



# Broward County Bar Association BARRISTER

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From left to right:

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Installation of the new 2011-2012 BCBA Board of Directors



Installation of the new 2011-2012 BCBA Board of Directors



BCBA President Jordana Goldstein and BCBA Past-President Bruce Weihe with 2011 award recipients



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jordana Goldstein

## *The Casey Anthony Trial... Lessons Learned*

Over the last several days, I felt compelled to comment on what pundits have described as the “trial of the century,” now that the jury in the Casey Anthony murder trial have rendered their verdict. I believe there are several lessons that can be learned from this trial. Whether you agree with the verdict or not, the judicial system clearly worked. The prosecution had a difficult circumstantial case. There was no confession by the defendant despite repeated attempts by law enforcement to elicit one, no murder weapon was clearly identified, and the cause and time of Caylee Anthony’s death could not be established with any degree of certainty. Twelve individuals from completely different walks of life determined that there was simply insufficient evidence to convict Casey Anthony of murder, manslaughter or even child abuse. The bottom line is that the jurors received instructions which they were told to follow and which they did follow. They recognized the constitutional protection afforded to every citizen who is charged with a crime, namely, that they are innocent until “proven” guilty. They implicitly understood that the prosecution had the burden of proving beyond a reasonable doubt the guilt of the accused, which is a very high standard to meet. By finding that the State had not met their burden, they did what they were supposed to do and that was to acquit Casey Anthony of the most serious charges. Instead of being ridiculed, harassed and even threatened for their decision, the jury should be commended and respected for their verdict no matter how unpopular that may be.

An equally important lesson to be learned is that lawyers should strive to act professionally both inside and outside of the courtroom. I am sure it was not lost on the jury when prosecutor Jeff Ashton snickered at opposing counsel during his closing argument. Nothing could have been gained by that lapse in judgment. Furthermore, while celebrating in his client’s success, defense attorney Cheney Mason unceremoniously raised his middle finger to reporters to show his displeasure with them. Not a fine moment for any lawyer. It should go without saying that if lawyers want to be respected by members of their community they should abide by the professional and personal code of conduct that is required of them no matter the situation.

Another lesson learned from this case is how important it is for a judge not only to be experienced and knowledgeable about the law, but it is equally important for a judge to be able to take command of a courtroom. Judge Belvin Perry, Jr., should be commended for the way in which he handled this case. He insisted that a high level of decorum be maintained by attorneys and witnesses alike, he promptly resolved all legal issues and certainly assisted the jury in developing a clear understanding of the law and how it was to be applied. Given the voluminous amount of evidence presented during the trial, his actions were essential to moving the case forward.

Then there was the courtroom spectator who raised his middle figure to prosecutors during the proceedings. After a week in jail, I expect he too may have learned a lesson. My hope is that he has come to understand the sanctity of the courtroom and to respect those who labor there each day.

I also hope the one lesson the media learns from covering this case is that no good can come from journalists who fail to provide fair and unbiased reporting of a case. Generally, I would not take issue with having cameras in a courtroom. In fact, I believe that reporting what goes on in a courtroom can be an invaluable education to members of the public about the judicial process. But in this instance, the relentless coverage of the case and sensationalism that was created by it, did nothing but increase the public’s distrust of the legal system and went so far as to make a mockery of it. Members of the defense team have reported that witnesses were reluctant to come forward in fear of losing their anonymity. Judge Perry, Jr. remarked that the jurors, as well as members of Casey Anthony’s family, had received death threats. Who would willingly want to serve on a jury if it could result in their life being threatened? Who could forget the throngs of people running and trampling over one and other to try and get a seat inside the courtroom? Spectators outside of the courthouse were seen fighting with one another after the verdict was rendered. Even after the conclusion of the trial, various members of the media while expressing their outrage and disdain for the jury’s verdict, seemed to be encouraging members of the public to take steps to avenge Caylee’s death. Reporters, like lawyers, have a responsibility to the public to act responsibly, particularly when they are aware of the impact they have on the public. Many journalists in this instance simply did not think before they spoke and certainly did not exercise enough self-restraint.

One of the more important lessons I think we can all learn from this case is that if something does not seem right, it probably is not. In other words, follow your instincts. We learned during the trial that Caylee Anthony was not reported missing for 31 days. It is difficult to believe that Caylee’s grandparents, with whom Caylee was living prior to her death, did not suspect something was amiss after not having seen their granddaughter for a few days let alone a few weeks. Perhaps if Caylee’s grandparents sought the assistance of law enforcement sooner, Caylee’s remains may have been discovered earlier and the prosecution may have had additional evidence to establish the manner of death, which could possibly have led to Casey Anthony’s conviction. If you think someone is in need of help or something is awry, do not turn away or ignore the situation. Your help may alter the course of events without you even realizing it.

I encourage you to send us your comments about the Casey Anthony Trial, as we intend to publish some of your observations in next month’s Barrister.





# A Message from Bart Ostrzenski President, Young Lawyers' Section

Now that the hoopla from the 2011-12 Installation Dinner has settled, I can say to all of you that I am your newly installed President of the Broward County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section. I cannot thank our Board of Directors enough for having the confidence to ratify me as President and provide me with this honor.

