



THE BRIEF

A Publication of the St. Lucie County Bar Association
Visit us online at www.slcb.org

Volume 3, Issue 3
October 2007

2007-2008 Officers/ Executive Council:

- Jason C. Halliburton,
President
- Michael McSoley,
President-Elect
- Kim Cunzo,
Treasurer/Secretary
- John Kevin Griffin,
Past President

Inside this Issue

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Foreclosure Clinics | 2 |
| Justice Teaching | 3 |
| Inns of Court | 4 |
| Library CLE Seminars | 4 |
| Pro Bono Awards | 5 |
| SLCBA Committees | 5 |
| "Find A Lawyer" | 6 |
| New Admin Orders | 6 |
| And much more.... | |

New Members

The SLCBA is always recruiting new members to join the organization. If you wish to become a member, please join us for a bar member mixer. The next one will be held on October 12th at 5:00 p.m. at the St. Lucie Draft House on U.S. Hwy 1 in PSL.

F. Shields McManus Invested as Newest Circuit Court Judge

On September 7th, several dozen spectators filed into the Martin County Courthouse to attend the Investiture ceremony for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court's newest member - Stuart attorney F. Shields McManus. Judge McManus, who was appointed to the bench in July by Governor Crist, was joined by his family



and friends, as several judges and colleagues, including former law partner Willie Gary, entertained the crowd with humorous stories about McManus' 35 year career as an attorney. McManus started his tenure as circuit court judge in Okeechobee County, where he began hearing cases in August.

SLCBA Calendar of Events for October - December 2007

OCTOBER 2007

- 10/5/07** - General Bar meeting at **Cobb's Landing** in Ft. Pierce - noon to 1:00 p.m.
- 10/12/07** - SLCBA YLD member mixer at St. Lucie Draft House - 5:00 p.m. All members welcome.
- 10/26/07** - SLCBA Executive Board Meeting.

NOVEMBER 2007

- 11/2/07** - General Bar meeting at **Norris Restaurant** in PSL – noon to 1:00 p.m.
- 11/13/07** - Inns of Court Organizational Meeting at Rupert J. Smith Law Library - 5:30 p.m.
- 11/30/07** - SLCBA Executive Board Meeting.

DECEMBER 2007

- 12/5/07** - **SLCBA Holiday Party at Gulfstream Bank Building in PSL - 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**
- 12/7/07** - General Bar meeting at **Cobb's Landing** in Ft. Pierce - noon to 1:00 p.m.
- 12/28/07** - SLCBA Executive Board Meeting.

Pro Bono Foreclosure Law Clinics Draw Over 130 Participants

About a dozen members of the St. Lucie County Bar Association volunteered their time in September to offer counsel and advise to homeowners in two foreclosure law clinics sponsored by the SLCBA in conjunction with Florida Rural Legal Services and the 19th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee.

With home values declining and homeowners experiencing increasing difficulties with refinancing their adjustable rate mortgages in a tightening credit market, banks have been forced to foreclose on homes at record rates in St. Lucie County. These foreclosures have forced the St. Lucie County Clerk of Court's office to work overtime to keep the cases moving through the pipeline.

Organized at the suggestion of Clerk of Court, Ed Fry, the foreclosure clinics were one small way that the bar association felt the legal community could assist debtors to better understand the foreclosure process and, perhaps, negotiate a resolution with their lender to avoid the necessity of filing a foreclosure action or having one go to final judgment.

Over 130 individuals turned out at the clinics to receive one-on-one counseling with a local bar member. Because of their financial condition, many of these individuals cannot afford to retain an attorney to represent them in foreclosure proceedings. For qualifying individuals, Florida Rural Legal Services was on hand to offer additional assistance, including possible placement of cases with an attorney to assist them throughout the entire foreclosure process.

While several attendees at the clinics were already in some stage of foreclosure, many others had not yet been served with a lawsuit. Unfortunately, this is a sign of worsening conditions to come and, perhaps, an indication that future clinics such as these are needed in our community. Thanks to all who participated in this effort, and we hope to see you at a future clinic. If you would like to offer free assistance to homeowners facing foreclosure, please contact Donna Graf at donna.graf@frls.org.



