

The Brief



Newsletter of the St. Lucie County Bar Association online at SLCBA.org

SLCBA luncheon Meeting
Friday October 28th
Norris's Restaurant, US 1 at
Kitterman Road, Port St. Lucie

October Agenda Items

1. Judicial liaison committee appointments
2. Ratify By laws



Joel Zwemer, President

THE BEST OF THE LAW WEEK STUDENT ART & POSTER CONTEST NOW DECORATES THE COURTHOUSE

For the past two years SLCBA and the Friends of the Rupert J. Smith Law Library have joined forces to co-sponsor a Student Art and Poster contest for all the students in our community. Cash prizes are presented to the best entries from elementary, middle, and high school students. Public private and home school students have been awarded cash prizes for their entries. Some of the student 2005 law week entries hang on the wall in the courthouse jury assembly lounge area, **see page 3.**



These posters mounted on the walls of the Jury Assembly Room at the St Lucie County Courthouse serve as an encore to the students who participated in the 2005 Law Week Art & Poster Contest.

From the President's Desk

The St. Lucie County Bar Association has had a bit of a rocky start this Fall. Our first meeting, which was scheduled for the last Friday in August, had to be cancelled due to a hurricane threat, and our October meeting is in jeopardy by Hurricane Wilma. Hopefully, Hurricane Wilma will pass us by and our meeting will take place as scheduled next Friday (October 28th) at the Norris's restaurant located on Kitterman Road. We were advised that the ManaTiki restaurant, where we have held our meetings in the recent past, may be closed on October 28th, so we have made alternative arrangements. My hope is that the meeting at Norris's will bring out some new faces in addition to the regulars.

There are benefits to joining the St. Lucie County Bar Association and regularly attending our meetings. In addition to the camaraderie, which can lead to referrals, members are frequently informed at bar meetings of developments concerning the local courts. Frequently, Judge Bryan or one of the other judges in attendance alerts us to the planned changes occurring within the 19th Circuit. At our last meeting, Edwin Fry, the newly-installed Clerk of the Circuit Court, informed us of developments within his office and announced that he is seeking the assistance of the St. Lucie County Bar Association with forming liaison committees to interact with the various departments in the Clerk's Office in order to resolve problems attorneys are experiencing and to suggest improvements for the Clerk's Office. **Continued on page 2.**

Leadership in America it Matters, An Anti War Piece by Kevin Griffin

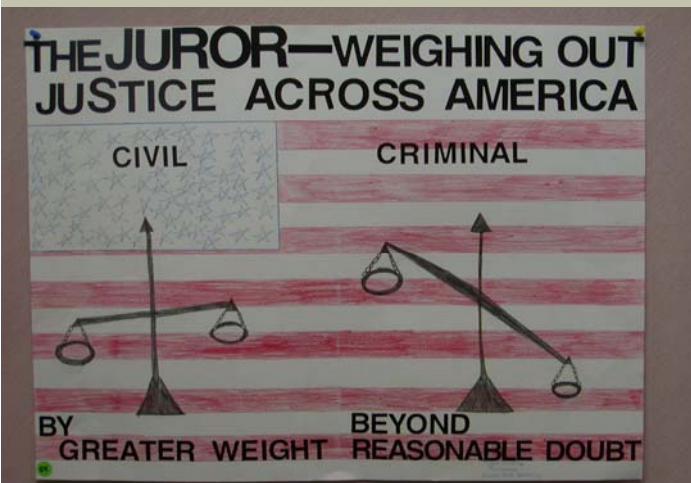
As I write this I'm thinking about the men and women in the Veteran hospital in West Palm Beach and for that matter all across the nation. Veterans Day is in November. Those men and women in the veteran hospitals are someone's brother or sister, son or daughter, husband or wife. Go see them and tell them you love them.

I know it's too much trouble for you and your busy schedule keeps you going and going and going somewhere. Besides the shame that would come over you would be as disabling as their wounds. Anyway you don't need to be reminded and distracted by the daily maiming and killing of young Americans. Children I coached in basketball are in the Marines today. After all, these kids volunteered you say. They chose the military you say, and maybe some of them tortured Muslims in Iraq or Afghanistan or at the prison GTMO in Cuba. Americans don't torture prisoners, you say. But we did or we are. I'm no blood relation to them you say, so I'm not going to feel guilty about it. The president doesn't feel guilty about it. He's in charge working hard. The president says freedom for the Iraqis is our mission. That we're working hard to accomplish the mission. Working hard to free the Iraqi people. Me, I have to ask after surviving the cold war hiding under a school desk and surviving Iraqi scud missiles how did we allow ourselves to be led into this money draining life maiming mission. The response I'm working hard doesn't convince me we are just in our cause. When will we say enough. Have we lost all sense of decency. A 50 year veteran of congress said in response to the question how will history view this administration and he said on national television, "this administration is the worst since Caligula." Me, I didn't coach kids to torture Muslims. I taught them physical skills, empathy, and a sense of fair play. You say it can't be true we torture Muslim soldiers and civilians? The evidence shows we do. I agree with the old congressman.

