

FORUM 8

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Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, Inc.

May 2008

President's Letter



by John Whitaker

As I was getting ready to write about the pending budget crisis that will have a profound effect on the court system, I realized the Florida Legislature will convene in a few days calling an end to the 2008 Session and we will be left with the reality of their budgetary changes. I

have already seen some of the effects of the budget cuts as the Guardian Ad Litem office is not taking as many appointments in dependency cases and we no longer have a traffic court hearing officer. This is happening now.

I have been pondering all the stories told to me by my elders about the good old days... you know, when gas was 35 cents a gallon... that time long ago when everything seemed simpler. The sad part is, my good old days were just about ten short years ago. I remember when you could buy gas for a dollar a gallon, making day trips to Crescent Beach an affordable luxury. We had a federal budget surplus, most of us had never heard of Osama Bin Laden, and "Global Warming" was to many a theory, not a pending reality. The world has changed dramatically, not in a lifetime but in a blink of an eye. Sometimes change is for the better and sometimes not, but how we adapt to change defines us. One of the things that has not changed dramatically (yet) during that time is the practice of law in this community. Sure the legal community is larger, with more lawyers and more cases and a second courthouse, *The Fortress on Main*. But with all of that there remains a very high level of civility and professionalism here that makes everything else going on in the world palatable. Not that we can as a community isolate ourselves from

the rest of the world, but we have a good thing here, something to be proud of, something to protect, something to share. I hope that when you read this our legislators have heard the pleas from those in our community and around the State and have done the right thing. Otherwise our civility and professionalism will be put to the ultimate test when our citizens cannot get the access they have come to expect from the third branch of government.

On another note, as predicted the Florida Supreme Court unanimously found the Regional Conflict Counsel system to be constitutional. Let's see how Regional Counsel does with the proposed budget cuts as they are already grossly under-funded.

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 dvallejios-nichols@avera.com.

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Judicial Assistant Luncheon

Here Ye! Here Ye! Heads up Notice is hereby given to ALL JUDGES AND LAWYERS of the Circuit for this year's J.A. LUNCHEON given by CGAWL to honor all J.A.'s and Hearing Officer Assistants of the 8th Judicial Circuit. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW** for Friday, May 9, 2008 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Gainesville Golf & Country Club. Watch for more details from Co-Chairs Marilyn Peterson and Michelle Farkas. To be sure that you do not miss this delightful, if not riotous, tradition, grab your calendar and pencil it in ... right this minute!

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, or on a CD or CD-R labeled with your name. Also, please send or email a photograph with your name written on the back. Diskettes and photographs will be returned. 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

How Fleeting is Fame

by Stephen Bernstein



What is fame and how do you measure it? I know that Hillary Clinton is famous but the local Jiffy Lube attendant is not. But how about that nerdy guy in the Verizon commercials? Can a person be famous if no one knows his name? Say, for example, Rowan Williams?

Is he famous? You're saying no because you've never heard of him, but do you change your mind when I tell you he is the archbishop of Canterbury?

Try to come up with the empirical measurement of fame. I thought about how you might establish scientific evidence that a person is famous and one measure is if you enter your name in quotes into the Google search engine and it returns more hits than the phrase "she moaned." At more than two million Google hits, "she moaned" is a stern mistress. Stern but fair. For example, Hillary Clinton is indeed, quite famous. Barack Obama, however remained under the "she moaned" line until after he won in Iowa. That, apparently, was his big breakthrough.

The "she moaned" line is unsentimental; it measures true fame, not an idealized version of fame, and not some notion of who should be famous. For instance, Paris Hilton

is over the line but Mother Teresa only flirts with it. Maybe when she becomes a saint she will ascend past it.

The "she moaned" criteria also produces some ironic positions. Bill Watterson, the cartoonist, does not hit the line, and he likely never will. But his creation, "Calvin and Hobbes" is way above it. Maybe you recall in the mid-1960's when John Lennon infuriated devout Christians by saying that The Beatles have become more popular than Jesus Christ. While this may have been preposterous at the time, today The Beatles and Jesus Christ get the identical number of hits.