Justice Teaching Project Needs Volunteers in St. Lucie

Local attorneys are still needed to serve as volunteers to partner with St. Lucie County schools and serve as resource persons classrooms under the Justice Teaching program championed by Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis. The project website (www.justiceteaching.org) provides additional useful information about the program, as well as an online application that enables you to sign up to participate by using your Florida Bar number to register for the program. For more information, please e-mail justiceteaching@flcourts.org or call the Florida Supreme Court's Law Related Education and Outreach Coordinator, at **850-414-6106**. Below is a list of schools that do not have an attorney assigned:

| | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Savannah Ridge Elementary | 460-3050 | 6801 Lennard Road | Port St. Lucie |
| 2. | Lawnwood Elementary | 468-5740 | 1900 S. 23 rd Street | Fort Pierce |
| 3. | Parkway Elementary | 340-4800 | 7000 NW Selvitz Road | Port St. Lucie |
| 4. | White City Elementary | 468-5840 | 905 W. 2 nd Street | Fort Pierce |
| 5. | West Gate K-8 | 807-7600 | 1050 NW Cashmere Blvd. | Port St. Lucie |
| 6. | Northport Middle School | 340-4700 | 250 NW Floresta Drive | Port St. Lucie |
| 7. | Lakewood Park Elementary | 468-5830 | 7800 Indrio Road | Fort Pierce |
| 8. | Chester A. Moore Elementary | 468-5315 | 827 N. 29 th Street | Fort Pierce |
| 9. | Manatee Elementary | 340-4745 | 1450 SW Heatherwood Blvd. | Port St. Lucie |
| 10. | Weatherbee Elementary | 468-5300 | 800 East Weatherbee Road | Fort Pierce |
| 11. | St. Lucie Elementary School | 468-5213 | 2020 S. 13 th Street | Fort Pierce |
| 12. | Windmill Point Elementary | 336-6950 | 700 SW Darwin Blvd. | Port St. Lucie |
| 13. | Port St. Lucie Elementary | 340-4820 | 198 NW Marion Avenue | Port St. Lucie |
| 14. | Mariposa Elementary | 337-5960 | 2620 SE Mariposa Avenue | Port St. Lucie |
| 15. | Fort Pierce Central High | 468-5888 | 1101 Edwards Road | Fort Pierce |

Judge Roby is challenging all members of the St. Lucie County Bar Association to adopt a school for the Justice Teaching Program. St. Lucie County is well behind our neighbors to the north and south in placing attorney volunteers in schools. The commitment is small (a few hours per year) but very rewarding. Become a part of this terrific program if you have the time.

ADVERTISEMENT



Attention St. Lucie County Bar Association Members

Gulfstream Business Bank welcomes you to attend a **free** CLE workshop luncheon at Cobb's Landing Restaurant in Fort Pierce on the topic of:

Client Engagement and Termination of Representation

The luncheon seminar will be held on Thursday, **November 1, 2007** from noon to 1:30 p.m. and will be presented by Sheila Tuma, Bar Counsel for the Florida Bar, Division of Lawyer Regulation. One hour of CLE credit will be provided. Please RSVP to Tammy Roncaglione at 772-408-5942 or troncaglione@gsbb.com by October 26, 2007.

Rupert J. Smith Law Library Offers CLE Seminars

The Rupert J. Smith Law Library of St. Lucie County is hosting the CLE seminars listed below. The seminars run from 8:30 a.m. until about 4:00 p.m. and are held in the Jury Room, 105, of the St. Lucie County Courthouse. Sign-in is located in the Library, room 102, adjacent to the Jury Room.

Advance registration and additional information for these video replay seminars is available through The Florida Bar www.floridabar.org, 850-561-5831 and the Law Library, 772-462-2370. Registration is also available the day of each seminar in the Law Library.

10/19/07: Eminent Domain

11/2/07: Basic Appellate Practice

12/7/07: RPPTL Estate/Trust Planning

12/14/07: Basic Corporate Law

For more information about services at the law library, visit www.rjsslwlibrary.org.

