

THE DOCKET



OCTOBER 2024





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the docket

OCTOBER 2024

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THE DOCKET

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And We're Off!



by Bryan Kessler, Esq.
Berg & Kessler

What an enjoyable and exciting first month as President! I attended the South County Division ("SCD") Kickoff dinner and was excited to see so many of my colleagues from the "south." **Judge Hunter Carroll** gave an excellent presentation on up-and-coming technology, and it was great watching **Jacquelyn Mack-Majka** be installed as the new SCD President! They will be putting on great events throughout the year and collaborating on an end-of-year family picnic for all members in May 2025. Our YLD Kickoff event was postponed due to the hurricane and will be rescheduled soon. I look forward to connecting with YLD President **Tyler Stall** to learn about the great events that the division has planned throughout the upcoming bar year.

In addition to the kickoff celebrations, I had the pleasure of attending the Newtown Alive Trolley Tour, where I learned about local African American history. This was a wonderful event put on by the Council for Diversity and Inclusion. Following the tour, we had a meet-and-greet at **Shelli Freeland Eddie's** office, where everyone could chat about their wonderful experience. Thank you to **Jill Bowen**, Chair of the CDI, for inviting me to participate.

During my board planning session in June, it was brought up that the SCBA could probably do a better job of recognizing the outstanding efforts of those in leadership and members who contribute to the operation and success of the SCBA. In response, I formed a committee focused on identifying different approaches to recognition, with the goal of immediate implementation. The committee had its first meeting in September. I want to thank **Natasha Selvaraj** for stepping up and agreeing to chair the committee, along with the work that **Natasha** and **Jay Castle** did before the initial meeting to create a framework to achieve the committee's objectives. I also want to point out the other members of the committee – **AJ Stickley**, **Caroleen Brej**, and **Amanda Kison**. I would also solicit suggestions/recommendations/thoughts from the membership regarding different approaches to recognizing our members for their efforts with the SCBA. I hope to receive many emails in response.

Lastly, I want to thank each and every member and guest who attended my installation dinner as the 77th President of the SCBA. It was great to see familiar faces come out and celebrate a new bar year. I hope everyone had a great time! ✨

Meet the Docket Editors



by Ashley Gaillard, Esq.
Bentley Goodrich Kison, P.A.



by Christopher Hallett, Esq.
Mallard Perez PLLC

Welcome to the 2024-25 Docket year! This year, the SCBA Docket is again fortunate enough to have two editors.

Returning co-editor **Christopher Hallett** is an associate attorney at Mallard Perez, PLLC, where he focuses on personal injury law. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Chris relocated to Florida to attend Stetson University College of Law, where he had the distinction of competing on the nation's top-ranked trial team. After earning his law degree, Chris began his legal career as an Assistant State Attorney for the 12th Judicial Circuit in Sarasota, Florida. He then transitioned into civil litigation, where he continues to advocate for his clients. Outside of work, Chris enjoys exploring Sarasota with his huskies and staying active with golf, pickleball, and softball.

Returning co-editor **Ashley Gaillard** is an associate attorney at Bentley Goodrich Kison, P.A., where she practices civil litigation, focusing on business and real estate disputes. Ashley grew up here in Sarasota and attended Pine View School. Her undergraduate and master's degrees are from the University of Florida – Go Gators! She attended law school at Georgetown University and obtained an LLM in International Economic Law from Sciences Po in Paris. She is admitted to practice in New York and Florida. Prior to joining the private sector, Ashley served as a prosecutor, and before that she worked with non-profit organizations on issues at the intersection of international trade and humanitarian law. Ashley enjoys traveling, sailing, gardening, and most of all spending time with her husband Justin, daughter Inara, and their two dogs, Panda and Laika.

Chris and Ashley welcome any comments or suggestions you might have on how we can make the Docket better! Of course, we will accept any articles or topic suggestions with open arms. We are always looking for new ideas and fresh perspectives. We want the Docket to serve as a place where attorneys can express themselves. Friendly reminder – Docket articles do not have to be law related. We encourage movie reviews, recipes, personal reflections on any topic, etc. We're looking forward to an exciting 2024-25 year! ✨

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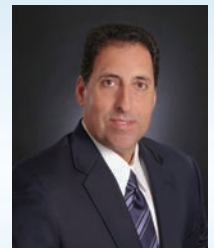
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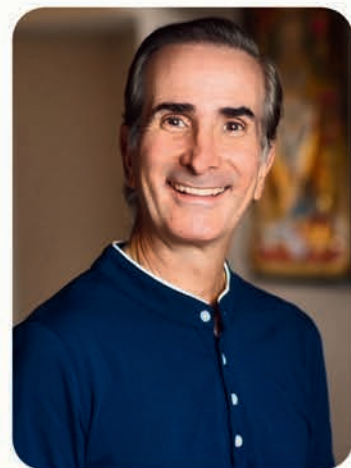
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- ▶ Essays must be no longer than 500 words
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Winners will be recognized and awarded at the Annual Dr. King Celebration in January. The first-place winner will read his/her essay at the celebration.

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The Birth and (Apparent) Death of a Rule: Chevron, State Farm, and Non-Competes

For many of us (I think), certain legal doctrines from law school are indelibly etched in our memories. For example, under Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., a reviewing court must defer to a federal agency's interpretation of law. (Because what is more fun than letting someone else do the interpreting, right?) Not surprisingly, Chevron is the most cited case in American administrative law, making it the Taylor Swift of legal opinions—everywhere, all the time.

And then there's Motor Vehicle Mfrs. Ass'n of U.S., Inc. v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co., a go-to case when attacking agency decision-making. Nothing says "I'm a diligent lawyer" like arguing that a federal agency's decision was "arbitrary and capricious." Who doesn't enjoy accusing the government (or anyone for that matter) of being capricious? Ah, the nostalgia of Administrative Law class.

But I digress. The law around non-competes in Florida and in America is a constantly changing narrative. Every decade or so, there's a new twist. Enter the latest saga: the short-lived sea change in non-compete law. Spoiler alert—it's a story of death and instant rebirth (think phoenix, but with a filing cabinet). And the cherry on top? We get to mention Chevron and State Farm in writing for the first time since the Administrative Law final exam. Oh joy!



by Tyler Stall, Esq.

Hutton, Dominko & Swaim, PLLC

The Plot Thickens

Earlier this year, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued a landmark rule banning non-compete agreements across the United States. The Final Rule took over 15 months to see daylight. During that time, the FTC received over 26,000 comments—25,000 of which were in support of the Rule. Many workers shared how non-competes held them back from better opportunities, higher pay, or starting their own businesses.

