



# St. Lucie County Bar Association

*The Heart of the Treasure Coast*

## Message From The President

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December is upon us already. I know many of us, including me, are not ready for the holidays. Typically I am shopping for gifts on Christmas Eve, despite the promise I make to myself every year that “this year I am going to have everything done early.” Of course I make this promise in September not remembering how busy the end of the year can be.

While we are all busy this time of year, I want to encourage everyone to stop and enjoy all that we have to offer in our beautiful Treasure Coast.

This is the time of year we should be spending with our families, whether it is enjoying the lights and music in Downtown Fort Pierce, listening to a Holiday concert or catching the Avenue “D” choir at the Sunrise.

It is my hope that we all have a safe and wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year. I look forward to the many exciting upcoming events in 2013.

Hugh J. Eighmie II





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*“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.”*

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## 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.

Please note that there is no luncheon in December. 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

### **Annual Holiday Party:**

**December 5, 2012** at 5:30pm at the Pelican Yacht Club. See the flyer on page 6 for more details or contact ewenl@circuit19.org with questions.

### **Spring Softball Tournament:**

**March 16, 2013.** The Martin County Bar Association has challenged us to a softball game! 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



## Event Recap: Charity Mixer with CPA's

Thanks to all those who came out and attended the Charity Social Event which was held on November 7. We had an excellent turnout and were able to donate many canned goods to the Treasure Coast Food Bank and Sarah's Kitchen!

A special thanks to all of our sponsors—Anchor Financial Services CPA, PA; Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank CPA, PL; Dean Mead Minton & Zwemer; DiBartolomeo, McBee, Hartley & Barnes CPA, PA; Gonano & Harrell; Hill, Barth & King LLC; The Estate, Trust & Elder Law Firm, PL.

Below are some pictures taken during the event.





# St. Lucie County Bar Association

## Annual Holiday Party

Wednesday December 5, 2012

Pelican Yacht Club

1120 Seaway Drive

Fort Pierce, Florida 34949

(772) 424-2700

Cocktail Hour: 5:30pm - 7:30pm (Beer and Wine included)

Buffet Opens at 6:00pm

Please bring an unwrapped toy to be donated



## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://WWW.SLCBA.ORG)

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