Inns of Court Organizational Meeting Scheduled

Local attorneys and judges are invited to participate in an organizational meeting of a St. Lucie chapter of the American Inns of Court. The meeting is scheduled to take place on November 13, 2007 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Rupert J. Smith Law Library in the St. Lucie County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting is to provide attorneys who are unfamiliar with the Inns of Court with more information about the program and to form an organizing committee of judges and lawyers, which will be responsible for organizing future meetings and preparing an application for charter to the national office of the AIC.

To learn more about the American Inns of Court, please visit the website: www.innsofcourt.org. Those attorneys and judges unable to participate in the November 13th meeting, can email Bar President-Elect Mike McSoley at mike@rjgpa.com to indicate your interest in being involved with the St. Lucie Inn of Court.

Pro Bono Corner From www.floridaprobono.org

Florida Rural Legal Services is in dire need of assistance from attorneys in the area of family law. Even if you have never taken on a family law case, FRLS can provide you with the written materials and forms on cd to assist you. If you do not wish to take on a case, FRLS will also provide you with the flexibility to do valuable consultation work. Any assistance you can offer will be helpful and appreciated, so please contact Pro Bono Coordinator Donna Graf at donna.graf@frls.org.

Attorney Ad Litem Appointments

Do you have an interest in being added to the Attorney Ad Litem list for civil cases in St. Lucie County? If so, please contact Circuit Court Judge Ben L. Bryan's judicial assistant, Anne Nelson, at anelson@stlucieco.gov for more information.

Judge Bryan routinely appoints attorneys from the list to cover a wide variety of cases. So, if you're looking to supplement your existing caseload, contact Anne to find out more about this opportunity.

Submissions for Future Newsletter Articles Welcome

Have a comment about *The Brief* or have an idea for a future article? If so, submit comments or proposed articles for possible inclusion in the newsletter to Bar President, Jason Halliburton at jhalliburton@deanmead.com. All articles of general interest to the membership of the St. Lucie Bar Association will be considered.

Bar Members May Advertise in *The Brief*

Advertising in *The Brief* and the St. Lucie County Bar Association's website - www.slcbba.org - is not limited to non-lawyers. It is also open to bar members looking to advertise the legal services they offer in the community. Simply ensure that your ad complies with Florida Bar advertising rules, and inquire about our affordable advertising rates for bar members. Please contact Bar Secretary/Treasurer, Kim Cunzo at kcunzo@gmail.com for more information.

Pro Bono Service Award Nominations Due By November 2nd

Each year, the Florida Supreme Court and the Florida Bar give special recognition to lawyers, groups and a member of the judiciary who have freely given their time and expertise in making legal services available to the poor. Any bar member may nominate deserving candidates for these Pro Bono Service Awards. But you must hurry. Nominations must be received by November 2, 2007. Instructions and nomination forms are posted on the Florida Bar website: www.floridabar.org.

Save The Date!

What: SLCBA Holiday Party

When: December 5, 2007
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Lobby of Gulfstream
Business Bank Bldg.
9815 S. U.S. Hwy 1
Port St. Lucie, FL

An assortment of beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

The event is free, but donations of unwrapped toys to be delivered to a local charity will be appreciated.

Sponsor: Gulfstream Business Bank

SLCBA Committee Appointments for 2007-08 Are Available

If you are interested in becoming more active in the SLCBA, one way to start is by joining a committee. The SLCBA has openings on the following committees:

- Pro Bono Committee
- Medical Profession Liaison Committee
- Membership Committee
- Speakers/Sponsors Committee
- Special Events Committee

If you would like more information about these opportunities, contact Jason Halliburton at jhalliburton@deanmead.com.



NAVIGATING COMMERCIAL
REAL ESTATE AND
LAND DEVELOPMENT
ISSUES...TODAY

October 25
PGA Country Club
Port St. Lucie, FL

Register Now. ▶

Registration
ends 10/19/07

ADVERTISEMENT

LAND DESIGN SOUTH is pleased to announce the following seminar, designed specifically for Commercial Real Estate Professionals, Commercial Lenders and Attorneys:

NAVIGATING COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES ... TODAY

October 25, 2007

This exciting one-day seminar will guide you through the commercial land development process from Acquisition and Funding through Planning, Design and Development and finally discuss Construction and Post Construction opportunities and constraints, emphasizing the most current and relevant issues in today's market.

