wrong building. (*Then again, someone might purposely direct a lawyer to the wrong building.*)
- Ben Hutson, Attorney – "Can you say he politely refused to comment?"
- "Leave it at the present site (and make) modifications." - Carl Schwait, Attorney.
- "Forget it! I don't want to have any part of that." - William Quirk, Attorney.
- "I do not believe that the present courthouse can be renovated to a level which would be useful for the next 20 years. The commission must look at long term needs and build a new courthouse which would have the longevity necessary as to future needs." - Beverly Graper, Attorney (via email).

Stephanie Casebeer is our newest contributor to the EJCHA Newsletter and to the office of Hankin & Hankin. In keeping with our Editor's reputation, she was forced to write this article just days after returning from her honeymoon.

A View from the Clerk's Office

by Britney Pearson, Legal Assistant for the City Attorney's Office,
and Janice Stevens, Paralegal for the City Attorney's Office

Special thanks to the Gainesville Area Chapter of the Federal Bar Association for sponsoring the CLE seminar, "A View from the Clerk's Office", held at the U.S. Courthouse in March. Sharon Bruley, Resident Deputy-in-Charge, and U.S. Magistrate Judge, Gary R. Jones, were the two speakers at the seminar, and they shared some useful information with us.

Judge Jones discussed Local Rules for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida. Some particular rules he discussed concerned the filing of motions. For example, Rule 7.1(A) explains when to file, and when not to file, a memorandum of law with your motion. Among others, he discussed Rule 15.1, which says, when filing a motion to amend a pleading, the amended pleading must accompany the motion. These rules, along with public access to the Northern District's web site, should be available on the Internet around July 2000.

Ms. Bruley offered some important tips directed to legal assistants. She explained that it helps if we do not use staples in our documents filed with her office. Instead, Clerks prefer two holes at the top with a fastener. And remember to number the pages of your exhibits. She also stressed the importance of following Rule 5.1(A)(3).

Except for forms provided by this court, all documents tendered for filing shall be double-spaced, if typewritten, and on plain white letter-sized (8-1/2" x 11") paper with approximately 1-1/4" margins. The first page of every pleading or document filed with the court shall, however, allow approximately a 2" margin at the bottom of the page where the clerk shall date stamp such pleading or document filed.

Ms. Bruley then introduced us to PACER, the Public Access to Court Electronic Records program. It is a quick and simple way to gain access to case dockets from Federal Appellate, District, and Bankruptcy courts, as well as the U.S. Party/Case Index. Currently, PACER can be directly dialed on days, nights, and weekends from your PC using communication software. Even better, PACER will soon be available through the Internet on PACER-Net sites. For more information or a registration form, call the PACER Service Center at (800) 676-6856. (There is no cost to register, but the user fee is \$.60 a minute).

Also available (only at the Clerk's office, but accessible to attorneys and staff) is a service called Webdock. Webdock allows the user to pull up and view a document maintained in the Clerk's office. The document can be sent for printing at a printer located in the Clerk's office for a fee. This service may be available on the Internet by July 2000.

Thanks again to the Gainesville Chapter of the FBA. I look forward to more insightful seminars, and to be honest, getting out of the office!

Public Notice

Applicants For Special Master

Opportunities now exist for appraisers and attorneys who are licensed in the State of Florida, and meet the following criteria to serve as Special Master on the 2000 Alachua County Value Adjustment Board.

1. No applicant may be an appointed or elected official or employee of Alachua County.
2. A special master shall be either a member of the Florida Bar and knowledgeable in the area of ad valorem taxation or a designated member of a professionally recognized real estate appraisers' organization and not have less than five years experience in property valuation.
3. Applicant need not be a resident of Alachua County.
4. Applicant may not represent a petitioner before the Board during the tax year he or she serves as special master.

The Alachua County Value Adjustment Board invites qualified appraisers and attorneys to submit letters of interest, statement of qualifications and experience, and availability for consideration to provide services stated.

For further information contact, Ms. Shirley A. Lane, Deputy Clerk/VAB, Clerk of the Circuit Court's Office, 12 Southeast First Street, Fourth Floor, Gainesville, Florida 32601, Telephone (352) 374-3605.

Applicants should submit two (2) copies of all submission data by 5:00 P.M. on Friday, April 28, 2000 to:

J. K. "Buddy" Irby, Clerk
Value Adjustment Board
P. O. Box 939
Gainesville, FL 32602
J. K. "Buddy" Irby, Clerk
Value Adjustment Board



Federal Bar Association Hosts First Annual Dinner



by Robert Griscti

The Gainesville Area Chapter of the Federal Bar Association is pleased to announce the first Annual Dinner of the Chapter on Friday, April 28, 2000. The event will be at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art in Gainesville, starting with a reception at 6 pm, followed by the dinner.

