

FORUM 8

Volume 59, No. 7

Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, Inc.

March 2000

The Circuit.com

Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, Inc

Serving Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union Counties

8JCBA Information

Legal Resources

Circuit Information

Business Resources

State Court Information

Local Links

Welcome to the Home of the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, Inc's Website.

We are in the process of gathering the information we need to complete the site so that it will soon be a great resource for our members and the general public. If you have any comments or suggestions, feel free to [write us](#).

Please check back soon for updates.

Many of you may not be aware of it, but our circuit is rapidly becoming technologically adept at disseminating and displaying information that could be of great assistance to you in your practices and your personal lives. We think three web sites, each providing different types of information, are definitely worth checking out. The first is the official Eighth Judicial Circuit web site maintained by the court and can be found at www.co.alachua.fl.us/~ctadmin/. The second is kept up by the Clerk of the Court

and is located at www.clerk-alachua-fl.org. The third was recently created by your association with our input and the design talents of Carl Horton at Austin Michael, An Internet Solutions Firm. Find it at www.8jcba.org.

The official web site of the Eighth Judicial Circuit provides lots of court-related information: you can find a general description of the workings of the Eighth Circuit, information on the different courts, guides to filing small

(continued on page 11)

President's Message

by Frank Maloney



Happy St. Patrick's Day and I hope that everyone will be able to attend the Eighth Judicial Bar/Guardian Ad Litem luncheon this year which will fall on St. Patrick's Day. I am sure all will have a good time. Your Board of Directors and the Committee Chairs of the various committees of the Bar Association met on February 1st at Steak & Ale for a midyear retreat

to discuss the second half of this 2000 Bar year. It was a very successful planning meeting.

The nominating committee for 2000-2001 Board of Directors was appointed. The committee consists of Jennifer Lester, Ben Hutson and myself. Anyone interested in serving on the Board of Directors for 2000-2001 should contact one of us or any current Board member regarding a desire to serve. We always like to have new blood to continue to make The Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association a vibrant association.

We are looking forward to having another excellent professionalism seminar on March 31st at the law school with Ray Brady ramroding that event and Judge Morris as the keynote speaker.

Cary Sellers, Chairperson for Law Week, gave a great report on upcoming events. Laura Varela will be hosting the Law Fair at Oaks Mall on Sunday, May 21st from noon until 4:00 p.m. Bruce Brashear will be heading talks on the U.S. Constitution to area 5th graders. The Golf Tournament will be hosted by Craig Hall. Mary Adkins and Cary Sellers will host a Tennis Tournament, and courthouse tours will be arranged by Donna Conners. It will be a very busy week for all of us.

We are receiving good reports from Phyllis Rosier and Judge Green regarding the planning of a Spring family outing on Kingsley Lake at Camp Blanding for the association. It sounds like a fun event and we will keep you posted of the progress and a date when it is planned.

Congratulations to Bruce Hoffman, who won the annual pro bono award from The Florida Bar Association for the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Bruce has been a member of The Florida Bar since 1981. He is also a Board member and President of Youth Soccer of Gainesville, to whom he provides ongoing legal representation. Again, congratulations, Bruce, on a job well done!

Also, I note on the calendar that a week before St. Patrick's Day the azaleas will be in bloom in Palatka. A pretty time of the year, both St. Patrick's Day, (my favorite holiday) and the lovely azaleas. ■

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Can you Define it?

plumbum

See definition on page 8

Gainesville Workers' Compensation Claimants' Lawyers Association

by Dorothy Clay Sims

Please mark these dates on your calendar for the future Gainesville Workers' Compensation Claimants' Lawyers Association meetings. They'll be held at noon at Tony Salzman's office located at 500 E. University Avenue, Suite A, Gainesville, FL 32601. The name next to the date indicates who is to provide the food for that meeting. For additional information, please contact Dorothy Clay Sims at (352) 337-0065.

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| March 17 | Tom Davis |
| April 21 | Rob Williams |
| May 19 | Terry Kahn |
| June 16 | Dora Kerner |
| July 21 | Dorothy Sims |
| August 18 | Billy McLean |
| September 15 | Lance Avera |
| October 20 | Craig Hall |
| November 17 | Tom Davis |
| December 15 | Dora Kerner |

Applications Being Accepted for Alachua County Court Judge

by Jill Conti



Applications must be received by March 10, 2000

Applications for the County Court Judgeship vacancy created by Judge Peter K. Sieg's appointment to the Circuit Court bench are now being accepted by the Eighth Judicial Circuit Nominating Committee. Applicants must have been members in good standing of The Florida Bar for the past five years, registered voters, and live in the jurisdiction of the court they are applying for.