FTC Chair Lina M. Khan summed up the agency's position, stating: "non-compete clauses keep wages low, suppress new ideas, and rob the American economy of dynamism..." The FTC estimates that nearly 30 million people are subject to non-competes, or roughly one in five Americans.

What's the Deal with the Rule?

The Final Rule declared that non-competes are an "unfair method of competition," effectively telling employers to knock it off. A "non-compete," as defined by the rule, is any term that prohibits a worker from seeking or accepting a job elsewhere or starting a business. Basically, if you're trying to keep someone from working in their field after they leave you, that's a no-go.

Of course, there were exceptions and carveouts. One exception was for senior executives, who had a threshold annual salary and were in

a “policy-making position.” There are also carve-outs for when a business is sold, or a person’s ownership interest is transferred. And just like that, litigators everywhere sharpened their legal swords, preparing for September 4, 2024, when the rule was set to take effect.

Where Are We Now?

As expected, legal challenges were immediate. One such action was filed in the Northern District of Texas, where Judge Ada Brown threw a wrench in the works by issuing a preliminary injunction on July 3, 2024. Soon after, all parties filed competing summary judgment motions, with the FTC squaring off against Ryan, LLC and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Meanwhile, Judge Kelly Hodge in Pennsylvania took a different route, ruling on July 23, 2024, that the FTC’s rule was a proper use of its power. Judge Hodge’s decision did not cite or mention Judge Brown’s July 3, 2024 decision. On August 15, 2024, Judge Timothy Corrigan in the Middle District of Florida took a more moderate approach and issued an injunction that only applied to the plaintiff in that case.

On August 20, 2024, Judge Ada Brown of the Northern District of Texas adopted the summary judgment arguments of Ryan, LLC and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In short, Judge Brown concluded that the FTC does not have the statutory authority to create substantive rules. Further, Judge Brown found that the FTC’s agency action was arbitrary and capricious per *State Farm*, as the rule imposed a “sweeping

prohibition—that prohibits entering or enforcing virtually all non-competes—instead of targeting specific, harmful non-competes...”

Of note and cited in Judge Brown’s opinion, is the United States Supreme Court’s recent decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, which overturned almost everything we learned for the final exam in Administrative Law, and also several decades of American administrative law jurisprudence. More importantly, this means that federal agencies, such as the FTC, have lost an essential argument that they are in the best position to interpret the scope of say, the FTC’s substantive rulemaking authority. Judge Brown concluded that the “Court hereby holds unlawful and sets aside the Rule...the Rule shall not be enforced or otherwise take effect ...on September 4, 2024 or thereafter.”

What’s Next?

In terms of the future of the Rule, the FTC has stated that it is considering an appeal. However, legal scholars have pointed out that the FTC is acutely aware of the adverse appellate environment given the *Loper Bright* decision and is also wary of pursuing an appeal in the Fifth Circuit, which is known for its skepticism of agency authority.

So, after a couple of exciting months of legal drama, it seems that reports of the death of non-compete agreements have been greatly exaggerated. The future will almost certainly feature circuit splits, new arguments regarding whether the rule is applicable, and eventually, a decision by the Court of last resort. We will all be watching together.



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Cooling America's Classrooms



by **Jacquelyn Mack-Majka, Esq.**
Mack-Majka Law Firm Chartered, Inc.

On days that are 80 degrees or higher, school children and their teachers cannot pay attention, are short tempered and yearn to escape the hothouse-like classrooms. Student achievement, absenteeism, and disciplinary referrals have all been linked to schools without air conditioning. The increasingly prevalent studies of the long term effects of this national learning crisis predict it will lead to future national security risks. This year the New York State United Teacher's Organization successfully lobbied their state legislature for the passage of a bill that would prevent students from being allowed in classrooms when temperatures are above 88 degrees and when temperatures are over 82 degrees the bill would mandate cooling deices in every classroom. To date the bill awaits New York Governor Hochul's signature.

According to a September 2021 study published by the Center for Climate Integrity: "1,815 school districts, serving 10,774,046 students, will see three more weeks of days over 80°F than they did in 1970." See coolingcrisis.org. The cited research revealed that hot classrooms are detrimental to learning: "excessive classroom heat harms the ability of the students to learn and the ability of teachers to teach." See study at page 5. The study cited to the 2018 National Bureau of Economic Research working paper "Heat and Learning" for its finding that school air conditioning "almost entirely offset" the learning impacts caused by cumulative heat exposure. Without mitigation, the authors note, these findings suggest that the long-term effects of prolonged heat exposure

may even threaten a nation's rate of economic growth. See study at page 7. The study using GAO figures estimated the cost of cooling America's classrooms to be in excess of \$40 billion by 2025. See study at page 22. The study attributes the rising temperatures to climate change caused by "polluters who knew their products would cause climate change.... but then who lied about it order to protect their profits" and suggests that these "polluters" should foot the bill for bringing air conditioning to all of America's deficient schools. See study at page 37.

The study contained state specific reports. Florida's report indicates that by 2025 Florida will need to spend a staggering \$158,972,000 to upgrade the cooling capacity of systems in 3,414 schools spanning 67 Florida school districts. Florida's report estimated that the longer, hotter summers will increase Florida schools' yearly operating costs by \$59,420,000.

School districts require funding to undertake the mechanical changes and ongoing maintenance required to keep classrooms below 82 degrees. The Federal government has allocated \$100 billion for schools to "improve air quality and ventilation" with the passage of the American Jobs Plan of 2021. As suggested, leveling fines at energy giants is another source of funding. In addition, school districts should seek charitable endowments or private equity funding. A school cooling project should be locally sourced, funded and should take precedence

over any other district-wide spending project that does not pertain to improving K-12 education. A great local example is that of Orange County Public Schools, the nation's ninth largest school district. It has "built, replaced, or renovated 102 schools, more than half of its 202 schools, to the tune of \$2.75 billion." See, <https://www.nsba.org/ASBJ/2021/august/infrastructure-best-practices>. (Last accessed 9/5/24). Orange County wisely instituted a half-penny sales tax in 2003 which renewed in 2014 along with impact fees to fund the ongoing related expense.

