



THE BRIEF

A Publication of the St. Lucie County Bar Association
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Volume 3, Issue 1
April 2007

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Future Meetings

May 4, 2007 - Law Week Luncheon at Pelican Yacht Club in Ft Pierce. See more info on Page 2.

June 1, 2007 - General Bar meeting at Cobb's Landing in Ft Pierce. 2007-08 officer elections to be held.

Funding Approved For New Federal Courthouse In Fort Pierce

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson had some good news for the St. Lucie County legal community last month. After twenty years of discussion, the federal government has finally allocated funding for a new federal courthouse to be built in downtown Fort Pierce. The \$53.8 million project will encompass an entire city block at the corner of U.S. 1 and Orange Avenue, across the street from the Fort Pierce City Hall and just south of the historic Arcade Building.

Plans call for a 123,400 square foot building that, once completed, will house a full-time district judge, courthouse personnel, the U.S. attorney's office, the U.S. marshals office, federal probation and pretrial services, and the U.S. General Services Administration. Funding for the project will be released from the current year's federal budget, which will allow for construction to commence prior to the end of this year. Construction is estimated to take three years.



Artist rendering of proposed federal courthouse to be built in downtown Fort Pierce. Construction is expected to take three years and could begin as early as September.

New St. Lucie Young Lawyers Division Formed; Mixer Planned

Are you an attorney under 36 years of age? Have you been practicing law in Florida for five years or less? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then you are invited to participate in the newly formed Young Lawyers Division of the St. Lucie County Bar Association. The goal of the St. Lucie YLD is to increase participation in bar activities among newer and younger members of our profession who live or work in St. Lucie County.

The St. Lucie YLD will provide its members with opportunities to satisfy their CLE and pro bono reporting requirements, as well as enable members to meet and socialize with other young lawyers serving the legal needs of the St. Lucie County area. Plans for the new group include monthly mixers at locations around the county and periodic community service projects. For existing SLCBA members, there is no additional cost to join the St. Lucie YLD.

Our first new member mixer is scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 2007 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the St. Lucie Draft House on U.S. 1 in Port St. Lucie. All prospective members are invited to participate. If you can't make it on the 10th but would like to join the St. Lucie YLD or want more information, please contact Luke Napodano at napodanol@stlucieco.gov or Jason Halliburton at jhalliburton@deanmead.com.

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SLCBA to Address Pro Bono Participation Through Workshops



Photographs from Pro Bono Clinic sponsored by the SLCBA in November 2006.

According to statistics from the Ft. Pierce office of Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc., a federally funded non-profit that provides free legal services to the indigent throughout the Treasure Coast, less than 2% of all active attorneys with bar-registered addresses in St. Lucie County regularly report satisfying the Florida Bar's aspirational goal of providing 20 hours of pro bono legal services each year. Although

the reason for such low participation is unclear, the result for FRLS has been that it has struggled to find local attorneys to take on indigent clients who find themselves turning to FRLS for assistance.

In an effort to increase participation in pro bono services in St. Lucie County, the Executive Council of the SLCBA has decided to conduct two pro bono workshops this summer. These workshops will be held

in lieu of our regular bar association meetings and take place on July 13th and August 7th at Cobb's Landing in Ft. Pierce from noon to 1:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend. In the meantime, if you are able to take on a matter from FRLS, please contact Donna Graf at donna.graf@frls.org. You may also obtain more information about pro bono cases currently needing placement at www.floridaprobono.org.

The SLCBA welcomes the following new members in 2006-07:

- Haley Colina**
- Elizabeth Jones**
- Luke Napadano**
- Vicki Short**
- Greg Weiss**
- Terry Slusher**
- Julia Baginski**
- Ginger Miranda**
- Nicole Wiseberg**
- David Ham**

SLCBA 2007-08 New Member Recruitment Drive Underway

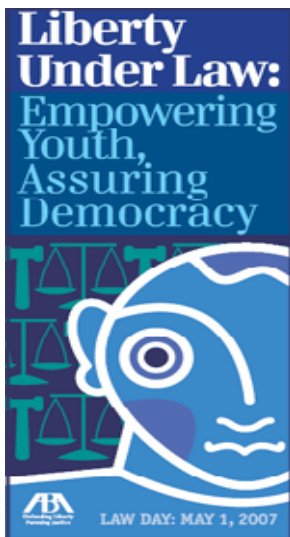
May is almost here, and that means that we are nearing the end of the SLCBA's 2006-07 fiscal year. Soon, you will be receiving your annual bar dues statement.

For the upcoming year, we will be sending out paper statements, along with a profile statement for bar members to

complete. The information you supply on your profile will be uploaded on the SLCBA's website, where visitors and other bar members will be able to search for attorneys based upon their areas of practice.

In addition to updating our attorney database, we are also

actively seeking to recruit new bar association members. So if you know of any attorneys either living or working in St. Lucie County who are not presently members of the SLCBA, please encourage them to join and begin attending the bar meetings.



Annual Law Week Luncheon Scheduled For May 4, 2007

Please make plans to join your fellow bar members at the St. Lucie County Bar Association's annual Law Week Luncheon. The Luncheon will take place at the Pelican Yacht Club in Fort Pierce on Friday May 4, 2007 from noon to 1:00 p.m.