Applications are available at the Law Office of Jill A. Conti, 204 West University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida; the office of the Court Administrator located on the Fourth Floor of the Alachua County Courthouse; and on the Florida Bar's Internet web site. To get an application online, go to the site www.flabar.org and then click on the Organization item from the menu on the left side of the page. When the new page comes up, click on Standing Committees on the left hand menu, and then select the Judicial Nominating Procedures Committee from the following page. The judicial application will be at the top of the page.

The original and nine copies of each application must be submitted to the Law Office of Jill A. Conti before noon on March 10, 2000. Please attach the applicant's picture to each application. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for March 30 and March 31, 2000, in the Grand Jury Room of the Alachua County Courthouse.

Any questions may be directed to Jill A. Conti, Chairman, Eighth Judicial Circuit Nominating Committee, at 352-372-8573. ■

Family Law Section Announcement

New Judicial Appointment

by Jill Greaves, Chairperson

The Honorable Peter K. Sieg has been appointed as the new Circuit Court Judge. Judge Sieg would like the members of the Family Law Section to know that his calendar is open, and he is ready to schedule hearings for our Division "F" cases. Feel free to contact the Judge's Judicial Assistant, Linda Ferguson, and request your hearing times.

An announcement will be sent as soon as the Family Law Section meeting with both Judge Sieg and Judge Smith is coordinated. All questions and comments can be directed to Jill Greaves at (352) 376-4694. ■

The officers of the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association for the year 1999-2000 are:

President

Frank E. Maloney, Jr.
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frankmaloney@compuserve.com

President Elect Designate (President, 2001-2002)

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(President, 2000-2001)

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About This Newsletter

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

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P.O. Box 127
Gainesville, FL 32602-0127
Phone: 380-0333 Fax: 380-9112

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.

Samuel Hankin, Newsletter Editor
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www.hankinlaw.com

EJCBA Board Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2000

by Lauren Richardson



Members in attendance: Laura Varela, Brenda Chambliss, Jill Greaves, Lauren Richardson, Jennifer Lester, Beverly Graper, Mary Atkins, Paul Donnelly, Frank Maloney, Pan Zettler, Ben Hutson, and Ray Brady. Also in attendance: Kathy Janous.

Meeting called to order at 5:40 pm.

President Maloney proposed to hold a mid-year retreat. Discussed whether there was a need for a retreat. Board proposed extending an evening Board meeting at a nice restaurant as an alternative to a half-day Saturday retreat. Proposed a 5-8 pm dinner meeting on Feb. 1st. Location TBD. Also, March 7th Board meeting will be held at Levy Co. Courthouse in Bronson with a dinner organized by Pan Zettler.

The December minutes were approved. No Treasurer's report this month.

Executive Director's report: Kathy Janous reported that the directory is progressing. Committee has sold \$3,000. in ads. Membership is at 385. January luncheon cards and letters to past presidents have been mailed. Asked whether Board could think of a unique way to identify past presidents at the luncheon. Sent out invoices to attorneys who reserved but did not pay for lunch. Sold three sets of mailing labels. Kathy will be off for vacation week of January 17.

Old Business: Mail Order Office Supply Program- Paul Donnelly discussed the revisions to the contract, as he and others had modified the draft provided by company. The Board reviewed the provisions and made suggestions for several revisions. The Board will ask the company to propose any further revisions in writing. Motion approved to submit revised draft to company.

Tech Fair: Beverly Graper proposed an extended luncheon/Tech Fair in May. Approved.

Location to be in downtown Gainesville. Proposed packaging the vendor fee for a table at the fair with a reduced rate ad in the newsletter. Approved.

Law Week: Jill Greaves reported that Oaks Mall is reserved for May 20th. Craig Hall will again organize the golf tournament. Greaves will work on getting Constitutions in the schools together and will also contact Bruce Brashear to ask if he'll coordinate the speaker program.

CLE Committee: A CLE for solo and small practitioners was proposed and Board discussed where to hold the CLE.