Another important thing about this paradigm is that it can be used to assess the degree of fame achieved by lesser known people like you or I. What you have to do is Google a phrase that returns roughly as many hits as your name does. I want to warn you that this can be a humbling process, but remember, the numbers do not lie. I discovered that I am about as famous as the phrase "Chicken salad sandwich recipes." The benchmark phrase for having attained some sort of minor, cheesy level would be the phrase, "What am I, chopped liver?" That is Board of Governor's material for people like Robert Rush or Carl Schwait.

At the end of the day, to be a big time celebrity, you've got to pass the moan test.

Clerk's Corner

by Buddy Irby, Clerk of the Court



The subprime mortgage crisis and the housing market slowdown have been top news items in recent months. Like other areas, Alachua County has been affected, though perhaps not as severely as other parts of Florida.

At the Clerk's Office, we see an echo of these national real estate trends in the number of mortgage foreclosure cases that are being filed.

From October 1, 2006, through March 31, 2007, there were 372 foreclosure cases filed in Alachua County circuit courts. In comparison, there were 479 foreclosure cases filed during the period from October 1, 2007, through March 31, 2008. This represents an increase of 107 cases, or about 23 percent.

Interestingly, the Clerk's Office issued only 63 certificates of title for the 372 foreclosures filed from October 2006 to March 2007. That means 309 of the cases were resolved in some manner other than

transfer of the property through judicial sale. For the 479 foreclosure cases filed from October 2007 to March 2008, the Clerk's Office issued only 91 certificates of title. Hopefully, this means that the borrowers and lenders are finding mutually satisfactory non-judicial solutions.

The Clerk's Office also handles Tax Deed sales of property with delinquent ad valorem taxes. The number of those cases has remained relatively constant in the past two years, with 70 tax deed cases in 2006, 76 in 2007, and 16 so far this year. In contrast, many other Florida counties have hundreds of tax deed cases every year. For example, the Clerk in Volusia County receives about 800 tax deed cases a year. Pasco County gets about 10 cases a week, while Polk County gets more than 100 per month, according to a survey conducted by the Orange County Comptroller's Office. The good news is, many of the landowners here and elsewhere are able to redeem their property by paying the overdue taxes before tax deeds are actually issued.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

How to Select a Mediator: Warm Body Versus Computer



by Chester B. Chance and Charles B. Carter

What consideration should be taken into account when selecting a mediator?

BIAS: Should you avoid using a mediator whom the other side has utilized in prior mediations? Does this suggest “bias”? Not according to an

interview in the San Francisco Daily Journal with Deborah Rothman, a Los Angeles attorney, mediator and arbitrator. Prior dealings with a proposed mediator by one or more parties does not constitute a conflict of interest. “Mediation is collaborative. The Settlement Agreement must be perceived to both sides as a win-win or there is no settlement.”

A mediator can only count on repeat business if the mediation produced a settlement that met the needs of both sides or if no agreement was reached, but, both sides were impressed with the mediator’s patience, tact, knowledge and sensitivity. Rothman adds, “In other words, mediator’s get repeat business by in effect favoring both sides by favoring neither side, thus, facilitating settlements both sides can live with”.

EXPERTISE: Robert K. Scott, attorney, suggests in the future we will see “specialized mediators”, i.e., mediators specializing in the different areas of disputes. For instance, “In insurance matters, if the mediator is a skilled professional in the area of insurance in question, he or she can avoid the technical learning curb and move directly to the specific issues”

Contrast, Mr. Scott’s knowledge-based approach with Chris Maser, an Oregon mediator who believes it is an advantage if a mediator has little or no knowledge or expertise about the issues. “We humans are subjective creatures who cannot hold a neutral thought in our minds for 30 seconds . . . Therefore in all fairness to the combatants and to safeguard against my own human weaknesses and frailties, I go armed only with my ignorance into each and every fray.”

Fred D. Butler, an attorney/mediator in San Francisco, suggests that while it is possible to facilitate a discussion with little or no subject-matter expertise, it is virtually impossible to mediate a

dispute competently without process expertise. “It goes beyond saying then that the most effective mediators will be those who possess both.”