For the past six years I have been a Director for the Broward County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section, and as such, I have had the opportunity to work with and be surrounded by some of the most talented, eager, professional and hard-working young attorneys in Broward County. This tradition continues as I have not seen such an involved group of Directors, who have accomplished so much and truly deserve most of the credit for the milestones we reach each year.

One individual who especially deserves a lot of the credit for making the YLS what it is today is the outgoing President, David Hirschberg. I have said this on numerous occasions; he is the consummate professional, one of the kindest individuals I have ever met and, I am happy to say, a close friend. He ran the YLS with a discrete elegance that I can only hope to emulate. Thank you for your efforts and you will be missed.

Now that I am charged with continuing and building on these accomplishments, I have set forth some goals during my Presidency. For example, I have made it a priority to implement a credit card processing portal for our luncheons and events in order to maximize convenience for our participants. We are already in the process of obtaining CLE credits for a select number of monthly luncheons, in order to boost value and attendance. It is also a priority to maintain the synergy with the BCBA and continue with our shared efforts to increase membership. I am very enthusiastic about working with BCBA President, Jordana Goldstein, as she is quite experienced and as a past YLS President, has made an indelible impression on this organization, which continues to this day. As a perennial goal shared by all of our past Presidents, I also hope to increase charitable contributions from our various fundraisers.

In my endeavors, I have benefit of being surrounded by a passionate Board. In addition to twelve outstanding directors, I am joined on the Board by three other officers: Meghan Clary (President-Elect), Marissa Pullano (Treasurer), and Liza Smoker (Secretary). I have worked with Meghan, Marissa and Liza for a number of years now and I could not have hand-picked a more competent and driven group of people to serve along side and work with throughout this year. I am also honored to announce that Judge Imperato and Judge Levenson have both returned as our YLS judicial liaisons.

Although we have only just started, we are already in the planning stages for our first luncheon, which is scheduled for Thursday, August 25 at noon at the Tower Club. The luncheon will consist of a judicial panel luncheon, in which we are actively seeking CLE credit approval. More information shall be forthcoming. You can RSVP for the luncheon with the Broward Bar at (954) 764-8040.

Additionally, it is not too early to calendar the YLS Annual Charity Golf Tournament, which will take place on Saturday, October 15th, at Jacaranda Golf Club, Plantation, Florida. This year's Tournament beneficiary is a very special project; The Tracey McPharlin Pro

Bono Dependency Recruitment Initiative, which is associated with Florida Children's First. There will also be a happy hour in support of the charity and Tournament on Thursday evening, October 6. For more information, contact Meghan Clary at meghan@cmfamilylaw.com.

Finally, I would like to recognize Sabadell Bank United, who has returned as the YLS annual sponsor. Sabadell Bank United, also known as "The Lawyers' Bank," has been a valuable partner of the YLS for a number of years and I am proud that we are continuing to build on our relationship.

If anyone has questions about how they can participate with or in the Young Lawyers Section, please feel free to call me at Ostrzenski & Stricklin, P.A., (954) 229-2468 or e-mail me ostrzenski@oslawyers.com. We also have a calendar of events on the Broward Bar web site www.browardbar.com.

I am very much looking forward to serving the community and our profession this year and also seeing you at our functions.

The Broward Barrister is published by the Broward County Bar Association a part of our commitment to provide membership with information relating to issues and concerns on the local level. Opinions and positions expressed in the signed materials are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect the views of this publication or the Broward County Bar Association.

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# Social Media for Lawyers: 10 Ways to Multi-Task Legal Marketing

By Margaret Grisdela

Social media success hinges on three major elements: 1) SEO-friendly copy that contains the best keywords; 2) substantive topic selection; and 3) widespread social networking distribution. This article shows you how to blend all three to become a social media publishing powerhouse.

Finding the right topic to write about in social media marketing campaigns is a question that comes up frequently in our popular BCBA Bloggers Breakfast series. Here are two easy ways to start writing.

First, pick topics that are in the news to avoid rehashing old material. The law is perfect for this, since new laws and court cases provide a steady stream of topic ideas. On July 1, 2011 alone, 160 new laws took effect in Florida. From dogs tied up in backyards to pill mills and landline telephone deregulation, your clients need to know what the new laws are and how the laws affect their life or business.

Second, you can write about the legal topics that create a steady stream of transactional business for your law firm. Examples include, “how to create a parenting plan,” “what to do if you are in a car accident,” or “how to protect your business from trade secret theft.”

The recommended frequency of social media publication is a related question asked by lawyers who want to increase the SEO visibility of their Internet marketing campaigns. Of course, more is better. Daily or weekly social media updates are not always possible, however, for busy attorneys struggling to meet court and client deadlines.

If you want to start a social media campaign, but don't have the time to attend to it every day, here are some social media strategies that will leverage one high quality piece that you prepare once a month or even quarterly.

You can make your social media marketing multi-task by writing one monthly or quarterly piece and publishing it, with slight variations, over the following 10 different marketing channels.

**1. Publish as a blog post.** This is a basic building block

for all social media marketing, and can be used as a link for lead generation.

**2. Distribute as a client newsletter.** Make your topic the focus of a print or e-newsletter distributed to your clients and prospects.

