Celebrate The Holiday Season
"The Bank of Tampa has served as a strong advocate for me and my business, acting as a trusted advisor to help me with the startup of my banking needs. With their help, the process was made simple, and their genuine interest in my success gave me confidence that The Bank of Tampa was the best bank for my new business."

Ronald Gregory, Owner, Gregory Law Firm, PL

For more information, contact your St. Petersburg Bar representative.

Dianne Cohrs | Private Relationship Manager
727.502.8406 | dcohrs@bankoftampa.com
200 Central Ave | St. Petersburg

TheBankofTampa.com

* Wealth Management and Trust Services are not FDIC insured, not deposits or other obligations of the Bank and may lose value.
FEATURES

10 FLORIDA PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR CERTAIN SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS
By Claudette Fornuto and Dakota A. Woll

12 MR. MEDIATOR: PLEASE LEAVE THE ROOM... BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULD STAY?
By Eric E. Ludin

14 VETERANS SHOULD PUMP THE BRAKES BEFORE ENTERING RAMP, VA’S NEW CLAIM APPEAL PROGRAM
By John V. Tucker

16 PROVIDE A SERVICE TO THOSE WHO SERVED
By Ronald “Rocky” Roodhouse and Stacey-Rae Simcox

20 WORKING IS WHAT WORKS
By Christy Brown, President of Placement Works

26 PROTECTING YOUR PRACTICE FROM THE MODERN HACKER
By Bret Roberts

30 EVERY BUSINESS IS VULNERABLE TO CYBER ATTACK
By Amy Hammond

34 GO LOCAL, BANK LOCAL.
By Scott Gault

36 WHY LAWYERS STRUGGLE FOR WORK-LIFE BALANCE
By Dustin Cole, Master Practice Advisor, Attorneys Master Class

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

4 PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
6 EDITOR’S NOTE
18 PFawl
22 COMMUNITY LAW PROGRAM
24 COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT
28 THE ST. PETERSBURG BAR FOUNDATION
38 YOUNG LAWYERS’ CORNER
40 WHAT’S UP AND WHO’S NEW
40 NEW MEMBERS
41 CLASSIFIEDS
42 BAR AND COURT NEWS
43 SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON
44 OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

St. Petersburg Bar Association
P. O. Box 172
St. Petersburg, FL 33731
Phone: 727.823.7474 • Fax: 727.823.8166
E-mail: info@stpetebar.com

The mission of the St. Petersburg Bar Association is to serve the legal community, to strengthen the noble calling of the practice of law, and to foster excellence in the profession.

Executive Director
Melissa Byers
727.823.7474
mbyers@stpetebar.com

Editor
Jennifer Kennedy
727.821.2080
jkennedy@abbeyadams.com

Paraclete Advertising
JoAnn Knight
727.823.7474
jknight@stpetebar.com

Design & Production
Martin Friedman
727.481.4985
mdesign@tampabay.rr.com

Editorial Policy: The Paraclete is published for the members of the St. Petersburg Bar Association. The magazine is published 6 times per year and welcomes submissions for publication. Publishing and editorial decisions are based on the editors’ judgment of the quality of the writing, the timeliness of the article, and the potential interest to the readers of the magazine. From time to time, the Paraclete publishes articles dealing with controversial issues.

The views expressed in the Paraclete are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editors, executive committee or officers of the St. Petersburg Bar Association. No endorsement of those views should be inferred unless specifically identified as the official policy of the St. Petersburg Bar Association.

Advertising copy is reviewed, but publication herein does not imply endorsement of any product, service, or opinion advertised. Advertising rate cards are available upon request by calling 727.823.7474 and may be downloaded at www.stpetebar.com. © 2018 St. Petersburg Bar Association.
Hard to believe that Thanksgiving is almost here. It felt like the sweltering hot summer would never end, but now the holiday season is upon us. Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays – what other day could I get away with binge eating good food, hanging with family, and watching football all day? Aside from the obvious perks, Thanksgiving holiday allows us to escape our busy workdays and reflect on all the good in our lives. For those of us working in the legal profession, there is always something to be thankful for, even in tough times. While gratitude is very much a personal emotion, there are some common privileges and benefits we as lawyers and judges have that are deserving of our gratitude. We should be grateful for the opportunity to serve others, especially because we are able to earn a livelihood in the process.

But, we still need more volunteers. I recently became a Lunch Pal and want to share a quick story about my own volunteer experience. I was assigned to mentor a 10-year-old boy in 5th grade at Campbell Park Elementary. Before being introduced to this boy, I first met the community liaison at the school and was provided some background information about the student. The liaison informed me that this 10-year-old boy was being raised by a single mother, his father was incarcerated, and he is homeless. When I heard the word “homeless,” I almost couldn’t believe what I was hearing. A 10-year-old boy being homeless was a thought I couldn’t fathom. Despite these hardships, this young boy has welcomed me with a big smile and seems happy to have me join him at lunch every Thursday.

Many of these children are simply in need of a caring adult to listen to them and be a positive role model in their lives. Campbell Park Elementary, in particular, has a desperate need for mentors or Lunch Pals. They have identified over 100 children who could benefit from a Lunch Pal, but can only meet half that need based on the current number of volunteers. Being a Lunch Pal is simple, enjoyable, and rewarding. It takes me less than 10 minutes round trip to travel to the school, and I spend only 30 minutes at lunch with my student one day a week. I choose the day of the week that works best for me, and if I’m unable to make the lunch because of my schedule, the program understands the need to cancel or reschedule, if possible. Meeting with my mentee has actually become the highlight of my week. I get to break away from the distractions of everyday life and remind myself of all there is to be thankful for in my life. It is a rewarding experience, and I’m confident that you will feel the same, if you give it a try.

Finally, we are happy to celebrate Veterans Day with this issue. To our members who are veterans, our bar thanks you for your service to our country. Your service is yet another reason for us to be thankful during this upcoming holiday.

And last but not least, I am especially thankful that my one-year presidency ends in June because my wife and I have just learned that we’re expecting twins in May. So, if I start to babble in these President Pages, you now know why.

I wish you and your families a very happy holiday season!
Property Insurance Claim?
Let us help.

We’ve all faced the situation where a good client asks us to handle a matter outside our area of expertise. Things can get complicated quickly when the matter involves a property claim dispute. Unless you regularly practice in the area of property insurance, it’s impossible to keep up with the law in this ever-changing practice area. Nuances in insurance policies and the law, require skillful handling in order to avoid prejudicing your client and maximizing their recovery. If your client has a property claim dispute, please consider adding The Law Office of Amy Boggs, P.A. to your referral team. Our entire law practice is dedicated to aggressively protecting the rights of the policyholder under their insurance contract and recovering everything that is owed to them. We will treat your client and their matters with the utmost respect and professionalism. We are honored to receive referrals from our fellow colleagues. Call us for a free confidential claim review.

727-954-8833
Referral fees paid per Florida Bar Rules
No Recovery – No Fees or Costs

info@amyboggslaw.com 727-954-8833 www.amyboggslaw.com 4554 Central Avenue, Suite L, St. Petersburg, FL 33711
I walked out of my house the other day, and for a second (just a second) it felt like fall; I believe the temperature had dropped to a “cool” 80 degrees that morning. Near my house, the “pumpkin patches” are being set up by local churches and businesses. My children have a Fall Festival at their school this weekend. A “friend” on Facebook recently posted a shocking meme, telling everyone there are only 10 weekends until Christmas! It is shocking how quickly the year goes by.

This is the time of year where we all seem to be rushing about; on top of our normal work and family commitments, we have additional holiday activities that require our time and attention. There are office parties, school events, presents to buy, family visiting, etc. In the craziness of this holiday season, I would encourage all of you to take some time to slow down and reflect on the blessings in your life and the things for which you are grateful.

In my house, we have been talking with our children about gratitude and giving back to the community. This Paraclete issue is filled with wonderful ideas and ways that you could give back to our community. Consider participating in the Lunch Pals program, which is discussed in the President’s Message on page 4. Another amazing opportunity to practice this year’s mission - “Live Well, Give Well – Sharing Wellness with Those in Need” is through the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program, which is highlighted on page 24.

Of course, this issue of the Paraclete is also focused on veterans. In considering what “Live Well, Give Well – Sharing Wellness with Those in Need” means to you, consider charities and organizations that provide support and services to our veterans. There are many organizations that help veterans and need volunteers. A quick internet search also revealed the following charities providing services to veterans and their families:

- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - https://www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/VolunteerNow/
- Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation - www.fallenpatriots.org
- Fisher House Foundation - www.fisherhouse.org
- Hire Heroes - www.hireheroesusa.org
- Homes for Our Troops - www.homesforourtroops.org
- Honor Flight Network - www.honorflight.org
- Hope for the Warriors - www.hopeforthewarriors.org
- Operation Gratitude - www.operationgratitude.com
- VA Voluntary Service - www.volunteer.va.gov
- Veterans Support Organization - www.theyoungveteransupport.org

As we all embark on this crazy holiday season, I would encourage everyone to consider what you are grateful for, what “Live Well, Give Well – Sharing Wellness with Those in Need” means to you, and what you can do to support veterans and others in our community who need your help. As you will learn from President Greg Hoag – making a difference can be as simple as a 30 minute lunch with a 10-year old boy.

Jennifer Kennedy is a partner with Abbey, Adams, Byelick & Mueller, LLP and practices primarily in the areas of appellate law, trial support, and insurance coverage. Ms. Kennedy also provides support for outside trial counsel to ensure proper preservation of appellate issues, as well as legal research and preparation of legal memoranda of law.

It is with great sadness that Deacon, Moulds & Stofer announces the passing of Ken Deacon. He was with Harris, Barrett, Mann & Dew for 29 years. In 1999, he and Gail Moulds founded Deacon & Moulds, which celebrated its 19th anniversary in September. He was a past president of St. Petersburg Bar Association, served on the Board of Governors for The Florida Bar, served as a professor at Stetson College of Law, and was a member of ABOTA, along with numerous other positions in the legal community. Ken was dedicated to the law and to representing his clients vigorously and passionately, and loved and excelled at trial. His desire for the firm was to create a work family and environment that prioritized God, family, and then work, great trial work. He and Gail succeeded in creating exactly that in Deacon, Moulds & Stofer and while his presence and experience will be missed, his legacy will continue as the firm remains committed to those priorities.
When it comes to litigation we mean business.