OTHER FACTORS: What other factors should be taken into account when selecting a mediator? Should race, gender or culture be a factor? Butler suggests the answer is “yes”, “when the parties believe that the consideration of the race, gender or culture of the mediator would help resolve their dispute.” Who will “fit” best with your client? Would a client respond to an authority figure or would your client strike a rapport with a same – gender mediator?

STYLE: Some mediators use a style described as “facilitative”. Their primary job is to be good and patient listeners who help the parties communicate, see the strength and weaknesses of each side’s position and encourage creative ideas for settlement. Other mediators are “evaluative”. They take a more direct or activist approach. Do you want a mediator who is more of a facilitator or evaluator? Maybe it depends on whether your mediation involves a purely business decision or an interpersonal decision? A facilitator asks questions to identify the interest of the parties and the real issues in the disagreement. The facilitator does not suggest solutions. An evaluator assesses the strength and weaknesses of a party’s legal or other position. The evaluator controls the process and suggests solutions. No one form of mediation is most commonly used. Some mediators prefer to use one approach exclusively and other mediators use whatever approach seems to work for the particular scenario.

SOFTWARE: All of these matters may be moot given the prediction of Dr. Luis Miguel Diaz who suggests some day a smart software program might replace mediators. Is it likely that in the future parties will turn to their computers instead of to neutrals or courts to settle their disputes? Although many contemplate mediations taking place remotely through telephone and audiovisual transmissions or through the Internet, Dr. Diaz takes this a step further and notes a software system, A.I.Com, already



Continued on page 5

Alternative Dispute

Continued from page 4

exists and is designed as a substitute for civil courts and mediators. The software system assists users in finding a solution to their conflict “if that is what the parties really want. If a solution is not desired, A.I.Com would be able to determine that and the software will not suggest alternatives.”

A process oriented mediator? A knowledge oriented mediator? A computer software program? Whatever your choice for a mediator, the successful outcome of a mediation involves more than simple consideration of who is available on a given date.

Volunteers Needed for our 2008 Law Day Speakers in Schools Program

For the past 50 years, the 1st of May has been set aside to celebrate Law Day throughout the country. While May 1st is the official date of Law Day, activities often take place either before or after that date with some local bar associations celebrating Law Week or Law Month.

In the Eighth Judicial Circuit, we have traditionally honored Law Day throughout the month of May with our Speakers in the Schools program as the foundation for our other activities. Each year, members of the EJCBA visit local elementary schools throughout our circuit to lead a presentation and group discussion based on the annual Law Day theme. The 2008 theme for Law Day is *The Rule of Law: Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity*. The goal of the program is to explore the meaning of the rule of law, fostering public understanding of the rule of law through discussion on its role in society and how it is essential in sustaining a free society. You can visit www.lawday.org for more information on this year's theme, the history of law day, and can even download complete age-appropriate “lesson plans” prepared by the American Bar Association to help you plan your school presentation.

If you would like to volunteer to be a speaker or participate in other Law Day activities, please email Elizabeth Collins at ecollins@dellgraham.com.

The Florida Bar Board of Governors Report

By Carl Schwait

At its March 28 meeting in Washington, D.C., The Florida Bar Board of Governors:

- Approved the Bar's 2008-09 budget, which projects revenues of almost \$38.5 million and expenses of \$38.4 million with a surplus of \$94,000.
- Discussed extensively proposed legislative budget cuts to the court system and the massive impact that could have on the court system. The board discussed various ways the Bar and Bar members could educate lawmakers about the impact of the proposed cuts, which would most likely cause long delays in non-criminal and non-domestic relations cases.
- Approved three nominees to be the next public member on the Board of Governors – Alvin V. Alsobrook of Gainesville, Judith O. Rosenkranz of Tampa, and Marni F. Stahlman of Winter Park – and forwarded them to the Supreme Court, which will make the final appointment.
- Heard a talk by Susan Eisenhower, who was specially invited to address the board and is the granddaughter of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, which touched on current affairs, education, foreign relations, and history. She is chair emeritus of the Eisenhower Institute.
- Heard a report from Young Lawyers Division President Scott Attwood, which included that the YLD is working on a civics Web site that will be separate from the main YLD site and primarily for use by the public and is working to improve its Practicing with Professionalism program.
- Continued until its next meeting a discussion on creating an emeritus certification category for lawyers who have been recertified at least twice but either no longer are practicing in that area, have retired, or are phasing out their practices and hence no longer meet the standards for certification.
- Endorsed a proposed rule change from the Family Law Rules Committee, pursuant to a request from the Supreme Court, clarifying the purpose of the rules as contained in Rule 12.010(b)(1).