**3. Publish as an article.** Contact editors of legal or industry publications to get your topic in print.

**4. Get a speaking engagement.** Offer to speak at an upcoming group meeting on your topic.

**5. Produce as a Q&A sheet.** Pretend you are being interviewed, and create a one-page sheet with key questions, answers, and your photo

**6. Issue as a news release.** There are many free or low cost Internet news services available.

**7. Conduct a webinar.** This works particularly well if your audience is widespread.

**8. Create a video for YouTube.** Grab your digital camera, an assistant, and record a 1-2 minute clip on your topic.

**9. Start a LinkedIn Discussion.** Use your blog post link to generate interest in a LinkedIn group.

**10. Post to Facebook and Twitter.** Expand the reach of your blog post by publishing the link with a comment on social media outlets.

*About the Author:* Margaret Grisdela is president of Legal Expert Connections, a national legal marketing agency, and the author of *Courting Your Clients*. She is the social media sponsor for the BCBA and manages the blog. Contact her at 561-266-1030, via email at [mg@legalexpertconnections.com](mailto:mg@legalexpertconnections.com), or [www.courtingyourclients.com](http://www.courtingyourclients.com).

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# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAW

By Nancy Little Hoffmann

(These are the last Supreme Court opinions to be issued until August 25, 2011)

## 1. Civil Procedure/Certification of Class

### **Sosa v. Safeway Premium Finance Company, etc., 36 Fla. L. Weekly S373 (Fla. July 7, 2011).**

In a lengthy 4-3 opinion, the supreme court held that the Third District Court of Appeal improperly entered an order reversing class certification in a class action alleging that a premium finance company violated certain statutes by knowingly overcharging the plaintiff an additional service charge. Too lengthy to summarize here, the opinion contains an extensive discussion of the requirements for class certification, concluding that the Third District erred by not applying the correct standard of review, i.e., the abuse of discretion standard.

## 2. Medical Malpractice/NICA

### **Bennett v. St. Vincent's Medical Center, Inc. 36 Fla. L. Weekly S366 (Fla. July 7, 2011).**

Reviewing a decision from the First District regarding applicability of the Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Plan (NICA), the supreme court held that a brain injury is not covered by the Act unless it occurs during or immediately after delivery. Although suffering from numerous other conditions in the week following her birth, the neurological injury did not occur until the seventh day. Nonetheless, the First District applied an overly expansive interpretation of the statutory term "immediate postdelivery period in a hospital" and held that the Act applied, thereby requiring the parents to pursue limited compensation in an administrative forum. The supreme court quashed that decision, thus permitting the parents to seek damages in a court of law for the alleged malpractice.

## 3. Medical Malpractice/Reweighting Evidence

### **Cox v. St. Joseph's Hospital, 36 Fla. L. Weekly S357 (Fla. July 7, 2011).**

After suffering devastating damages as a result of a stroke, the plaintiff filed suit alleging malpractice by the

hospital and emergency room doctor. The jury awarded substantial damages, and defendants appealed, arguing that the court should have granted a directed verdict on the issue of causation. The Second District agreed and reversed, holding that plaintiffs' expert witness testimony was speculative. The supreme court, however, quashed that opinion, holding that the appellate court impermissibly reweighed the evidence and substituted its own evaluation of the evidence in place of the jury.

## 4. Product Liability/Retroactivity of Asbestos Exposure Statute

### **American Optical Corporation v. Spiewak, 36 Fla. L. Weekly S435 (Fla. July 8, 2011).**

On direct appeal from a Fourth District opinion challenging its retroactive application, the supreme court held that the 2005 statute entitled the "Florida Asbestos and Silica Compensation Fairness Act" could not be retroactively applied. The supreme court agreed with the Fourth District that the plaintiffs in each of the four lawsuits had vested causes of action at the time the Act was passed, because under the common law a diagnosis of asbestos-related disease triggered the accrual of a cause of action. The statute altered the common law by requiring a certain level of impairment as a prerequisite to a cause of action. The supreme court concluded that it would violate the due process clause of the constitution to apply the statute retroactively to claimants who have accrued causes of action for asbestos-related disease pending on the effective date of the Act.

*Nancy Little Hoffmann is a Board-Certified Appellate Lawyer practicing in the Fort Lauderdale area since 1974. She may be contacted at 954-771-0606 or by e-mail at [NLHappeals@aol.com](mailto:NLHappeals@aol.com).*

# One Child, One Attorney, One Life Made Better

In memory of Tracey McPharlin, a Broward County Bar member and a former chair of the Florida Bar Public Interest Law Section, who passed away on November 6, 2010, Legal Aid Service of Broward County and the Broward County Bar Association have launched the Tracey McPharlin Pro Bono Dependency Initiative. Tracey, who was a partner at the firm of Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate, P.A., had a profound and lasting impact on the lives of foster children through the individual representation of children in Juvenile Court and Federal class action litigation intended to improve Florida's child welfare system. In a career that lasted only 10 years, Tracey did a lifetime of work that has and will continue to improve the lives of thousands of foster children.