Englander Fischer
attorneys
Big Firm Expertise. Boutique Service.
721 First Avenue North  |  St. Petersburg, FL 33701
727-898-7210

Looking For An Alternative To Divorce As Usual? YOU’RE NOT ALONE.

Join your colleagues who are taking a fresh look at the way they approach clients facing divorce. St. Pete Wealth Management’s Marcia Person, a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst, trained in Collaborative Divorce, works cooperatively with attorneys and their clients to craft comprehensive plans offering viable financial options. A Financial Planner since 1994, Marcia will put her experience to work for you - as the Financial Neutral on your Collaborative Team or advisor for your traditional divorce cases.
Footprints Beachside Recovery Center has offered holistic substance abuse treatment for adults since 2008. Footprints was created to give others the opportunity to overcome addiction and recreate their lives.

We offer dual diagnosis treatment and individualized care.

- Private Beachside Recovery Residences
- Day/Night and Intensive Outpatient Treatment Programs
- Experience Working with Criminal and Drug Courts
- 30, 60 and 90-day Program Options Available
- Multiple Treatment Modalities
- Most Insurances Accepted

Call (727) 954-3908 or visit www.FootprintsBeachside.com

151 107th Ave, Suite 13, Treasure Island, FL 33706
Florida Property Tax Exemptions for Certain Servicemembers and Veterans

By Claudette Fornuto and Dakota A. Woll

Under Florida law, servicemembers and veterans are afforded various property tax exemptions earned through their military service, which can result in significant savings on their real property tax liability. This article provides a brief overview of the property tax exemptions available to servicemembers and veterans (and in some instances their spouses), including application requirements.

1. Basic Property Tax Exemption for 10 Percent or Greater Disability. Under Section 196.24, Fla. Stat. (2018), any ex-servicemember who was honorably discharged and who has a United States Department of Veterans’ Affairs (“VA”) or United States Government (“USG”) certified service-connected disability of greater than or equal to ten percent (10%) is entitled to a $5,000.00 reduction in the assessed value of their homestead property. An un-remarried surviving spouse of the ex-servicemember may also qualify for this exemption. To apply for this exemption, a veteran need only provide a certificate showing the veteran’s disability from the USG or the VA along with the application for exemption to the property appraiser’s office in the county in which he or she resides. An applicant may apply for this exemption before receiving the necessary documentation from the USG or VA; upon providing the documentation, the exemption shall be granted as of the date of the original application and excess taxes refunded. An un-remarried surviving spouse must also provide a copy of their marriage license and spouse’s death certificate.

2. Less than Total Combat Related Disability, 65 Years and Older. Section 196.082, Fla. Stat. (2018), provides for discounted property taxes on a veteran’s homestead property equal to the percentage of any partial or total permanent service-connected disability so long as a portion of those disabilities are combat-related and the veteran is 65 years or older. To apply for this discount, a veteran must submit an application to the property appraiser’s office in the county in which he or she resides, which includes the following: (a) an official letter from the VA stating the percentage of service-connected disability and evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as combat-related; (b) a copy of the veteran’s honorable discharge; and (c) proof of age as of January 1 of the year to which the discount would apply. This exemption does not carry over to the veteran’s surviving spouse in the event of the veteran’s death.

3. Total and Permanent Disability Homestead Property Tax Exemption. Section 196.081(1), Fla. Stat. (2018), provides the homestead property of an honorably discharged veteran with a service-connected total and permanent disability is completely exempt from property taxes if the servicemember is a permanent resident of Florida and had legal title to his or her property on January 1 of the tax year for which the exemption is being claimed. This benefit inures to a surviving spouse if the surviving spouse holds the legal or beneficial title to the homestead property and permanently resides there at the time of the veteran’s death. To qualify for this exemption, the veteran or surviving spouse must submit a letter of total and permanent disability from the VA to the property appraiser’s office in the county in which the homestead property is located. This benefit carries over to the veteran’s spouse until such time that the spouse remarries, sells, or otherwise disposes of the property. In the event the property is sold by the surviving spouse, this exemption may carry over to a replacement property up to the amount of the benefit realized on the previous property.

4. Total Exemption for Spouse in Event of Death from Service-Related Causes. Under Section 196.081(4), Fla. Stat. (2018), homestead property owned by the surviving spouse of a veteran who died from service-connected causes while on active duty is totally exempt from property taxes if the member was a permanent resident of Florida on January 1 of the year in which the member died. To qualify, the surviving spouse must provide a letter from the U.S. Government attesting to the veteran’s death while on active duty to the property appraiser’s office in the county in which the property is located. This benefit continues so long as the surviving spouse permanently resides at the property and does not remarry. If the surviving spouse subsequently sells the property, the benefit may roll over to a replacement property up to the amount of the benefit previously received.
5. Select Deployed Military Service-members. Section 196.173, Fla. Stat. (2018) provides an additional exemption on homestead property of members of the military and its reserves, the US Coast Guard and its reserves, and the Florida National Guard, who were deployed outside of the United States in support of certain military operations. A servicemember who already receives a homestead exemption may receive additional tax benefits under this exemption based on the number of days the member was deployed the previous calendar year. This exemption must be applied for annually and does not pass to a surviving spouse. To apply for this exemption, a servicemember must submit a Deployed Military Exemption Application (DR501M) form along with proof of a qualifying deployment and deployment dates.

Applications for the above benefits must be submitted by March 1 of the calendar year in which the servicemember is applying, but late applications and applications filed on behalf of the servicemember by a spouse or next of kin may accepted under certain circumstances.¹ For more information regarding these benefits, including deadlines, limitations and application requirements, prospective applicants should contact the office of the property appraiser for their county.

Claudette Fornuto is an associate attorney with Trenam Law and vice chair of the Real Property section of the St. Petersburg Bar Association. She focuses her practice on Real Estate, Banking and Lending.

Dakota A. Woll is a 2019 candidate for Juris Doctorate at the University of Florida - Levin College of Law.

Mr. Mediator: Please Leave the Room… But Maybe You Should Stay?

By Eric E. Ludin

Your mediator enters your room, communicates the offer from the other room and asks for your response. Do you have the mediator stay while you chat with your client or ask him/her to leave the room?

For many lawyers, the knee jerk reaction is to speak privately to your client and ask the mediator to leave. There are several reasons for this. The most common is that, as lawyers, we are taught from our first day of law school that all communication with our client should be confidential and not shared with third parties. In this instance, you ask the mediator to leave, not for a strategic reason, but instead out of habit.

If this is the reason for excusing the mediator, I would suggest you reconsider your policy. Rule 1.720 (i) FRCP provides a mediator may meet privately with any party or their counsel. By excluding the mediator, you are preventing the private communication contemplated by the Rule. Supreme Court Certified Mediators are bound by standards of professional conduct. Rule 10.360 of these rules provides that, during a caucus, a mediator may not reveal information to any other mediation participant without the consent of the disclosing party.

With this rule of professional conduct in mind, you should trust that the mediator will not share anything he learns during a private caucus without your consent. If you cannot trust your mediator to maintain these confidences, you should use a mediator who you do trust. Only use a certified mediator. If the mediator is not certified, they will NOT be bound by standards of professional conduct relating to mediators.

What are the benefits of allowing the mediator to stay in your caucus?

By allowing the mediator to hear your client’s response to the other party’s offer or demand, the mediator will learn about your client’s thinking related to the negotiation. Perhaps they do not believe an offer is really “firm” and the mediator can respond to that belief. Sometimes a client’s rationale behind refusing the consider an offer or demand is due to a factor not related to money. Perhaps they just want their day in court. If that is the case, the mediator might want to ask the party to vent a bit more. Then the mediator can explore whether a trial will really give your client the emotional relief they are seeking. But, unless the mediator is present to understand your client’s position, he/she will be unable to use these tools.

Sometimes a client is not accepting his attorney’s evaluation of the case. If the mediator is present during this discussion between the attorney and his client, the mediator can weigh in as a neutral party and encourage the client to listen to his attorney.

Other times clients believe they are the best negotiators and will not listen to advice from their attorney or the mediator. If the mediator can stay in the caucus and learn this, the mediator can explain that since your client is not in the other room to pick up on their adversary’s cues and responses to the negotiation, they are missing details that would be helpful. Therefore, they would be best served to take advantage of the mediator’s insight and opinions.

Charles Castagna, who has been a full-time mediator since 1990, trains mediators for certification and conducts continuing mediation education courses, observes that many attorneys will exclude mediators from the caucus for other reasons. Castagna says that, “Sometime attorneys will excuse the mediator because they have some other agenda they do not wish to share.”

He agrees that it is highly beneficial to allow the mediator to remain during caucus. But, Castagna cautions against mediators being too aggressive about remaining. He suggests that a mediator should gently encourage counsel to allow him/her to stay. But, if they are not inclined to do so, it would be improper to be too forceful about it. “Ultimately the decision to allow the mediator to stay or ask them to leave is up the attorney and the mediator must respect that decision,” says Castagna.

If you truly want your case to settle, take advantage of all the tools that your mediator has in his/her tool chest. Do this by allowing the mediator to collect as much information about the case and your client’s position as possible. Allow the mediator to communicate with your client directly and be present especially during the most sensitive conversations occurring during private caucus. If there is a good reason not to do this, explain the rationale to the mediator since that information may be useful. But, do not exclude the mediator from the caucus out of habit, without a strategic reason.

Eric E. Ludin, Esq. is a founding partner of Tucker & Ludin, PA. law firm with offices in St. Petersburg. He is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil Mediator and is also a Certified Mediator with the Federal District Court in the Middle District of Florida. He is a Past-President of both the St. Petersburg Bar Association and St. Petersburg Bar Foundation.
Masterson, Hoag & Smith, P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Personal Injury • Medical Malpractice • Wrongful Death • Legal Malpractice
Visit us at www.mastersonlaw.com

Proud Sponsor of the St. Pete Bar
Veterans Should Pump the Brakes Before Entering RAMP, VA’s New Claim Appeal Program

By John V. Tucker

In late 2017, veterans appealing denials in their service-connected disability compensation claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) began receiving letters asking them to opt into a new appeal program called RAMP. One of many VA acronyms, RAMP is short for the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program, a new effort to reduce VA’s appeal processing time which has notoriously grown by a factor of years, not months. RAMP is VA’s administrative response to the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017, P.L. 115-55. Nearly a year has passed without any finalized program rules, and veterans and their advocates should still proceed with caution before agreeing to opt into RAMP.