Please review the Florida Bar News for appointments to be made to Bar boards. I encourage our circuit's members to be involved in specifically listed boards through the application process.

Family Law, Flat Fees and Professionalism

by Cynthia Stump Swanson



The annual professionalism seminar was held in Gainesville on March 28, 2008, thanks to its main organizer, Ray Brady. The keynote speech was delivered by Edward M. Waller, Jr., a partner at Fowler White Boggs

Banker, PA in Tampa. The title of his speech was "The Legacy of Atticus Finch: Higher Standards for New and Experienced Lawyers Alike." We all teared up when Mr. Waller asked us to remember that scene in the courthouse balcony from "To Kill a Mockingbird," when Scout was admonished to stand up, because her daddy was passing.

One of Mr. Waller's points was that the whole scheme of "billable hours" contributes to bad feelings by clients and by attorneys. He mentioned the concern by clients that their bills are padded; the pressure on attorneys to meet billable hour goals; the fact that such goals - by themselves - sometimes result in protracted litigation (so that an attorney may meet a billable hour goal); and the possibility of a conflict of interest between the lawyer and the client. They think the same thing in Los Angeles. The very first paragraph of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Professionalism Guidelines for Family Law Practitioners reads:

"A Family Law Attorney should not engage in churning a case. Churning occurs when a lawyer, exercising control over the volume, frequency and formality of events, abuses his/her power for personal gain by rendering professional services that are excessive in view of the nature and character of the matter. Family Law Attorneys must particularly guard against churning because their clients may be legally unsophisticated and/or emotionally vulnerable to control by an attorney."

The second paragraph in the Los Angeles County guidelines is:

"A Family Law Attorney should not engage in economic harassment or coercion of the adverse party. Economic harassment occurs, on the one hand, when the party who has the management and control of the bulk of the resources of the family deliberately conducts the proceeding so

as to cause unnecessary and unreasonable expense to be borne by the adverse party or its attorney for the primary purpose of coercing a resolution favorable to the party controlling the family's resources.

"Economic harassment and coercion also occurs when an attorney whose fees can reasonably be expected to be paid largely by the adverse party, conducts the proceeding so as to cause unnecessary and unreasonable expense to be borne by the adverse party, or to cause unnecessary delay, for the purpose of coercing a resolution favorable to the attorney's client."

Family lawyers have always billed by the hour. We're prohibited from charging contingent fees in most family law matters [Rule 4-1.5(f)(3) of the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar]. But if we can't charge contingent fees, and hourly fees cause tension and conflict, what's left? Flat fees.

One proponent of flat fees in professional services is Ron Baker. He is the founder of VeraSage Institute, a think tank dedicated to teaching "Value Pricing" (otherwise known as flat fees). He has an interesting website: www.verasage.com. His thesis is that value pricing reverses the order of thinking about how to set fees. The hourly billable rate is essentially a "cost-plus" calculation. We figure out how much our overhead is and how much we want to take home and add those together and that's our hourly rate. In Baker's value pricing strategy, we ask instead, "How much will my client value my services?" As we all know, at the beginning of the case, the client values our services highly; at the end - not so much. The best time to get paid is up front. If our fees are not paid up by the time we get a settlement executed or go to trial, we are much less likely to ever be paid. So, if the time the client most wants (and thus most highly values) our services is right at the beginning, then isn't that the best time to work out a "value price?"

One thing that is really scary about flat fees in family law matters is the unpredictability of our clients, their spouses, the opposing attorneys, the impact of our clients' family members and friends,

Continued on page 7

and so on. We never really know what most cases will entail. So, we think we should set a really high flat fee to take into account all the possible variations in what might happen in a case. Now, assuming we can find clients willing to pay those high flat fees, we still have to be sure the fee will not be found to be excessive.