Newsletter: Board discussed and decided to ask the editor to use his discretion regarding the number of pages required for a particular issue, suggesting a reduction in the number of pages from 16 to 12 for issues when there is less Bar news, with the goal being to stay within the budget allotted for newsletter.

Social: Maloney reported that Judge Green is putting together a social at Kingsley Lake, Camp Blanding. The Board would hope to have the social sponsored and free to members.

Pro Bono: Committee will have recipients for rest of the year. Three Rivers Legal Services would like to have a once-a-month client intake on a weekday with volunteer lawyers. Marcie Lockhart would like to talk to the Board at the March Board meeting about this proposal.

Medical/Legal Committee: This is a new committee, which arose when Ray Brady and Charles Carter were approached by Alachua County Medical Association President and President-Elect. Committee may work on local guidelines for lawyer/physician relations.

Meeting adjourned 6:45 p.m. ■

Federal Bar Association

by Robert Griscti



The Gainesville Area Chapter of the Federal Bar Association is having its First Annual Dinner on Friday, April 28, 2000 at the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art on S.W. 34th Street and Hull Road in Gainesville. The cocktail reception begins at 6 p.m. and the dinner follows at 7 p.m. The Honorable Charles R. Wilson of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals will be the guest speaker. Reserve the time on your calendar now! Additional details will be forthcoming in future issues. ■

Websites of Interest:

www.badfaithinsurance.org

Fight Bad Faith Insurance Companies (FBIC): A non-profit advocacy group dedicated to the fight against bad faith insurance companies, particularly Hartford, State Farm and Allstate.

www.doi.state.fl.us/

Florida Department of Insurance: Official web site with thousands of malpractice complaints on doctors, dentists, lawyers, hospitals, HMO's and other institutions.

EJCBA Calendar of Events

- 03/07/00 EJCBA Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
Bronson County Courthouse
- 03/08/00 Probate Section Meeting at 4:30 p.m.
Grand Jury Room of the Alachua County Courthouse
- 03/10/00 EJCBA Luncheon at 12:00 p.m.
The Sovereign Restaurant in Gainesville
- 03/10/00 March CLE, Getting Past Impasse at 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Alachua County Courthouse
- 03/10/00 Deadline to submit applications for Alachua County Court Judgeship vacancy
- 03/17/00 Gainesville Workers' Comp. Claimants' Lawyers Assoc. meeting at 12:00 p.m.
Tony Salzman's office in Gainesville
- 03/21/00 GAP Monthly Meeting at 12:30 p.m.
Szechuan Panda Restaurant, Gainesville
- 03/21/00 Young Lawyers Division Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
Crazy Burro Restaurant in Gainesville
- 03/22/00 Family Law Section meeting at 4:00 p.m.
Grand Jury Room of the Alachua County Courthouse
- 03/31/00 Professionalism Seminar at 1:00 p.m.
U.F. College of Law in Gainesville ■

Master Calendar Revisions through June 2000

by Ysleta W. McDonald, Administrative Judge, County Court
Effective Monday, February 14, 2000, please make the following revisions to the County Court Master Calendar through June of 2000. Division I, which was the Division previously held by Judge Sieg will now be divided between Judge McDonald and Judge Kotey.

Judge McDonald will cover the weeks listed below:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| February 14 - 18 | February 28 - March 3 |
| March 13 - 17 | March 27 - 31 |
| April 10 - 14 | April 24 - 28 |
| May 8 - 12 | May 22 - 26 |
| June 12 - 16 | June 26 - 30 |

Judge Kotey will cover the alternate weeks listed below:

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| February 21 - 25 | March 20 - 24 |
| March 6 - 10 | April 17 - 21 |
| April 3 - 7 | May 15 - 19 |
| May 1 - 5 | June 19 - 23 |
| June 5 - 9 | |

Judge Crenshaw will handle all VOP correspondence. The alphabet split for Motions to be considered is as follows:

| | |
|-------|----------------|
| A - F | Judge McDonald |
| G - K | Judge Kotey |
| L - Z | Judge Crenshaw |

Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (352) 374-3607, if you have any questions regarding these changes. Thank you for your cooperation during this period. ■

The Florida Bar Master Calendar:

<http://www.flabar.org/newflabar/memberservices/calendar/mascal.html>

Bar Luncheon Photos



Justice Barbara Pariente



Jennifer C. Lester, Esq.