The program will not be finalized until February 2019. In the face of ever-increasing bad public relations due to delays, VA rushed to create a program that allegedly provides faster appeal processing time. However, the rush job was so bad that this writer was at a gathering of VA law school clinic administrators in spring 2018 where the former Secretary of Veterans Affairs, David Shulkin, M.D., gave a speech in which he publicly stated he did not know what the RAMP acronym meant. As of this writing, VA has yet to publish internal rules in its M21-1 Adjudication Procedures Manual or go through formal rulemaking to promulgate regulations that will govern RAMP. Simply put, VA is asking veterans to opt into a system without knowing the ramifications of the decision.

The framework that has been announced includes a requirement that a veteran who opts into RAMP will have to give up all pending appeals in the current appeal system in exchange for the promise of faster processing. VA also announced a complicated selection of pathways that a veteran may take if they opt into RAMP. VA says its “goal” is 125 days to process RAMP appeals, but there are no required deadlines.

Two primary options are the “Supplemental Claim Line,” where veterans can submit additional evidence and the “Higher-Level Review Line” where no new evidence will be taken. Once decisions are made on those appeals, veterans will have new choices to make about further appeals, including the choice to opt back into a Supplemental Claim Line where they can continue to submit evidence in support of their claims. A complicating feature is that each of a veteran’s medical conditions is treated as a separate claim, and some may be slotted to the Supplemental track where others proceed to a Higher-Level track. Veterans will likely find themselves with various claims proceeding in different administrative “lines” on different timelines.

If left in place, one good feature about RAMP that may assist veterans over time is that positive findings reached by the VA during the claim and appeal process will not be subject to re-adjudication by VA. Under current law, VA can change its decisions from stage to stage, even when it has found something in the veteran’s favor.

By way of example, a veteran must prove three things to win a claim for service-connected compensation: 1) an in-service event or occurrence of a condition, 2) a current condition severe enough to be rated, and 3) a causal connection, called a nexus, between the in-service event and the current condition. Under RAMP, if VA concludes that a veteran provided evidence of an in-service event and a current condition, but denies the claim due to an alleged lack of a nexus, then the only issue that will be subject to re-adjudication in the future will be the lack of a nexus. Effectively, findings which are favorable to the veteran become the law of the claim, and the system should benefit since VA will not need to continue evaluating (or re-evaluating) those findings.

Another feature of RAMP that will likely save processing time is the elimination of the requirement that VA issue a document called the “Statement of the Case.” These are often formularic recitations of page after page of regulations with little analysis. They rarely offer insight into VA’s decision-making, and typically take years for VA’s Regional Offices to produce.

Attorneys should be reluctant to recommend RAMP to their clients until VA finalizes clearer rules or goes through formal rulemaking in February 2019. It is nearly impossible for counsel to provide proper legal advice in light of the lack of concrete rules. A limited number of veterans may benefit from the new program, but veterans have to understand the perils of opting into a system that is being developed on the fly. The pitfalls of giving up appeals that are pending and opting into a RAMP line may outweigh the mere promise of processing speed.

John Tucker is an AV-rated attorney based in St. Petersburg with a national practice in Veteran’s Disability and ERISA Disability benefits. Mr. Tucker served as President of the St. Petersburg Bar Association in 2002-2003, and is a co-founder of Tucker & Ludin, PA. He represents military veterans in VA service-connected disability compensation claims across the United States. He can be reached at Tucker@TuckerDisability.com.
INJURY LAWYERS

(727) 201-9944

3637 4th Street North, Suite 101
St. Petersburg, FL 33704

www.BeltzandBeltz.com

We pay referral fees in accordance with the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar
Provide a Service to Those Who Served

By Ronald “Rocky” Roodhouse and Stacey-Rae Simcox

November 11, 2018, marks the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I, or the “War to End All Wars,” as it was then known. Though the armistice ended all the wars that had been waged between nations at that time, it did not end warfare. Brave Americans have answered the call of duty to fight for their country in the past 100 years, from the Polar Bear Expedition deployed to Siberia in 1918-1919 to the current combat deployments in Syria and Afghanistan.

Everyone who joins a military service understands they will be asked to sacrifice their personal aspirations and career goals, and possibly even their lives, for the higher calling of their country. As Veterans Day draws near, take time to consider how you can selflessly contribute in your local community to honor the service of those who gave so much.

As we contemplate the past year and the service Stetson University College of Law has provided for our local veterans, we are amazed at the passion of our student body to help our nation’s heroes. Stetson Law’s Veterans Advocacy Clinic helped several underserved veterans this past year receive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits for the disabilities they incurred during their service.

For many clients, our clinic was the last stop before giving up hope that anyone would have the resources to help. We primarily represent veterans who have several claims that have accumulated several years’ worth of bureaucratic red tape. By the time they find us, they also need a medical opinion to help to prove their claims as well. These cases are not cost-effective for private attorneys to accept and are too complex for veterans service organizations to provide free assistance. That is why having law students providing pro bono legal assistance is so important.

The students and their veteran clients are good reminders why many of us entered our profession – to make a positive difference in someone’s life. In the 2017-2018 school year, our students made an incredible positive impact for several veterans, with our clients receiving $191,000 in back payments and over $2 million in future benefits.

A local veteran suffered PTSD symptoms after engaging in fire fights to prevent North Korean guerrillas from infiltrating the Korean DMZ in 1953-54. By the time he filed his VA claim in 2012, he had no surviving witnesses and no record of the skirmishes because his files burned in the National Personnel Records Center fire in the 1970s. Students across three semesters scoured the veteran’s unit history and other military archives to prove the veteran’s recollections and scant evidence were consistent with post-Korean War guerrilla warfare. In March, one student convinced a veterans law judge that the veteran’s PTSD was due to the combat he faced at the Korean DMZ.

A Vietnam War helicopter pilot saw scores of enemies and allies killed by gunfire. From these missions, he accumulated not only medals for his valor but also persistent vivid memories of the carnage. After living through his emotions for decades, he was ultimately diagnosed with PTSD in 2014. The VA denied his claim for benefits after its doctor determined the veteran did not have a diagnosable mental condition. A student wrote a brief explaining all the legal and medical shortcomings with the VA doctor’s examination. The VA agreed, ordered a new examination, and established service connection for the veteran’s PTSD.

An Operation Iraqi Freedom infantryman was in a convoy in 2008, when an improvised explosive device struck his armored vehicle. The force of the explosion removed armor from the vehicle while upending it and its passengers. At the time, there were no formal procedures to determine if a soldier had internal injuries or a traumatic brain injury, so the Army deemed him to be not wounded and thus ineligible to receive a Purple Heart. Students amassed eyewitness accounts and medical opinions to prove the soldier suffered physical injuries to the brain. Their brief and argument convinced the Army Board for Correction of Military Records to determine the wounded warrior deserved a Purple Heart.

Stetson Law is also proud of our medical-legal partnership with Bay Area Legal Services and the Bay Pines VA Medical Center. Our partnership...
provides veterans with free legal services on non-criminal matters to include family law, housing problems, consumer issues, bankruptcy, advanced medical directives, and licensing. Law student volunteers from Stetson Law work alongside with Lisa Brody, Cherilyn Hansen ’16, and Julie Ann Embler ’14 from Bay Area Legal Services to provide legal assistance to veterans at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center.

During the 2017-2018 school year, this partnership assisted over 530 veterans who would not have been able to afford representation through any other means, and the partnership placed over 260 veterans with pro bono legal representation. Our partnership expanded its footprint this year by providing monthly legal clinics for veterans at the Manatee and Sarasota County VA outpatient clinics, and we look forward to offering services to more veterans as our partnership continues to grow.

No matter how you choose to celebrate November 11th, please take a moment to think how you can help fellow Americans who risked their lives to protect the liberty you enjoy every day. If you are motivated to help veterans in your field of practice, please contact Bay Area Legal Services to volunteer to take pro bono referrals in for veterans’ civil law cases. If you wish to show appreciation for our heroes in your time away from your office, you can find veterans organizations who can use your help in the online Pinellas County Veteran & Military Resource Guide.

Professor Stacey-Rae Simcox is the Director of the Veterans Law Institute and Veterans Advocacy Clinic at Stetson University College of Law. Mr. Ronald “Rocky” Roodhouse (LL.M ’17) is the Staff Attorney in the Veterans Advocacy Clinic. Professor Simcox and Mr. Roodhouse are veterans of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force respectively.

Veterans Crisis Line

If you’re a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, there are caring, qualified VA responders standing by to help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, anonymous, confidential resource that’s available to anyone, even if you’re not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care.

Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1
The Veterans Crisis Line is also available by text or online chat:
Chat at website www.veteranscrisisline.net
Text 838255
Support for deaf and hard of hearing: 1-800-799-4889

Labor and Employment Law

Johnson Pope is pleased to announce that our Labor and Employment Law Group was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® 2019.

Joan M. Vecchioli is “2019 Lawyer of the Year” in Litigation – Labor and Employment for the Clearwater/St. Petersburg metro area. Colleen M. Flynn and Rachael L. Wood are also listed in Litigation – Labor and Employment.

Please visit our website for additional information about our Labor and Employment Law Group and to subscribe to their blog at ShieldingEmployers.com.
The summer is wrapping quickly at PFAWL. We had a wonderful September social at Arkane Aleworks with great turnout. Everyone had an enjoyable time networking and some members even ordered the deep-fried calzones. Our September social was topped only by our annual Shrimp Boil! This members-only appreciation event is held every October in the home of Elise Winters and is highly anticipated. Thank you, Elise Winters, for all the work you put into it. If you missed this year’s Shrimp Boil, please make sure you sign up for next year.

A special thanks our sponsors, David Reynolds Jewelry & Coin and the Fran Haasch Law Group, for their support of PFAWL and the advancement of women in the legal profession:

PFAWL would like to recognize the following members for milestones reached in their adventures since our last press release:

Starlett Massey of the Massey Law Group is pleased to announce the opening of her firm’s Fort Lauderdale office.

Vanessa L. Albaum, former 13th Judicial Circuit Assistant State Attorney, has opened her own practice, The Law Firm of Vanessa L. Albaum, PLLC, focusing on criminal, civil, and administrative/licensure matters.