Rule 4-1.5(a) provides that "An attorney shall not enter into an agreement for, charge, or collect an illegal, prohibited, or clearly excessive fee or cost . . . A fee or cost is clearly excessive when: (1) after a review of the facts, a lawyer of ordinary prudence would be left with a definite and firm conviction that the fee or the cost exceeds a reasonable fee or cost for services provided to such a degree as to constitute clear overreaching or an unconscionable demand by the attorney . . ."

Baker, however, advocates the use of change-orders when things go a different path than expected. This way, the client pays a reasonable flat fee up front (still providing a profit), and if all goes as hoped, that's it. But if things change, the lawyer and client have to execute a change-order to account for the change in circumstances. This way, the fee stays reasonably related to the work that has to be done, but is charged and paid at the beginning of each phase or at each change in path.

In his professionalism speech, Mr. Waller reminded us that ours is a service profession. He suggested that we be accessible to our clients, that we return phone calls the same day, that we copy all documents to our clients, and personalize our offices. He also advocated giving out our home phone numbers to clients (remember he does not practice family law). All of these things add up to providing good service to our clients. The value pricing model holds that our job is to provide a service so well, our clients will gladly pay us a profit in recognition of what we do for them.

On another note, Ruth Angaran asked me to announce the following: A course for high-conflict divorcing couples called New Beginnings. It is 8 weeks long, one night (6-8pm) each week-held at Trinity Methodist Church. The limit is 12 couples per session--one spouse attends on Monday night, and the other is enrolled in

Continued on page 10

Nominees Sought For 2008 James L. Tomlinson Professionalism Award

Nominees are being sought for the recipient of the 2008 James L. Tomlinson Professionalism Award. The award will be given to the 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 NW 8th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601. Nominations must be received in Mr. Brady's office by May 2, 2008 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: _____

Criminal Law



by *William Cervone*

I write this month to tell you of a miracle, at least one that may be in the making. Those of you who read my ramblings regularly know that I have on occasion mentioned the mind-numbing process through which the legislature has brought

us an ever increasing number of new and not necessarily improved felony offenses in recent years. My belief has more often than not been that the exact opposite needed to be done. The miracle I write of is that something akin to that is brewing.

Under consideration as I write this, and perhaps even passed into law before this is printed, is a proposal that would eliminate at least some of our current felony DWLSR (Driving While License Suspended or Revoked for you non-criminal types) crimes. Rather than the current third degree felony sanction, first degree misdemeanor penalties would apply to a defendant whose suspension is based on a failure to pay tickets or any of the other myriad of financial pitfalls that can get your license suspended and who does not have a prior forcible felony conviction. This would be many but not all of the current felony cases for repeat DWLSR offenders.

I should hasten to add that the legislature is not doing this for purely altruistic reasons, although there has been some "What are we doing putting these people in prison?" discussion in Tallahassee. No, the reason is none other than good old money. It seems that a study (Tallahassee is big, very big, on studies) was done and it showed that on November 30, 2007, there were 1,662 people in prison for felony DWLSR, each serving an average sentence of 2.3 years. Further analysis (analysis is always a big part of a Tallahassee study) of 904 of those inmates showed that 73% of them had had their license suspended for reasons related to some financial obligation. Not surprisingly, the study determined that "incarceration is an expensive sanction. It costs the state approximately \$19,300 per year to incarcerate an inmate in a state prison, or \$32.1 million per year to house the 1,662 offenders imprisoned for driving with suspended licenses." Hence, the sudden interest in re-visiting this. I can't help but mention that the study also concluded that "many people continue to drive

with suspended licenses," something that I know will surprise absolutely no one. In fact, 227,245 citations were issued for DWLSR in fiscal year 2006-07 and 10,954 people received some criminal sanction for a felony DWLSR crime in that same time period (Tallahassee studies love to include lots of statistics in their analyses).