The Honorable Charles R. Wilson, Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, will be the speaker. Judge Wilson was the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida prior to his recent appointment to the Eleventh Circuit. He also has served as a Magistrate Judge for the Middle District.

Don't miss this special event – the Chapter's special celebration of a successful first year. Incoming President Stan Cushman and other new officers and members of the Board of Directors will be introduced at the dinner.

Chapter members and interested non-members are welcome to attend with their guests. The registration cost is \$37.50 per person. The event will be an excellent catered buffet by The White Apron, with a cash bar. Entertainment will be provided by "The Dave Hutchings Trio," a local jazz band of accomplished musicians. The cost of the registration includes the reception, dinner and two cash bar tickets.

The Gainesville Area Chapter is now 110 judge/lawyer/law faculty and student members strong. We welcome your membership and participation in the Chapter's social and educational programs.

April Bar Luncheon



by Jennifer Lester

Do not miss this month's bar luncheon! Bob Butterworth is going to give his fascinating talk on title loans again. No wait, breaking news, he can't come. We'll have to get Judge Paul to discuss jury nullification. Oh no, he can't come either. Who can we get?

Hmmmm, how about Billy Donovan? He knows a thing or two about how to rule the court. Yes, it's true. April's luncheon speaker is Billy Donovan, and he's not going to speak about tort reform. He's going to speak about BASKETBALL, and the Gator's trip to the FINAL FOUR! Don't miss it, April 14, 2000, 11:45 a.m. at the Sovereign. Reserve your tickets early!

**Come to the Election of Officers and
Board of Directors at the
Annual Meeting
of the Gainesville Area Chapter
Federal Bar Association**

**Thursday, April 13, 2000, 4 p.m.
Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor
U.S. Courthouse and PO Building
Gainesville, Florida**

To be elected: President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair (who also sit as members of the Board of Directors) and three additional members of the Board of Directors, by majority vote of Chapter members. Nominations may be submitted before or at the Annual Meeting.

Chapter Members are encouraged to attend, vote and discuss Chapter business.

For further information contact President Robert Griscti at (352)375-4460 (fax 377-9573)

Federal Bar Association First Annual Dinner

Register me and guest(s) for the FIRST ANNUAL DINNER, April 28, 2000, reception at 6pm, followed by dinner at 7pm.

Name(s)

Firm: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

\$37.50 per person (includes two cash bar tickets), nonrefundable

Please RSVP by April 20, 2000

Please include check made payable to:
"Gainesville Area Chapter, FBA"

Cut out and send to:

**Gainesville FBA
P.O. Box 2361
Gainesville FL 32602**

Calendar of Events

- 04/12/00 Probate Section Meeting
- 04/13/00 G'ville Area Chapter of the Federal Bar Association Meeting
- 04/14/00 EJCBA Luncheon
- 04/18/00 YLD Meeting
- 04/18/00 GAP's General Business Meeting
- 04/21/00 G'ville Workers' Comp. Claimants' Lawyers Assoc.meeting
- 04/26/00 Family Law Section meeting
- 04/28/00 G'ville Area Chapter of the Federal Bar Association Dinner
- 05/05/00 Golf Tournament
- 05/06/00 Family Picnic Day
- 05/16/00 Election of GAP officers
- 05/18/00 Courthouse tours
- 05/21/00 Law Fair
- 06/20/00 GAP's Annual Banquet/Dinner

YLD News



by J. Andrew Fine

Now that the YLD has finished doing stuff for others through our Holiday in January philanthropy, we will be attending to ourselves in the next couple of months. To that end, we will be holding (or will have held by the time this is printed) our annual membership drive / party at CJ's. We have received a number of RSVP's from new

recruits, and have strictly prohibited any form of legal discourse. Therefore, I will once again use my highly advanced prognosticative abilities to predict that the party will be (or was) a great success.

But what if you, the young lawyer¹ reading this, missed the party? Don't worry -- you can still drink free on us. Our next meeting is April 18, 2000 at 5:30 p.m. at the Crazy Burro. You won't get any free stuff, but you will find out the location of our super-secret happy hour where we will pick up the tab. We will also have referral forms available for YLD members who would like to take advantage of our insanely lucrative referral system.

The YLD has other projects in the works as well. We are arranging volunteers to lecture at Santa Fe Community College on various legal topics. Lectures begin in late April, and are held every Tuesday from 7:15 - 8:45 pm. Slots are still available, so if you would like to participate, call Thom White at 352/372-9593.

We are also looking into helping local high schools develop trial teams for the Florida Bar's annual competition. Currently, only Eastside High has a team, which is fairly pathetic for a town with a law school. We would like to form a Gainesville team that would challenge the godless vermin from South Florida who routinely sweep the competition. Call Andy Fine at 352/373-8000 for more info.