Letters of the Month

Law Offices of
305 Northeast First Street
Gainesville FL 32601

Hankin & Hankin

Invoice submitted to:
Raymond F. Brady, Esq.
1216 N.W. Eighth Avenue
Gainesville FL 32601-2947

(352) 375-7100
(352) 375-4634 FAX
samuel.hankin@hankinlaw.com

February 15, 2000
In Reference To: Y2K
Invoice # 10638

Professional services

1/4/00 Telephone conference re: Y2K problems

| | Hrs/Rate | Amount |
|------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| For professional services rendered | 0.25 | 1.00 |
| Balance due | 4.00/hr | |
| | 0.25 | \$1.00 |
| | | \$1.00 |

Many of you are aware of my penchant for all things Y2K. When the millennium arrived with no Y2K repercussions, I was nonplused to say the least. I did receive one call, however, from Ray Brady who had a Y2K problem related to his DOS version of Word Perfect. I gave him expert advice, which was to throw out all of his computers and buy new ones including software that was written within the past 10 years. I then sent him this nominal invoice for the services rendered so I could say that I actually had a paying Y2K client, and this is the thanks I got, on Valentine's Day of all things! ■

LAW OFFICES
MCGALLIARD & BRADY
1216 N.W. 8TH AVENUE
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601-2947

RODNEY D. MCGALLIARD, P.A.
RAYMOND F. BRADY

February 14, 2000

Samuel Hankin, Esq.
305 N.E. First Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

Re: Invoice #10637

Dear Sam:

Regarding your above-referenced invoice for \$1.00: your services were hardly "professional", and your rate of \$4.00 an hour is exorbitant, if it is your thoughts for which I am being charged.

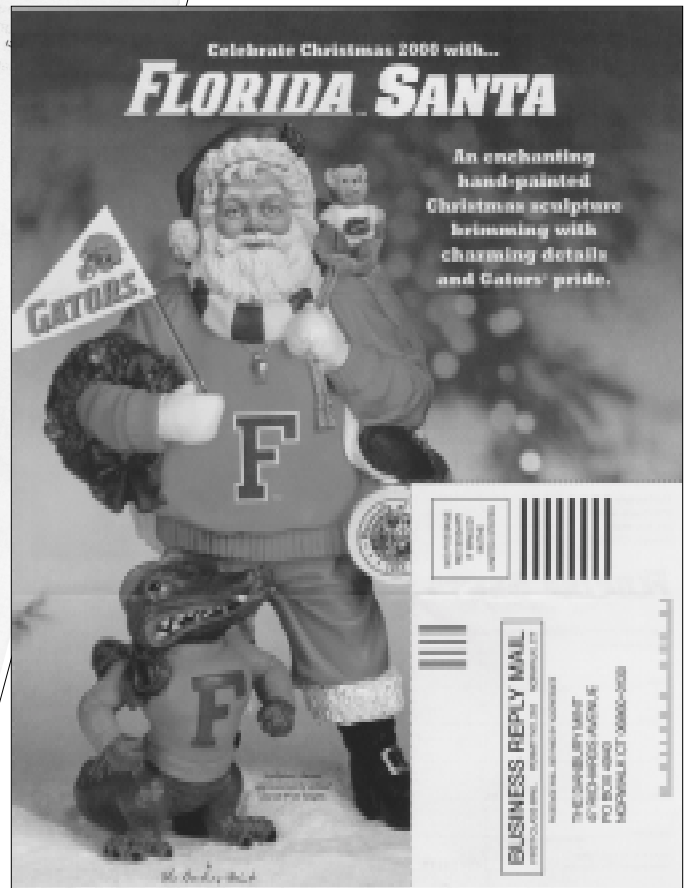
If you are contemplating suing me for this alleged debt, think twice. Remember, I am one of those "trial lawyers" about whom you hear so much from politicians, and who are the cause of virtually every ill known to modern American society. I will counterclaim for intentional infliction of emotional distress, inasmuch as I am forced to view photographs of you and read your many articles every month in the EJCBA Newsletter.

In full and final settlement of your alleged claim, I enclose a coupon for the "Florida Santa", which I found on the ground near Bageland. It may not entitle you to a free jar of Vlasic Hamburger Stackers, but at least it is in stock (presumably) and does not require refrigeration.

With kindest regards,
[Signature]
Raymond F. Brady

RFB:mh
Encl.