The Initiative's goal is to recruit, train, mentor and support pro bono attorneys who will represent at risk children at all proceedings affecting their safety, permanency, health, and well-being. These goals will be accomplished through partnerships with public and private entities involved in the child welfare system. The Initiative will be a collaborative effort of Legal Aid Service of Broward County, the Broward County Bar Association, Florida's Children First and the 17th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee. Pro bono attorneys will be recruited by the Initiative partners and Florida's Children First will develop and present the Initiative's first pro bono training on July 15, 2011. Subsequent trainings will be provided several times a year and specialized pro bono trainings will be provided as needed.

The Initiative will be housed at Legal Aid Service of Broward County and attorneys who join the Initiative will be enrolled in Broward Lawyer's Care. Initiative attorneys will have malpractice coverage for their pro bono cases and the benefit of ongoing CLE certified trainings. The specialized CLE certified trainings will be offered in the areas of representing dependent youth, mental health issues, psychotropic medications, placement in residential treatment facilities, educational issues including IDEA, developmental disabilities, and ethical issues involving the representation of children. The Initiative will be overseen by David S. Bazerman, Esq., and will draw on the expertise and knowledge of the attorneys of LAS's Children's Advocacy Project to provide support to the pro bono attorneys.

The Florida Bar has long recognized the need for children to be represented in Florida's Juvenile Courts and has supported legislative action to attain that goal through the Florida Bar Legal Needs of Children Committee. Until the Bar's legislative goals for children are achieved it is imperative that Florida's attorneys step up and provide desperately needed pro bono support to vulnerable children. It is our hope that the Tracey McPharlin Pro Bono Dependency Initiative will help meet the needs of our at risk children and continue Tracey's advocacy efforts by ensuring that children in or at risk of entering the child welfare system in Broward County have zealous advocates who will ensure that their voices are heard in matters that will affect their lives for years to come.

If you want to have a profound and lasting effect and impact on the life of a child, contact:

Legal Aid Service of Broward County  
David S. Bazerman, Esq., Director  
Tracey McPharlin Pro Bono Dependency Initiative,  
491 N. State Road 7  
Plantation, FL 33317  
(954) 736-2417  
dbazerman@legalaid.org,



### At its May 27 meeting in Key West, The Florida Bar Board of Governors:

- Heard a review of Bar activities in the just-ended legislative session and plans for an earlier start on next year's session, including a new communications plan with Board members and Bar members.
- Approved a rewrite of the Bar's advertising rules, as proposed by the Board Review Committee on Professional Ethics. The amended rules will be submitted to the Supreme Court by July 5. Major changes, according to BRCPE Chair Carl Schwait, are that non-misleading testimonials and past results that can be objectively verified will be allowed and websites will be subject to all advertising rules, except the requirement that they be submitted for Bar review. Another amendment specifies that all rules which must be submitted for Bar review must be submitted prior to publication or broadcast, not just electronic ads as in the current rules. Schwait said the committee had four goals in redrafting the rules: simplicity, clarity, consistency, and defensibility.
- Heard a report on e-filing for the Florida courts from board members Murray Silverstein and Laird Lile and from Supreme Court Clerk Tom Hall. Hall reported that the e-filing system is gearing up with more counties joining. He said the largest problem is lawyers using the system not following the rule on protecting confidential client information in electronic filing. He said a subcommittee of the Rules of Judicial administration is looking at that problem and considering a redraft of the confidentiality rule.
- Elected Jay Cohen, David Prather and Ed Scales, as the board's representatives on the Executive Committee.
- Approved President-elect Scott Hawkins' request for a commission to review the Bar's disciplinary operations.
- Rejected, on the recommendation of the Program Evaluation Committee, the proposal from the Special Committee to Study Mandatory Regulation of Paralegals. The Special Committee had proposed that lawyers be prohibited from calling their non-lawyer employees "paralegals" unless those employees had become Florida Registered Paralegals with the Bar. Instead the board approved the minority report from the special committee which called for maintaining the FRP program. The board also approved recommendations from the PEC, which was completing its three-year review of the FRP program, on ways to enhance the program. That includes improving education opportunities and increasing education about the program.
- Approved recommendations from the Program Evaluation defining the relationship between the Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, the Bar's Committee on Professionalism, and the Bar's Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism.
- Approved the recommendation of the Program Evaluation Committee to extend the Special Committee on Diversity and Inclusion for another year.
- Gave final approval to the Bar's 2011-12 budget after making a couple minor changes to allow renovation of four bathrooms at the Bar headquarters.
- Transferred extra \$1 million from the 2010-11 operating budget into the Bar's building maintenance reserve and added an extra \$350,500 for the Clients' Security Fund for claims paid from an unexpected court-ordered payment. Another \$500,000, less administrative costs, was added to the CSF claims paid from the CSF reserve.
- Heard from Investment Committee Chair Ian Comisky that the Bar had an outstanding year for its investments, including a positive return in every quarter.
- Gave final approval to deleting Standing Board Policy 11.21, which allows introduction of resolutions at the Bar Annual Convention.

## Local Attorneys Take to the Stage

If you take a stroll through the Galleria Mall on a hot summer evening and make it all the way to the northeast corner, you may see some familiar faces in a very unexpected place. Three Broward attorneys and a General Magistrate are busy rehearsing numbers for an upcoming production of "Hello, Dolly!" at Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre (FLCT).

