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24TH ANNUAL BENCH BAR CONFERENCE



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021

8:30AM - 5:00PM



JW MARRIOT

510 WATER STREET

TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602



www.hillsbar.com



Hillsborough County Bar Association
24th Annual Bench Bar Conference



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T R I A L L A W Y E R S

The Hillsborough County Bar
Invites You to the

CARRYING THE
TORCH FOR *125* YEARS!
24TH ANNUAL BENCH BAR CONFERENCE

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

8:00 A.M. TO 7:30 P.M.
JW MARRIOTT TAMPA WATER STREET

8:00 – 8:30 A.M.
BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION

8:30 – 11:50 A.M.
BENCH BAR CONFERENCE
MORNING SESSIONS

NOON – 1:00 P.M.
HCBA MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

1:30 – 5:00 P.M.
BENCH BAR CONFERENCE
AFTERNOON SESSIONS

5:30 – 7:30 P.M.
JUDICIAL RECEPTION

To register for the conference, please go to
www.hillsbar.com. Sponsorships available,
visit the website for more information.



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Monique Lawson

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Director
Stacy Williams

CARRYING THE

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FOR *125* YEARS!

24TH ANNUAL BENCH BAR CONFERENCE

MORNING SESSION AGENDA

8:30 – 9:20 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

- Criminal/General: Cellphone Evidence: Identification, Admissions, and Objections
- Civil: Excellence in Zoom Mediation
- YLD/Student: Breakfast with the Judges

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

- Criminal: View from the Box: What the Jury Thinks of You
- Civil: The Arbitration Situation – Hot Now!
- YLD/Student Mix and Mingle in the Virtual World: Networking, Mentors and Sponsors

10:50 – 11:50 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

- Criminal: “I’ll Strike Juror Number One”: Tips and Pitfalls in Selecting a Jury
- Civil: Zooming in or Out
- YLD/Student: Navigating New Waters – Job Searching in the Post-COVID-19 Era

AFTERNOON SESSION AGENDA

1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

- View To and From the Bench: A Discussion with Family Court Judges
- View To and From the Bench: A Discussion with State and Federal Civil Judges
- View To and From the Bench: A Discussion with State and Federal Criminal Judges

2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Plenary Session

- Hot Topics in COVID Litigation

4:10 – 5:00 p.m.

Plenary Session

- Supreme Court Update



The HCBA continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely, and will follow CDC and state and local government COVID-19 protocols at the Conference. Please contact the HCBA at 813-221-7777 with any questions.

Time: 8:30 – 9:20 a.m.

Breakout Session:

Criminal/General: Cellphone Evidence: Identification, Admissions, and Objections

Objective: John Cauthen, former FBI forensic examiner, will discuss the types of evidence retained and available on cellphones and the forensic procedures for obtaining this information. Attorney Todd Foster will lead a discussion on the potential uses of cellphone evidence, how to identify relevant information on cellphones, and evidentiary tips for the admission, or objections to the admission, of this type of evidence.

CLE Credit Applied For: 1.0

- **Moderator: Todd Foster**, Barnett Bolt Kirkwood Long Koche & Foster, P.A.
- **Speaker: John Cauthen**, TEC Inquiries, Inc.

Breakout Session:

Civil: Excellence in Zoom Mediation

Objective: This session will provide participants a panel's views on such topics as technology, Zoom lessons for leaders, preparation & practical tips, ethics and negotiation.

CLE Credit Applied For: 1.0 including 1.0 Technology and 1.0 Ethics

- **Moderator: Anthony Garcia**, Garcia Mediation
- **Panelists:**
 - **Judge Julie Sneed**, United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida
 - **Michelle Bartels**, Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A.
 - **Vivian Cortes Hodz**, Cortes Hodz Family Law and Mediation, P.A. ■
 - Ret. Judge William P. Levens**, Levens Mediation
 - **F. Robert Santos**, Santos Mediation

Breakout Session:

YLD/Student: Breakfast with the Judges

Young lawyer and student attendees are invited to participate in an informal networking breakfast with local judges.

- **Moderators: Judge Thomas N. Palermo**, Juvenile Delinquency
Judge Samantha L. Ward, Administrative Judge Circuit Criminal

Time: 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Breakout Session:

Criminal: View from the Box: What the Jury Thinks of You

Objective: This session will allow attorneys to hear from former jurors who deliberated and reached a verdict in Hillsborough County criminal trials within the last 18 months. The moderated discussion will provide valuable insight into the juror’s perspective on persuasion and feedback on the jury experience.