One older study, Evaluation of thermal comfort conditions in a classroom equipped with radiant cooling systems and subjected to uniform convective environment, Applied Mathematical Modelling, Vol 35, Issue 3, March 2011, Pages 1292-1305, focused on cooling using radiant cooling systems. A radiant cooling system employs cold water pumped through pipes in the floor or ceiling or walls or a combination thereof in conjunction with an air distribution network. It can also be used to heat using hot water thereby serving a dual purpose and likely halving maintenance costs associated with a radiant heater and separate cooling device. Radiant cooling uses much less energy than compressing Freon. Unlike Freon, a leak in a radiant cooling system merely spills water not Freon. This study confirmed that radiant cooling systems are a viable option for cooling but did not address the cost of the system's installation or its maintenance.

The American University, Washington College of Law study evaluated two "high performance HVAC systems", one of which was to be installed in "its two new buildings". ("DOAS/RCP Study") See, <https://www.esmagazine.com/articles/96111-the-cost-of-doas-radiant> (last accessed on September 5, 2024). The DOAS/RCP study found that the HVAC system with a dedicated outdoor air system (DOAS) using

radiant ceiling panels had the lowest lifecycle cost expressed in terms of "lower first, operating, and maintenance costs of the DOAS/RCP system." Extrapolation of this limited study suggests that new building lifecycle cooling costs would be lower than with traditional air conditioning.

A recent study, A fresh (air) look at ventilation for COVID-19: Estimating the global energy savings potential of coupling natural ventilation with novel radiant cooling strategies, APPLIED ENERGY, Vol. 292, 15 June 2021, 116848, studied the existing ventilation and cooling systems of six school districts, one of which was Miami. It concluded that "increasing the outdoor air intake to 100% fresh air with existing mechanical ventilation systems will result in doubling space cooling energy demand in hot and humid climates, whereas switching to a 100% radiant cooling system coupled with natural ventilation will reduce net cooling energy demand and retain thermally comfortable conditions for a significant number of hours out of the year." Id. The caveat that schools located in "hot and humid" climates would likely require mechanical cooling systems as backup for "extreme" days and conversely schools located in extreme cold climates would require a traditional heater as backup. However, the authors concluded that long term energy savings would outweigh the upfront and maintenance costs because the backup systems would only be used in "extreme weather." Id.

The American Jobs Plan of 2021 is almost four years old yet Florida still has 3,414 schools that require cooling system capacity upgrades by 2025. Who is at fault for America's education crisis when the studies show that climate controlled classrooms are a prerequisite to actual learning? ✂



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Join Attorney David Levin for an in-depth class on waterfront property law, with a particular focus on the impact of the newly adopted FEMA flood maps in Sarasota County as of March 27. This class will cover the significant changes these maps bring to real estate transactions, ensuring you are fully informed on the latest legal and practical implications for waterfront property transactions.

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All Aboard! *SCBA Takes Trolley Tour of Newtown*

The SCBA Council for Diversity and Inclusion got together on a Saturday in September to learn more about the history of our community through the Newtown Alive Trolley Tour! The tour showcases the history of Sarasota's earliest African American pioneers and shares stories of their struggles and triumphs along the way.

We started at the Leonard Reid House which was relocated to its current home in 2022. The home was built in 1926 in Sarasota's earliest African American community, Overtown, which Leonard Reid helped establish. It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Place and is used as a culture and history center that hosts exhibits about Black life and history.

Next, our tour took us to Lido Beach where a historical marker has recently been placed to honor the "wade-in" that was organized by the Sarasota NAACP President, Neil Humphrey, in September 1955. "Although the Civil Rights Act banned discrimination based on race, color, religion,

sex or national origin in 1964, it took several more years before the beaches were integrated." (<https://www.newtownalive.org/integration-sarasota-beaches/>).

We stopped at a number of other locations in Sarasota on our tour, viewed murals honoring the community, and were entertained along the way by a phenomenal singer who made the experience even more impactful.

There is so much more to experience than what I can explain in this Docket article. Below are some of the thoughts from the SCBA and CDI members describing the experience!

"This experience included personal stories from those who actually lived through some of these experiences, live music from one of Motown's greatest, a ride to markers and murals throughout the city



by Jill Bowen, Esq.
Berlin Patten Ebling, PLLC



that I have walked past, driven past, and never really paid any attention. One of my favorite takeaways from the event was visiting the mural at Lido Key. My teenage daughter was with me. We've both been to this beach and walked past that mural so many times, never knowing the significance of it being there, or the story behind it. After the event, I asked my daughter what she thought of the event and she responded, "I'll never think of going to the beach the same again." Me either. This tour is eye-opening and an educational look into our local history. I highly recommend the tour, particularly for those with teenagers." – **Lisa Gallagher**, CDI Immediate Past-Chair

"It was a wonderful experience and truly eye opening. I enjoyed the music, the history, and the fellowship." – **Bryan Kessler**, SCBA President

"I'm grateful to the CDI for organizing the Newtown Alive Trolley Tour – it was a fascinating and educational experience. I learned so much and truly enjoyed the onboard singing, which made it even more memorable." – **Barbara Bush**, CDI Member

If you would like to go on your own tour through Newtown Alive or just learn more, check out newtownalive.org for more information and resources!

This was also a great opportunity for the CDI to discuss the upcoming year. We are excited to bring you a full year of programming and community impact through our partnership with the Booker Law Academy. Experiencing this part of Sarasota together made for a great start to the year! ✨



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The Wind of Change



by The Honorable Hunter W. Carroll
12th Judicial Circuit

The Revised Rules of Civil Procedure Become Effective January 1, 2025

By now, most of us have heard changes are coming to several civil procedure rules. Despite sounding innocuous, the effect is immense.

On May 23, 2024, the Florida Supreme Court released SC2023-0962 and SC2024-0662, changing and adding several rules. The circuit civil judges encourage attorneys to learn these new rules and think through how they will impact your practice. The rule changes become effective January 1, 2025.

At their core, these rule changes seek to require trial judges to actively manage civil cases and to reduce delay in a case's progression to trial. Once filed, cases should not stagnate.

This article explores some, but not all, of the more major changes. The circuit civil judges are evaluating how these changes will impact our normal processing of cases and steps we will take due to these changes. Also, we are striving to be as uniform between judges as possible.

On October 17, 2024, the circuit civil judges will discuss these changes in a Zoom Town Hall. The flyer insert has the details on how to sign up. The bar associations are applying for CLE credit.