General Magistrate Phil Schlissel (who currently serves in drug court and mental health court and is also an adjunct professor at Nova Law School), found time in his busy schedule to travel back to 1890's New York to help Dolly with her matchmaking magic. Having performed in several community theatre productions, GM Schlissel is no stranger to the stage, but he has never been in a musical before. When asked how it's going, he said, "I've been very impressed by the high skill level of the cast and crew and I enjoy seeing how everyone gets along and is having fun. I'm a little nervous about the singing and dancing..."

Will Murphy, a mediator, arbitrator and civil litigator who practices in the areas of commercial and real property litigation, is celebrating his tenth anniversary of summer shows with FLCT. He has been around the world with FLCT, from Egypt to England, Oklahoma to New York, including a trip to Oz and Neverland! He has played a marshal, an English Lord, a rabbi, a pirate and Dorothy's Uncle Henry, just to name a few. He says that: "Being in the summer shows is a creative outlet and also a way to be connected to our community. Everyone brings something unique to the show."

Anyone who knows Kristin Deffler knows that her first love is performing. Practicing law in the areas of civil and probate litigation and entertainment law is just her day job. While this is Kristin's fourth FLCT production, she has also been in numerous shows outside of FLCT and has performed as a singer and dancer in various show choirs. Kristin directed the FLCT glee club, "Sound Wave," last year and is looking forward to doing it again this year. She feels that "FLCT is a great outlet and a great way to balance practicing law. I also really enjoy working with members of the community and the kids - especially the kids, who are amazing! The experience is so rewarding and it's something you can't get from practicing law."

Barbara Markley, a family law attorney/mediator who also practices in the area of debt collection, has been involved with FLCT for six years as a Board member and volunteer, but this is her first show. She explained that she wanted to do something outside of her comfort zone and she was too chicken to jump out of a plane. She hopes to have fun, wear a beautiful costume and stand way in the back "where nobody can hear me sing!" She added, "I love the creative process and how we work together as a team. I can't wait to try out for Hairspray next summer!"

"Hello, Dolly!" will be performed at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts July 29 & 30. Go to [www.flct.org](http://www.flct.org) for more information or call 954 763-6701.



## **Boss Certified Realtime Reporting Founder Honored by Hispanic Unity of Florida**

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. – Donna Kadosh, President and Founder of Boss Certified Realtime Reporting, received the 2011 Job Creation “Driven” Entrepreneurial Success Award Recipient at the recent Hispanic Unity of Florida’s Inaugural Entrepreneur Summit.

“Donna and her company represent the characteristics the panel of independent judges were looking for in a successful entrepreneur who was able to grow her business,” said Josie Bacallao, president and CEO of Hispanic Unity of Florida. “Despite a difficult economy over the past several years, Ms. Kadosh was able to grow her client base and in particular, her employee base.”

Donna was one of three entrepreneurs selected to receive the Success Award based on employment growth, community involvement and contributions and business innovations. Founded in 1995, Boss currently employs more than 40 formally-trained stenographic reporters and supports such organizations as the Broward Bar Association, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber, Broward Women’s Alliance and Legal Aid of Broward County.

Based in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Boss provides nationwide court reporting services for trials, depositions, mediations, arbitrations, conferences and meetings, as well as closed captioning. Conference room facilities are available throughout Florida. For more information about Boss, visit [www.bossreporting.com](http://www.bossreporting.com) or call 954-467-6867.

### About Hispanic Unity

Founded 29 years ago, Hispanic Unity of Florida’s mission is to serve individuals and their families by empowering them to succeed in the United States. For more information, visit [www.hispanicunity.org](http://www.hispanicunity.org).

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## **PARALEGAL DINNER ON AUGUST 3, 2011 GUEST SPEAKER: HEATHER HUGHES, ESQ. TOPIC: HIPAA & HOW IT AFFECTS DISCOVERY**

**Date:** July 21, 2011

The Broward County Chapter of the Paralegal Association of Florida, Inc., will hold its monthly dinner meeting on Wednesday, August 3, 2011. The speaker will be attorney Heather Hughes, who will discuss the topic “HIPAA & How it Affects Discovery.”

Attorney Hughes will discuss HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules and how they affect the retrieval, retention, and destruction of Protected Health Information during the litigation process. The new 2009 HITECH regulations are also covered and the presentation highlights the administrative, technical, and physical safeguards some attorneys must now follow.

Attorney Hughes received her Bachelor of Science from Florida State University and her Juris Doctorate from South Texas College of Law. She has more than 19 years of experience in health care compliance for both health care entities and a national consulting firm. She has been HIPAA Privacy Officer for a large private health care company and two litigation support firms. Ms. Hughes has been presenting CLEs on HIPAA for more than seven years. Her presentation has been accredited by the Florida, Texas, Louisiana, West Virginia, Missouri, California, Illinois, and Pennsylvania bar associations.

The dinner will be held at Coral Ridge Yacht Club, 2800 Yacht Club Boulevard, Ft. Lauderdale. Networking begins at 6:00p.m. followed by dinner and the lecture. Dinner is \$35.00 for paralegals who are not members of the Paralegal Association of Florida.

