



The Docket

SARASOTA COUNTY
BAR ASSOCIATION
MAY 2020
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Life in the time of coronavirus

SCBA members share images during Covid-19 pandemic



Drew Clayton



Jennifer, Doug, Kate and Daniel Grosso



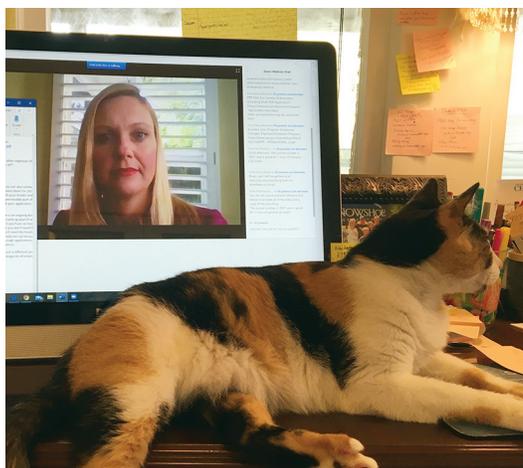
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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



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The Docket



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And the survey says....

In an effort to figuratively take the temperature of SCBA members during the midst of this pandemic, both the SCBA as well as the 12th Judicial Circuit Court recently circulated surveys in order to see how our local lawyers are faring. The SCBA survey elicited about 48 responses, whereas the court's survey got as many as 111 responses. The court's survey is located at the back of the newsletter.

Here are some of the highlights from the SCBA survey:

■ **Guidance sought from local courts** – Our members were generally pleased with the guidance they were getting from the courts, but wanted to know how telephonic and/or video hearings would be conducted and expressed hope that there might be uniform procedures and rules for those hearings. Concerns were also expressed about how backlogged criminal cases might impact the civil docket, and our members wanted to make sure the lines of communication are kept open with the court via town hall meetings and the like.

■ **What the SCBA can do** – We received quite a bit of positive feedback thanks to the tireless efforts of our executive director Holly Lipps. Our members want programming that will help law practices work effectively (and remotely) during this challenging time. Holly has done a phenomenal job partnering with the Broward County Bar Association and other county bars to jointly sponsor a number of such programs at minimal cost to our members. There is also a desire for the SCBA to continue facilitating communications between the courts and the membership. Lastly, there has been interest in facilitating some type of social gathering via Zoom. I can tell you that our SCBA board has been meeting via Zoom and we have even had one cocktail party that way!

■ **Effective communications tools** – It seems that the SCBA's Special Covid-19 update emails have been well received, with 85% of the respondents saying those emails were most helpful at this time. Another 71% said they thought the weekly

SCBA PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Drew
Clayton, Esq.
Icard Merrill

e-blasts were helpful, while 37% found the SCBA website of some value.

■ **What the SCBA has done well and could do better** – Again, the survey responses were very positive about the SCBA's efforts to keep its members well-informed and to offer relevant programming during the pandemic. One respondent said, "Holly Lipps should be given an award for how she is running the SCBA!" I could not agree more! A couple of members expressed a desire for lower cost or free webinars, and one asked that the emails from the SCBA be shorter and/or more concise.

■ **Whether any of our members would like to provide webinars and/or resources to help other members related to the pandemic** – One of our members was willing to do a training session regarding effective communication, and another was willing to do something on

leadership and management in order to keep staff engaged and maintain a positive team dynamic when everyone is working remotely. A family law mediator was willing to do a webinar on mediation ethics. Another member who is corporate counsel to an internet reputation management company offered to do a webinar to help attorneys improve revenues by managing their online reputations. And, another of our members offered to do a webinar on the power of prayer in times of crisis.

The SCBA board has recently reviewed these survey responses and will be taking steps to incorporate the suggestions that it thinks will be of most benefit to our membership. I encourage you to continue to make your suggestions and concerns known to us so that we can be as responsive as possible.

In the interim, I wish you and yours good health and a speedy return to more normal times.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome, new members!

The following represents each new member's name, law school, year of admission to The Florida Bar, and law firm association.

- **Jose Benson:** Barry University School of Law; 2003; *Benson Trial Group, PLLC*
- **Erin Linser:** Wayne State Law School; expected graduation May 2021
- **Nikki McCain:** Florida Coastal School of Law; 2018; *Berg & Kessler*
- **Marla Owczarek:** Tulane Law School; 2020
- **Steven Teuber:** Michigan State University; 2005; *Law Offices of Wells | Olah, P.A.*
- **James Turff:** Florida A & M University School of Law; 2009; *Porges Hamlin Knowles & Hawk, P.A.*
- **Colleen Wapole:** Stetson University; 2015



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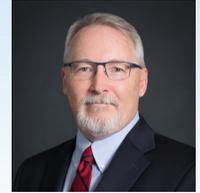
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Things I like, and the best quarantine

This month, instead of considering our new normal or writing another article about the effects of Covid-19, I want to focus on more positive matters. Here are six things I like and the award for best quarantine.