PFAWL member Ama Appiah oversaw Gulfcoast Legal Services’ Justice, Soul, and Rock N’ Roll with great success!

Upcoming Events:

Mark your calendar for our next social on November 6 at Noble Crust, 8300 - 4th Street N., St. Petersburg, FL and our annual Holiday Social on December 4 at Pinellas Chocolate, 10550 - 72nd Street, Largo, FL 33777

Check out our website to learn more at www.pfawl.org.

Don’t miss these great events – Join Now! If you would like to join PFAWL or renew your membership, please visit www.fawl.org/. For membership inquiries, please contact Christina Pacheco at pfawlmembershipdirector@gmail.com.
Find the right place the first time.

As criminal defense attorneys, we have experience with placing individuals in treatment facilities, including negotiating contracts.

Contact us to receive a copy of this guide and discuss any questions you might have about this process.

FlemingLawGroup.com
(727) 323-4020

Meros, Smith, Lazzara, Brennan & Brennan, P.A.
Recognizable excellence.

Christin C. Brennan • Kevin D. Brennan
Belinda B. Lazzara • Peyton Mullin
Walter E. Smith • Peter N. Meros • Alexa Saab

- Florida Bar Board Certified in Civil Trial Law*
- 30 Year Club, 30 Years Certified*
- Florida Bar Board Certified in Marital & Family Law^*
- Florida Bar Board Certified in Business Litigation+
- Florida Supreme Court Certified Civil Mediator+
- Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Law Mediator/
- Rated AV by Martindale Hubbell
- Named a Rising Star by Super Lawyers 2009-2011
- 2010 & 2015 Chairs of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission
- 2013-2015 Members of the Second DCA Judicial Nominating Commission
- 2010 & 2012 Canakaris Family Law Inn of Court Young Lawyer of the Year Awards
- 2015 John C. Lenderman Award for Excellence in Family Law
- Member of the Florida Bar Young Lawyers’ Division Board of Governors from 2006-2011
- Florida Trend Magazine’s 2014 Legal Elite
- 2015 Top 40 Under 40 by The National Advocates

757 Arlington Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 • (727) 822-4929

We are your missing Piece

Trust Our Team With Your Personal Injury Cases

Maximize your client’s case value and your referral fees by relying on a seasoned team of PI Attorneys.

Battaglia, Ross, DiCus & McQuaid, P.A.
Attorneys At Law

The Sembler Center
5858 Central Avenue, Suite A
St. Petersburg, FL 33707
727.381.2300
www.STPeteLawGroup.com
Working is what works! People with disabilities get better more quickly when engaged in purposeful activity. As a licensed mental health counselor, that realization inspired me to found the non-profit PlacementWorks. Since then, we have placed thousands of people with disabilities in jobs in the Tampa Bay area.

It’s a smart business decision

Hiring people with disabilities increases profit, lowers costs and improves employee morale and productivity. Not only has that been the experience of our clients’ employers, it is also nationally recognized. Studies by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Labor, DePaul University, and corporations including 3M, PepsiCo, Merck, and AT&T have borne this out. Also, 87% of the population prefers to do business with organizations that hire people with disabilities.

Customers with disabilities and their families and friends represent a trillion dollar market segment. When your employees mirror the market, you gain a lasting customer base. Finally, when an employer hires a person with a disability, they receive a wide variety of financial incentives, one of which is the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC).

We make it easy for you

We partner with our employers, making sure our clients’ transition and training goes smoothly. Fewer than 25% of people with disabilities require special accommodations, and we facilitate that for you. Most accommodations are made with little or no cost - and may be paid for by Vocational Rehabilitation. Our employers frequently mention how easy and simple the placement process was for them. They express appreciation for the fact that we are available 24/7 and how we respond quickly and take immediate action.

Dedicated loyal employees

One of the most common things our clients talk about is how much they enjoy coming to work. They appreciate a job that is suited for them and helps them feel productive. This attitude has been proven to reduce turnover costs because of long-term employment - and increases productivity because of taking fewer scheduled absences. This work ethic was demonstrated last year after hurricane Irma. Employees with disabilities were among the first to return to work. Whether or not they had power or were inconvenienced, they found ways to make it to work and showed up at their job ready to make a contribution and support the businesses that hired them. Give us a call! (727) 520-5159
Essure® Injuries?
BE SURE your clients are in good hands. We understand Essure® injury.

Learn more at http://wherejusticematters.com/essure.html
By Kimberly Rodgers

By the time you read this column, the holiday season will be right around the corner. Where did the year go? I feel as though I blinked, and 2018 is almost over! As we all busily prepare for this joyous time of year, Community Law Program would like to pause to give thanks to all of our generous supporters who have individually and collectively enabled us to help so many people in our community who otherwise would not have access to justice.

On October 11th, Ryan Griffin of Johnson Pope and his crew from Mandarin Hide hosted a Supporter Appreciation Event for us at their newest restaurant, Trophy Fish.1 Thank you, Ryan and company! This event was our way of saying “thank you” to everyone who has supported Community Law Program over the years, whether as a volunteer, a board member past or present, a donor, a dues paying member, an event sponsor, an organizational partner, or a funder. As we gear up to celebrate our 30th Anniversary, which will be less than a year from now, we want all of our supporters to know that every contribution, regardless of the amount, duration, or size has helped us on our journey towards equal access to justice for all!

We would also like to extend a special “thank you” to CLP’s 2018 Lapel Pin Recipients. The Lapel Pin Award is a statewide recognition given to attorneys who perform twenty (20) hours or more of pro bono legal services through an organized legal aid program during the prior calendar year. CLP’s Lapel Pin Recipients for 2018 are:

100+ Hours
William G. Bostick, Jr.
Bruce Kirkpatrick Eason
Angela Leiner
Jamila Little
Lawrence Markell

20+ Hours
Erin Barnett
David Blum
Russell Boring
Samantha Brem
Kevin Brennan
Joseph Cairns
Russell Cheatham III
James Devito
V. James Dickson
Michael Doherty
Brooks Gentry
Erin Hardister
Pamela Hembree

Amber Hill
Patrick Hogan
John Kassos
Jovita Kravitz
Hieu Le
Thomas McGowan
Scott Orsini
Hunter Rawls
Barry Salzman
Scot Samis
Lawrence Silvestri
Watson Sinden
Michael Singer
Will Slicker
Erica Smith
Rachael Stanger
Jennifer Terrana
John Thacker
John Tuthill
Frank Tylman, Jr.
Katelyn Vinson

These attorneys, along with many other attorneys who performed pro bono legal services, will be recognized at the upcoming St. Petersburg Bar/Clearwater Bar Association’s Bench & Bar Conference on November 16, 2018.

As a final note, the upcoming holiday season would not be complete without opportunities to spend time with friends and colleagues and opportunities to give. It should come as no surprise that Community Law Program has a few simple low cost/no cost suggestions on how you can incorporate supporting access to justice in your holiday sharing & giving plans.

Consider joining the Pinellas County Chapter of the Paralegal Association of Florida (PAF) for on December 4th for its Eighth Annual Holiday Charity Event. The event is from 5:30 – 7:30 at the Westminster Palms Bay View Lounge, 1st Floor, 939 Beach Drive NE. Tickets for this event are just $25.00, and all proceeds raised will benefit Community Law Program. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. This is the fourth year that PAF has chosen CLP as the recipient of its holiday charity event, and we are so thankful for their continued support.

For tickets or for more info., contact clunsford@gtmlegal.org.

You don’t even have to change out of your pajamas for this easy way of supporting access to all in our community. Whenever you shop via Amazon, if you do so through the Amazon Smile nonprofit fundraising portal at smile.amazon.com you pay the same prices for the products you purchase with the same convenient service, but with a wonderful advantage. Simply by selecting Community Law Program as the Amazon Smile charitable organization you wish to support, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to our nonprofit – at no additional charge to you.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and we wish you and yours a Happy Holiday Season!

1. Photos from this event were not available at the time of writing this column, but they can be viewed on CLP’s Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/lawprogram.
FISHER & SAULS P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

IS HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE

JOHN M. HAMILTON III

AND

C. HUNTER RAWLS

AS SHAREHOLDERS.

They join ROBERT KAPUSTA, JR., ERICA K. SMITH
and KENNETH E. THORNTON on the
Board of Directors of the firm.

Fisher & Sauls, P.A. provides legal services in the areas of

WILLS, TRUSTS & ESTATES
REAL ESTATE AND COMMERCIAL LENDING
CORPORATE AND BUSINESS LAW
CIVIL/COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

St. Petersburg Office:
City Center, Suite 701 ◆ 100 2nd Avenue South ◆ St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Telephone: (727) 822-2033 ◆ www.fishersauls.com
For more than 100 years in St. Petersburg, The Salvation Army, motivated by the love of God, has provided services without discrimination to men, women and children in crisis. In St. Petersburg, The Salvation Army is often the first point of contact assisting individuals and families with basic necessities while offering a lasting transition out of homelessness, poverty and chaos by providing resources, access to community partners and embracing a strong commitment to changing lives rather than merely serving poverty.

Fueled by love, we bring hope, healing, and help to the most vulnerable members of society. Children are often in chaos due to circumstances beyond their control. The Salvation Army of St. Petersburg Children’s Services programs – Sallie House and Children’s Village – are dedicated to helping children ages infant to 17 who are in the foster care system.

Sallie House and Children’s Village are safe havens for children who have been removed from their home because of abuse or neglect — even abandonment. Local law enforcement, the courts, and child welfare agents rely on The Salvation Army’s programs as a placement alternative pending long-term solution. Sallie House is a group home - emergency shelter that can be home for up to 24 children and Children’s Village consists of four traditional houses. Each Children’s Village house can be home for as many as six children.

With a total of 48 beds available, on the same campus, The Salvation Army can receive large sibling groups, reducing their chance of being separated and removing another traumatic experience from their chaotic situation. The dedicated staff provides the comfort and care these children so desperately need and deserve with the goal of creating an atmosphere that is as “normal” as possible until arrangements for each child’s long-term care can be made. Some children stay at Sallie House or Children’s Village for a week, some stay a few months, and some for more than year; but, all the children who stay at The Salvation Army consider it their home.

In addition to serving these 48 children daily, The Salvation Army serves an additional 1,400 children during the holidays through the Angel Tree program. Families in the greater St. Petersburg community share their needs with The Salvation Army, who then partners with businesses, civic groups, churches and individuals to provide Christmas wishes and needs for the children 12 years old and younger.