If you are interested in the Broward Chapter of the Paralegal Association of Florida, please feel free to contact me at [lbono@krupnicklaw.com](mailto:lbono@krupnicklaw.com). I will be happy to speak with you and forward information on the local chapter. We have quarterly seminars as well as dinners every month, all of which include CE presentations.



**JUDGE LOUIS SCHIFF BECOMES PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE OF COUNTY  
COURT JUDGES OF FLORIDA**

**Fort Lauderdale, FL** – Broward County Judge Louis Schiff was sworn in as 2011-2012 President of the Conference of County Court Judges of Florida on Wednesday, July 6, in Boca Raton, FL. He will serve a one-year term leading the organization which boasts 320 members of the judiciary, representing all 67 counties in Florida.

As president, Judge Schiff established a program called Off the Bench, in which he “challenges” conference members to volunteer a minimum of four hours each month to help in their local communities. “When we get home at the end of the day, we’re still all members of the communities we live in. As judges, we need to give back to those who put us where we are today,” he says. The goal of the program is to give back a total of 15,000 hours of community service.

In addition to this program, Judge Schiff will lead the group to provide continuing judicial education and discuss mutual problems and solutions; develop programs to improve the administration of justice; provide a unified voice for county judges in dealings with the state legislature, executive branch, Supreme Court, and other state agencies; and acquire information for the improvement of county courts, practices, and procedures.

Judge Schiff has served on the bench in Broward County since 1997, and has served on the faculty for the Conference of County Court Judges of Florida since 2002.



###

**ABOUT THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**

The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit is the court for Broward County, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the second-largest circuit court in the state. Broward County has 90 judges; 32 county judges and 58 circuit judges. Four courthouses are used in Broward County including the Main Courthouse in Downtown Fort Lauderdale, and three regional courthouses in Deerfield Beach, Hollywood, and Plantation.

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**BROWARD COUNTY DRUG COURT CELEBRATES 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OVER 10,000 PROGRAM GRADUATES AND COUNTING**

**Fort Lauderdale, FL** – On Wednesday, July 13, 2011, the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit’s Drug Court program will mark 20 years, with a special graduation ceremony at the Broward County Main Library at 6:00 pm. In addition to honoring the graduates who have successfully completed treatment this quarter, the ceremony will also recognize special guests in attendance – those who helped to pioneer the program two decades ago.

Currently, the 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit offers adult felony drug court, juvenile drug court, and misdemeanor drug court. By mid-year 2011, the current caseload for adult felony diversion cases was approximately 2,700, with an average annual disposition rate of 1,000 cases. According to Circuit Judge Marcia Beach, an average of 90% of participants have successfully completed the conditions of Broward County’s Drug Court program, and, after two years, an average of 80% of participants are not rearrested.

When it first began, the 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit’s Drug Court was one of only three in the nation; today there are more than 1,000. Drug Courts provide an alternative to traditional criminal sanctions by putting individuals in closely supervised substance abuse treatment programs long enough for them to work.

“The 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit’s Drug Court has been phenomenally successful and helps to save lives and taxpayers money,” says Judge Beach.

###

**ABOUT THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**

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# **CONGRATULATIONS 2011 Award Recipients**



## **The Stephen R. Booher Award**

County Court Judge Robert W. Lee

## **Lynn Futch Professionalism in Practice Award**

W. George Allen

## **Joseph J. Carter Professionalism Award**

Nydia Menendez

## **Young Lawyers' Section**

## **Paul May Professionalism Award**

Louis Reinstein

## **Practice Section Chairs of the Year Award**

Gary M. Singer, Real Property Section

Jeffrey D. Solomon, Bankruptcy Section

## **Committee Chair of the Year Award**

Charles A. Morehead III, Bench and Bar Committee

## **President's Award**

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## **Executive Director's Award**

Nancy L. Bennett

## **Special Recognition Award**

Carol Lee Ortman

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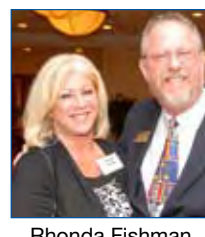
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and

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## FOUNDATION FUND DRIVE

The Broward Bar Foundation's Roger Staley Memorial Fund Drive culminated May 31, 2011 with a reception for donors. The Foundation received donations of well over \$7,000 given in Roger Staley's memory. Roger's widow, Beverly, was presented with a notebook containing letters from donors containing their favorite memory of Roger. A portrait of Roger was presented to Bar President, Bruce Weihe, by Patrick Kelley, President of the Attorneys' Real Estate Council of Broward County, Inc. The portrait will hang in the conference center at the Bar center.

Roger enlisted in the U.S. Navy at age 16 and served on the USS LeRay Wilson in the Pacific during World War II. He was a graduate of Elon College in North Carolina and graduated from the University of Miami School of Law in 1956. He served as president of the Broward County Bar Association 1986-87, on the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar and was the first president of the Attorneys' Real Estate Council of Broward County, Inc. He was also a founding member of the Broward Bar Foundation, Inc.

The Broward Bar Foundation, Inc. is a Section 501(c)(3) exempt organization, and all contributions to it are tax deductible. Donations may be forwarded to Peter Portley, President, 2211 E. Sample Road, Suite 204, Lighthouse Point, FL 33064-7500.