So that you do not think that our legislators have gone soft on crime, let me repeat the obvious: this is all money driven. All of it. Also up for consideration is legislation that would create something to be called the Sentencing Policy Advisory Council, which would be charged with evaluating sentencing policy, practice, laws and rules and making recommendations for changes. Included in the debate for why that is needed was none other than the topic of continuing to allow our friend the year and a day prison sentence to exist, something which I've mentioned before has incurred the wrath of the legislature. Another bill being considered would create something called the Inmate Supervised Re-Entry Program, under which certain inmates in the last six months of their sentence could be released from prison for participation in community housing, employment, and other programs under DOC supervision. That sounds suspiciously like parole to me but the legislature did away with parole years ago so I must be wrong.

In any event, these three proposals bear watching, not just because of their potential impact for the specific changes they would make but perhaps more importantly because they may pre-empt a change in thinking at the policy making level. My belief is that all three will pass in some form this year. If there is some ancillary benefit from that in terms of a more realistic re-structuring of at least some aspects of our criminal justice system (that would be more of the miracle I started out referring to) all the better.

Advertisement

Gainesville Executive Center, 309 NE 1st Street, has space and virtual offices available. Please contact Patricia at 352-374-7755.

Gainesville Area Chapter of the Federal Bar Association Hosted “A View from the Bench”

by Stephanie M. Marchman

The Gainesville Area Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (“FBA”) hosted “A View from the Bench”, a four and a half-hour continuing legal education course, on March 6, 2008 at Mark’s in downtown Gainesville. Approximately 50 federal practitioners from Gainesville and Ocala enjoyed presentations by the Clerk for the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit on the Circuit’s internal system for handling appeals, the Clerks for the United States District Courts for the Middle and Northern Districts on the do’s and don’ts in federal district court from the perspective of the clerk, and the local federal judges on their “View from the Bench.”

The “View from the Bench” panel included Senior United States District Judge Maurice M. Paul and United States District Judge Stephan P. Mickle from the Gainesville Division and Senior United States District Judge Wm. Terrell Hodges and United States Magistrate Judge Gary R. Jones from the Ocala Division. Each judge provided the attendees with invaluable insight regarding chambers procedures and protocol, such as whether it is appropriate to contact the judge’s law clerk regarding a case or what to do when a motion has been pending for many months. The judges also discussed trial procedure,

including how the judges prefer to conduct voir dire and manage time during a trial. The judges offered the attorneys practical advice, such as always coming to Court prepared and on time and admitting to the judge when you are not prepared to argue a matter not anticipated.

Following the judicial panel discussion, local practitioners had the opportunity to network with each other and the local federal judges at a fine wine and hors d’oeuvres reception at Mark’s sponsored by Ted C. Curtis, Stan E. Cushman, the law firm of Dell Graham, P.A., Jeffrey R. Dollinger, Gary S. Edinger, Robert S. Griscti, Gilbert A. Schaffnit, Larry G. Turner, Elizabeth F. Hodge, and Peg O’Connor.

The FBA thanks all of the presenters and local attorneys who attended this course and the sponsors for hosting the wonderful reception following the course.

The FBA is in the process of planning its end of the year social and annual meeting, at which elections will be held. Details of the event will be forthcoming. If you are interested in becoming involved in the FBA, please contact Stephanie Marchman at (352) 334-5011 or marchmansm@cityofgainesville.org.



CGAWL Annual Luncheon!

You are cordially invited to join the members of "CGAWL," the Clara Gehan Association FOR Women Lawyers for their annual 2008 Luncheon honoring the Judicial Assistants of the 8th Judicial Circuit of Florida

When: Friday, May 9, 2008, 11:30am - 1:30pm
 Where: Gainesville Country Club, 7300 SW 35TH Way, Gainesville, FL

Be prepared for fun, frivolity, live music, entertainment, and good eats as we all get to know each other and get to know our Featured Guest:

MARY WISE

Head Coach of UF's Winning Women's Volleyball Team

RSVP on or before the DEADLINE date of Thursday, May 1, 2008 by mailing or delivering your reservation information on the handy dandy form below together with your check in the appropriate amount to:

Becky O'Neill, Esq., 720 SW 2nd Avenue, Ste 360A, Gainesville, FL 32601
 Also reserve at jaluncheonreservations@hotmail.com.