Also, if you were at the last EJCBA luncheon, you may recall Edith Osman remarking that the state YLD has not issued an opinion on the issue of the day: the multi-disciplinary firm. Never a group to withhold our opinion, we plan to issue a formal statement on this subject after our next meeting. Unfortunately, all we have to base our statement on is a dense treatise from the Florida Bar and our own uninformed opinions. For example, I have personally been told that multi-disciplinary firms will usher in an era of congressional, rather than judicial oversight of lawyers. Given the recent actions of state legislators (such as the attempt to establish a "Commissioner of BBQ"), I'd rather that those slack-jawed yokels in Tallahassee not have anything to do with the regulation of the practice of law. But maybe my fears are unfounded? The point is this: We are woefully uninformed. Therefore, if you know anything about this subject, we would love to hear from you. If you'd like to enlighten us, please call Mark Frasier at 352/372-8401.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that Bonita Young has been elected our official representative to the YLD Board of Governors. Although she was running virtually unopposed, if you see her, you should still congratulate her on her crushing victory.

Thanks to everyone who donated money to the Holidays in January. Look for pictures from the event in the next *Florida Bar News* and the "Neighbors" section of *The Gainesville Sun*.

¹ A "Young Lawyer" is a lawyer who is under 35 or has been practicing for less than 5 years.

EJCBA FAMILY PICNIC

**MAY 6, 2000, at Kingsley Lake,
Camp Blanding's Officers Club**

*Enjoy the afternoon on the lake -
Bring your water craft - launching facilities
available (\$5 fee)*

**Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Coleslaw, Baked Beans,
Tea, Ice cream/Sundae Bar will be served
from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

Cost is \$7.00 for dinner and \$1.50 for dessert

For more details and R.S.V.P. contact:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Judge Green | (904) 964-6491 |
| Phyllis Rosier | (904) 964-4701 |
| Mark Fraser | (352) 372-8401 |

Definition of the Month

GAZUMPING (g-z mp-ing). *Slang.* The improper sale of a house, usu. by raising the price after accepting an offer. • Gazumping can take different forms, the usu. one being when a seller raises the price after accepting the buyer's offer. But it may also occur when a competing buyer makes a higher bid than the one already accepted, thus encouraging the seller to back out of the earlier contract.

Black's Law Dictionary, Seventh Edition. West Group, 1999, p. 690.

Letter of the Month

LAW OFFICE
CARTER & DRYLIE, P.A.
4739 NW 53RD AVENUE - SUITE B
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32653
(352) 381-9991

CHARLES B. CARTER
DEBORAH C. DRYLIE

FAX
(352) 381-8298

March 16, 2000

Samuel Hankin
News Letter Editor
Forum 8
305 N.E. 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Mr. Hankin:

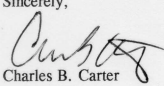
I have recently struggled with the fact that I find myself agreeing with many of the opinions expressed by the Editor of Forum 8. The subject matter of the opinions are of little consequence in the big scheme of things. For instance, I too drive by the new bank building on the corner of SR26 and 43rd Street and wonder if the design was done in crayon or perhaps with an etch-a-sketch. Although I do not expect buildings in Gainesville to merit inclusion on the Ten Architectural Wonders of the Modern World, I still expect some limited degree of aesthetics, which the building, in my opinion, lacks. I am willing to attribute our shared opinion of the building to coincidence or some random effect of chaos theory. Yet another insignificant matter involves my understanding of your recollections when you were an 8 year old. The Mercury program and NASA made a big impression on everyone. Some student would usually bring a portable TV to school so rocket launches could be observed. I don't remember anyone bringing a television so the class could watch Howdy Doody. The fact that early launches were sub-orbital and that we now bungee jump from higher altitudes did not detract from their significance at the time. I am more concerned about the significance that I find myself agreeing with you on numerous matters even though the matters are minutia.

As a final example, I am not surprised by the fact you read Asimov in 3rd grade. I have a friend who read Orwell in 4th grade and am aware of 5th graders reading Homer (the epic poet not the Simpson). The fact that I understand and appreciate your position on yet another matter causes me to pause and reflect.

Perhaps my greatest concern is that I am really interested in knowing how the Vlasic Hamburger Stackers controversy ends. The plot, although not earth shattering, is more interesting than adds for office space or used copy machines.

In conclusion I have determined that the fact I may agree with you doesn't mean you are right and doesn't mean I am crazy. I think.