### **CONFIRMED AUGUST SOLO/SMALL LAW FIRM NETWORKING LUNCHESES**

**Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> Noon, Champps, 6401 N. Andrews Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale,**  
(954) 491-9335, RSVP to: John O'brien, (954) 782-9066 and or johnobrienlaw@gmail.com.

**Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> Noon, Olive Garden, 807 South University Drive, Plantation**  
(954) 424-7201, RSVP to: John Rizvi, (954) 452-0033 and or johnrizvi@ideaattorneys.com.

**\*1 Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup> Noon, The Ark, 6233 Stirling Road, Hollywood, (954) 584-3075,**  
RSVP to: David Silverstone, (954) 367-0770 and or david@dsilverstone.com.

**\*2 Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> Noon, Bru's Room, 5460 W. Hillsboro Blvd., Coconut Creek,**  
(954) 571-6999, (441 and Hillsboro Blvd., just east next to Kohl's on south side).  
RSVP to: Evan Ostfeld, (954) 227-7529 and or Evan@Attorney4life.com.

**Tuesday August 23<sup>rd</sup> Noon, Bimini Boat Yard, 1555 S.E.17th Street, Ft Lauderdale,**  
(954) 525-7400, RSVP to: Beth Lindie, (954) 764-5400 and or blindie@lawyers.com.

**Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> Noon, , East City Grill, 1800 Bell Tower Lane, Weston,**  
(954) 659-3339, RSVP to: Rick Woolf, (954) 252-0043 and or rwoolf@woolffinancial.com.

**Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> Noon, Macaroni Grill, 2004 N.W. Executive Center Circle,**  
**Boca Raton, (561) 997-5492, RSVP to: Michael Degnan, (561) 353-1631 and or**  
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# Legal Aid's Latest "Wins!"

## Elaine Gives Back

Elaine\* was our first Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) client. Her family was significantly affected last year by the economic downturn. She lost her property in Georgia in a foreclosure proceeding forcing her and her family to relocate to South Florida to reside temporarily with family. Elaine's husband was able to find employment which enabled them to rent an apartment, but his hours were reduced substantially - rendering them unable to pay their rent on time.

Legal Aid's Housing unit successfully assisted Elaine and her family in avoiding an eviction and her family also became enrolled in our 2009 *Adopt A Family* program.

In 2010, Elaine who is an accountant was able to successfully market herself and became gainfully self-employed preparing tax returns. So inspired by the work Legal Aid had done for her and her family, Elaine chose to become an "adopter" and adopted 2 families in our program! Florida currently holds the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest foreclosure rate in the nation. Legal Aid's Housing Unit has opened 1,700 foreclosure/eviction cases in 2010 alone.



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## A Place to Call Home

Words can't even begin to express my extreme gratitude to Legal Aid Service of Broward County. Without Legal Aid's intervention, my family and I would be homeless.

I was referred to Legal Aid by the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) at Broward County Family Success due to the expedient nature of my housing situation.

I personally watched the attorney "literally" spring into action in my family's behalf. She didn't pull any punches and was very direct in informing me that my case was complicated and I may need to seek other housing options. However, that did not deter her from assisting my family. Not only did the housing attorney follow up on my case, she followed through with contacting all parties involved until a settlement agreement was reached. The attorney then went a step further by extending me the opportunity to have the agreement reviewed by Legal Aid to ensure the pending eviction was properly dismissed.

It is because of the attorney's relentless and tireless effort, dedication and commitment to her profession and to the indigent of Broward County that my children and I still have a place to call home. Thank you, Legal Aid. And special, heartfelt thanks to my housing attorney - the work you do save and touch lives. I know. Your agency touched mine.



Visit [www.Legalaid.org](http://www.Legalaid.org) for more information.

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# SAVE THE DATE

10.14.2011

10th Annual For the Public Good  
Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina  
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**Honorary Co-Chairs:**

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For more information, please contact Melisa Malone  
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[www.ForThePublicGoodEvent.org](http://www.ForThePublicGoodEvent.org)



**Thank you to the following attorneys  
who accepted a Pro Bono case  
from Broward Lawyers Care  
April - May 2011**

Scott Babbitt	F. Jahra McLawrence
Lloyd Baron	Carolyn Moore
Douglas Bates	Robert Murphy
Jack Bellan	Hofit Nagar
David Berger	Jonathan Newberg
John W. Case	Shari Olefson
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Barbara Curtis	Kevin Raudt
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Randy Freedman	Nicole Allen Ryan
Matthew Hatfield	Charles Simon
Michael Hirsch	Collette Small
Diana Ho-Yen	Herbert Storch
Kristine Johnson	Russell Thompson
Alan Koningsburg	Steven Wallace
David Langley	Lawrence Zietz

## Congratulations to Lawrence Zietz Broward Lawyers Care Attorney of the Month!

Lawrence Zietz was first licensed to practice law 28 years ago. He attended Thomas M. Cooley Law School and acquired his Florida Bar Membership in 1983. The law firm of Lawrence Zietz was established in 2003 in Ft. Lauderdale focusing auto Accident Law, Marital Law, Business Law, Family Law and Corporation Law.