■ **Medical professionals.** During the COVID-19 crisis, medical professionals have been flat out inspiring. Hospitals overrun with incoming patients are doing their best to adapt. Doctors, nurses and other hospital employees across the country are working on overdrive in dangerous conditions to combat this virus, often with insufficient resources.

■ **Community members providing essential services.** As a new dad, the prospect of leaving the house for groceries, household items, or takeout is unsettling. I have been able to maintain my social distance thanks to the farmers, manufacturers, truck drivers, restaurant workers, store employees and delivery men and women all providing essential services throughout this pandemic.

■ **Family and friends.** Connecting with family and friends has been key. We are quarantining alone together.

■ **The ability to work remotely.** Working from home is less efficient and requires significant adaptation.

YLD PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Brian Goodrich, Esq.
Bentley & Bruning, P.A.

There are distractions and obstacles nonexistent at the office. There is a wider disconnect in communication. But considering many workers across the country don't have the option of working from home, it is surely something to appreciate.

■ **2020 Content.** Quarantining in the 1990s would have been painful—no good daytime television shows save *The Price is Right*. I love Bob Barker as much as anyone. But there's a limit to how many Showcase Showdowns one can rationally consume. 2020 content is abundant, diverse, readily available, and just tremendous. Without a hint of shame, I watched all of *Tiger King* on Netflix. No regrets.

■ **The Balcony Renaissance.** With the #stayathome movement in full swing, balconies have experienced a renaissance of sorts during which balconies across the globe have been a source of the most uplifting content. Apartment building neighbors have engaged in balcony tennis volleys. Entire communities have joined in spontaneous songs from their balconies. People have gathered on their balconies during flash mobs to show support for medical staff. One man in France even ran the equivalent of a marathon on his balcony after the Barcelona

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What to do... What to do...

By **ANDREW CONABOY, Esq.**
Berlin Patten Ebling, PLLC

Like most, well probably all, of you reading this article, my family is unfortunately facing the same question when we are not working and have some free time: so... what do we do now that there is nothing to do?? Pretty much every establishment that used to bring us joy and fill our free time is now closed; even outdoor venues like local parks and playgrounds are shuttered. So what are we to do? This question is even more pressing if you have children who are now regularly staring at you with that bored "we're really



Andrew Conaboy, Esq.
Berlin Patten Ebling, PLLC

doing this again?" stare — you know the one... I am here to share some suggestions that I plan to do (maybe... at some point) now that there is not anything else to do!

My first, and perhaps most important suggestion, is to write an article for the Docket! It's really fun, I swear! (You're welcome, editors!). Some of you are likely thinking that I am only writing this article because I am bored and have nothing better to do with my free time. You may or may not be correct, but we might as well share our ideas with each other since we are in this together for the long haul!

If you're like me, you have an extensive "honey do" list — you know, the list of things you've been telling your wife you will do "this weekend" for several years. Well I have now have no excuses, so it's time to clean the garage, the cars, the lanai, and purge my closet of the clothes that I have not been able to fit into since I had kids and stopped working out. Oh and that reminds me, now I have time to re-start that exercise routine I've been promising myself I'd get back on for years!

While I may (probably) not finish
See TO DO, Page 17

YLD LEADERSHIP

Slate presented for YLD Board

By **SARA CASTRO, Esq.**
Nominating Committee Chair

The YLD Board of Directors nominates the following members to serve as Officers of the organization for the 2020-2021 term: **Sara Castro**, President; **Patrick McArdle**, President-elect; **Caroleen Brej**, Secretary; and **Natasha Selvaraj**, Treasurer. **Brian Goodrich** will remain on the Board as the Immediate Past President.

Warren Chin, Alisa Heedy, Pamela Hernandez, and Robert Young

The slate shall be elected by voice acclamation of the members present at the Annual Meeting

will continue as directors through 2021. New directors slated include **Jade Davis** and **Mallory Moretti**. Representing the South County Division will be **Frank Malatesta**.

The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee shall be elected by voice acclamation of the members present at the Annual Meeting, or for any contested position, by the majority of those present at said Meeting.

Thank you to all those who expressed an interest in serving. I look forward to a great year.



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Adjusting to the new “normal”

Greetings from South County! A lot has certainly changed since I wrote last month's Docket article. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we now find ourselves in a new world, both personally and professionally. I, along with others, refer to this as “The New Normal.” Whether we are at home spending more time with our families, learning new technology so we can operate our practices, or trying hard to figure out exactly where in Costa Rica Don Lewis went, “The New Normal” will be “Back to Business” in no time, although Tony Mowry may already be installed as the South County Division President when it does.