Please join us for this exciting opportunity to hear the current issues affecting your business climate and engage in the open forum discussions with our expert panelists. CEU & CLE Credits and/or Certificates will be issued following the program. Seated / Served lunch is included in the registration fee of \$75.00.

CALL 772-871-7778 (ext. 108) or visit
www.landdesignsouth.com to register today!

LAND
DESIGN
SOUTH

THE BRIEF

News and Notes on Membership and Collection of Annual Dues



DID YOU KNOW?

SLCBA's website attracts about 200 unique visitors per month. Those users come from all over the country and even Canada, but most are concentrated in the State of Florida.

While you may think that Port St. Lucie or Fort Pierce might make up a majority of the visitors to the site, the locale with the largest number of unique visitors is, in fact, Miami.

While we have already seen a marked increase in the number of dues-paying SLCBA members in 2007-08, greater participation is needed in order to meet our goals for the year.

If you have not yet taken the opportunity to pay your annual dues or complete your member contact form and bar survey, please do so as soon as possible. The surveys and membership forms received to date have been instrumental in helping us improve the services of the SLCBA and updating the online attorney directory.

One final invoice and contact information packet will be mailed out in late October to those members and prospective members who have not yet paid their annual dues. Please return those forms and send payment to P.O. Box 3014, Fort Pierce, FL 34948. Or pay online through our website - www.slcba.org.

In November, we will be completing the process of updating the SLCBA's database, and, thereafter, only dues-paying and exempt members will remain in the directory. This will

ensure that only active members of the association may be found using the "Find A Lawyer" feature of our website.

Finally, if you have not been receiving emails from the SLCBA recently, then either we do not have a valid email address for you, or your email filtering system is causing messages to be blocked. If you are having a problem receiving emails from the SLCBA, please contact Bar Secretary/Treasurer, Kim Cunzo at kcunzo@gmail.com or call 772-466-4900.

"Find A Lawyer" Feature - A Great Tool That Everyone Can Use

Have a client who needs legal services you don't offer? Want to get referrals from attorneys all over the country without spending a dime on advertising? If you answered 'yes' to either of these questions, then

your first step should be to log on to the bar association's website - www.slcba.org - and click on the "Find A Lawyer" link. In a few seconds, you will be able to locate local bar members who specialize in

everything from administrative law to zoning, literally A to Z. Bar members can even link their email and website addresses to their listings so that clients and referral sources can contact them immediately.

Admin Order 2007-12 Reshuffles Judicial Assignments for 2008

Attorneys practicing before the county and circuit courts of St. Lucie County may see some different faces on the bench early next year. That's because Chief Judge William Roby recently entered Administrative Order No. 2007-12, which sets forth new circuit-wide judicial assignments effective February 1, 2008.

In Circuit Court, Judge Lawrence Mirman will be hearing VOPs, bond reduction hearings, motion hearings and pleas/sentencings in criminal court. Judges Robert Belanger, Cynthia Cox and Larry Schack will each hear one-third of felony cases, with Judge Cox

also handling drug and mental health court. Judge Steven Levin will preside over the juvenile drug court program.

Judge Ben Bryan will continue to hear all civil cases, including mortgage foreclosures, probate and guardianship proceedings. Judges James McCann and Barbara Bronis will share equally in the family case load, including DOR and domestic and repeat violence cases. Judge Burton Conner will move to juvenile court to hear all juvenile delinquency and dependency matters.

In County Court, Judge Clifford Barnes will handle small

claims motions, pre-trials and trials, as well as 20% of all county criminal cases. The remaining 80% of criminal matters will be divided equally between Judges Philip Yacucci and Kathryn Nelson. Judge Yacucci will also preside over the domestic violence diversion program and will handle 50% of all county ordinance cases. Judge Nelson will handle the remaining 50% of civil ordinance cases, as well as misdemeanor drug court. Judge Thomas Walsh will hear all other county civil cases, including civil traffic infractions, collections court and landlord/tenant matters.