



St. Lucie County Bar Association

The Heart of the Treasure Coast

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Message From The President

Happy New Year to each and every member! I hope everyone had a great holiday and we all can now look forward to a prosperous new year.

Our Annual Bar Holiday Party was by all accounts a fantastic event. I want to thank everyone who came out to celebrate and donated toys to United for Families. I am sure our efforts made a difference in the lives of the local families and children during this recent holiday season.

I would also like to thank Lillian Ewen, our Vice President and Chair of the Social Committee, for all of her hard work and dedication in organizing the event, including selecting a really good band. What a great way to end the year— thanks so much!

This year should prove to be fun and informative for all members of our Bar Association. I look forward to our exciting upcoming events, and hope we can all come together to participate in these and other future outings. See the list of events on page 2.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions to make the SLCBA even better.

Let's all celebrate 2013!

Hugh J. Eighmie II





Upcoming Monthly Luncheons

Regular Bar meetings are held on the first Friday of every month from noon to 1:00pm at Cobb's Landing in downtown Fort Pierce. All attending active members receive complimentary buffet lunch. During each luncheon, a different guest speaker gives a presentation on current legal topics. CLE credit is provided.

The dates of this year's remaining general monthly meetings are:

January 4, 2013 February 1, 2013 March 1, 2013 April 5, 2013

Upcoming Special Events

"The St. Lucie County Bar Association is comprised of dedicated attorneys who practice law in and around St. Lucie County.

Our members consist of some of the finest attorneys in the country.

Our mission is to provide the public with access to all state and federal courts on Florida's Treasure Coast, and to provide the same access to our members."

Spring Softball Tournament:

Saturday March 16, 2013, at 10:30 am, located at the Sandhill Crane Park in Port St. Lucie, with BBQ lunch to follow immediately after the game! We are excited to announce that the SLCBA will compete against the Martin County Bar Association in a softball game! Please come out and show your support! We hope to begin practicing in the early spring. Please email ewenl@circuit19.org to join the team.

2013 Bench Bar Conference:

April 12, 2013 at the Port St. Lucie Civic Center. For more information, see page 7 or contact haroldmelville@bellsouth.net.

2013 Law Day Student Art and Essay Contest Reception:

May 1, 2013 in the Ft. Pierce Courthouse Jury room. This year's theme is: "Realizing the Dream: Equality for All" and celebrates the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Contest rules will be released in January. Thanks go out to the event co-sponsors: SLCBA; Gordon & Donoor, P.A.; and the library Board of Trustees. Please contact Art Chair Kim Cunzo for more details.

2013 Law Day Luncheon:

May 3, 2013 at 12:00pm at the Pelican Yacht Club.

SLCBA Committee Information

Judicial Liaison Committee:

The Judicial Liaison Committee works to assist in building better relationships and understanding between the members of our judiciary and the members of the bar. This is important, because it is difficult for lawyers and judges to exchange thoughts and concerns if their only interaction is in the formal setting of a courtroom.

The Committee works with the staff of FRLS each year to produce the Annual Bench Bar Conference. The annual conference is an all-day event which provides both educational opportunities and an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and issues between the bench and the bar. Since this is a circuit wide event, the Committee has members from not only the SLCBA but also from all of the bar associations in the circuit. In addition to the Annual Bench Bar Conference, the Committee also periodically hosts judicial receptions and smaller informal events to assist in communications between the bench and the bar.

For more information, contact **HaroldMelville@bellsouth.net**.



Harold G. Melville, Esq.
Melville & Sowerby, P.L.

Pro-Bono Committee:

The Pro Bono Committee assists Florida Rural Legal Services (FRLS) in the placement and handling of pro bono cases, and in holding special events to provide free civil legal assistance to indigents and low income individuals, in St. Lucie County.

The primary function of Committee is recruiting SLCBA members to “staff” various events, in particular “Ask-a-Lawyer” Pro Bono Clinics that are scheduled for a St. Lucie County venue approximately once each quarter. For these Clinics, FRLS pre-qualifies clients, sets appointments for consultations of ½ hour each, and provides malpractice coverage for the volunteer attorneys who provide counseling services to clients.

For more information regarding the Pro Bono committee, contact either **DHarrell@gh-law.com**, or **Carolyn.Fabrizio@frls.org**.



Carolyn Fabrizio, Esq.
Pro Bono Coordinator
Florida Rural Legal Services

Young Lawyers Division:

The young lawyers division is designed to serve lawyers new to the profession. We assist in providing mentors within the profession and provide opportunities to serve the community. Our committee will put together events for new lawyers and come up with ways to serve the community and the profession.