CLE Credit Applied For: 2.0 including 2.0 Ethics

■ **Moderator: Judge Christopher C. Sabella**, Circuit Criminal Justice & Trial

Breakout Session:

Civil: The Arbitration Situation – Hot Now!

Objective: This session will provide participants a panel’s view on arbitration topics, including do’s and don’ts, preparation, issues post-arbitration, and negotiation strategies.

CLE Credit Applied For: 2.0

■ **Moderator: Laura Prather**, Jackson Lewis, P.C.

■ **Panelists:**

■ **Anthony T. Martino**, Clark & Martino, P.A.

■ **Alexandra Palermo**, Syniverse

■ **R. Ryan Rivas**, Hall Booth Smith, P.C.

■ **Ret. Judge Gregory P. Holder**, Zinober Diana & Monteverde P.A.

Breakout Session:

**YLD/Student: Mix and Mingle in the Virtual World:
Networking, Mentors, and Sponsors**

Objective: This session will identify best practices and new strategies to build your network in today’s virtual/hybrid networking environment.

CLE Credit Applied For: 2.0 including 2.0 Technology

■ **Speaker: Daniela Mendez**, WMU Cooley Law School Tampa Bay Campus

Time: 10:50 – 11:50 a.m.

Breakout Session:

Criminal: “I’ll Strike Juror Number One”: Tips and Pitfalls in Selecting a Jury

Objective: This session will show attorneys examples of how to effectively make cause and peremptory strikes during jury selection, with a special focus on *Melbourne* challenges and rehabilitating a juror. The session will conclude with experienced prosecutors and defense attorneys sharing their tips and strategies for picking a criminal jury panel.

CLE Credit Applied For: 1.0

■ **Moderator: Judge Mark D. Kiser**, Circuit Criminal Justice & Trial

■ **Panelists:**

- **Scott Harmon**, State Attorney’s Office
- **Aaron Hubbard**, State Attorney’s Office
- **Catisha Smith**, Hillsborough County Public Defender’s Office
- **Jennifer Spradley**, Hillsborough County Public Defender’s Office
- **Bjorn Brunvand**, Brunvand Wise, P.A.

Breakout Session:

Civil: Zooming in or Out

Objective: This session will include a review of the New Local Rule concerning use of evidence for Zoom proceedings, effective use of technology for Zoom proceedings, and a panel discussion on ethical and technical issues during Zoom proceedings.

CLE Credit Applied For: 1.0 including 1.0 Technology and 1.0 Ethics

■ **Panelists:**

- **Judge Rex Barbas**, Circuit General Civil, General Civil Administrative
- **Judge Lisa D. Campbell**, Circuit Juvenile Dependency
- **Ken Turkel**, Bajo | Cova | Cohen | Turkel, P.A.

Time: 10:50 – 11:50 a.m.

Breakout Session:

YLD/Student: Navigating New Waters – Job Searching in the Post-COVID-19 Era

Objective: This session will identify best practices and new strategies to interview, job search, and negotiate offers in the virtual/hybrid environment.

CLE Credit Applied For: 1.0 including 1.0 Technology

■ **Speaker: Joann Grages Burnett,** Stetson University College of Law

Register Now for the HCBA Membership Luncheon



October 12, 2021

JW MARRIOTT TAMPA WATER STREET

Featuring “Past, Present & Future of the Court,” a Special Roundtable Session with a judge seated at each luncheon table to allow for one-on-one networking and dialogue between the Bench and the Bar.

Free to HCBA members, \$65 for non-members

RSVP at www.hillsbar.com.

Time: 1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Breakout Session:

View To and From the Bench: A Discussion with Family Court Judges

Objective: This candid, moderated discussion will provide an opportunity for attorneys to share suggestions and concerns with members of the Family courts in an effort to foster communication and transparency with the bench and bar.

CLE Credit Applied For: 1.0 including 1.0 Ethics

■ **Moderator: Judge Frances M. Perrone**, Administrative Judge County Civil

■ **Panelists:**

- **Judge Kelly A. Ayers**, Family Court
- **Judge Lisa Campbell**, Dependency Court
- **Judge Wendy J. DePaul**, Family Court
- **Judge Alissa Ellison**, Family Court
- **Judge Katherine G. Essrig**, Administrative Judge Unified Family Court
- **Judge G. Gregory Green**, Family Court
- **Judge Jared Smith**, Family Court

*The panelists may be joined by other judges whose schedules enable them to participate

Breakout Session:

View To and From the Bench: A Discussion with State and Federal Civil Judges

Objective: This candid, moderated discussion will provide an opportunity for attorneys to share suggestions and concerns with members of the State and Federal civil judiciary in an effort to foster communication and transparency with the bench and bar.