Despite all the bad information and news surrounding the pandemic itself, there are good things that have resulted from “The New Normal.” Residents of Punjab, India, report being able to see the Himalayas clearly for the first time in decades as a result of the improvement in air quality caused by the reduction in air pollution from that country's lockdown. According to news reports, some parts of the Himalayas can currently be seen from over 100 miles away. This is not an anomaly, as pictures of a smog free China, where CO2 emissions have dropped nearly 25%, have surfaced. The canals in Venice, Italy, have transformed from cloudy to crystal clear enough to see fish swimming below as a result of the reduction in tourism (not necessarily

SOUTH COUNTY PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Bryan Kessler, Esq.
Berg and Kessler

attributable to an improvement in water quality). There are videos of wild animals venturing onto main streets seemingly questioning what happened to all the human activity. Hollywood predicted something like this would occur in Avengers: Endgame, but thankfully it didn't require half the world's population vanishing from existence, just a global pandemic.

Notwithstanding the partisan politics in the United States that preceded the pandemic, Congress was able to quickly pass legislation (the CARES Act) intended to support our struggling economy (not without the added pork, of course). State governments have risen to the challenge of dealing with the local effects of the pandemic, albeit some in different ways than others but nevertheless a demonstration of our great democracy and strong republic. Nearly overnight, government officials removed red tape for vaccines and drug trials, and the provision of care and administrative processes have all improved (who knew what telehealth was prior to this?). Ford and General Motors quickly shifted from manufacturing vehicles to much needed ventilators. Distilleries went from brewing beer to hand sanitizer. Most importantly, P&G increased its manufacturing of toilet paper. Justice Antonin Scalia is certainly smiling from up above as

People have adapted to “The New Normal” in extraordinary ways and are showing great resiliency during these difficult times.

he watches the pandemic response be “Locally Executed, State Managed, and Federally Supported.”

People have adapted to “The New Normal” in extraordinary ways and are showing great resiliency during these difficult times. We are utilizing technology to remain connected to friends and loved ones while being sequestered in our homes. Families gathered for Passover and Easter dinners this year via Zoom and other similar platforms, we all became virtual law firms overnight, and who knew that somebody by the name of Joe Exotic would provide relief from all the stress? Perhaps “you have to know the darkness before you can appreciate the light” (Madeline L'Engle).

I would like to wish everyone good health during “The New Normal.” And remember, “[e]ven the darkest night will end and the sun will rise” (Victor Hugo).

SOUTH COUNTY LEADERSHIP

SCD proposes leadership slate

By **ANTHONY MOWRY, Esq.**
Nominating Committee Chair

The South County Division Nominating Committee nominates the following members to serve as officers of the organization in the 2020–2021 year: **Anthony Mowry**, President; **Patrick Reilly**, President-elect; **Erin Itts**, Treasurer; **AJ Stickley**, Secretary, and **Bryan Kessler**, Immediate Past-president. **Lance Ball**, **Jeffrey Backo**, and **Jacquelyn Mack-Majka** will continue to serve as directors until the expiration

A strategic planning meeting will be held over the summer

of their respective staggered terms. The following members are nominated to serve as directors for two year terms: **Dawn Marie Bates-Buchanan**, **Mark Creech** and **Kayla Tipple**. The slate proposed by the nominating committee will be elected by voice acclamation of the members present at the SCBA annual meeting.

A strategic planning meeting will be held over the summer, and the board will be reaching out to members of the Division to work on various committees and projects. We look forward to your participation!

YLD

Continued from Page 7

marathon was cancelled. IMHO, it's about time balconies made a comeback.

And the award for best quarantine goes to ... **Rick Kalinowski** from Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Instead of succumbing to the isolation blues, Rick built a tiny picnic table for the squirrels outside his house. After a video of squirrels munching on fresh-cut fruit and seeds at Rick's tiny picnic table went viral, people from all walks of life have taken up the challenge of constructing tiny picnic tables for squirrels. Rick told Cater News Agency, “The morning I made the video, the squirrels just looked so happy and cute eating.” Good work, Rick.



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James Bond films ranked from worst to first: Part 1

By **DOUG CHERRY, Esq.**
Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP

While the entire world vegged out on Tiger King, the last couple months struck me as an ideal time to embark on a journey through all of the James Bond films with my son, who had never seen any of them. Nice father and son Bonding. (Sorry, we have been inundated with Bond puns like “he disagreed with something that ate him” and “shocking, positively shocking,” which are much like Dad Jokes).

Each film is a mini time capsule representing the fashion, technology and general social climate of the day. At times, they can serve as an ugly reflection of our past, with prevalent (and sometimes downright hostile) sexism. The best quality of James Bond is his ability to boldly go into danger alone, taunting his rivals as a way to not only amuse himself, but to read the situation with his incredible instincts. His worse quality is his sexual objectification of women. In the early Connery films, “no” means “yes” and I often felt like I was watching an episode of *Mad Men*. As a parent, I thought it best to address these issues head-on and use them as teaching moments.

If a viewer can get past these issues, the films can be highly entertaining. Many of them still hold up incredibly well. Gorgeous locales, spectacular stunts and reoccurring plot devices make the films both transporting and comforting, like an old pair of shoes. As for my son, he thoroughly enjoyed the series as a newbie (and agreed almost 100% with this ranking). Here is Part I of my ranking of the films from worst to best.