P.S.: Does your "Better Half" know that you do these things?



Letter to the Editor



I find it a little hard to believe that an 8 year old (your age when the Mercury flights began) would be able to conceive of a career as an astronaut. I would venture that almost no one can remember anything from their 8th year of life. You somehow have breached the limits of the mind. I would rather

think that the launch of an American into space (not an orbit) would quickly fade from your conscious and you would revert to the real interests of an 8 year old that would be Howdy Doody or some such drivel on TV or playing cowboys in the back yard, which is what every child that age did in that era. I also find it a little hard to believe that a third grader would be reading Asimov. If you were such a prodigy, how did you ever end up as a lawyer? Your talents have been wasted.

The new millennium may not be what you expected, but it far exceeds what anyone could have imagined.

Leonard Grill

Editor's Response: Thank you for your letter. It is a letter that I will cherish always. Let's just, shall we say, agree to disagree. Likewise, we can always disagree without being disagreeable. Lastly, "can't we all just get along?" ■

Classifieds

For Lease:

Office Building: High profile location with large, lighted sign/mini billboard. Ten on-site parking spaces (including two covered). Large reception area, two large offices, conference room, three smaller offices, large filing/copy room, kitchen and two bathrooms. Landscaped grounds with automatic sprinkler system. Security system and lighting. Includes installed phone system and selected furnishings and office equipment. Call Dennis Comfort at (352) 377-7525.

Office space available at 305 NE First Street, within walking distance to the Courthouse. Bring your desk and move in! Complete amenities including utilities, conference room, law library, telephones, magazines, lounge/coffee, janitorial, and ample parking. Call Sam Hankin at (352) 375-7100 for further details.

Professional Office Space available in West Gainesville. Finished 844± sq.ft. office featuring 3 offices, reception area, three office sinks and half bath in the prestigious Meridien Centre at 2770 NW 43rd Street. Call Sam Hankin at (352) 375-7100.

Employment:

Eighth Judicial Circuit

Senior Deputy Court Administrator - 6250

Send a current State of Florida application and verification of required education to Jan Phillips, Deputy Court Administrator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 E. University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601, (352) 337-6237 (Office and TDD). Starting Salary is \$45,891.12/annually (hiring at base is normal). For detailed information on this position, visit our web site at <http://www.co.alachua.fl.us/~ctadmin>. Closing date for receipt of applications is **March 17, 2000**

Reserve Now For The 2000 Professionalism Seminar!!

What: Professionalism Seminar cosponsored by the EJCBA and UF Levin College of Law. (4 hours of ethics/professionalism CLE have been applied for.)

When: Friday, MARCH 31, 2000, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Where: U.F. Levin College of Law Auditorium

Program: Keynote speech by Circuit Judge Stan R. Morris, followed by small group discussions.

Cost: \$25.00 (make checks payable to EJCBA)

Deadline: Monday, March 27, 2000

Remit To: Eighth Judicial Circuit
Bar Association, Inc.
c/o Raymond F. Brady, Esq.
1216 N.W. 8th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601-2947

Please identify (1st and 2nd choices) your area of specialty for small group discussions.

- P.I./Insurance Defense Law
- Family/Domestic Relations Law
- Criminal Law
- Estates & Trusts Law
- Transactional Law
- Commercial Law
- Government Law

NAME: _____

Note: Please send separate card with specialty areas for each attorney.

Parking: The College of Law will provide ample parking and decal requirements will be waived. Overflow parking is available at the Campus Church of Christ, 1-2 blocks West of the law school on SW 2nd Avenue.

Gainesville Association of Paralegals

by Kimberly D. Kanasky

Do you feel safe in your own home or surroundings? At GAP's January, 2000 monthly meeting, Bobbi Moore with METRO CRIME PREVENTION of FLORIDA discussed the "smart and simple" precautions to feeling safe. METRO CRIME PREVENTION of FLORIDA is a community service organization developed by former law enforcement officers and is sponsored by Pinellas Co. locksmiths and manufactures of various safety equipment.