For more information, contact **DApfelbaum@deanmead.com**.



Dana Apfelbaum, Esq.
Dean, Mead, Minton & Zwemer

Membership:

The membership committee is responsible for encouraging new members to join the SLCBA and helping to facilitate events that will accomplish that goal. Please bring a friend to a meeting or an upcoming event. Visit our website to see how you can become a member by filling out a brief application and paying your required annual membership dues which cover your monthly lunches which offer CLE's, the Holiday party, and law week activities. Please see the attached application.

Shannon Eighmie, Esq.
Assistant Public Defender
(photo currently unavailable)

Special Events:

The special events committee seeks to coordinate interactive social functions for SLCBA members to attend. At these events, members have the opportunity to network with other local attorneys as well as individuals in different professional fields. This year, we have a range of exciting events planned. Please see the list of “Upcoming Special Events” on page 2 for more details.

For more information, contact **EwenL@circuit19.org**.



Lillian Ewen, Esq.
Appellate Staff Attorney

Newsletter:

The SLCBA Newsletter is published monthly by the St. Lucie County Bar Association as a service to its members. We strive to include legal articles covering current and trending legal topics, committee news, and coverage of local events. We welcome article submissions, opinions on current topics, and letters to the editor.

For more information, contact **BrejC@circuit19.org**.



Caroleen Brej, Esq.
Felony Staff Attorney

Please join the SLCBA on January 4, 2012, from 12pm to 1pm for the Associations' monthly meeting.

Our speaker is Eric Finkle of My Treasure Coast Online, and the topic is Lawyers, Law Practice and Social Media.



Please RSVP by January 3rd, to EwenL@circuit19.org

Menu

Taco Bar: Grilled chicken, flour tortillas, tomatoes, cilantro, onion, lettuce, cheese, salsa, sour cream, black beans and rice, house salad

Iced tea, soda, and coffee

Assorted cookies

Clerk's Office Offering Benchmark Training Ahead of Data Conversion in February 2013

On **February 13, 2013**, computer systems of the Clerk's Civil, Small Claims, Probate, and Family Divisions will be converted to **Benchmark**, a new case maintenance and document imaging system. This conversion will effect all Judicial Agencies and private attorneys who use the *Banner* system for Civil, Small Claims, Probate, Family index data searches, or *EDMS* for document viewing.

The Clerk's Office will be offering **1-hour training courses** to **private attorneys** and **all judicial agencies** which will focus on searching and retrieving civil, small claims, probate, and family court documents, case data, and docketing notes.

Training sessions will be held **January 22-25** and **February 4-8**, at **11:30am, 3:00pm, and 4:30pm, each day**. Training will take place in the Clerk's Training Room located on the 5th floor of the Clerk's Main Office in downtown Fort Pierce, 201 South Indian River Drive.

If interested, register now online: <http://casesearch.stlucieclerk.com/Training/Default.aspx>

If unable to attend, please call **772.462.1098**, to make other arrangements.

Joint Resolution of South Florida Voluntary Bar Association

On September 12, 2011, the Florida Supreme Court amended the oath of admission to the Florida Bar to include a pledge of "fairness, integrity, and civility" to the court and opponents. Recently, forty-two voluntary bar associations (VBAs) across South Florida joined together to promote this "Oath of Civility" on a regional level in an effort to facilitate a more uniform application of the standards of professional courtesy countywide.

The VBAs recognize the significance of ensuring that this message of civility is disseminated to and adopted by all attorneys. Therefore, the VBAs agreed to provide a series of articles, seminars, membership lunches, press releases, and correspondence directed to members and non-members of the South Florida VBAs' respective counties.

Notably, several Chief Judges of South Florida Court's agreed to work with the VBAs to encourage civility among attorneys. Our own Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Steven Levin was among the six South Florida chief judges to sign on to the joint resolution.

The SLCBA recognizes the importance of civility and asks its members to remain cognizant of their professional obligation to act civilly in all communications with opposing counsel, the Court, and the Court's staff. View the amended oath on the Florida Supreme Court website. Additionally, for information about your local VBA, see the Florida Bar website.

CLE Programs at the Law Library

Stop by the Rupert J. Smith Law Library to see the improvements to the print collection, including many new Matthew Bender sets. Additionally, these sets are online through the Lexis connection.