World is Not Enough (1999):

After a nice start with *GoldenEye*, Pierce Brosnan’s installments as 007 quickly steered into over-the-top silliness (which is saying a lot for the series). The producers pushed for Bond to be more of a straight-up action hero than a spy. The biggest problem is *World’s* tone, which is all over the place. On one end of the spectrum is a psychological drama involving a really nasty villain and a femme fatale (well-played by *Braveheart’s* Sophie Marceau), while



Doug Cherry, Esq.
Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP

on the other side are G.I. Joe-like action scenes and characters like Denise Richard’s (*Wild Things*) nuclear scientist Christmas Jones. Unlike the other Bond films, I don’t ever want to see this one again. *Best Moment*: The first part of a London boat chase before it steers into absurdity (i.e. Bond jumping from a flying boat onto a hot air balloon.)

Diamonds Are Forever (1971):

Sean Connery looks completely disinterested as he wanders about through this bland outing with no stand-out stunts or action pieces. The moon buggy desert chase is Bond action at its lowest intensity. Mr. Kidd and Mr. Wint are especially insensitive characters by today’s standards. *Best Moment*: A fun car chase with scrappy Bond Girl Tiffany Case in (what is now) downtown Vegas.

Man with the Golden Gun (1974):

Poor pacing bogs down Roger Moore’s worst film. If the villain’s most memorable trait is a third nipple, than Christopher Lee wasn’t doing his job. Austin Power’s fight with Mini-Me is not a far stretch from the fight with Hervé Villechaize. One was humorous, the other just bad taste. *Best Moment*: A simply incredible corkscrew car jump that makes you fond of the days of pre-CGI stunts (although almost ruined by a corny slide whistle). Possibly the best Bond stunt ever.

Tomorrow Never Dies (1997):

Jonathan Pryce (*Game of Thrones*) tries to chew too much scenery as a cartoonish Rupert Murdoch-like villain who peddles in Fake News. Brosnan starts to channel Zoolander with acting focused more on posing through each scene. However, there are a few well-constructed action scenes such as a motorcycle/helicopter chase with fellow spy Michelle Yeoh. *Best Moment*: Bond gleefully driving his car from the back seat with a remote control.

View to a Kill (1985):

Roger Moore was 57 in his final installment, and it really shows here. He comes across as downright creepy with his wide eye delivery, especially when paired with 29 year-old Bond Girl Tanya Roberts. The middle stretch of the film is much too long and mundane.

The bright spot is Christopher Walken’s performance as Max Zorin, a genetically modified Nazi experiment billionaire (yes, that’s right) set on flooding Silicone Valley, a plan ripped off from Lex Luthor. His line “more power!” is similarly delivered to “more cowbell!” Duran Duran’s title song is catchy as it flows throughout John Barry’s score. *Best Moment*: A spectacular finale involving a blimp over the Golden Gate Bridge.

Octopussy (1983):

An exciting opening with a small jet flying through a hanger kicks off this otherwise awkward installment. Quite a mixed bag here, as you have gorgeous India vistas contrasting with bad humor such as Bond dressed as a clown as he infiltrates a circus. *Best Moment*: Bond’s escape through a creature-infested jungle.

Die Another Day (2002):

Brosnan’s outrageous, yet more tonally consistent, final entry really throws in the kitchen sink. It kicks off with Bond being tortured for over a year in a North Korean prison during the title song. You also have evil North Korean brothers (one disguised as a British billionaire and the other’s face disfigured with diamonds), Halle Barry as a spunky spy Jinx, invisible cars, an ice lair ... are you not entertained?!? It reminded me of Rick and Morty’s improvised Two Brothers trailer (Google it!). This film contains the series’ absolute worst moment ... Bond para-surfing away from giant wave caused by a cataclysmic sun ray. *Best Moments*: Brosnan’s sword fight with Toby Stephens (*Black Sails*) / Newcomer Rosamund Pike as Miranda Frost.

Moonraker (1979):

After the success of *Star Wars*, why not put Bond in space? Lots of reasons. Silliness abounds with side plots like monstrous assassin Jaws falling in love and a chase through the Venice canals in a souped-up gondola. The massive budget on this film goes much to waste, with several poor choices that could have ended a franchise. *Best Moments*: A fight set on the top of a cable car in Rio / John Barry’s most epic score.