For Questions, please call Marilyn Peterson, Esq.: (352) 378-0899
 Cost for Bar members-at-large: \$35.00; for CGAWL members and judges: \$30.00

Your Name: _____

Guest(s): _____

Meal choice(s): meat/chicken ___ Veggie ___

Amount enclosed: \$ _____
 Check made payable to "CGAWL"

THANK YOU! We look forward to lunching and bunching with you on May 9 as we celebrate our J.A.s at this elegant but riotous tradition!



Family Law

Continued from page 7

the Thursday night group. The lucky ones to be amongst the first 12 couples will only pay \$50 each! Thereafter, the total cost is \$300 per person, with this amount set up on a sliding scale based on federal poverty guidelines. Plans now are to begin the first group on June 30th. A second group will begin four weeks later.

Please come to the next meeting of the Family Law Section on April 30, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in the Chief Judge's Conference Room in the Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center. Our meetings are always on the last (not necessarily the fourth) Wednesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. I send out email notices and if you're not already getting them and want to receive them, send me an email saying so – cynthia.swanson@acceleration.net. Likewise, if you have some ideas for speakers, programs or topics for discussion, please send me those ideas, and I'll see what I can do to set up something.

It's that time again!

The Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association Nominations Committee is soliciting members for EJCBA Board positions for the 2008 – 2009 year. Please consider giving a little time back to your bar association. Please complete the application and mail it back by May 12, 2008.

EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

Application to Nominations Committee

Name: _____ Bar No. _____

Address: (Home) _____

(Office) _____

Telephone Numbers: (Home) _____ (Office) _____

(Fax) _____ (Cellular) _____

(E-Mail) _____

Years in practice: _____ Type of practice: _____

Office of Interest: (Check all that apply)

President Elect Designate _____ Secretary _____ Treasurer _____

Board member _____ Committee Member _____

Areas of Interest: (Check all that apply)

Judicial Poll _____ Membership _____ Membership Benefits _____

Community Services _____ Publicity _____ By-Laws _____

Membership Survey _____ Director _____ CLE _____

Law Week _____ Newsletter _____ Mentoring _____

Sponsored Programs _____ Programs _____ Long Range Planning _____

Professionalism _____ Historian _____ Pro Bono _____

Computer Technology _____ Meeting Activities _____ Other (Describe below) _____

Bag Luncheons with Judiciary _____ Judicial Robes and Receptions _____

Briefly describe your contributions to date to EJCBA.

What new goals would you like to explore for our association?

How many hours per week can you devote to your EJCBA goals? _____

Return to: EJCBA – Nominations Committee

P O Box 127

Gainesville, FL 32602-0127

Return by May 12, 2008

May 2008 Calendar

- 1 Clara Gehan Association for Women Lawyers, 5:30 p.m., Amelia's in the Sun Center
- 5 Deadline for submissions to June newsletter
- 5 EJCBA Board of Directors Meeting, Ayers Medical Plaza, 720 SW 2d Ave., North Building, Third Floor conference room, 5:30 p.m.
- 9 JA Luncheon, Gainesville Golf & Country Club, 11:30 - 1
- 14 Probate Section Meeting, 4:30 p.m., 4th Floor, Family & Civil Courthouse
- 16 EJCBA luncheon – Steve's Courtyard Café, 11:45 a.m. – Fletcher Baldwin & his experiences in Afghanistan
- 26 Memorial Day, all courthouses closed
- 28 Family Law Section meeting, 4:00 p.m in the Chief Judge's Conference Room (former Grand Jury Room) of the Family and Civil Courthouse

June 2008 Calendar

- 2 EJCBA Board of Directors Meeting, Ayers Medical Plaza, 720 SW 2d Ave., North Building, Third Floor conference room, 5:30 p.m.
- 5 Clara Gehan Association for Women Lawyers, 5:30 p.m., Amelia's in the Sun Center
- 12 EJCBA Annual Dinner, Best Western Gateway Grand, 6-9 p.m., speaker TBA



Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, Inc.
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