The major changes

The rule changes are not final. The Florida Supreme Court invited comments when it issued its May 23 decisions, and many were filed. This article addresses some rule changes as they existed in early September

when the article was written. The Florida Supreme Court may further revise these rules before publication or later. The circuit civil judges will update everyone on the status of the rule changes during the Town Hall.

Discovery. Discovery will change in four significant ways. These changes likely will impact attorneys' practices the most.

First, parties will now be required to make initial discovery disclosures. This includes identifying those individuals likely to have discoverable information. It also requires a copy of, or description by category and location of, all documents, ESI, and other tangible items a party may use to support the party's claims or defenses. The party must also provide a computation of any claimed damage and any relevant insurance policies.

Second, a party will now have an ongoing duty to supplement "in a timely manner" incomplete or incorrect discovery responses.

Third, proportionality is now explicitly required to be considered. Please note, there are many comments filed with the Florida Supreme Court seeking to eliminate this requirement.

Fourth, the initial disclosure and each discovery request, response, or objection must contain a detailed certification signed by an attorney or self-represented litigant.

Motion practice. There must now be a meaningful conferral on most motions before the motion is filed. The filer must state in the motion the opposing party's position or detail attempts taken to confer.

Summary judgment. The Florida Supreme Court will now “tie the deadline to respond to a motion for summary judgment to the date of service of the motion rather than to the hearing date.” A party’s “response will be due no later than 60 days after service of the motion for summary judgment.” This change has generated many comments.

Case Management. Rule 1.200 is completely rewritten. The new case management rule applies to most, but not all, civil actions. Notable exceptions include some small claim, probate, estate, trust, and guardianship matters.

Within 120 days of the lawsuit being filed, the judge must issue a track assignment, establish a proposed or actual trial date, and enter a case management order. The case management order must contain at least 8 separate deadlines that are “consistent with the time standards.” Once set, “the deadlines in the order will be strictly enforced by the court.”

Courts are encouraged to conduct case management conferences. The judge may convert a motion hearing into a case management conference. A judge may hear any pending motion except summary judgment motions or those requiring evidentiary hearings at a case management conference.

Setting cases for trial. The “at issue” rule is eliminated, and pleadings no longer need to be closed to set a trial period. The judge must establish a projected trial period or an actual trial period in the case management order.

The 18-month (jury) and 12-month (nonjury) time standards established by the Florida Supreme Court continue to govern the “time-to-trial.” Historically, those times began the date the lawsuit was filed but will now begin the earlier of the last defendant served or 120 days after the lawsuit was filed. This ameliorates somewhat the problem encountered if there is a delay in serving the defendant with initial process.

Trial continuances. Trial continuances are disfavored, and strict rules now apply. Parties must detail the reasons, and the judge must explain the factual basis for continuance. Judges may sanction a party or attorney or both whose dilatory conduct caused the continuance.

If continued, “the new trial must be set for the earliest date practicable, given the needs of the case and resources of the court.” Further, the continuance order “must reflect what further activity will or will not be permitted.”

The New Circuit Civil Procedures

The circuit civil judges continue to work through how these rule changes will impact our handling of general and streamlined cases. Complex cases will be handled individually by the judge. By the October 17 Town Hall, we should have concrete procedures identified, assuming the Florida Supreme Court makes these rule changes final.

In our revised processes, we strive for as much uniformity within the circuit as possible. And we seek to make the process plain and transparent. Together, we will make the transition as smooth as possible.

The circuit civil judges currently anticipate several changes to existing procedures. These changes are consistent with the Florida Supreme Court’s direction to actively manage cases, eliminate

delay, and speed up the time-to-trial. Please understand under the revised rules judges are to be less tolerant of delay caused by a party’s or attorney’s actions or inactions. Having said that, we understand that “life happens” and some things are out of a party’s or attorney’s control. I envision judges being more tolerant of those situations.

Judges also know there is no “one-size fits all” process that can, or should, apply to all cases. But we anticipate these new processes applying in a majority of cases. The judge, though, will remain flexible if changes are needed in a particular case for a particular reason. The key is to address any suggested changes sooner rather than later. Now the anticipated changes.

First, we anticipate issuing a trial order with a firm trial period soon after the lawsuit is filed, together with a case management order containing standard deadlines for that trial period. The selected trial period usually will be at the end of the allowable time under the Florida Supreme Court’s time standards. If a different trial period is needed, the parties must confer and bring that to the judge’s attention immediately.

By using standard deadlines, we seek to save attorneys time while retaining an attorney’s ability to seek different deadlines if warranted. No more sitting through Initial Case Management Conferences simply to be given a trial period and then be required to meet and confer on creating the deadlines.

Second, we anticipate a concrete, meaningful discovery cut-off several months before trial. The judges wish to avoid parties conducting discovery in the days before trial, and we wish to provide sufficient time for resolution of outstanding motions, including summary judgment motions.

See CIVIL RULES, page 31

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National Dessert Month

Sweet Potato Pies and the Recipe for Legal Success



by Abigail Dean, Esq.
Eastmoore, Crauwels, & DuBose, P.A.

October is National Dessert Month. It is a time to celebrate the diverse and delightful world of sweets that bring joy to our lives. Sweet potato pie holds a special place in my heart, evoking warmth, tradition, and creativity among the myriads of desserts. For me, sweet potato pie was more than just a dessert; it was a passion that spanned from high school through my college years. As we honor National Dessert Month, I reflect on how my journey of baking and running a sweet potato pie business provided invaluable lessons that seamlessly translated into my first year of working as an associate at Eastmoore, Crauwels, & DuBose, P.A., a civil law firm.

The Sweet Beginnings: Baking Sweet Potato Pies in High School

My love affair with sweet potato pies began in high school, where I started baking as a way to express my creativity and unwind from academic pressures. What began as a simple hobby quickly evolved into a serious endeavor. I spent countless afternoons perfecting recipes, experimenting with spices, and refining baking techniques to achieve the perfect balance of sweetness and texture.

Baking sweet potato pies taught me the importance of precision and attention to detail—indispensable qualities in the legal field. Just as a slight variation in the amount of cinnamon or the baking time can alter the outcome of a pie, small details in legal documents can significantly impact a case. This early experience ingrained in me a meticulous approach, ensuring that every ingredient was measured accurately, and every step followed diligently. In law, whether drafting contracts or preparing briefs, precision ensures clarity and prevents misunderstandings, much like carefully crafting a pie recipe ensures consistent and delicious results.