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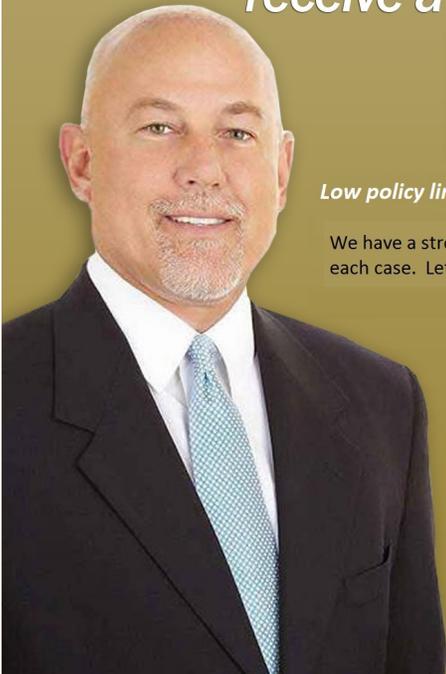
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An interview with my mother

By TYLER BRAND STALL, Esq.
Hutton & Dominko, PLLC

This month, in honor of Mother's Day, I thought I would do a Q & A with my mother, Lori Brand Stall.

Q: Mom, thank you for agreeing to do this interview, and of course, Happy Birthday, or Happy Mother's Day, whichever it is.

A: It is not my birthday. Nor it is it Mother's Day.

Of course, every day is Mother's Day! Also, since many of us have been working from home, it is unclear what day or month it is anymore. Let's move on to questions.

Mom, tell us what you do and how long you have worked there?

I have worked as the Practice Administrator of Infectious Diseases Associates for over 36 years (longer than you and your sister have been alive.)

Can you tell us what your job entails?

I manage a private practice of nine infectious disease doctors which has grown to over 50 employees.



Tyler Brand Stall and
Lori Brand Stall

Our practice is by referral only from other physicians. This model is reflected in the way our entire business is run, from hiring to billing. We have multiple professionals as bosses with many personalities. It is my job to keep the office and the business running smoothly. Mostly it works well, but now we have a pandemic. We have many employees who have been with us for more than a decade. We are a service business and we want to keep our referring doctors and our patients happy. I think every office employee tries to keep that in mind.

How has the Covid 19 virus affected your office?

We only treat what we can, such as bacterial infections where oral antibiotics have failed. Our referring physician offices have mostly stopped seeing patients and many other life activities have stopped, so our business is greatly affected. In the office we now use Telemedicine. Each day we examine how the new legal and legislative

changes can and will help our small business during this difficult time. On the human level, the fact that no family members can visit their inpatient loved ones, has instantly created many HIPAA challenges. As your age group knows, women who give birth in the hospital may have to do so without even their partner present, depending on the risks at the time. This is very challenging to everyone.

Do you see any changes that will affect law practices because of Covid-19?

We are just learning the process by which the new laws will help and affect businesses deal with closures and the actual pandemic. I am certain there will be further changes and future repercussions. Viruses and bacteria are always everywhere. Infectious diseases physicians are keenly aware of the spread of viral infections that we cannot treat directly.

The importance of hand washing and the importance of employees staying away from our office when they are sick is essential. The devastation, deaths and economic interruptions that this virus is causing will affect us all on every level. However, the precautions are ones that people should take on a regular basis, knowing that when they travel, there are always risks with respiratory viruses. Maybe the risk is worth it? Business travel, sick leave, presenteeism (working while ill), working remotely and other things that we are experiencing now, will be even greater issues in the future no matter what business you work in. Shaking hands may remain a questionable practice, don't you think?

How will you operate the business in the future and any words of wisdom for law practices?

The only answer to this question is, we don't know. Everyone assumes there will be a paradigm shift. We will have to adapt our current business models that have worked for decades. Some work can be done remotely, and other work cannot. I think every business that can, intends to ride out this pandemic and reassess. Change is the only constant, right? All of us of at every age and in every field will most certainly be affected.

CLERK'S CORNER

Covid-19 takes toll on Clerk's office

COVID 19 is taking its toll financially on the Clerk's court operation side of the business, like it is doing with many businesses we all, as a community, rely upon. As new case filings drop, so do the revenues that maintain the staffing that supports the court activities, while existing case activity seems to be holding steady. New case filings are being monitored carefully.

New Case Filings

- Probate/Guardianship down 4%
- Mental Health down 17%
- Family down 17%
- Circuit Civil down 42%
- County Civil down 50%
- Civil Traffic down 68% (the largest revenue source)
- Criminal and Juvenile cases have also seen a slight drop of 4%

As an essential service identified in the Governor's Order and the

CLERK'S CORNER



Karen E. Rushing
*Clerk of Court
and County
Comptroller*

Department of Homeland Security, the office remains open to perform court-related functions including domestic violence, mental health, vulnerable adult, marriage licenses and risk protection orders (removing firearms from people at risk). Responding quickly, social distancing was implemented for staff and for the customers coming into the office.

Walk-in service was limited to only services that had to be done in person by some legal authority.

All other services were required to be done by mail or electronic means.

Services that were discontinued were: hand deliveries, marriage ceremonies, and passport applications after the federal government closed their office to walk in customers.

We remain hopeful that business will return to some normalcy soon without undue exposure to the deadly virus.