Unlike the kids in the West Palm Beach Veterans Hospital I was lucky, I survived my military experience. We won the cold war on my watch. My commanding officers were good men some better than others but nonetheless all had ample leadership ability to pull us through their time. They all had the ability to focus our attention on a tangible common objective. Nothing absurd like torture. This made leading easy for them. In military units missions and objectives change with the landscape but leadership remains the constant ingredient necessary for the unit to succeed. I don't remember torture as a mission or an objective back then. We all had a sense of fair play you know the American way. Wasn't Hogan a prisoner. The twenty mule team borax man from rural Illinois was our leader, President Reagan. We thought we erased the shame that many military and political leaders brought us in the Vietnam War. We were on a roll, golden, virtuous, all truth, justice and the American way born in the USA until Oliver North embarrassed us. He admittedly lied under oath to Congress. It cheapened us. I believe in the oath I took and still do. It was the oath to protect and defend the Constitution. In my opinion this was the start of the slide by the American public to dismiss lightly immoral and dishonest behavior by high ranking government officials. I'm not talking about sex either. That guy brought personal disgrace to the office of the president but he did lead us in and out of the Balkans. All of us are for mom, apple pie and feeling good about being an American but it's hard lately. Me, I'm cheering these October cool evenings that arrived just in time.

It's the ninth Inning, 2 outs, down by 2 runs and it's your turn at bat. Baseball is a romantic sport where hope and desire combine with youth to change us forever. If you have been fortunate enough to play the game you know what I mean. It's that moment of greatness nearly every game contains. October is my favorite month because baseball is at its zenith. The fifth game of the National *cont. on page 4*

THE BEST OF THE STUDENT ART & POSTER CONTEST CO-SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF LAW LIBRARY AND SLCBA



From President's desk cont from page 1

If you are interested in participating in a committee, please contact me or one of the other Association officers. We appreciate your support of this organization, and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in the article Leadership in America in this newsletter are the opinions of the author and are not endorsed by this association nor does the SLCBA officially or unofficially align itself with the opinions expressed in the articles authored by its members. Members are encouraged to write and submit their original articles for publication in this newsletter. Thought provoking discourse by members on any issue concerning law and society is welcome for publication.

WESTLAW TRAINING:

**Friday, November 18, 2005
at Noon in the Law Library**

Presented by: Frank Pappalardo, Westlaw Representative

- Overview/Highlights of Westlaw's Capabilities & Features to Include Available Databases
 - Learning to use Westlaw More Effectively
- What's New @ Westlaw

SLCBA
P.O. Box 3014
Fort Pierce, FL 34948

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Employment

Editor, Kevin Griffin:
Phone: 772-489-7776
Fax: 772-468-7742
E-mail: griffinlaw@bellsouth.net

Busy Fort Pierce Law Office Seeks intelligent, enterprising, self-starting, hardworking associate. Criminal, family, and dependency practice. Salary commensurate with experience. Experience preferred. Fax resume to: 772 467-2601.

Law Library CLE Tape Inventory

Sixteen New Titles in the Library if you need the CLE hours here is the place to obtain CLE credits

Fees & Costs in Family Law– How to Get Awards & Avoid Pitfalls/ Basic Family Law 2004
2005 Masters of DUI Seminar/ Hot Medical and Legal Issues for the Practitioner
Civil Trial Certification Review 2005/ 2005 Basic Personal Injury
The Ethics of Establishing & Retaining the Client Relationship
Business Litigation: May it Please the Arbitrator? Solo and Small Firm Day
The Ins & Outs of Condominiums & Community Associations 2005 Edition
Child Support & Alimony – Investigating the Numbers
Basic Real Estate 2005/ Criminal Law Update 2005
Workers' Compensation/Construction Law Certification Review

Our website

www.slcba.org



TO:

SLCBA members write for this news letter submit your article via email or regular mail for publication. Take a break write something of your own and be pleasantly surprised. You write it and we will publish it. .

Leadership in America it Matters, cont from page 2

League Championship series this year was one of the best examples of how raw hope and desire sometimes manifest in a moment to make ordinary men great. The pressure prologue showed us David Eckstein at the plate in the 9th inning down by 2 runs with 2 outs and with 2 strikes. He hit a single then Edmonds followed with a walk and Albert Pujols like a titan from an unknown epic tale hits a pitch harder than any ball ever hit for a 3 run blast to take the lead. The moment however brief was one to remember. Breathtaking. I didn't care who won the game; it was the moment, a moment of moments. The following game won by the Houston Astros put them in the World Series.

If you watch post season games you can see the moment sometimes moments when players blend into a team. It's a mixture of natural ability and leadership propelling the team into that special moment. The best teams advance and the best team plays team ball. All post season teams have a manager who possess the intangible leadership quality to inspire their players to go beyond their natural ability ever so slightly. This visible mixture of leadership and virtue in post season play allow us to observe these players in their moment of moments. Breathtaking if you catch it. Every game and endeavor has potential for a moment of moments when the mix is right for team ball. The World Series is an opportunity for me to see and feel that American fair play and sense of decency I know we possess. There are no bad apples here, no lies, no death, no torture, no propaganda, no indictments, no incompetent appointees, just ballplayers and their manager. Houston and Chicago both play team ball unlike our team our team in Washington, in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and still arguing what to do with 200,000 American Refugees spread across the southern and southwest United States from the Gulf coast. The team in Washington DC and their manager eliminated the law that gave American families who face economic distress and ruin like these American refugees a chance for a fresh economic start. No wonder this post season and these ball teams and their managers have captured my attention like a breath of fresh air. Real team play and leadership is refreshing in these dark days and its something to savor as we rest with our leader who is working hard to free the Iraqi people. I miss the cold war, don't you.