For moms like “Mary” who juggle college coursework, living in a shelter, and raising her daughters, knowing that The Salvation Army and community partners will come alongside her to supply Christmas gifts and food is a huge relief. It allows her to continue focusing on the steps she needs to make to provide a safe and healthy home for her family. The Salvation Army, along with community support, open their arms and hearts to give families the support they need to thrive.

The Salvation Army welcomes donations for the Angel Tree program which benefits the children from Sallie House and Children’s Village. The process is simple - determine the number of “Angels” (children) you would like to adopt to provide holiday items to and return the Angel Tree participation form included in this issue to Randi-lyn.Farrell@uss.salvationarmy.org. Gifts can be dropped off or picked up by the Salvation Army. To learn more about the Salvation Army, please visit www.salvationarmystpetersburg.org or call 727-550-8080.
We design, deploy, maintain, & support legal technology from cable to cloud.

IT Support, Cloud Services, Info Security, Wifi, A/V, Cabling, & Access Control
In a recent New York Times article, three men reportedly made over $4 million trading on information they got from hacking into top merger-advising law firms. Preet Bharara, the United States attorney in Manhattan stated, “this case of cyber meets securities fraud should serve as a wake-up call for law firms around the world.” These days, no industry is safe from cybersecurity threats.

Your cybersecurity defenses need to evolve with the expansion of network traffic.

Driven by the explosion of network devices and the adoption of smartphones and laptops for personal use, security challenges have grown exponentially over the last 20 years. These days, nearly every device utilizes network access, such as firewalls, edge routers, webcams, wireless access points, vending machines, thermostats and more. Each new device presents with it a new security challenge. In the 90s, intrusion prevention systems were largely sufficient to deal with bad actors attacking a manageable number of machines. Now, cybersecurity defenses must solve a much greater number of potential threats than ten or even five years ago.

In response to cybersecurity gaps, various industry groups and regulatory bodies have seen it necessary to adopt security regulations, such as PCI for payment cards, HIPAA in healthcare, GLBA in banking, FINRA in financial services, as well as industry standards like ISO 27001/2, SOC Type I/II,III, and NIST CSF to ensure companies protect their networks and data.

**Examine possible security threats to your clients or business partners.**

In a recent survey, almost 88% of respondents say they are subject to a regulatory framework, and 77% are required to provide some type of attestation of their IT security compliance. If a company believes their data and systems are not valuable enough to justify cybersecurity, they must consider the value of the data of their clients and business partners.

In his keynote presentation to the 2018 Georgia Construction Conference, Greg Chevalier, Vice President of Information Security at Onepath, made the point that it’s not enough to protect your business directly; leaders must consider protection through their trading partners as well.

For example, Chevalier introduces the concept of the IT Supply Chain, and points to the connection between vendors, companies, and clients that frequently extend to trusted connections between IT systems. If one company is subject to regulatory requirements for IT security, it typically flows to the other partners in the IT Supply Chain. The same can be said for security threats. Leverage a comprehensive framework to reduce both the probability and impact of a potential attack.
One important factor in reducing the impact of a cyberattack is to minimize the time from when you are compromised to the time you discover it. Typically, it takes weeks or even months to discover a data breach after systems are initially compromised, and even longer until it can be contained. Industry experts recommend a framework of layered responses to identify risks, protect from attacks, detect when a breach occurs, respond quickly, contain and mitigate the breach, recover, and prevent subsequent attacks. Many companies focus only on the protection phase of cybersecurity; however, eventually an attack will get through defenses and that is when the real damage occurs. Losing control of your network can put your business and reputation in serious risk.

**Keys to Cybersecurity:**

Use a framework to analyze your risk and your security posture. Use a regulatory requirement or an industry standard to get started.

Evaluate your IT supply chain. Understand what requirements your clients and business partners may be subject to as well as their level of security. Examine if your IT infrastructure is exposed to partners who are not secure.

Train your staff. Technology can’t fight the entire battle entirely. The majority of breaches involve human error, whether it is clicking on a dangerous link, exposing passwords, or other risky or naïve behavior. Frequently train staff on the common security threats in your industry.

When it comes to your cybersecurity, be prepared to react quickly. Be ready to identify a security breach and respond quickly. Consider leveraging trained experts, Security Operations Center, or Managed Security Service Provider to assist.

Bret Roberts is a Client Engagement Manager with OnePath. He has over 25 years’ experience advising clients and delivering the most effective IT solutions available. He can be reached at 813.283.4634 or broberts@1path.com. [OnePath is an annual corporate sponsor of the St. Petersburg Bar Association. Please click on their logo on the front page of the bar website for more information.]

The Foundation Expresses Thanks
This Holiday Season

The holiday season is officially upon us!

As we head into a season first marked by Thanksgiving, the Foundation would like to take a moment to give thanks to all our donors, sponsors, and active members who have allowed the Foundation to flourish this year. We truly could not award our scholarships and grants, and fund our various projects, without your support.

The Foundation held several exciting events throughout the summer and fall of 2018. In June, the Foundation hosted its annual Evening with the Rays event located at Tropicana Field. In July, the Foundation held its Holidays in July event – an event dedicated to a day of bowling and fun for local foster children. In October, the Foundation presented a tailgate and Rowdies game – a family-friendly event and the first of its kind!

In November, the Foundation held its first annual Pillars of Justice event, which commemorated local residents who dedicated their lives to community service. This event also marked the official unveiling of the Foundation’s latest monument recognizing the deserving recipients of the Liberty Bell Award, Heroes Among Us Award, and Dean’s Scholarship.

At this event, the Foundation was also pleased to announce Attorneys V. James Dickson and Charlie Gerdes as the 2018 recipients of the Heroes Among Us Award. The Heroes Among Us Award is given to an attorney who gives their time and talents to our community. Both recipients are lawyers who have demonstrated exceptional community service throughout their careers.

In addition to these events – events which have helped fund our various charitable work – the Foundation also provided grants to the Community Law Program, Lawyers for Literacy, and the Pinellas Park High School Mock Trial Team.

The Foundation will also be awarding The Judge Frank H. White Diversity Scholarship later this year, which is awarded to a minority student at Stetson University College of Law.

Thanks to your patronage, it has truly been a great end to the 2018 year, and we are extremely grateful for your continued support.

Looking towards the first half of the 2019 year, in January, the Foundation will assist in funding Wills for Warriors, an event where volunteer attorneys, with the assistance of law students, provide basic wills, health care surrogates, and living wills to impoverished veterans.

In February, the Foundation will hold its annual professionalism seminar at Stetson Law. This event is always extremely well-attended, and we are looking forward to a fantastic panel of speakers.

In May, at the Law Day Luncheon, the Foundation will present The Joyce Ann Nelle Memorial Scholarship (recognizing a legal assistant student who advances professionalism), The Teen Court Scholarship (awarded to an outstanding high school volunteer participating in the Teen Court Program), The Judge Paul H. Roney Award (given to a high school senior who participates in a legal essay contest), and the Liberty Bell Award (given to a non-lawyer who volunteers his or her time to contribute to a greater understanding of the legal system).

The Foundation will also continue to sponsor the Law Office at Enterprise Village (which provides an opportunity to demonstrate to young students the important work that lawyers achieve) and the “A Legacy of Courage, Vision & Hope: African Americans in the Legal Community in Pinellas County” exhibit. This exhibit is intended to advance awareness of the history of African Americans in our legal profession and encourage minority students to pursue careers in the legal profession.

In order to fund our numerous projects and events, the Foundation relies on your donations. We could not do our invaluable work without your continued support. We sincerely express our gratitude for your continued support and patronage.

If you are interested in donating to the Foundation, joining the Foundation, or learning more about our exciting events, scholarships, and projects, please contact Executive Director Chandra Tracy at info@stpetebarfoundation.org or 727-642-9000.

We wish you all a very healthy and happy holiday season!

Caitlin Szematowicz is a Partner at Battaglia, Ross, Dicus & McQuaid, PA, and practices primarily in the areas of Civil & Commercial Litigation, Appellate Practice, and Employment Law. She is President of the St. Petersburg Bar Foundation. Caitlin can be reached at cszem@brdwlaw.com.
Your New Favorite
DEPOSITION DESTINATION

Introducing Executive Reporting Service’s
Newest Location:
Sun Bank Building
300 1st Ave South, Suite 402
St. Petersburg, FL

Prestigious, full-service executive conference suites –
Designed with your every possible need in mind.
• Impeccable, comprehensive support
• State-of-the-art technology
• Litigation specialists
• High caliber court reporting

CALL TODAY TO ARRANGE A TOUR! 727-823-4155

YOUR DEPOSITION DESTINATION®  ExecutiveReporting.com

GREENE & GREENE

Raleigh “Lee” Greene  Megan M. Greene  Raleigh “Billy” Greene

Your Tampa Bay Attorneys for:
Trust Litigation  Family Law  Collaborative Law
Probate Litigation  Fiduciary Disputes  Guardianships

(727) 821-2900
401 Fourth Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Every Business is Vulnerable to Cyber Attack

By Amy Hammond

The business is a battlefield—and the attacks are coming from cyberspace. It’s a visible war with plenty of high-profile casualties. The Equifax data breach of 2017 revealed the personal information of 143 million people.1 The Yahoo breach left billions of accounts vulnerable; a recent disclosure revealed that every Yahoo account was affected.2 Uber customers totaling 57 million found a ride—and had their personal data stolen.3

Many small and medium-sized businesses are not acting quickly to protect themselves. My business is smaller than those mammoth companies, owners say. Can the risk really be that high?

The answer is a resounding yes. Small and medium-sized business owners who believe it won’t happen to them do so at their own peril. It’s not just the “big fish” who are targets; two out of three cyberattacks are now directed at small businesses.4 The reason for this is clear: these entities often do not employ adequate security measures. Add an absence of insurance protection to the equation, and a breach can be exceptionally disastrous. It’s a problem of preparation AND protection. Without the proper security in place, a breach may occur with ease—and without insurance coverage to handle the aftermath, the result can be financially devastating.

The takeaway is this: the threat of cyberattack does not necessarily increase as the size of a business does. Companies of all sizes are at risk. For proof, let’s examine real-life cautionary stories of Tampa Bay Area small businesses, as reported by St. Petersburg insurance agency Wallace Welch & Willingham Inc. (W3 Insurance). In the below examples, the businesses affected lacked adequate crime coverage, which did not include cyber-related losses.