CLE Credit Applied For: 1.0 including 1.0 Ethics

■ **Moderator: Judge Rex Barbas**, Circuit General Civil,
General Civil Administrative

■ **Panelists:**

- **Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle**, U.S. District Judge, Middle District of Florida
- **Judge Helene L. Daniel**, East Circuit, Circuit Civil & Unified Family
- **Judge Michael C. Baggé-Hernández**, County Civil
- **Judge Anne-Leigh Gaylord Moe**, Circuit Civil
- **Judge Christopher C. Nash**, Circuit Civil
- **Judge Miriam Valkenburg**, County Civil

*The panelists may be joined by other judges whose schedules enable them to participate

Time: 1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

Breakout Session:

View To and From the Bench: A Discussion with State and Federal Criminal Judges

Objective: This candid, moderated discussion will provide an opportunity for attorneys to share suggestions and concerns with members of the State and Federal criminal judiciary in an effort to foster communication and transparency with the bench and bar.

CLE Credit Applied For: 1.0 including 1.0 Ethics

■ **Moderator: Judge Nick Nazaretian**, Circuit Criminal

■ **Panelists:**

- **Judge Amanda Arnold Sansone**, U.S. Magistrate Judge, Middle District of Florida
- **Judge Lyann Goudie**, Circuit Criminal
- **Judge Jack Gutman**, County Criminal
- **Judge Christine A. Marlewski**, Circuit Criminal
- **Judge Thomas N. Palermo**, Juvenile Delinquency
- **Judge Laura E. Ward**, Circuit Criminal
- **Judge Samantha L. Ward**, Administrative Judge Circuit Criminal
- **Judge Michael S. Williams**, Circuit Criminal

*The panelists may be joined by other judges whose schedules enable them to participate

Additional Upcoming HCBA Events

- **October 29** YLD Golf Tournament
- **December 2** HCBA Holiday Open House
- **January 19** HCBA Diversity Membership Luncheon
- **March 26** Judicial Pig Roast/Food Festival & 5K Pro Bono River Run



Time: 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Plenary Session:

Hot Topics in COVID Litigation

Objective: This session will provide insight and speakers discussing and debating recent trends, lawsuits, and cases.

CLE Credit Applied For: 2.0

Time: 4:10 – 5:00 p.m.

Plenary Session:

Supreme Court Update

Objective: This session will present a review of this past Supreme Court term, with a focus on constitutional cases, and will preview some of the more high-profile decisions in the coming term, including in employment discrimination and immigration law. Other trends of importance to state and federal practitioners will also be discussed, along with the newest justices on the Supreme Court of Florida.

CLE Credit Applied For: 1.0

■ **Speaker: Professor Louis J. Virelli III**, Stetson University College of Law

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Judicial Reception

A popular event for the HCBA, the Judicial Reception offers members, sponsors and Conference attendees from the Bench and Bar a chance to mingle and continue their discussions.

Thank You

The Hillsborough County Bar Association would like to thank the Bench Bar Committee for all the effort and planning that goes into putting on such a great event!



Special Thanks to the Committee Co-Chairs

Judge Thomas Palermo and
Judge Samantha Ward



Thank you to the Thirteenth Circuit Multimedia Team for designing the Conference booklet cover graphic!

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24TH ANNUAL BENCH BAR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration for the Bench Bar Conference is online at www.hillsbar.com. Space in each session is limited, and will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Payment must be made at time of registration.

Bench Bar Conference Registration Fees

- HCBA Member - \$95
- Non-Member - \$145
- HCBA Member Government Attorney - \$45
- Non-Member Government Attorneys* - \$45
(please call 813-221-7777 to register)
- Student Member - \$25
- Non-Member Students* - \$45
(please call 813-221-7777 to register)
- Judge - Complimentary
- Paralegal, JA, Legal Assistant, Legal Support Professional
 - \$45 - Bench Bar Conference registration only
 - \$85 - HCBA Membership & Bench Bar Conference Registration Combo

Membership Luncheon

- HCBA Members - Free
- Non-Members - \$65

Judicial Reception

- HCBA Members, Conference Attendees and Sponsors - Free

Registration for the Membership Luncheon and Judicial Reception is separate from the Bench Bar Conference.

You must register for each event separately at www.hillsbar.com.

Not Going to Make it to The Bench Bar Conference?

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