From Kitchen to Classroom: Building a Sweet Potato Pie Business in College

As I transitioned to college, my passion for sweet potato pies took on a new dimension—I started a small business selling homemade pies. Balancing academics with entrepreneurship was challenging, but it provided a practical education in business management, customer service, and adaptability.

Running a sweet potato pie business requires strategic planning and effective time management, skills that are directly applicable to a legal career. I learned to prioritize tasks, manage resources efficiently, and handle unexpected challenges, such as fluctuating ingredient prices or varying customer demands. These experiences mirrored the dynamic environment of a civil law firm where attorneys must juggle multiple cases, meet tight deadlines, and adapt to changing legal landscapes. The ability to stay organized and maintain composure under pressure proved invaluable during my first year working in a civil law firm.

Lessons in Adaptability: Navigating Challenges in the Kitchen and the Courtroom

Entrepreneurship taught me the significance of adaptability—being able to pivot in response to unforeseen circumstances. There were times when a batch of pies didn't turn out as expected requiring me to troubleshoot and adjust recipes on the fly. Similarly, in the legal field, cases often take unexpected turns, necessitating quick thinking and flexible strategies.

During my first year at a civil law firm, I encountered numerous instances where adaptability was crucial. Whether dealing with sudden changes in case law, unexpected evidence, or last-minute client requests, the ability to adjust plans and approach problems creatively was essential. My background in managing a pie business equipped me with the resilience and resourcefulness needed to navigate these challenges effectively.

Customer Service and Client Relations: Building Trust and Communication

Operating a sweet potato pie business emphasized the importance of customer service and clear communication. Satisfied customers were the cornerstone of my business, and maintaining their trust required consistent quality and transparent communication. I learned to listen to feedback, address concerns promptly, and ensure that each pie met customer expectations.

In the legal profession, building strong client relationships is paramount. Clients entrust their legal matters to their attorneys, expecting professionalism, empathy, and clear communication. My experience in customer service translated seamlessly into client relations, enabling me to understand client needs, manage expectations, and communicate complex legal concepts in an accessible manner. Just

as I ensured that each pie was crafted to perfection, I strive to provide tailored legal solutions that meet each client's unique circumstances.

Managing Expectations and Delivering Results: The Intersection of Patience and Persistence

Baking sweet potato pies requires patience and persistence—qualities that are equally important in the legal arena. Achieving the perfect pie involved waiting for the pies to bake thoroughly and the flavors to meld. Similarly, legal cases often unfold over extended periods, requiring sustained effort and patience to achieve favorable outcomes.

In my first year at a civil law firm, I learned to manage client expectations effectively. Legal processes can be lengthy and complex, and clients may have high hopes for swift resolutions. Drawing from my baking experience, I approached each case with patience, providing clients with realistic timelines and transparent updates. This approach not only built trust but also ensured that clients remained informed and engaged throughout the legal process. Persistence, too, was key—much like persevering through multiple baking attempts to perfect a recipe, I remained dedicated to diligently working on cases until achieving the best possible results.

Conclusion

As we honor National Dessert Month, let us appreciate how seemingly unrelated pursuits can profoundly influence our professional lives. Whether you're savoring a slice of sweet potato pie or navigating the complexities of the legal system, the skills we cultivate in one area can enhance our capabilities in another. Here's to the sweet lessons learned from the kitchen that continue to shape our journey in the courtroom—reminding us that the sweetest successes often stem from the simplest beginnings. ✨



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Parental Responsibility in School Shootings



by William D. Motherway, Esq.

The tragic rise in school shootings has prompted a complex and emotionally charged debate about accountability. One of the most contentious issues is whether parents should be held responsible when their child is involved in such a devastating act.

The Crumbley Case

In recent years, one notable high-profile case involved James and Jennifer Crumbley, the parents of Ethan Crumbley, who carried out a mass shooting at Oxford High School in Michigan in 2021, killing four and injuring seven others. The Crumbleys were convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to 10-15 years in prison. This landmark case marked the first time parents were held criminally responsible for their child's actions in a school shooting.

The Crumbleys' case set a precedent, but it also raised numerous questions about the extent of parental responsibility. Prosecutors argued that the parents ignored clear warning signs of their son's mental distress and failed to secure the firearm he used in the shooting. This case has sparked a broader discussion about the role of parents in preventing such tragedies and the legal mechanisms available to hold them accountable.

Societal Implications

The idea of holding parents accountable for their children's actions is not new. Historically, laws have been enacted to impose penalties on parents for their children's activities. For instance, in the early 20th century, Colorado passed a law holding parents legally responsible for their children's actions, reasoning that parents had a moral duty to keep their children out of trouble. However, the effectiveness of such laws in preventing juvenile crime has been widely debated.

In the context of school shootings, the societal implications are profound. On one hand, holding parents accountable could serve as

a deterrent, encouraging more responsible gun ownership and better supervision of children. On the other hand, it raises concerns about fairness and the potential for unjust punishment. Critics argue that parents cannot always control their children's actions, especially in cases involving severe mental health issues.

Ethical Considerations

The ethical considerations surrounding parental responsibility in school shootings are complex. One key issue is the balance between individual and collective responsibility. While it is clear that the shooter is primarily responsible for their actions, the question remains whether parents should share in that responsibility if they failed to take reasonable steps to prevent the tragedy.

Holding parents accountable can be seen as a way to promote greater vigilance and responsibility in gun ownership. In many cases, school shooters have obtained firearms from their homes, often due to negligent storage by their parents. More recently, it is alleged that a parent purchased a firearm for his minor child despite being warned that the child had made dangerous threats involving a school shooting. By imposing legal consequences on parents, society can send a strong message about the importance of secure firearm storage and proactive intervention when warning signs are present.

There are also ethical concerns about the potential for scapegoating. In some cases, parents may be unfairly blamed for their child's actions, especially if they were unaware of the extent of their child's mental

health issues or had taken reasonable steps to address them. This raises questions about the fairness of imposing severe penalties on parents who may already be grappling with the emotional aftermath of their child's actions.

Legal Mechanisms and Challenges

The legal mechanisms for holding parents accountable vary widely across jurisdictions. In the United States as of January 1, 2024, 35 states and the District of Columbia have enacted Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws, which impose liability on firearm owners when a child gains access to a gun. These laws aim to encourage responsible gun storage and reduce the risk of accidental or intentional shootings by minors.