Scenario One: The Classic Hack

In hindsight, it’s obvious that the accounting software was “a sitting duck,” as the saying goes. A hacker found a way into the payroll program and methodically added fake employees to the roster one by one, shuttling money to an outside account and leading to more than $200,000 in losses before the hack was discovered.

Scenario Two: The Patient Robber

Some cyber criminals are exceedingly persistent. This one did his homework in a major way, learning about the company’s employees and customers in detail. He then requested a wire transfer from a client to a fake email address that read suspiciously close to a salesperson’s address. The money was wired without a second thought, and the result was a loss of thousands of dollars.

Scenario Three: The Last-Minute Switch

Yet another criminal accessed a seller account on a transaction. He monitored the email exchange between the buyer and the seller. Just as the transaction was to close, he sent an email with fraudulent wire instructions to the buyer from within the seller’s own email account. The seller naturally assumed the wire instructions were correct—and wired $388,000 to the criminal.

None of the above companies had adequate cyber insurance coverage in place as a safeguard. What could have been a simple add-on to an existing policy is now ultimately viewed by these organizations as a huge lapse in judgment.

Regardless of how a breach occurs, the end result is the same: potential economic devastation. Businesses may store private customer information protected by law; a cyberattack can create havoc for a business owner from a first and third-party standpoint. The business owner could lose access to valuable data necessary to run their business, resulting in a temporary shutdown and perhaps even a ransom to restore it.

If customer data is breached, the business could face lawsuits from third parties for not providing adequate protection of sensitive information, as well as government fines and penalties for certain types of legally protected data. After probable costs of legal fees, data forensics, public relations consultants, notification and data monitoring services are totaled, the loss is staggering. The 2018 average cost is $148 per breached record.5

In this cyberattack battlefield, a two-pronged approach is necessary for the protection of businesses, no matter their size. By implementing loss control measures to avoid or reduce exposure to cyber risk and purchasing a cyber insurance policy specifically designed to cover this type of loss, organizations can avoid becoming a statistic. Those who decline to prepare face a stark reality. Bankruptcy is a common occurrence for those businesses who choose to ignore the danger. The National Cyber Security Alliance states that a staggering 60% of small businesses close their doors for good within six months of a cyberattack.6

It’s obvious the need for cyber protection is dire, and there’s no one-size-fits-all answer for preparation and coverage. Encrypting important data is just one strategy, as is consulting with an insurance professional knowledgeable about cyber risk policies. Professionals
like those at W3 Insurance examine the risk of each business and advise accordingly.

Based on reports of trillions of dollars being stolen from businesses, cyber criminals are winning this war. It’s time for all organizations to form a proper defense and to have a backup plan in the form of cyber security coverage if attacks do succeed.

Amy Hammond is writer and editor for St. Petersburg-headquartered insurance company Wallace Welch & Willingham (W3 Insurance). As a freelance author, Hammond has published in The Tampa Bay Times, 83 Degrees and numerous other publications. [Wallace, Welch, & Willingham is an annual corporate sponsor of the St. Petersburg Bar Association, please click on their logo on the front page of the bar website for more information.]

5. IBM.com, https://ibm.com/2Qiah9g
Different can be good.

ABA
Retirement
Funds

www.abaretirement.com

JESSICA L. DANNER
Regional Vice President, Sales
Jessica.Danner@abaretirement.com
781.796.9183

ATTORNEYS, DID YOU KNOW?

Your client can actually

SELL

all or part of their life insurance policy.

A Life Settlement Transaction...
...is the sale of an existing life insurance policy that gives the owner a cash settlement in excess of the cash surrender value.

EXAMPLE:

Mr. Smith (age 78) owns a $400,000 universal life policy on his life which he no longer wants, needs or can afford. Premiums are $12,000 per year. Cash surrender value is $3,000 (this is the amount the insurance carrier would give Mr. Smith if he was to surrender the policy). Rather than surrendering the policy Mr. Smith choose the LIFE SETTLEMENT TRANSACTION option.

POLICY SOLD FOR $65,000

BOYD CRISLER
Life Settlement Broker
(727) 365-0076
bcrisler@cfl.rr.com
www.boydsettlement.com

This example is for illustration only and is meant to educate about a life settlement option.

Managed IT Services

Need help with your technology? Whether you need immediate help with your computer systems or are looking for Managed IT Services to keep your technology up and running, we can get it done.

- Email Management
- Networking Services
- Data Backup and Recovery
- Cloud
- Mobility
- Security

Trust your technology to TeamLogic IT.

TeamLogic IT
teamlogicit.com/StPeteFL
dzurbrick@teamlogicit.com

St. Pete Bar Members
Call for a Business
Technical Assessment
($995 Value)
727.835.8326

The Color of Confidence

Your Technology Advisor
ST. PETE MEMBERS GET 15% OFF!
With the best practice management software for attorneys.

**EASY & INTUITIVE**
Our Practice Management Software is so easy to use, law firms are usually running their entire firm in under 1 hour, without the need for training!

**SECURE & ENCRYPTED**
All information is secured by a 256-bit SSL certificate. Data is sent using an encrypted connection, the same as online banking.

**WORK ANYWHERE**
Work from home, the office, or even in court! Get the mobile apps and login from your iPhone, iPad, Android, or any other connected device.

**INTEGRATED**
We’re integrated with all the tools you use every day. Seamlessly connect Gmail, Outlook, Office365, Exchange, QuickBooks, LawPay, Dropbox, Box, & many more.

Earn more. Work less. Sign up at: [www.PracticePanther.com/StPete](http://www.PracticePanther.com/StPete)

---

**SUNCOAST LEGAL SEARCH**
PRACTICE IN PARADISE

➢ We are new
➢ We believe in social media
➢ We promote diversity
➢ We appreciate your help
➢ We utilize technology
➢ We keep it simple
➢ We serve our clients
➢ We embrace our applicants
➢ We love the Suncoast

For More Information:
Rick Friedman
Rick@SuncoastSearchSolutions.com
http://SuncoastLegalSearch.com

---

**RAISING THE BAR SINCE 1926.**
A growing firm needs more than firm handshakes. You want firm commitments, and that’s what you get from your partners at Seacoast Bank. Providing interactive technologies and individualized service, with a team dedicated to helping your business reach its financial goals.

Seacoast Bank. Better by all accounts.

Amy St. Hart
VP - Small Business Lending Manager
Amy.StHart@SeacoastBank.com
727.348.1799

Katrina Trump
SVP - Commercial Banker
Katrina.Trump@SeacoastBank.com
727.452.1337

SeacoastBank.com
800 706 9991
Go Local, Bank Local.

(Thank you to St. Petersburg Bar Association Annual Diamond sponsor The Bank of Tampa for the submission below.)

For The Bank of Tampa, a $1.6 billion community bank with a more than 30-year history in the Tampa Bay area, being part of the “Go Local” movement is essential to doing business. The bank, which is privately owned by its staff, directors and clients, prides itself in being a relationship bank that understands that when the Tampa Bay community does well, everyone wins.

What is a community bank?

In the simplest of terms, a community bank derives funds from and lends to its local community. A community bank like The Bank of Tampa specializes in relationship banking, rather than transactional banking. For us, relationship banking is ingrained in the way we do business, one client at a time. Profits are driven through long-term, multi-account relationships that suit the needs for each individual client or business. Larger banks, which often operate on a transactional model through economies of scale, make money on volume through standardized accounts and automated service. At most community banks, and at The Bank of Tampa, our products, capabilities and technology match up with the large regional banks. However, you’re getting a community bank-level of service. For us at The Bank of Tampa, we’re delivering an experience.

What are the benefits that come with banking with a community bank?

There are endless benefits to banking with a community bank. I usually like to speak to benefits that don’t always immediately come to mind—like the fact that at The Bank of Tampa, our leaders are local. Therefore, decisions are made right here in the Tampa Bay area, allowing for quick decision making without bureaucracy. Community banks like

The Bank of Tampa channel their loans to local businesses and neighborhoods where they live and operate.

How do community banks impact the economy?

When you partner with a community bank, you are investing in your local economy. Your dollar in a community bank will likely go to underwriting a local business or be invested in U.S. government-backed securities. Community banks tend to obtain deposits from local individuals and businesses and lend them out to local borrowers. Additionally, community banks serve as a direct player to job creation in communities all across the U.S. More or less, your money stays local.

Community banks have a critical role in keeping local economies vibrant. One of the key ways we do that is by lending to creditworthy borrowers in the Tampa Bay area. Because we can respond to lending requests with agility due to our knowledge of client needs, we are able to help facilitate a growing economy by partnering with businesses and enabling them to buy new equipment, add employees and make investments in their future. At a glance, those effects may appear to be modest. However, when you multiply these effects across the thousands of community banks in the country, you can see the impact we can make on a national economy.

Community banks are also intimately tied to the prosperity of the local community. When a community prospers, the community benefits. That is why so many local banks are involved in their communities. In 2017 alone, The Bank of Tampa donated more than $745,000 to local community organizations. Our employees get out there and get involved. In fact, The Bank of Tampa supports more than 200 community organizations, either through financial giving or volunteer support. We want to ensure we’re giving back to the community that gives so much to us.

Scott Gault serves as the Pinellas County Market President at The Bank of Tampa. He brings more than 25 years of experience in the financial services industry. Scott holds a Master’s in Business Administration in International Finance from Florida Metropolitan University. Scott is also a GE Capital trained Six Sigma Green Belt. [The Bank of Tampa is an Annual Corporate Sponsor of the St. Petersburg Bar Association, please click on their logo on the front page of the bar website for more information.]
THE PREMIER PERK FOR ST. PETE BAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Allen Craig, Director of Corporate Partnerships
866-596-1111 | CorpSales@Ferman.com

FERMAN CORPORATE PARTNERS PROGRAM

Gary’s House Painting
Creating Happiness with Color
Serving Florida’s Pinellas County • 727-536-5412

Gary’s Roof & House Painting
Largo, Florida
727-536-5412
gmgrowers@yahoo.com

Gary’s Painting serves all of Pinellas County including: St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Largo, Safety Harbor, Dunedin, Seminole, Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, Palm Harbor, Pinellas Park, and Largo.