Since joining Broward Lawyers Care in 2006, he has provided more than 60 hours of service in family cases and helping victims of domestic violence. He shows commitment to helping our clients, recently agreeing to continue to help a Ryan White client with her case after the courts dismissed her dissolution of marriage action without either party's knowledge. The client was very appreciative that his assistance would help her to move forward with her life.

Want to work on cases such as Lawrence Zietz's? Visit [www.LegalAid.org/blcform](http://www.LegalAid.org/blcform) to get started!





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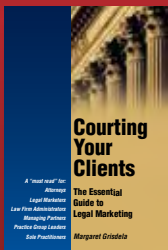
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## MEET YOUR BCBA BOARD MEMBERS

### **Kenneth P. Hassett - Southwest Director**

Law Firm: Hassett & Associates, P.A.

Area of Practice: Criminal Defense

Law School: St. Thomas University

School of Law

Year Admitted to the Florida Bar: 1991

Year Joining BCBA: 1999



As a practicing attorney since 1991, first with the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office, then in private practice with two partners and finally as a solo practitioner I recognize the importance of being involved in local bar associations. I have dedicated many years of service to our legal community including serving as president of various voluntary bars such as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers-Miami Chapter 2003-2004, the Coral Gables Bar Association 2004-2005, and the South Broward Bar Association 2008-2010. I am also currently serving as Vice President of the Broward Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Our new President has recently appointed me as Chairman of the Criminal Law Section of BCBA. I am looking forward to serving under Jordana's leadership.

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## Solo/Small Law Firm Networking Dinner

**September 21, 2011**

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**Dave & Busters**

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# TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL YOUNG LAWYERS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

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\*\*\*A Tribute to the Tracey McPharlin Initiative to fight for at-risk children\*\*\*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2011**  
**Jacaranda Golf Club**  
**9200 West Broward Boulevard, Plantation, Florida**

6:30 A.M. CHECK-IN \* 7:00 A.M. RANGE OPENS \* 8:00 A.M. SHOTGUN START

- \*Four Person Scramble Format\*
- \*Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Foursomes\*
- \*Awards for Longest Drive, Closest-to-Pin and Straightest Drive\*
- \*Complimentary Continental Breakfast at Check-In\*
- \*Complimentary Range Balls\*
- \*Unlimited Cold Beverages during Play\*
- \*Awards Luncheon following Tournament\*
- \*Goodie Bags and Raffles\*

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**Please also join us at our Tee-Off Happy Hour**  
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For additional information contact Meghan M. Clary, Esq. at 954-525-6566 or via email at meghan@cmfamilylaw.com



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## August

### Friday, August 5th:

Solo/Small Law Firm Networking Lunch, Friday, August 5th at Noon, Champps, 6401 N. Andrews Ave. Ft. Lauderdale, (954) 491-9335, To RSVP, please contact John O'Brien at (954) 782-9066 or johnobrien-law@gmail.com.

### Tuesday, August 9th:

Solo/Small Law Firm Networking Lunch, Tuesday, August 9th at Noon, Olive Garden, 807 South University Drive, Plantation, (954) 424-7201, To RSVP, please contact John Rizvi at (954) 452-0033 or johnrizvi@ideaattorneys.com.

### Friday, August 12th:

Solo/Small Law Firm Networking Lunch, Friday, August 12th at Noon, The Ark, 6233 Stirling Road Hollywood, (954) 584-3075, To RSVP, please contact David Silverstone at (954) 367-0770 or david@dsilverstone.com.

### Friday, August 19th:

Solo/Small Law Firm Networking Lunch, Friday, August 19 at Noon, Bru's Room 5460 W. Hillsboro Blvd., Coconut Creek, To RSVP, please contact Evan Ostfeld at (954) 227-7529 or Evan@attorney4life.com.

### Tuesday, August 23rd:

Solo/ Small Law Firm Networking Lunch, Tuesday, August 23 at Noon, Bimini Boat Yard 1555 S.E. 17th St., Ft. Lauderdale, (954) 525-7400, To RSVP, please contact Beth Lindie at (954) 764-5400 or blindie@lawyers.com.

### Friday, August 26th:

Solo/Small Law Firm Networking Lunch, Friday, August 26 at Noon, East City Grill, 1800 Bell Tower Lane, Weston, (954) 252-0043, To RSVP, please contact Rick Woolf at (954) 764-5400 or rwoolf@woolffinancial.com.

### Friday, August 26th:

FREE E-Discovery Seminar– Speakers: Jorge Rey, CISA, CISM, CGEIT; Luciano Humberto, CCE, ACE; BCBA Norma B. Howard Bar Center; Noon to 1:00pm  
RSVP here: <http://events.kaufmanrossin.com/CLE8.26.11>

## September

### Thursday , September 1st:

CLE Seminar, The Nuts and Bolts of Chinese Drywall Cases Seminar 12PM-1:30PM, B. Howard Bar Center, 1051 SE 3rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316, For more information, please contact Traci Lewis at 954.832.3618 or Traci@browardbar.org

### Wednesday , September 7th:

CLE Seminar, The New florida Durable Power of Attorney Seminar, 4PM-6PM, B. Howard Bar Center, 1051 SE 3rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316, For more information, please contact Traci Lewis at 954.832.3618 or Traci@browardbar.org