While the effectiveness of CAP laws is a subject of debate, a July 2024 RAND Corporation study summarized that states that enacted CAP laws showed a decrease in youth suicide, lower rates of firearm homicides or assaults, and a reduction in unintentional injuries and deaths. The study did not, however, show a significant reduction in mass shootings. Additionally, the definition of what constitutes "reasonable" gun storage can vary, leading to inconsistencies in how these laws are applied.

Another challenge is the potential for legal overreach. In some cases, parents may be charged with crimes even if they took reasonable steps to secure their firearms and address their child's behavioral issues. This can create a chilling effect, discouraging parents from seeking help for fear of legal repercussions.

Moving Forward: A Balanced Approach

Given the complexities involved, a balanced approach is essential when considering parental responsibility in school shootings. This approach should recognize the primary responsibility of the shooter while also acknowledging the role that parents can play in prevention.

One potential solution is to focus on education and support for parents. By providing resources and training on responsible gun ownership, mental health awareness, and early intervention strategies, society can empower parents to take proactive steps in preventing tragedies. Additionally, schools and communities can play a crucial role by offering support services and creating environments where parents feel comfortable seeking help.

Legal reforms can also play a role in promoting accountability without unfairly punishing parents. Clear guidelines on what constitutes reasonable gun storage and parental supervision can help ensure that laws are applied consistently and fairly. Moreover, legal mechanisms should be in place to support parents who are genuinely trying to address their child's issues but may lack the resources or knowledge to do so effectively.

Conclusion

The issue of holding parents responsible for a child's involvement in a school shooting is fraught with legal, societal, and ethical complexities. While there is a compelling case for promoting greater parental accountability, it is essential to approach this issue with nuance and sensitivity. By balancing the need for accountability with support and education, society can work towards preventing future tragedies while ensuring that justice is applied fairly and compassionately. ✂

CIVIL RULES, from page 23

This will require a revised mindset. Discovery must be pursued without delay. With the new initial disclosure and duty to supplement requirements, parties should no longer assume that they can conduct discovery until the trial. This means a party must address immediately any discovery problem impacting the case. And with the discovery deadline being several months before trial, a party will need to carefully think through the timing of discovery.

Third, we anticipate motions to be heard sooner. Because the parties must have a meaningful conferral before a motion is filed, only those motions with disagreement will need to be resolved. No longer will it be permissible to file a motion to obtain an informal continuance.

The goal is to free-up hearing time for truly disputed motions. Setting hearings that will not be heard consumes valuable resources and prevents others from accessing that time. The time for the parties to "work out" the motion is before it is filed, not minutes before the hearing.

Conclusion

The circuit civil judges understand that the civil rule changes made by the Florida Supreme Court will impact how attorneys will handle cases. And the judges are committed to establishing new procedures that are as uniform, plain, and transparent as possible, knowing that they must exist within the framework established by the Florida Supreme Court.

The circuit civil judges encourage you to review the rule changes and think through how they will impact your practice. And we invite you to attend the Town Hall on October 17 where we will discuss these and other matters in further detail.

Together, we will make this transition as smooth as possible. ✂

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Red Mass 2024



The 16th Annual Red Mass will be celebrated by Most Rev. Frank Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice on October 22, 2024 at 5:30 pm at St. Martha Catholic Church, 200 N. Orange Avenue in Sarasota, Florida.

Judges, lawyers, lawmakers, their families and staff are cordially invited.

A reception hosted by the Planning Committee of the Catholic Lawyers Guild will follow at the Fr. Fausto Parish Hall.

Please send RSVPs before October 11th for the Red Mass and/or reception to Tina Mroczkowski at (tel)941-366-5510 or email: tinam@bowmangeorge.com.

The tradition of the Red Mass dates back to 1245, where the first Red Mass was held at the Cathedral of Paris. Around 1310, during the reign of King Edward II, the Red Mass signaled the convening of the ecclesiastical and/or royal courts. The tradition continues in England at Westminster Cathedral and in many other countries.

In the US, the Red Mass is celebrated in Washington, DC, on the Sunday before the opening of each term of the US Supreme Court and is attended by judicial, legislative, diplomatic, political and civic leaders, regardless of religious affiliation.

The liturgical rite invokes the Holy Spirit for the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and reverence/holy fear; upon those who lead, rule or govern.



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More Than a Federal Holiday



by Andy Forstenzer, Esq.
Chair, ADR Section

As Veterans Day approaches, and at a time when immigration and citizenship are top of mind for many Americans, I thought I might share a story from my own family's history. Like many other families today, my roots go back to an earlier generation who were forced to flee their country of birth due to threats beyond their control.

My father was born into a wealthy Jewish family in Germany on June 14, 1919, a day we celebrate in the U.S. as Flag Day. He died in Sarasota on Veterans Day, November 11, 1992.

In 1933, as a 14-year-old Jewish male attending a private boarding school in Paris, rather than returning home to Germany, my father emigrated to the U.S. to escape the threat of the Nazis. He later voluntarily enlisted in the US Army and in a short time rose to the rank of Captain as a result of his fluency in German, French and English. Years later he was in the room alongside top US Generals at the unconditional surrender of the German Third Reich when the peace treaty was signed on Monday, May 7, 1945, at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) at Reims in northeastern France. It is my German-born father's service to the U.S. military I remember each year on both US holidays.

Visible from far and wide, the Buchenwald Memorial is the gravesite of almost 5,000 concentration camp inmates, and today it is the largest monument commemorating an National Socialist concentration camp in Europe. The location of the group of figures on Freedom Square was deliberately chosen so that they overlook the Weimarer Land.

My father's two younger twin brothers and my grandfather were not initially as fortunate. Rather, early in the morning of November 9, 1938 (a night since known as Kristallnacht - the night of smashed crystal), German Gestapo broke the lock on the family's front door and forced all three men (my uncles at the time were just 17 years old) to quickly get dressed and walk to Gestapo headquarters. According to my uncle who later shared this story, along the way they heard other local citizens calling out to their guards: "Good, you've got the Jews. Get rid of them." After my family had been forced out of their home, other Nazis entered and thoroughly and systematically destroyed its contents.

Following a night spent with some 30 others sleeping on a cold stone floor in the local penitentiary, they were boarded onto a train and taken to Concentration Camp Buchenwald. Upon arrival, they were forced to jump off the train and run through the gate past a gauntlet of guards with leather whips and shepherd dogs who attacked them while running. Some men, who could not run fast enough, were severely wounded or killed before reaching wooden barracks exhausted and hysterical with fear. They had no food or drink. The doors were bolted, and it was dark inside. Inside were rough wooden shelves ranged to the ceiling, perhaps

two feet apart onto which they climbed, packed together like sardines in a can. There was one bucket on the floor for relief, soon overflowing.