Learn more at: www.garysroofandhousepainting.com
Why Lawyers Struggle for Work-Life Balance

Dustin Cole, Master Practice Advisor, Attorneys Master Class

I recently read a fine article titled “Shoot for a Realistic Work-life Balance in 2018.” Fine, that is, at addressing the symptoms. Problem is, it didn’t address the real causes: practices that don’t work.

It’s like telling someone with a broken leg “just try to be more careful walking, and take a lot of aspirin.” Palliative, but not curative.

So what’s my definition of a practice that doesn’t work? In a phrase, one whose structure has never changed significantly from its earliest days.

When a practice is small, it’s easy for the attorney to keep track of and stay in good communication with those few clients. But as the practice grows, the attorney’s answer is simply “I have more work to do, so I have to work harder.” So the attorney keeps working harder, adds a couple of staff and starts throwing work at them, and now has both more work to do and people to try to manage.

Without skills as a manager. Without a plan for growth except “work harder, work longer.”

Soon, working nights and weekends, waking up in the middle of the night to wonder about what we missed or what we didn’t get done, getting irritated client calls about delayed work, all become normal. After all, “that’s just what it takes to succeed in the practice of law.”

Frankly, in most larger firms, associates are in a kind of extended boot camp. “Let’s see who can survive the pressure.”

And the energy and drive they had at 30 decreases. But the work – if they’re lucky – keeps expanding, and every year it becomes harder to maintain the 30-year-old’s pace.

Is it any wonder that the profession has some of the highest rates of depression, drug and alcohol abuse, heart attacks, divorce and suicide?

In this profession, success kills.

The problem is that law school built in a “no boundaries” view of the law. Big exam tomorrow? Big load of assignments? Work until the wee hours, pull all-nighters, take amphetamines to keep going. Then go out for some celebratory, stress-relieving drinks afterwards with friends. And if you have been an associate in a large firm, you know that mentality continues. Thrown an overwhelming load of work on a short deadline? Work until the wee hours, pull all-nighters, take amphetamines to keep going, start missing family time and personal time, and go out for a drink after work to relax. Well, “that’s just what it takes to succeed in the practice of law.”

Notice where I list that element which is most lawyers’ greatest pride: legal services. Last. Why? Because most of the work of any firm is procedural, straightforward and not rocket science. And frankly, if you rarely need the rocket scientist it’s cheaper to collaborate than pay for expertise you rarely use. Conversely, if you have a practice that is all rocket science, like making good money, my name is on the door and I have some prestige. I can’t give that up!”

The path to achieving a better work-life balance starts with not accepting “this is the way we’ve always done it.”

It starts with asking a clear question: “How do we need to operate differently so I can have my nights and weekends free again?”

This is what I do every day as an advisor to law firms: help successful lawyers learn and implement new ways to operate their firms so that they can continue to grow their practices while still having – or recovering – a life. The smart ones don’t try to figure it all out in the midst of their ongoing overload – they seek out experts who can point out and help implement the necessary steps.

At the 20,000 foot level, here are my six steps:

- Better management skills
- Better technology
- Better systems and procedures
- Better/more team – lawyers, paraprofessionals, support, contract
- Better market focus
- Better legal services

Notice where I list that element which is most lawyers’ greatest pride: legal services. Last. Why? Because most of the work of any firm is procedural, straightforward and not rocket science. And frankly, if you rarely need the rocket scientist it’s cheaper to collaborate than pay for expertise you rarely use. Conversely, if you have a practice that is all rocket science, like
appellate or patent law, it’s a different animal and one that is harder to grow. So the logic is reversed. The most successful practices deliver non-rocket science services because the market is larger and the services easier to deliver.

I do offer one cautionary tale. Most lawyers are cheap. Most lawyers have a cash-flow (we can’t afford that) mentality. They think of cost first, and desired result rarely. So even as they address any one of those four, they will tend to reduce the decision to the lowest – read that cheapest – level. Then, when it doesn’t result in the desired efficiencies or revenues, they will discard it as a bad deal. And go back to the “more work means more work” approach.

Successful attorneys (my standard: one who has a great practice and still has a great life) understand the need to look beyond “cost” to “benefit” and even profit. For instance, in a rising market, they never hesitate to hire a (pricey) paralegal because they know they will be a profit center – they can and should bill about three times their salary. They never hesitate to make a “capital investment” in people or technology because the goal is a long-term payoff of happier clients and better, more expedited work. And they never stop the quest for a better market focus and a better client base. They don’t get stuck in “well, that’s what we do.”

Did you get that? “Capital investment.” It means cost now, return later. It’s the difference between a “practice” and a “legal business.” Truly successful firms understand that, to deliver the best legal services, to develop the best reputation, to grow the best client base, they can only accomplish all of that with a foundation of great “business” practices.

“Practice” and “business” are not antithetical. They’re complimentary. Collaborative. Cumulative.

For the last 25 years, I’ve been deeply invested in showing attorneys how to create better practices and lower their levels of pain and frustration.

Dustin Cole, President of Attorneys Master Class and Master Practice Advisor, is one of the nation’s leading advisors to law firms and lawyers. He is a regular CLE provider and speaker for more than 50 national, state and specialty bar associations. He has worked with over 200 firms and more than 1000 individual attorneys in 30 states to help them increase revenues and deal successfully with change.
This September, I had the privilege of participating in the Swearing-In Ceremony for 16 new members of The Florida Bar. As these eager young attorneys and their family and friends gathered for this momentous occasion, I could not help but feel honored to play a small part in the ceremony. The joy and pride that filled the courtroom made me further appreciate not only my profession but also my role with the St. Petersburg Bar Association.

During the Swearing In Ceremony, I was able to provide a welcome speech to the new members and offer a few small words of guidance. Other dignitaries, including Chief Judge Rondolino, also provided additional words of insight. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Chief Judge Rondolino left the new members with five small, yet all too important, tips to being a successful attorney. While all of these proffered tips were directly on point, one specifically hit home with me, and that is to “be humble.”

As we grow in our experience and abilities as attorneys, we can often forget to stay humble. Paced in our practice of law by continuously imminent deadlines, it is sometimes easy to forget the little things. However, as Chief Judge Rondolino encouraged some of our newest members of The Florida Bar, I too will encourage all of you. Be humble in your law practice.

In being humble, it is always important to remember to take into account the advice of others. Specifically, we should not forget to consult with our staff and paralegals as they too have much experience and insight to offer. In being humble, it is always important to remember to greet the bailiffs and judicial assistants who all too often go unrecognized. In being humble, it is always important to remember not to discount the position of opposing counsel. As we should all be well aware, any attorney, no matter how much experience they may have, may be outworked on any given day.

Personally, I was humbled to simply have been able to be a part of the Swearing-In Ceremony and to have received such insightful words of wisdom. Empowered with Chief Judge Rondolino’s reminder, I will do my best to heed those words as I grow in my practice. In doing so, I will hopefully not only be a better attorney, but also be that much more thankful for all I have and will continue to achieve.

This profession truly affords us with countless opportunities that others in this world may never realize. In being humble, let us remember why it is we entered into the profession of law in the first place, and let us be thankful for the opportunities we have to zealously represent our clients. So in parting, as we enter this holiday season, please remember to stay humble in your practice and give thanks for all this profession has and continues to afford us.

Christopher C. Ferguson
770 Second Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Telephone: (727) 823-5000
Facsimile: (727) 894-1023
Email: chris.ferguson@fergusonpa.com
floridamediators.org (scheduling)
NeuLife is one of the largest and most respected CARF® Accredited residential post-acute facilities, offering specialized rehabilitative care and services to individuals with catastrophic injuries.

- Acquired Brain Injury and other Neurologic Diagnoses
- Challenging Behaviors related to Acquired Brain Injury
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Complex Orthopedic Injuries
- Amputations
- Challenging Diagnoses

NeuLife is one of the few healthcare facilities in the U.S. that offer a deferred payment plan. This is an alternate funding arrangement for individuals with catastrophic injuries involved in personal injury lawsuits who could not otherwise afford post-acute rehabilitation. Through the deferred payment plan, fees for treatment and services are not collected until the personal injury case is finalized. NeuLife participates with most health insurance plans, workers’ compensation carriers and discount networks.

800.626.3876  |  NeuLifeRehab.com
Mount Dora, FL

WWW.IURILLOLAW.COM  |  (727) 895-8050
5628 CENTRAL AVENUE, ST. PETERSBURG

Representing Businesses and Professionals Since 1991
Iurillo Law Group, P.A.

COMPLEX BANKRUPTCY  ▪  CREDITORS’ RIGHTS
BUSINESS LAW  ▪  BUSINESS LITIGATION
REAL ESTATE LITIGATION

Camille Iurillo  Alexander Zesch

Did you know?
2 out of 3 cyber attacks are directed at small businesses.
The bottom line is:
You’re at risk.

Contact Manny Carmona today to see how you can protect yourself with cyber coverage from W3 Insurance.
mcarmona@w3ins.com
727.522.7777 ext. 143

WALLACE WELCH & WILLINGHAM
INSURANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT SINCE 1925
What’s Up & Who’s New

November/December 2018

Trenam Law is pleased to announce the expansion of its real estate and land use practices with five attorneys who have joined the firm. The five attorneys come from Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick’s Tampa office. C. Graham Carothers, Jr., Timothy M. Hughes, Gregory-Scott R. Haney, and Cate Wells joined as Shareholders, and Mathew S. Poling joined as an Associate.


New Members

BAKER, BRITTNEY PAIGE
200 Central Ave., STE 1850
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Phone: 727-362-6151
Fax: 727-362-6131
Email: bbaker@elattorneys.com
Undergraduate degree from University of North Texas; J. D. from Stetson University College of Law. Admitted to The Florida Bar in 2014. Ms. Baker is an attorney with Ellison Lazenby.

GARCIA-PARDO, JUAN
727 Main St., STE 202
Safety Harbor, FL 34695
Phone: 727-712-1001
Fax: 727-493-5500
Email: juan@thewarrenlawfirm.com
B.S. from University of Central Florida; J.D. from Stetson University College of Law. Admitted to The Florida Bar in 2015. Ms. Garcia-Pardo is an associate with Warren Law Firm, PLLC.

HANEY, GREGORY R.
200 Central Ave., STE 1600
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Phone: 727-820-3958
Fax: 727-502-3409
Email: ghaney@trenam.com
B.S. from Louisiana State University; J.D. from University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law. Admitted to The Florida Bar in 1996. Mr. Haney is a shareholder with Trenam Law.