Come talk to librarian about “staff access” to WestlawNext, which includes, among other things:

- ⇒ Civil Pleadings, Motions, Memoranda Plus—Florida, All State & Federal
- ⇒ Jury Verdicts Combined
- ⇒ Public Employee Reporters—Florida
- ⇒ State and Federal Criminal Briefs, Trial Court Orders, Filings—Florida

For more information, please visit www.rjsslawlibrary.org

2013 Bench Bar Conference

The upcoming Annual Bench Bar Conference will be held on **April 12, 2013**, at the Port St. Lucie Civic Center, where it was successfully held last year. The program is currently being finalized, but will include segments on professionalism, the current requirements for e-filing, and effective law office management. There will also be the opportunity for substantial interaction between the judiciary and the members of the bar, with judicial insight concerning how to be a more effective advocate. This year we will again have break out discussions groups in specific practice areas.

The Annual Bench Bar Conference is an excellent opportunity for positive interaction between the members of the bar and our respected judiciary. This is also an opportunity to obtain substantial CLE credit either at minimal cost or simply for agreeing to take a pro bono case from Florida Rural Legal Services. As always, the staff of FRLS has been instrumental in helping organize the Annual Bench Bar Conference and supporting its presentation.

Mark your calendars for April 12, 2013.

More information will be forthcoming a the program is finalized.

SLCBA Membership

To join the St. Lucie County Bar Association, you may register online or by completing and submitting the application attached at the end of this newsletter.

Pricing:

Private Attorneys:

Over 5 year of practice: \$150

Less than 5 years of practice: \$75

Government Attorneys: \$75

Assistant State Attorneys and Public Defenders: \$30

Visit us online @ www.SLCBA.org
or contact us in writing:
St. Lucie County Bar Association
P.O. Box 3014
Fort Pierce, Florida 34948

2012-2013 Executive Board:

President: Hugh J. Eighmie II

Vice President and Social Chair: Lillian Ewen

Secretary and Treasurer: Garrett S. Roberts

Immediate Past President: Jennifer R. Kuczler

Judicial Liaison Chair: Harold G. Melville

Pro Bono Chair: Dan Harrell and Carolyn Fabrizio

Young Lawyers Division Chair: Dana Apfelbaum

Membership Chair: Shannon Eighmie

Newsletter Editor Chair: Caroleen Brej

Newsletter Submissions

The SLCBA Newsletter is published monthly by the St. Lucie County Bar Association as a service to its members. Please feel free to submit articles, opinions, news, or other information.

In the upcoming issues, we hope to include legal articles covering current and trending legal topics, committee news, and coverage of local events. We are open to and appreciate all feedback!

Please contact Caroleen Brej at brejc@circuit19.org with any submissions, announcements, or ideas for our newsletter; please put "SLCBA Newsletter" in the subject line of all emails.

Advertising space is available for purchase.

DUES NOTICE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

NAME: _____ FIRM: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY/STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____
BAR NUMBER: _____ COURTHOUSE BOX #: _____
WEBSITE: _____ CERTIFICATIONS: _____

AREAS OF PRACTICE: Please limit to no more than 10:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Defense | <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Probate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Admiralty Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Law | <input type="checkbox"/> International Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate-Commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate-Residential |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Eminent Domain | <input type="checkbox"/> Labor Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate-Litigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appellate | <input type="checkbox"/> Employee Benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arbitration | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Landlord/Tenant-Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Taxation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aviation | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment & Sports Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Landlord/Tenant-Residential | <input type="checkbox"/> Trusts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banking Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Estate Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Malpractice | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Business/Succession Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mediation | <input type="checkbox"/> Wills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy Personal | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Malpractice | <input type="checkbox"/> Worker's Compensation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Guardianship | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare/Medicaid | <input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful Death |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Support/Custody | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Patent/Trademark Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Litigation | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeowner's Assn. | <input type="checkbox"/> Pension Law | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury – Defense | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury – Plaintiff | |

Other (Please List): _____

BAR DUES FOR 2012-2013: \$150.00 General Members
\$75.00 Young Lawyers Division Members
\$75.00 Full-Time Government Attorneys
\$30.00 Assistant State Attorneys and Assistant Public Defenders

JUDGES ARE EXEMPT FROM BAR ASSOCIATION DUES

YOU MAY NOW PAY BAR DUES ONLINE BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD OR ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT)
THROUGH THE BAR'S WEBSITE: WWW.SLCBA.ORG

Alternatively, you may submit payment to: St. Lucie Bar Association, P.O. Box 3014, Ft. Pierce, FL 34948