The following morning the prisoners were marched to the parade ground and ordered into a U-shaped formation. There were thousands of them surrounding a wooden whipping stand. After the camp commander read a proclamation, essentially saying someone needed to be punished, one man was dragged to the whipping stand and stripped naked. While he was face down on the stand, two uniformed Nazi guards administered a series of strokes with bullwhips, working slowly until he was finally lifted off the stand and laid on the ground. A message had been delivered.

As I noted above, my father was born into a wealthy family as a result of my grandfather and his brother-in-law having built a rather substantial retail business from scratch that had become very successful. In those early days of their rise to power, before any widespread killing, the Nazis instead only wanted all German Jews to leave the country. Although many countries around the world didn't want German Jews, since our family had fortunately much earlier applied for visas to come to the United States to stay with relatives whose only known connection was a common last name, their visas were expedited, and they were free to leave. Despite being mere bags of bones covered with skin, whose heads had been shorn just before their release marking them as former prisoners to the world, a few days after the men left Buchenwald the entire family embarked for New York aboard a cruise ship. They were penniless, but in good health.

My father met my mother, a Long Island resident and native American, at an Army event in New York City and they married before he was sent overseas to serve in the U. S. Army in Europe. When he returned home after the end of World War II, he was offered a sales job with a start-up leather goods firm my grandfather had started after he arrived in the US. My father remained in sales for this company and another for his entire career, eventually earning enough money for our family to move from a small starter house in Levittown, New York, to another community closer to New York City, where I grew up and attended public schools. In 1989, when my parents were retired, they moved to Sarasota. I would visit regularly before moving here myself in 2023. Both German-born uncles also served in the US military with distinction in Europe, survived the War, later married, had children and successful careers before both passing away in recent years. Their service is also acknowledged and remembered.

My very existence here today traces back to my father's struggles and ultimate good fortune once he was able to immigrate to the US. As a result, my family's own story obviously weighs heavily on my own immigration views. I am sharing this personal story with the hope it may help others view the fate of many of today's immigrant families seeking an escape from tyranny at home (each with perhaps different, but similar, stories to share) in a different and more positive light. As was the case with my father and our other family members, once in America each made significant contributions to their new country of residence and gave me and my cousins our opportunities to grow and contribute to U.S. society. For this, we are forever thankful. ✨

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Celebrating 50 Years with John Dumbaugh



by Scott Westheimer, Esq.
Syprett Meshad, P.A.

At the recent Florida Bar convention, I had the honor of presiding over the luncheon honoring lawyers licensed to practice law in Florida for 50 years. It was extremely special to have one of my very own partners, **John Dumbaugh**, recognized at this year's luncheon.

John was born and raised in Butler, Pennsylvania, home of the first Jeep developed for the war effort. His father was one of Jeep's designers. When he was 16, his family visited Sarasota on vacation, and they knew it would be their lifetime home. They moved to Sarasota soon thereafter, in 1965. John is a proud graduate of Riverview High School (class of 1967) and is a member of Riverview's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.

John joined Syprett Meshad, P.A. (which was initially known as Crabtree, Butler, Syprett & Meshad) after graduating from the University of Florida College of Law in 1974. He came to the firm as a law clerk in 1973, but he had connections to the firm much earlier than that. He met **Jim Syprett** as a junior at Riverview High School, where Jim mentored a group of high school students. Jim brought him into the firm, first as a clerk and then as an associate. John became a partner in 1984.

His practice has concentrated on Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law, and he has been a board-certified Real Estate attorney since 1990. One of the greatest things he has experienced over his 50 years practicing was the privilege to know, work with, and be mentored by some of the most outstanding developers in Sarasota and Manatee County, including John Meshad, Roland King, Ed Kalin, and Howard Horton. In addition to his real estate work, John also has a large probate practice. He was mentored by and practiced in front of Sarasota's judicial elite, including practicing probate law in front of Judge Lynn Silvertooth. John is fluent in German, holding a course completion certificate for "German for Jurists" from the prestigious Goethe Institute in Bonn. John has worked with the German Consulate in Miami and Atlanta and has a large international clientele. He has developed an understanding and expertise in comparative law on different countries' probate systems and documentation and how they interact with Florida law.

When he is not busy with his law practice, John finds time to enjoy his various interests, including genealogy and history, performing as a member in two of Sarasota's foremost choral groups, and sailing.

John previously served on the boards of the Sarasota Mental Health Association, Sarasota United Cerebral Palsy, Siesta Key Actor's Theatre, Habitat for Humanity Sarasota, Key Chorale Artists of Sarasota, and Sarasota Power & Sail Squadron. He received The Florida Bar President Pro Bono Service Award in 2000.

John and his wife Barbara are proud parents of two daughters, Elizabeth Dumbaugh & Victoria Lear, and now have 5 grandchildren. They are celebrating 45 years of marriage and enjoy traveling and spending time with their grandchildren. ✨

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14
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Navigating the New NIL Regulations for Florida High School Athletes

What Legal Professionals Need to Know



by Madeline “Maddie” Salamone, Esq.
Bentley Goodrich Kison, P.A.



The landscape of high school athletics in Florida has shifted significantly with the recent changes to the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) regulations related to Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL). In July, the Florida Department of Education ratified important updates to FHSAA Bylaw 9.9, which now allows high school athletes to engage with Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) opportunities. Previously, Florida accelerated the timeline for college athletes to begin entering into NIL deals by enacting legislation that allowed college athletes to enter into NIL deals beginning July 1, 2021.

Florida is now the 36th state to approve high school NIL. This decision marks a pivotal moment for high school athletes, parents, coaches, administrators and legal professionals navigating this evolving space. Here's a comprehensive breakdown of the changes and the implications for all parties involved.

Understanding the Changes

Prior to the vote, the FHSAA's Board of Directors held an emergency meeting to modify the definition of “NIL collectives.” The updated

FHSAA Bylaw 9.9.4 now defines “NIL Collectives” with greater precision, aimed at restricting certain activities:

NIL Collectives include but are not limited to, groups, organizations, or cooperative enterprises that exist to collect funds from donors, individuals, or businesses to:

- (1) help facilitate NIL deals for student-athletes;
- (2) facilitate payments to or transfers funds to student-athletes;
- (3) create ways for athletes to monetize from their NIL; and/or
- (4) otherwise promote NIL for schools or student-athletes.