HASHEM, SADIYA
13555 Automobile Blvd., STE 300
Clearwater, FL 33762
Phone: 213-700-0039
Fax: 727-313-9399
Email: sadiya1303@gmail.com
B.A. from University of California Santa Barbara; J.D. from Stetson University College of Law. Admitted to The Florida Bar in 2017. Ms. Hashem is an associate with the Law Office of Joelle Schultz, PLLC.

HUDSON, IAN R
360 Central Ave., STE 800
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Phone: 727-308-1723
Fax: 888-399-6701
Email: ian@khlawfl.com
Undergraduate degree from University of South Florida; J.D. from Stetson University College of Law. Admitted to The Florida Bar in 2013 and also admitted to the Middle District of Florida Bankruptcy Court. Mr. Hudson is an attorney with King Hudson PLLC.

KOVAR, JAY
2423 58th St. S.
Gulfport, FL 33707
Phone: 727-827-7777
Fax: 813-701-2482
Email: Kovar@kovarlawgroup.com
Undergraduate degree from University of Central Florida; J.D. from Stetson University College of Law. Admitted to The Florida Bar in 2014. Mr. Kovar is owner/partner with Kovar Law Group.

LAMB, LINDSEY D.
100 2nd Ave. S., STE 701S
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Phone: 727-822-2033
Fax: 727-822-1633
Email: llamb@fishersauls.com
B.A. from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; J.D. from Widener University. Admitted to The Florida Bar in 1997. Mr. Kravitz is a partner in Kravitz Law Group, P.A.

MATTHEWS, MARK D.
11387 Ridgewood Cir.
Seminole, FL 33772
Phone: 804-339-6138
Fax: 888-228-3297
Email: mark@markmatthewslaw.com
B.A. from Belmont Abbey College; J.D. from the College of William and Mary. Mr. Matthews is a member of the Virginia State Bar. Mr. Matthews is a sole practitioner with Mark Matthews Law.

MARGOLIES; CAROLYN S.
5318 Lemon St.
New Port Richey, FL 34652
Phone: 727-247-9534
Fax: 727-859-4682
Email: carolyn@margolieslaw.com
B.A. from Hofstra University; J.D. from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. Admitted to The Florida Bar in 2013. Ms. Margolies is a sole practitioner with The Law Offices of Carolyn S. Margolies, PA.

MAXEY-FISHER, BRITTANY
100 22nd Ave. S., STE 401N
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Phone: 727-230-4949
Fax: 727-230-4827
Email: bmaxeyfisher@maxeyfisher.com
Undergraduate degree from Ole Miss; J.D. from Stetson University College of Law. Admitted to The Florida Bar in 2007. Ms. Maxey-Fisher is managing partner in Maxey-Fisher, PLLC.
MORLEY, BRYAN KYLE
146 2nd St. N., Suite 304
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-3361
Phone: 727-263-7033
Email: kmorley@foleymansfield.com
B.S. from University of Florida; J.D. from Tulane University Law School. Admitted to The Florida Bar in 2006 and also a member of the New York State Bar Association, the District of Columbia and all Florida District Courts. Mr. Morley is a partner in the firm Foley & Mansfield, PLLP.

WOJDYLA, PAIGE
3201 U.S. Hwy. 19 S., 9th Floor
St. Petersburg, FL 33711
Phone: 727-821-2080
Fax: 727-822-3970
Email: pwojdyala@abbeyadams.com
B.S. from Saint Francis University; J.D. from Stetson University College of Law. Admitted to The Florida Bar in 2018. Ms. Wojdyla is an associate with Abbey Adams Byelick & Mueller, LLP.

ROSECRANTZ, CARYN
717 12th Ave. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Email: crosencr@gmail.com
B.A. from Fordham University; J.D. from Brooklyn Law School. Ms. Rosencrantz is a member of the New York State Bar Association.

XENAKIS, SEAN KELLY
400 N. Ashley Dr., STE 1200
Tampa, FL 33602
Phone: 813-314-1109
Fax: 813-204-9660
Email: sx@kubickidraper.com
Undergraduate degree from Florida State University; J.D. from Stetson University College of Law. Admitted to The Florida Bar in 1999. Ms. Xenakis is a shareholder/partner with Kubicki Draper, PA.

STUDENT MEMBERS

BRETT, EVELYN M.
Email: evelyn.brett@gmail.com
Undergraduate degree from Rutgers College. Ms. Brett is a student at Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

HANKINS, DAPHNE R.
Email: daphnehankins@gmail.com
Undergraduate degree from Guilford College; J.D. from Elon University School of Law.

HART, ASHLEY N.
Email: ahart2@law.stetson.edu
B.A. from University of Tampa. Ms. Hart is a student at Stetson University College of Law.

SALTA, ROBERT S.
Email: rsalta3@gmail.com
Undergraduate degree from University of Central Florida; J.D. from Stetson University College of Law. Mr. Salta is awaiting admission to The Florida Bar.

SCAVO, DOMINIC R.
Email: dscavo@law.stetson.edu
Undergraduate degree from Alfred University. Mr. Scavo is a student at Stetson University College of Law.

THURLOW, GEORGE ALBERT DOYLE
Email: gthorlow@law.stetson.edu
B.A. from New College of Florida. Mr. Thurlow is a student at Stetson University College of Law.

WALKER, MICHELLE A.
Email: mawalker@law.stetson.edu
Undergraduate degree from Eckerd College. Ms. Walker is a student at Stetson University College of Law.

WALSH, EMILY
Email: ewalsh@law.stetson.edu

WEISS, KELSEY
Email: kaweiss@law.stetson.edu

WILSEY, ABIGAIL MCCRAE
Email: awilsey@fisher-wilsey-law.com
Undergraduate degree from University of Florida. Ms. Wilsey is a student at Stetson University College of Law.

WOODFORD, KYLE
Email: kwoodford@law.stetson.edu

Classifieds

OFFICE SPACE:

CLEARWATER: Quiet spacious office for rent in lovely 4 person suite. One block from US 19 and Sunset Point, Clearwater. Available Furnished or Not. Phone Included or Not. High Tech Wi-Fi included. $525 per month, Negotiable. Sam 727-799-4321 sam@attorneysfirst.com.

ST. PETERSBURG: (I-275 at 54th Avenue North) Offices available to sublet within our suite. Welcoming reception area with receptionist, beautiful conference room, kitchen, fax, copier, wireless internet and more. Very convenient to St. Pete and Tampa courthouses. Month to month or long term welcome. Call Stacee at 727-343-8959 or stacee@hilllawgroup.com.

PALM HARBOR: Class A Office, High end wood floor in lobby/conference room with high ceilings. Perfect for attorneys. Private entrance, ground floor, 1,846 SF MOL, 5 offices/conference, 1 restroom, 1 kitchenette, 3 private entrances. $3,210 + tax/month. Angel Calkins, Klein & Heuchan (727) 483-2512

ST. PETERSBURG: Professional Office Space, 821 16th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33705. 850 sq. ft. of usable space for Lease. Property Type: Office; Sub-Type: Medical; Building Size: 6,347 sq. ft.; Monthly rent $1,250; Private Entrance; Abundant parking; Convenient Location near I-275. Contact Dan Hall (727) 894-3188 or dan@caveylaw.com.

Classified Advertising is available to St. Pete Bar Members for $25 per month, up to 50 words. The cost for Non-Members is $50 per month. For ads over 50 words – add $1 per word. Contact JoAnn Knight, Paraclete Advertising at jknight@stpetebar.com for more information.
ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL ADMINISTRATORS – SUNCOAST CHAPTER

The ALA Suncoast Chapter general membership meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday or Thursday of the month as indicated. For more information please contact Meetings/Education Chair, Paul Kanjorski paul@sbcf-famlaw.com or visit the ALA website at http://alasuncoast.org/ for more information. See the website for updates on the ALA Suncoast calendar of events.

Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2018
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Program: General Membership Luncheon
Location: Centre Club
123 S. Westshore Blvd.
Tampa Florida

Date: Wednesday, December 12, 2018
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Program: Holiday Lunch
Location: Brio Tuscan Grille
2223 N. Westshore Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33607

PINELLAS COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA

Monthly meetings for the Pinellas County Chapter of PAF, Inc. are on the second Tuesday of each month. Paralegals, student paralegals, non-members and attorneys are always welcome. To make reservations, please email pafpinellas@gmail.com. For more information on the local chapter contact Chrystal Lunsford, President, at chryslunsford@yahoo.com or visit the Paralegal Association of Florida website at http://pinellas.pafinc.org.

Date: Thursday, November 13, 2018
Time: 5:30 p.m. Networking
6:00 p.m. Dinner
Program: Networking
Location: Crafted Plate at the Marriott
12600 Roosevelt Blvd. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2018
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Program: 8th Annual Holiday Charity Event
All Proceeds Benefit the Community Law Program. Tickets are $25 if pre-ordered, $30 at the door
Location: Westminster Palms
Bayview Lounge, 13th Floor
939 Beach Drive NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

PINELLAS COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN LAWYERS

PFAWL meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at different locations each month unless otherwise noted. No RSVP is needed. For more information on events contact Membership Socials Director, Nicole Bell, at pfawlsocialdirector@gmail.com. For membership inquiries contact Membership Director, Megan Hurchalla, at pfawlmembershipdirector@gmail.com.

Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2018
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Program: Networking Social
Location: Noble Crust
8300 4th St. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2018
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Program: Holiday Social
Location: Pinellas Chocolate
10550 72nd St.
Largo, FL 33777

ST. PETERSBURG ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL SUPPORT SPECIALISTS (SPALSS):

Please join us for dinner and camaraderie at our next meeting. For more information about the meeting dates or SPALSS, please contact Debora Shirley, President, at (727) 417-0524

PINELLAS ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

The PACDL meets the third Thursday of each month the Pinellas County Justice Center from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Lunch is provided for members. Meetings are open to members and those who come to join. We usually have one hour of CLE. Memberships are also available for law students. For more information on PACDL please contact Lori Mahin, PACDL President, at lorimahin@gmail.com.
September Membership Luncheon

Keynote Speaker
Sheriff Bob Gualtieri

Presenting Sponsor
The Bank of Tampa

PINELLAS COUNTY
October
Membership
Luncheon

Keynote Speaker
Derrick Brooks

Presenting Sponsor

The Bank of Tampa
PINELLAS COUNTY