METRO CRIME PREVENTION of FLORIDA strives to give you valuable information so that you can focus your attention as an individual and a member of the community in the fight against crime. This helps you to be proactive against crime by taking simple precautions that will heighten your personal safety. During Ms. Moore's informative presentation, some simple questions and answers were given. The answers may surprise you:

- **How could a cell phone save your life?**
If you have an extra cell phone, keep it charging at all times near your bed so that it is accessible during an emergency, such as a burglar who has cut the phone line.
- **How can Campbell's soup help protect your valuables?**
You can purchase a storage can that resembles a Campbell's soup can to hide your valuables in case of a burglary or during travel. This may be purchased at a gun/ security shop. Due to the demand for this item, the shops are beginning to carry them again.
- **Is mace effective?**
Yes, if using the right kind. You can purchase pepper mace at your local retail store, but it is rated at 140,000-240,000 coval units and is not fully effective. It is recommended that you use pepper spray, which is 15,000,000 coval units. This pepper spray is equivalent to what law enforcement officers use. You can purchase this pepper spray through gun shops. It was also available to be purchased at the end of the presentation.
- **Do sticks or poles in the track of a sliding glass door really prevent someone from breaking in?**
No. They simply have to lift the sliding glass door up from the track. Then you (or rather the intruder), has accessibility to your home.

These, and many other suggestions and facts, were presented. The presentation was educational, interesting, motivational, and entertaining. To learn more about METRO CRIME PREVENTION of FLORIDA or to set up a presentation, you may contact METRO CRIME PREVENTION of FLORIDA, 30617 U.S. HWY 19 N., Suite 1444, Palm Harbor, FL 34684, (800)771-7477.

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 |

To learn more about GAP, speakers, or monthly meeting dates and times, please visit our web site at www.Afn.org/~gala/ or contact Michelle Boatright at Avera & Avera, P.A. (352-372-9999).

Job Bank

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

GAP's Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 21, 2000; 12:30 p.m.
GAP's Monthly Meeting
Keynote Speaker: Gabrielle Petterson, M.S.
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
Location: Szechuan Panda Restaurant
3830 SW 13th Street, Gainesville

Tuesday, April 18, 2000; 12:30 p.m.
GAP's General Business Meeting
Location: Harry's Seafood Bar & Grille
110 SE 1st Street, Gainesville

CLA Deadlines and Exam Dates

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

Definition of the Month

PLUMBUM, *n.* [L.] lead (the metal).

Webster's Deluxe Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition. Simon & Schuster, 1972, p. 1383.

Broward County Bar Association Presents:

Turn Your Trial Transcripts Into Million-Dollar Movie Scripts!

BCBA Teams with Published Authors to Offer Screenwriting Workshop:

Saturday, March 25, 1999, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Norma B. Howard Bar Center
1051 SE 3rd Ave, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
Cost: \$50 per participant.

Are you a frustrated screenwriter? Have you got a crime story or a courtroom drama in your head or a half-written manuscript stuffed in the drawer somewhere? The BCBA is offering a Creative Screenwriting Seminar to help you become the next David E. Kelly or Quentin Tarantino.

Two published South Florida authors from Florida International University's Creative Writing Program have organized a half-day seminar for lawyers itching to write the next great blockbuster. Les Standiford and John Dufresne have published well-received novels and teach screenwriting at FIU.

Here's what you will learn:

- the difference between an idea for a story and a story
- the basic elements of contemporary film structure
- character vs. concept—what really drives a film forward
- building the story from scratch: a hands-on, cooperative exercise
- the realities of landing agents and selling scripts

We are looking for a minimum of twenty participants. Call Art Goldberg at 954/764-8040 at the Broward County Bar Association or email artg@browardbar.org for more information. ■

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

On Friday, March 17th, the annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon will be held at 12 noon at the Sovereign Restaurant. The luncheon is sponsored by the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar in conjunction with the Guardian ad Litem Program. Cost is \$20, with proceeds donated to the Guardian Foundation, Inc. A traditional Irish meal is served, and Irish entertainment will be provided. It's a great opportunity to enjoy the day, have lunch with friends, and donate to a very worthy cause. Please make your reservations with the EJCBA office (380-0333). ■

Broadcast Captioning Requirements Take Effect January 2000

LegalVoice Alert

(December 22, 1999) - Closed captioning is no longer a luxury, it's a federal requirement. Starting January 1, 2000, television broadcasters must have at least five hours of program captioning each day, causing a scramble to find realtime captioners.

With the first milestone of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, captioning companies and broadcasters now need qualified court reporters to caption thousands of hours of live programming every week. Specially trained court reporters provide "stenocaptioning" services for television broadcasts through their skill, stenotype machine and computers. With only a few hundred stenocaptioners nationwide, the demand will provide a surge of career opportunities as well as a need for more court reporting students.