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While the necessary limitations on in person contact imposed on everyone by the current national crisis remain, we are continuing with all client work remotely. Meetings, mediations, arbitrations and special master engagements, for those that elect to do so, are being facilitated through Zoom video conferencing. Our telephone and email contact information remains the same.

For full statement of qualifications and scheduling, contact Dale Burton:
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Managing stress and keeping socially engaged

By **WILLIAM MOTHERWAY, Esq.**
Risk Manager, Sarasota County

“Quarantine,” “social distancing” and “remote learning and working” are concepts that are new to so many of us, yet, they are quickly becoming part of our everyday lives. As we all adapt to what many are calling the “new normal” it’s imperative that we not only take care of our work lives, but that we also take care of ourselves and our loved ones.

Whether it be self-isolation, remote learning, or remote working, the stresses are real. When you consider the fact that the United States unemployment rate is projected to approach 20% this quarter, mental health experts are keeping an eye on a rise in domestic violence and suicide hotline calls.

The National Safety Council has offered some strategies to help manage stress during times of crisis. At Sarasota County government, we spend as much time taking care of the emotional well-being of our workforce in times like these as we do the actual crisis. Our people are our most important asset.

The National Safety Council has offered some strategies to help manage stress during times of crisis:

Face the Cause of Your Stress

In stressful situations, it can be



William Motherway, Esq.
Risk Manager, Sarasota County

tempting to ignore the cause and focus on something else. Stress rarely goes away on its own, focusing on the root cause of our stress gives us a chance to address it.

A crisis may have you taking on new responsibilities to an already full plate. This might be on top of your health concerns or worries about a co-worker or family member. To address the situation and keep yourself from feeling overwhelmed, focus on the smaller issues that you are able to control and build from there.

Reach Out for Assistance

During times like these, there are several great resources that can help reduce the sometimes-overwhelming feelings of stress. If your firm or employer offers an Employee Assistance Program (EAP), it can direct you to counselors, financial planners or other valuable resources.

Outside of work, talk to a doctor, your loved ones or friends for additional support or guidance. No one needs to conquer a crisis alone; lean on others when you need help and provide assistance to others when they need it from you.

Be Proactive

Ultimately, managing stress during a crisis may require action depending upon your circumstances. If you are working from home and looking

after your children while trying to get your work done, talk to your firm about options. Maybe you can alter your hours or plan for certain breaks to focus on your kids. Identify any issues and talk through them.

Stay Healthy

Despite a refrigerator full of salad options, and the exercise bike in the garage, when dealing with stress, our physical and mental health can fall by the wayside. Focus on keeping your body and mind healthy to manage stress:

- Get at least 7 hours of sleep each night
 - Get some form of exercise each day
 - Take regular breaks from work
 - Eat healthy
 - Avoid focusing on work once you are finished for the day.
- Tougher said than done

Social Engagement While Working Remotely

For some, the interpersonal interaction is a major part of their work experience and a strong workplace culture. When I mentioned to somebody recently that I had not physically touched another human being, handshake or otherwise, in six weeks, it hit home. We are inherently social beings.

See **STRESS**, Page 17

JOHN M. SCHEB AMERICAN INN OF COURT

Heather Byrd wins Professionalism Award

Sarasota attorney **Heather Byrd** was recently awarded the 2020 Judge John M. Scheb Professionalism Award.

The Judge John M. Scheb Professionalism Award is given annually to a Sarasota County attorney who exemplifies professionalism in his or her day-to-day practice. The recipient is selected by secret ballot of the Masters of the Inn.

“Heather Byrd is a longtime member of our Inn and has exemplified professionalism and leadership throughout her distinguished legal career. She is truly dedicated to carrying on the ideals of our Inn’s



Heather Byrd

founder, Judge Scheb,” said the Honorable Hunter Carroll, Judge John M. Scheb American Inn of Court President.

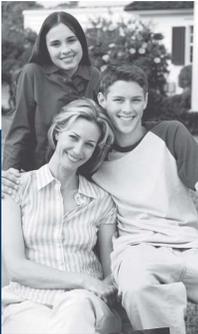
After graduating from Fairfield University *with honors* and earning her law degree from Quinnipiac College of Law, Byrd began practicing law in 1996. She is an Officer and Partner at The Byrd Law Firm, a Sarasota-based law firm where she maintains an active family law practice. Byrd is certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a family mediator and is a founding member of Collaborating Family Law Professionals of Sarasota County.

The Judge John M. Scheb American Inn of Court was founded in 1991 by the late Judge John Scheb. One of its stated goals is to promote excellence in legal advocacy at the trial and appellate court levels. Recent recipients of the Judge John M. Scheb American Inn of Court Professionalism Award include Mark Kapusta, Laurie Zimmerman, Bill Partridge, Hon. Stephen Walker, Drew Clayton, Kate Halvorsen, Ted Eastmore, and Bonnie Polk.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Byrd will be recognized for this award at the next Inn general membership meeting.