Sincerely,



Charles B. Carter

CBC:sjm



*March Bar Luncheon: EJCBA Officers
Left to right: Scott Krueger,
Edith Osman, Frank Maloney, Jennifer Lester
and Bennett Hutson.*

GAP's Upcoming Events

April 18, 2000 at 12:30 p.m.
General Business Meeting
Harry's Seafood Bar and Grille

May 16, 2000 at 12:30 p.m.
Election of 2000-2001 Officers
Szechuan Panda Restaurant

June 20, 2000 at 6:00 p.m.
Annual Banquet/Dinner
Location: Undetermined

CLA Review Course

Instructor: Pamela Linquist, CLA
4 Saturday sessions at City College
August 5, 12, 19, 26, 2000
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each session
(2 – 15 min. breaks 1 – 30 min. lunch)
For more information contact Pamela Craig, CLA
at (352) 372-9999

CLA Exam Deadlines And Exam Dates

| <u>Filing Deadline</u> | <u>Exam Date</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| May 15, 2000 | July 21-22, 2000 |
| October 1, 2000 | December 1-2, 2000 |

Job Bank

Call our Job Bank number to locate highly qualified paralegals or paralegal positions. GAP is proud to be a member of the finest legal communities in Florida and is eager to contribute its talents. Please call Theresa Becks, CLA at (352) 491-5106.

1999-2000 Gap Officers

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| President | Pamela S. Craig, CLA |
| Vice-President | Barbara Barlow |
| Secretary | Michelle Boatright |
| Treasurer | Lisa "Nan" Mack, CLA |
| Parliamentarian | Tony Alvarez |
| NALA Liaison | Pam Perry |

Websites of Interest to Lawyers:

- Legal.Net**
<http://www.legal.net>
- Legal.Com**
<http://www.legal.com>
- Lawoffice.Com**
<http://www.lawoffice.com>
- Lawyers.Com**
<http://www.lawyers.com>

Board Meeting Minutes *(continued from page 4)*

attendees. Ben requested \$100 to cover expenses for this workshop. Seconded. Approved.

Pan Zettler reported that the Judges are still enthusiastic about the "Lunch with a Judge" Program. Discussion was held on how to increase attorney participation. It was decided to have four lunches a year (one per specialty, one per quarter). All the Judges for that area would be invited to that lunch. The following Board members volunteered to help increase attorney attendance at these lunches: Jill Greaves - Family, Rick Parker - Criminal, Ray Brady/Jennifer Lester - Civil, Pan Zettler - Probate.

There was discussion on Judicial Relations and Judicial Robing. It was moved that EJCBA participate in any judicial ceremony that they sponsor. Seconded. Approved.

Scott Krueger reported that the Judicial Poll was a "cookie cutter" event in that all items are in place; however, the expense of tabulation has sky rocketed. This issue was tabled until next meeting.

Brenda Chambliss has been working to build relations with the Law School. She proposed having a symposium of female practicing attorneys who would discuss and speak about things unique to being a female attorney; i.e. balancing career and family. This is being proposed to be held in April. There are an estimated 40-50% population of female students at the Law School this year. Marcie Lockhart suggested that we recognize several women for their Pro Bono work at this event. It was suggested that it might be better as part of the Professionalism Seminar. Marcie will give Ray Brady the information.

Jennifer Lester reported on Publicity for Dan Glassman, chairperson. Dan requests that attorneys give him any "good news" items. He is trying to get the Guardian Ad Litem Auction event on TV 20's "Making Good News," plus articles on this for the Gainesville Sun and the Florida Bar Journal.

A nomination committee is being formed to take applications from those attorneys wishing to serve on the Board of Directors for the 2000-2001 year. The Committee will consist of Frank Maloney, Jennifer Lester, Ben Hutson, plus 2 Board members at large, plus 2 general members at large. Jennifer will have applications available at the next Bar luncheon. Anyone currently on the Board should notify Jennifer if they would like to continue to be on the Board. Also notify Jennifer if you do not wish to serve on next year's Board, so that the committee will know how many vacancies there will be. This Committee will need to meet before March 1st.

Frank Maloney reported that Judge Green's son will be presenting two mediation workshops in March. He is not looking to do this in conjunction with the Bar but is willing to give EJCBA members a discount.

The Alachua County Courthouse is being renovated. Kathy Janous picked up several plaques which were on the wall there. They will be housed in the EJCBA main office temporarily.

Scott Krueger gave the Treasurer's report. He reviewed several items and is concerned about expenditures exceeding budget, and in particular, newsletter expenses. He also reviewed the process for being reimbursed for expenses. There is a form which should be completed and approved for all expenses. He also mentioned that expenditures need Board approval. He noted the Board adopted a policy when he first became Treasurer where the Treasurer could disburse funds without prior Board approval for nonrecurring expenses \$100 and for budgeted recurring expenses. Ultimately the Board approves the expenditure when it approves the Treasurer's report (which includes a detailed list of expenditures).

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 127
Gainesville, FL 32602-0127

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