

# The Brief



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*St. Lucie County Bar Association Newsletter*

## Court Clerk Experimental Aircraft Association Member & Pilot



On March 19th Saint Lucie County Airport it was a bright blue windy day perfect for a free plane ride. The Fort Pierce Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association a not for profit organization that introduces young people to aviation had its first of three Young Eagle programs for 2005. The next one is on June 11th. The Fort Pierce EAA Chapter is the oldest tenant at the St Lucie County Airport. Its hangar is just west of the Sheriff's aviation hangar. One of the EAA 908 volunteer pilots is our own Court Clerk Ed Fry who is photographed here with a Young Eagle from Fort Pierce. Ed pilots a 1967 Piper Cherokee 180.

Ed Fry St Lucie County Clerk of Court is a volunteer pilot who introduced this young man to the thrill of flying. Ed is a licensed pilot and member of the local Experimental Aircraft Association at the Saint Lucie Co Airport.

If you don't have the research in your office I bet the Rupert J. Smith Law Library at the St Lucie County Courthouse has what you need so check it out.

The seventh amendment is the source for the right to trial by jury in civil cases.

### Friday April 29th Annual Law Week Luncheon Pelican Yacht Club

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### Law Week Calendar of Events

**April 29 Friday** Law Week Luncheon & Community Awards Pelican Yacht Club Special Guest Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara Pariente

**May 2 Monday SLCBA** Membership Mixer 5:00 pm **TIKI BAR**

**May 3—4 Tuesday Wednesday** Schools Speaker Bureau

**May 5 Thursday** 5:00 pm Student Art & Poster Contest and Law Library **Reception** Honoring former **Supreme Court Justice James Alderman.**

## 2005 Law Week Student Art & Poster Contest Law

If your child or grand child is in school in St Lucie County, private or public school then are eligible to participate in Art & Poster Contest. On Thursday May 5th starting at 5:00 pm in the Rupert J. Smith Law Library in the St Lucie County Courthouse one child from each level of school will receive a cash prize for the best in category. Follow these rules and bring your child's entry to court.

### **RULES**

#### **Elementary School: Theme: *The Judge***

Student name, grade, and school printed on front bottom right hand corner of artwork. Use only **colored construction paper** no larger than 9x12"

#### **Middle School: Theme: *The Jury Trial***

Student name, grade, and school printed on front bottom right hand corner of artwork. Use only poster board **no larger than** 22 x 28"

#### **High School: Theme: *The Juror***

Student name, grade, and school printed on front bottom right hand corner of artwork. Use only poster board **no larger than** 22 x 28"

**Cash Prizes:** for best artwork overall for each level of school.

High School prize **\$100**, Middle School prize **\$75**, Elementary School prize **\$50**

Student Certificate of Participation for every entry.

**Deliver Student Artwork:** Entries must be dropped off at the St Lucie County Courthouse Law Library Room 102 no later than 4:00 P.M. Friday April 29<sup>th</sup>. Early entries accepted. All entries will be displayed for one week on the courthouse walls for public viewing. Early entries will be displayed on the courthouse wall the day of delivery.

**Contact:** law library 462-2370

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The bar members who spoke out at the February meeting were heard the courthouse doors will remain open to civil litigants

## Opinion, the solo

The solo practitioner is alone at the practice of law. Sure there may be office staff but the seamless administrative comfort of the law firm or the government office is foreign to the solo. The collegial nature of the firm or camaraderie in the government office is alien to the solo. On the other hand, The solo savors the kind word from a deputy clerk on a busy day, the simple hello from a member of the bar, the favorable result for a client, the filing of a brief, "not guilty", "we find for the plaintiff", and wire transfer of settlement funds. All of these things strengthen the resolve of the solo to do it again and again and again. With the good comes the bad and the demeaning comment from a prosecutor, the rudeness of an insurance adjuster, the unanswered office telephone, the unanswered clerks telephone, rebuke from a client with unrealistic expectations, opposing counsel's speaking objections, a missed deadline, a misfiled document, and locking keys in the car are just a few of the jabs slipped by the solo on any given day. For the solo there is the monthly office rent, employee paycheck(s) to sign, the telephone and light bill to pay, pleadings to draft, points of law to research, the response to discovery, the hearing to set, the hearing to attend, the deposition to set, the deposition to attend, the calendar to keep, the case number to get from the clerk (criminal cases) the client to advise, the prospective client to meet, the case to read, and the wait to be heard in court. Much of this is



done without staff and all of it is the responsibility of the solo. The solo's day ranges between the office and the courtroom engaging in conversation with clients, witnesses, adjusters, court personnel, and colleagues. Early in the afternoon the energy begins to wane the solo's eyes get heavy. Up late last night peering into the computer at a case hoping it's the one that stands on all fours at the time it was a good idea. Next the telephone rings the new secretary didn't return after lunch and on this day opposing counsel's one of two para legals is not agreeable to schedule the defendant's deposition on one of the several dates you furnished them two weeks ago. Your feeling it's purposeful to frustrate the advance of your clients claim while opposing counsel is on a Wednesday golf break. Next, the docket says court begins at 1:30 and now its 2:15 and you have to be at the deposition across the street at 2:30. All of these times and dates are calendared in the office computer you have the daily print-out with you in court but no control over what time court begins. The court reporter bills by the hour and the witness is under subpoena. The apology is well taken and the deputy clerk knows about the conflict and calls the case ahead of the pack for which you are thankful to all present. These are the ways of the solo who wades into the "thicket of the law". The solo is alone in practice and does all those things alone to move a case along. No firm meeting or Wednesday foursome to sort out the details of this one. It's you and your clients against the rest. Your kids are in college and besides you golf on Sunday. The world is grand and I can't wait till Monday.

By John Kevin Griffin, solo

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member listings phone numbers  
email addresses calendar of events  
[www.slcba.org](http://www.slcba.org)

## Florida Bar Seeks Volunteers for its Grievance and Fee Arbitration program

The Florida Bar is seeking volunteers for its Grievance Mediation and Fee Arbitration program. If you want to know how you can be a part of this growing service to the public as well as our members, please contact Florida Bar Program Administrator, Susan Austin, (850) 561-5719 or e-mail, [saustin@flabar.org](mailto:saustin@flabar.org)

Saint Lucie County Bar Association Web Site  
[www.slcba.org](http://www.slcba.org)

TO:



The road and doors to this building are open today but we must be vigilant to preserve the right to trial by jury in civil cases

## Family Law Update with Judge Cox & Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara Pariente, don't miss it!

On April 29th at the courthouse you can receive 2 hours of CLE credit and get the inside information on your family law practice and the nuances of the family law court from Judge Cynthia Cox and **Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara Pariente**. If you practice family law in St. Lucie County telephone 772 462-2382.



Clerk of Court Pilot Ed Fry with Young Eagle 3/19/2005 St Lucie Co Airport



The construction here will be a faded memory soon.

[www.SLCBA.org](http://www.SLCBA.org)

Get listed