NIL Collectives shall not include school sanctioned team fundraising.

The primary intent behind these changes is to make very clear that high school athletes are prohibited from engaging with “NIL collectives,” or any group or organization that may function as a de facto collective. The FHSAA's Board of Directors took this step due to concerns over a particular club the FHSAA believed might be operating as an NIL collective.

Key Restrictions and Prohibitions

The revised bylaw includes several critical restrictions that legal professionals should be aware of:

1. **Negotiation and Representation:** Athletes and their parents are solely responsible for negotiating their NIL deals. School representatives, including coaches and boosters, are explicitly barred from any involvement in these transactions. Athletes may hire agents or lawyers registered in Florida for the limited purpose of assisting with NIL-related matters.
2. **Prohibited Categories:** Athlete may not engage in NIL deals involving products or services in (a) adult entertainment, (b) alcohol, tobacco, vaping, and nicotine products, (c) cannabis products, (d) controlled substances, (e) prescription pharmaceuticals, (f) gambling, (g) weapons, firearms, and ammunition, (h) political or social activism, and (i) NIL collectives.
3. **Use of School, FHSAA, or NHFS Marks:** Athletes are prohibited from using or referencing school logos, uniforms, team names, mascots, patents, copyrights, or identifying marks of a school, FHSAA, or NFHS, or any events, games, or championships in their NIL promotions. If an athlete wants to use any of the above in NIL promotions, they will need prior written consent from the school or organization.
4. **Exclusion of School and FHSAA Accolades:** NIL activities must not reference the athlete's achievements in school or FHSAA-sanctioned events.
5. **Restrictions for Transferring Athletes:** Athletes who transfer schools during a season are barred from securing NIL deals for that particular season, unless they receive a specific exemption.
6. **Recruitment and Inducements:** Schools and boosters are prohibited from offering NIL deals as an inducement to recruit athletes from other institutions.
7. **Contract Duration:** NIL contracts must terminate on or before the athlete's high school graduation date. This stipulation ensures that NIL activities are confined to the duration of an athlete's high school career. The purpose of this clause is to protect minor athletes from predatory contracts that lock an athlete into a long-term deal.
8. **Promotion During School Activities:** Athletes are not allowed to endorse or promote products or services during school, district, or FHSAA-sponsored activities.

Legal Implications for Minors

The new regulations also intersect with existing legal principles regarding minors and contract law. Given that high school athletes are minors, a parent or guardian must also sign any NIL contract. However, Florida Statute § 743.08 permits courts to approve contracts made by a minor or a minor's parent or guardian, where the contract involves a minor endorsing a product or service or otherwise receiving "compensation for the use of right of publicity of the minor" (i.e., NIL). If approved by a court, the minor would then be unable to disaffirm the contract based on their age, or claim the parent or guardian lacked authority to make the contract, thus making the contract enforceable.

Navigating the New Landscape

For lawyers representing athletes, parents, or schools, understanding and advising on these new regulations is crucial. Here are a few key considerations:

- **Due Diligence:** Ensure that all NIL deals comply with the updated FHSAA bylaws. This includes verifying that contracts do not involve prohibited elements such as school logos or endorsements during school-sponsored events.
- **Contract Review:** Scrutinize NIL contracts carefully to confirm that they adhere to the restrictions on duration and representation. Ensure that contracts are structured in a way that aligns with both the FHSAA regulations and Florida state law.
- **Parental Involvement:** Given the requirement for parental or guardian signatures, advise clients on the importance of having legal oversight during the contract negotiation and approval process. This is vital for protecting the athlete's interests and ensuring that all contractual obligations are clear and enforceable.
- **Advisory Role:** Act as a liaison between athletes, parents, and schools to navigate the complexities of NIL deals. Provide clear guidance on the rules to avoid inadvertent violations that could jeopardize an athlete's eligibility or contractual agreements.

Conclusion

The recent changes to Florida's NIL regulations for high school athletes introduce new opportunities while also presenting challenges. Legal professionals can play a crucial role in helping athletes, parents, and schools successfully manage NIL deals as the landscape continues to evolve. ✨





Ensure Your Summons is Issued by the Clerk Without Delay

New Administrative Order Regarding Civil Summons Form Language for Referral to Legal Aid



by Karen E. Rushing
Clerk of Court and
County Comptroller

On August 1, 2024, Chief Judge Moreland signed Administrative Order 2024-16.2 (hereinafter referred to as the “Administrative Order”) requiring that certain language be included in all civil summons forms issued by the Clerks of the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. More specifically, the Administrative Order requires that all civil summons provide reliable information to the citizens of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit about low-cost or no-cost legal services that may be available to them, if they qualify.

The Administrative Order, which replaces and rescinds Administrative Order 2010-20.2, requires that any civil summons issued by the Sarasota Clerk have inscribed on it one of the following statements:

North Sarasota County (case numbers ending in NC):

If you cannot afford an attorney, you may contact Legal Aid of Manasota at (941) 366-0038 or <https://www.legalaidofmanasota.org> or Gulfcoast Legal Services at (800) 230-5920 or <https://www.gulfcoastlegal.org>. If you do not qualify for free legal assistance or do not know an attorney, you may use an attorney referral service or contact the Florida Bar Referral Service at (800) 342-8011 or <https://www.floridabar.org/public/lrs/>.

South Sarasota County (case numbers ending in SC):

If you cannot afford an attorney, you may contact Legal Aid of Manasota at (941) 366-0038 or <https://www.legalaidofmanasota.org>, Gulfcoast Legal Services at (800) 230-5920 or <https://www.gulfcoastlegal.org>, or United Way of South Sarasota County, Inc. at (941) 484-4811 or <https://www.uwssc.org>. If you do not qualify for free legal assistance or do not know an attorney, you may use an attorney referral service or contact the Florida Bar Referral Service at (800) 342-8011 or <https://www.floridabar.org/public/lrs/>.

To avoid delay in the issuance of your civil summons, please ensure that any civil summons that is filed with this office contains the appropriate language as set forth above. Any civil summons that does not include the required information will not be issued and the docket line with your proposed summons will be appended to indicate non-compliance with the Administrative Order.

Don't experience a delay in the issuance of your civil summons! Ensure that your civil summons complies with the Court's directives so that this office can issue same without delay. The Court's Administrative Order can be found here: [Administrative Order 2024-16.2 \(flcourts.org\)](https://www.flcourts.org). ✂



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