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■ Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP, a member of the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders (“NAGGL”) is pleased to announce that partner **Jan W. Pitchford**, has completed the SBA-required intensive Closing and Funding the SBA Loan and Advanced SBA Loan Documentation and Closing courses, enabling the Sarasota and Tampa Financial Services group to continue to efficiently represent clients in SBA 7(a) and 504 loans.

■ Porges, Hamlin, Knowles & Hawk, P.A. (PHKH) is pleased to announce that **James C. Turffs**, has joined the firm. James was previously

Have you or a member of your firm achieved professional recognition? Have you hired a new attorney? Any other news of note? If so, we would like to hear about it. Email your “News of Note” items to scba@sarasotabar.com.

with Rolfes Henry Co., LPA, where he was an insurance litigator. He was also in solo practice for eight years, and before that, he was an associate attorney with Robert E. Turffs, P.A.

■ Shutts & Bowen LLP partner **John Patterson** recently represented the buyer of Bradenton’s waterfront tower, Plaza Del Rio, in a successful transaction totaling \$8.6 million. Mr. Patterson acted as lead attorney, and represented the buyer throughout the entire acquisition process, including due diligence prior to the auction, negotiation of the purchase terms, and closing.

FILM AND TELEVISION

BOND

Continued from Page 11

Spectre (2016): Director Sam Mendes (Skyfall, 1917, America Beauty) returns to make what should have been a fitting conclusion to Daniel Craig’s run as Bond. Instead Spectre is a huge letdown. The plot is overcooked, as Christoph Waltz delivers an especially off-target performance as Blofeld. This film’s failure is what caused Craig to return in the upcoming No Time to Die, which I hope will be the high note of the series. *Best Moment:* A spectacular opening tracking shot during the Day of the Dead celebration.

For Your Eyes Only (1981): At last, we are now getting into more enjoyable films on the list. A nicely paced, exciting and, at times, breathtaking entry from Moore, with a plot much like a John le Carré novel. On the downside, Bill Conti’s disco heavy score gives the film a dated feel. My son particularly hated Sheena Easton’s title song. *Best Moment:* Bond climbing up to an epic mountaintop monastery.

Quantum of Solace (2008): An uninspired villain and an unlikeable heroine weigh Craig’s second entry down. Yet, it is still a competent entry and better quality than most of the series. I do wish they would have given more screen time to Gemma Arterton (not enough redheads in Bond films). *Best Moment:* The opening car chase in Siena, Italy.

NEXT ISSUE: The twelve best Bond films

Licence to Kill (1989): A shockingly gory and mean entry, as Bond goes on a personal quest for vengeance against a nasty drug lord. Michael Kaman’s (Die Hard, Lethal Weapon) score also helps in making this one stand apart for the rest of the series in both tone and plot. Carey Lowell (as well as Q getting in on the action) brings much needed heart, while a very young Benicio del Toro is quite menacing. *Best Moment:* Some very impressive stunts involving tanker trucks.

Dr. No (1962): At almost 60 years old, the first in the series still holds up staggeringly well (with a well-preserved transfer that looks simply beautiful on a 4k screen). Sean Connery proves he was an outstanding choice, as he commands every scene. Joseph Wiseman (a Canadian actor wearing make-up) plays Chinese/German Dr. No with menace, creating the mold for the Bond villain. *Best Scene:* With no real stunts to speak of, I would be lying if I said Ursula Andress’ intro wasn’t a classic, stand-out moment.

See you next month, as we discuss the twelve best Bond films. In the meantime, stay safe and use this opportunity to enjoy some classic films.

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TO DO

Continued from Page 7

any of the tasks I mentioned above, one thing I do plan to accomplish is to reconnect with family. Like the rest of you, our chosen careers and the way we choose to fill our free time unfortunately gets in the way of true family time far too often. So whether it be a FaceTime call with out of town relatives, taking a long walk, or spending time in the yard with our kids, I for one intend to take full advantage of this forced family time and make the best of this tragic situation. While this crisis is unique in so many other ways, one of those ways is that we may never experience a time again where we have nothing else to do but enjoy each other’s company and get creative! Please share your ideas on how to best fill your free time so none of us run out of fun things to do at home! Stay safe out there and stay home! Looking forward to the day when we can gather and enjoy each other’s company once again!

STRESS

Continued from Page 15

Fortunately, there are many ways we can interact with our coworkers while working remotely to stay engaged and connected:

- Set-up regular check-ins every week to stay connected with your team
- To help with adjusting to losing daily social interaction, consider using a chat app or program to connect with colleagues and virtually “drop by”
- Try a remote breakfast, lunch or coffee catch-up with a colleague or friend over video. Dare I say virtual happy hour?
- Consider virtual staff activities: Words with Friends, a virtual walking challenge, get creative
- Share photos of individual remote workspaces
- Share reading lists

If your firm or organization values community engagement, now is a good time to organize a blood drive, fundraiser or other philanthropic activity

We’ve all heard the line: We’ll get through this. And we will. Let’s remember to support and take care of each other.