The Act's deadline primarily affects (for now) the four major networks and their affiliates in the top 25 markets across the country. Additional requirements over the next six years call for 10, 15 and then all hours of programming to be captioned in two year increments. The Act provides additional time for broadcasters to caption programs that aired for the first time prior to 1998 and Spanish language programs.

"Never before has our profession seen such an urgent need for our skills," said Carl Saucedo, president of the National Court Reporters Association. "For many years we've assisted deaf and hard-of-hearing persons in a variety of settings by captioning meetings, high school and college classes, religious services and other events. Television captioning is a natural extension of this work."

To provide realtime captioning service, a court reporter, using highly developed skills and special training, monitors newscasts or television programs and uses stenographic keystrokes to capture every word. The stenotype machine is connected to a state-of-the-art computer with special closed-captioning software. The software translates the strokes into English sentences that are automatically encoded in the broadcast signal and sent to the viewer's television screen in a matter of seconds.

If you have any questions about this release, please contact Maureen McGuire at 1-800-595-3174 ext. 105 or Marshall Jorpeland at 1-703-556-6272. ■

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J.K. "Buddy" Irby, Clerk of Court, Alachua County Court House

by Stephanie Casebeer

If there's one thing Clerk of Court Buddy Irby wants the lawyers of this Circuit to know, it's that they can now access thousands of public records online. At three a.m. if they so desire, without having to drive downtown, find a parking space or stand in line, or pay \$1.00 per copied page.

"This is the big advance, right here," Irby says, offering a demonstration of the much-improved Clerk's web site (www.clerk-alachua-fl.org). Up until the first week in February, Irby explains, one couldn't access records after five p.m. because the courthouse closes and the web site did not offer this feature. Irby acknowledges this could be troublesome, because "lawyers get some of their best work done after normal work hours."

The site, of which Irby is quite proud, contains almost 30 years of indexed public records. In addition, nearly all of the public records filed within the last seven years -- back to January 1st, 1993 -- have been scanned into the system. Links to the traffic department will be up in a few months, and a criminal index should be available within the next year. Other features include ancient records and photographs of Alachua's courthouse in its various incarnations.

But it is the public records that are of most interest to the lawyers. Those available online are not certified copies, but as Irby points out, "Lawyers usually just want to read the document."

While the Clerk's Office has made vast improvements to its web site, fax machines remain the only method by which lawyers can file electronically (as long as they continue to follow the rules of the court). Irby senses some resistance to the idea of paperless filing; he says that while E-mailing necessary paperwork is theoretically possible, the clerks would have to print a hard copy of the motion anyway, completely defeating

the purpose. And, as Irby puts it, why use the taxpayer's paper when you can use your own?

However, Irby figures that filing motions, orders and the like will eventually be an entirely paperless process. But in the same way society has been slow to warm up to electronic shopping, banking and chatting, so too will it take time for the court to adjust.

In the meantime, lawyers can continue to file paperwork using time-honored traditions. Not so time-honored (at least not at a courthouse) is the drive-up window located on the south side of the courthouse. While Irby says this is a feature used mostly by citizens paying traffic citations, lawyers *can* drop off motions, but Irby warns, "it's like the mail," not the express lane to a judge's desk.

Being "the lawyer's best friend" isn't Irby's only job, however. Elected to the Clerk of the Court in 1993 after a stint as the Supervisor of Elections, Irby heads up an office that oversees a vast assembly of evidence and records (both modern and historical). He accepts the challenging position with a team-oriented rah-rah spirit; he "has good people to help out" and he finds himself "constantly switching hats, trying to do all these things." 155 employees make up his team, and "by working together, the system is served well."

In addition to the daily flow of paper, Irby has also been through his share of high-profile cases, including the Gainesville student murders and the Richard Meissner prison break. Even these high-stress cases

don't dent Irby's composure. Nor do they dent his enthusiasm for the job. Irby says he has no political plans beyond Alachua County, and he'll remain Clerk until the voters determine otherwise.

Irby presents himself as a truly tactful politician. Ask him about the various prospects for a new courthouse, and he responds diplomatically: "We'll work with what the people, the county commission give us . . . the county can only build what the county can afford." Pressed further, Irby admits a new courthouse would be "the best of both worlds." He believes the idea to build an annex, or "half a courthouse," would create some management problems. But he also believes that any sort of building, be it an annex or an entirely new courthouse, is four or five years down the road.

With the courthouse brouhaha still just a blueprint battle, Irby is free to surf the much-enhanced web site. Even though it locks up once or twice during his demonstration, Irby is clearly thrilled with the service it provides the community. It saves time and money, and answers the questions and satisfies the curiosities of citizens and lawyers. In short, it's helping to bring Alachua County up to speed. ■

Interview of the Month






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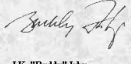
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Online Information Center
J.K. "Buddy" Irby
Clerk of the Courts
Alachua County, Florida

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[Domestic Violence](#)
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[The Eight Judicial Circuit](#)
[The Florida Bar](#)
[The Judges](#)

The Office of the Clerk welcomes you to the On-Line Information Center. The Clerk's office has both court and Alachua County government responsibilities. At this site, you can obtain information on a variety of subjects. If we may assist you further please contact us at one of the listed addresses.

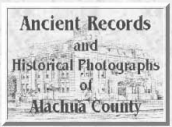



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Alachua County Home Page

Websites of the Month

The Internet Newsletter January 2000

Human Rights/Project Diana
<http://diana.law.yale.edu/>

Lawyer's Committee for Human Rights
<http://www.lchr.org/home.htm>

Law, Medicine, Ethics
<http://www.aslme.org/>

Legal Aid Society of N.Y.
<http://www.legal-aid.org/>

Death Penalty
<http://www.abanet.org/litigation/public>

Websites (continued from page 1)

claims and *Pro Se* divorce, bios, job opportunities, and links to the other counties in the circuit. Also, access various Florida web sites, the sites of other circuits, UF's Law School web site, and more.

The clerk's site enables you to access past and current court filings as well as a listing of official records. In many cases, you can obtain an actual scanned, though not certified, facsimile of the document, available in either TIFF or Adobe Acrobat Reader (PDF) format. To learn more about the clerk's web site and what it has to offer, please read the article in this issue by Stephanie Casebeer, our newest contributor.

The 8JCBA web site, gives you access to back issues of the newsletter and will provide you with a member directory, additional information about our circuit and the circuits in Florida, as well as links of local interest.


Also, find miscellaneous information concerning historical courthouses and the like. 8JCBA owes many thanks to Honorable Anne Kaylor, Polk County Judge, who graciously allowed us to link to many of her expertly edited pages and sections during the preparation of this web site.

In summary, these three sites provide you with official information regarding the circuit, court system, administration of justice, trial calendars, and more. You can link to any of the sites mentioned in this article at the www.8jcba.org site. Please let us know if you ever find a broken or outmoded link. We greatly appreciate it. ■

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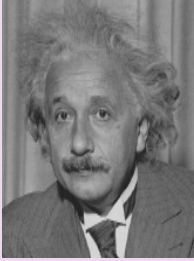


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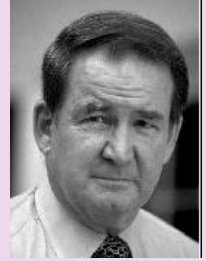
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EINSTEIN BUCHANAN



Over the past month, several attorneys have approached me and asked whether or not I supported Pat Buchanan because of the fact that I have been running quotes from his speeches for the past several months, contrasted by those of Albert Einstein. One attorney even suggested that I might have a right-wing affectation and was comparing the nobility of Albert Einstein with a similar trait in Pat Buchanan.



Although when I began running these contrasting sentiments, I didn't think there was anyone in the circuit obtuse enough to suspect that I in any way, shape or form, held conservative views, I feel it is important to respond. Let me state with no equivocation that I believe that Pat Buchanan is one of the

most evil, mean-spirited, uncivil, dangerous men in America today. I believe that Albert Einstein was one of the most noble, intelligent, humorous and kind men who ever lived.

I have placed their pictures and their quotes on the back cover of the newsletter in order to show the readership of this periodical the extremes that are found in our society with regard to views on religion, nationalism, education, immigration and politics.

To avoid the further chance that someone might feel that Mr. Buchanan's sentiments are in any way shared by me, I will run no further quotes, especially since my explanation weakens whatever editorial import the previous series might have had. ■

FORUM 8

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