S/B **Scott Brownell**
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**12th Judicial Circuit Court
Circuit-Civil Town Hall
April 22, 2020**

POLL #1 - 9 questions with anonymous answers, taken at beginning of Town Hall (92 responses)

Q1 What is the primary focus of your practice?

Business/commercial litigation	24	26.1%
Construction litigation	5	5.4%
Criminal defense/assistant state attorney	1	1.1%
Employment litigation	2	2.2%
Family law	6	6.5%
Government litigation	2	2.2%
Personal injury/wrongful death litigation	14	15.2%
Probate/trust litigation	11	12.0%
Real property litigation	17	18.5%
Other	10	10.9%
Total number of Responses	92	100.0%

Q2 How many attorneys are in your firm office or legal department?

1	26	28.3%
2-5	34	37.0%
6-10	10	10.9%
11-25	10	10.9%
26 or more	12	13.0%
Total number of Responses	92	100.0%

Q3 Have you, your firm, or legal department laid-off individuals due to COVID-19? (check all that apply)

No layoffs, and not planning any.	69	75.0%
No layoffs yet but may need to do so soon.	11	12.0%
Laid off attorneys	1	1.1%
Laid off paralegals	3	3.3%
Laid off legal assistants	7	7.6%
Laid off office administrator	0	0.0%
Laid off other support personnel	7	7.6%
Total number of Responses	92	

Q4 Have you, your firm, or business organization obtained funds to assist during COVID-19 pandemic? (Check all that apply.)

Received funds through Paycheck Protection Program or Economic Injury Disaster Loan (CARES Act)	18	19.6%
Received funds through state, county, or municipal program	0	0.0%
Received funds through existing credit line	1	1.1%
Personally contributed funds to firm or business organization.	4	4.3%
Applied for Paycheck Protection Program or Economic Injury Disaster Loan (CARES Act) but not yet funded	33	35.9%
Applied for state, county, or municipal program but not yet funded	2	2.2%
Applied for new line of credit.	1	1.1%
Have not sought funds at all.	14	15.2%
I don't know.	24	26.1%
Total number of Responses	92	

Q5 How many Court hearings have you attended using the Zoom videoconferencing platform?

0	48	52.2%
1	21	22.8%
2	10	10.9%
3 or more	13	14.1%
Total number of Responses	92	100.0%

**12th Judicial Circuit Court
Circuit-Civil Town Hall
April 22, 2020**

Q6 During COVID-19, what type of Court hearings will you consider using Zoom? (Check all that apply.)

	None.	2	2.2%
	Routine nonevidentiary hearings.	44	47.8%
	Dispositive motions that are nonevidentiary in nature (i.e., summary judgment).	33	35.9%
	Some simple evidentiary hearings with few witnesses and exhibits (e.g. motions to quash, attorney fee claims).	17	18.5%
	More complex evidentiary hearings.	0	0.0%
	All hearings permitted by the Court.	38	41.3%
	I don't know.	4	4.3%
	Total number of Responses	92	

Q7 Are you having trouble scheduling Court hearings that will be conducted using Zoom?

	Yes.	3	3.3%
	No.	52	56.5%
	I don't know.	37	40.2%
	Total number of Responses	92	100.0%

Q8 If you are having trouble scheduling hearings, what are the difficulties? (Check all that apply.)

	I cannot access JACS.	0	0.0%
	I do not know who to call to schedule a Zoom hearing.	9	9.8%
	I do not know what to put on the notice of hearing.	15	16.3%
	Opposing counsel will not agree.	12	13.0%
	Other.	64	69.6%
	Total number of Responses	92	

Q9 Would you participate in mediation conducted via Zoom?

	Yes.	55	59.8%
	No.	8	8.7%
	Maybe.	29	31.5%
	Total number of Responses	92	100.0%

POLL #2 - 4 questions with anonymous answers, taken at conclusion of Town Hall (111 responses)

Q1 Was this Town Hall helpful to you?

	Yes.	111	100.0%
	No.	0	0.0%
	Total number of Responses	111	100.0%

Q2 During COVID-19, what frequency would you like future Town Halls?

	No more Town Halls needed.	0	0.0%
	Weekly.	11	9.9%
	Every two weeks.	35	31.5%
	Only when significant changes occur.	65	58.6%
	Total number of Responses	111	100.0%

Q3 After we return to "normal" after COVID-19, would you like the ability to have Zoom hearings (or similar videoconference platform) if you cannot attend a hearing in person?

	Yes.	96	86.5%
	No.	5	4.5%
	I don't know.	10	9.0%
	Total number of Responses	111	100.0%

**12th Judicial Circuit Court
Circuit-Civil Town Hall
April 22, 2020**

Q4 Would you like a program on How to Zoom / Zoom for Beginners?

Yes.	56	50.5%
No.	55	49.5%
Total number of Responses	111	100.0%