The theme for Law Week 2007 is Liberty Under Law:

Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy. William Zloch, Chief U.S. District Court Judge, and Dr. Samuel Gaines, former St. Lucie County School Board Member, have graciously agreed to speak at our event. In addition, for the first time, the SLCBA will be presenting the Liberty Bell Award to recognize a non-

lawyer for outstanding service to the community.

If you are able to attend the Luncheon, please RSVP no later than Monday, April 30th to Jason Halliburton at jhalliburton@deanmead.com or 772-464-7700. Recommended donation of \$10 is payable at the door.

Law Week Activities Scheduled - Volunteers Needed

It's that time of year again... Time to celebrate Law Day! The theme for Law Week 2007 is Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy. Join us for the following events:

Law Day in the Classroom

April 30th - May 4th, 2007

Local attorneys are needed to visit classrooms throughout St. Lucie County to discuss this year's Law Day Theme and to work with kids in 4th - 12th grades on a mock trial project. The project was spotlighted in Scripps Treasure Coast newspapers last week, and we need as many attorneys who are willing to participate in this event as we can get. You will have a very small time commitment (approximately 2 hours during school hours), and you may participate in one or as many sessions as your time permits. The event will be capped off with a special mock trial session at the St. Lucie County Courthouse on Saturday, May 5th, 2007 for students wishing to show off what they learned in the classroom mock trial sessions. Five local judges

have generously donated their time to preside over the mock trial sessions at the courthouse, which will take place from 9:00 a.m. to noon on May 5th.

People's Law School

April 30th - May 2nd, 2007

For the second year in a row, the SLCBA will be hosting People's Law School seminars, which will feature lectures by practitioners in St. Lucie County on a variety of topics, including juvenile and family law, immigration, construction law, bankruptcy, criminal law, landlord/tenant law, and real estate. The People's Law School seminars will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on April 30th, May 1st and May 2nd at the Port St. Lucie Community Center, with three speakers scheduled for each evening.

Law Day Proclamation Signing

May 1st, 2007

Port St. Lucie Mayor, Patricia Christensen, will sign a Law Day Proclamation at the Port St. Lucie City Hall, declaring May 1st, 2007 to be Law Day in Port

St. Lucie.

Poster Contest Awards

May 3rd, 2007

On Thursday, May 4th, 2007 at 5:30 p.m., the Friends of the Rupert J. Smith Law Library will be hosting an Awards Reception for the annual Law Day Poster Contest at the St. Lucie County Courthouse. All bar members are welcome to attend.

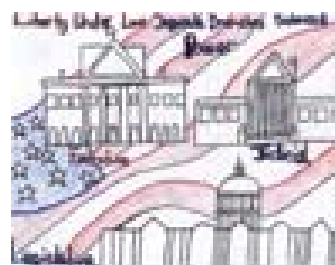
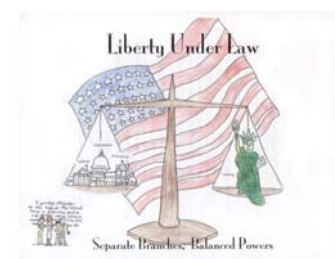
Annual Law Week Luncheon

May 4th, 2007

The annual Law Week Luncheon for the St. Lucie County Bar Association will be held at noon on May 4th, 2007 at the Pelican Yacht Club on Hutchinson Island in Fort Pierce. More information about the event can be found on page 2 in this issue of The Brief.

For more information about any of these events or to sign up to participate for the Law Day in the Classroom activities, please contact Ginger Miranda by telephone at 772-489-7776 or by email at ginger.miranda@gmail.com.

Below are some of last year's poster contest winning entries. Last year's Law Week Theme was Liberty Under Law.



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Rupert J. Smith Law Library Extends Operating Hours

Bar members and other visitors to the Rupert J. Smith Law Library at the St. Lucie County Courthouse now have extended access to the library facilities two days per week. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the library is open from 8:00 a.m. to noon and again from 1:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Operating hours for Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays remain unchanged, with the library open from 8:00 a.m. to noon and again from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bar members may gain back door entry to the law library with an annual access pass. For more information about services at the law library, visit www.rjlawlibrary.org.

Local Circuit Court Judge Scott M. Kenney Announces Retirement

Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Scott M. Kenney recently announced his intentions to retire as a Circuit Court Judge after over twenty years of service on the bench.

Judge Kenney obtained his law degree from American University (Washington School of Law) in 1974 and spent twelve years in private practice before ascending to the circuit court bench in 1986. Over the past several years, Judge Kenney has been active in various organizations, including the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce and the Treasure Coast Jaycees.

Judge Kenney's retirement creates a vacancy within the 19th Circuit, and nominations are being accepted through May 4, 2007 to fill that vacancy. For more information, please visit www.floridabar.org.

Pro Bono Corner From www.floridaprobono.org

Below are some immediate opportunities for pro bono work. For more information about these or other cases, please contact Donna Graf at Florida Rural Legal Services - donna.graf@frls.org.

Case 1: 39 year old female with four children living on less than \$19,200 per year would like assistance with a divorce. One child is a result of this marriage. There is no domestic violence. Marital property consists of the family home. The parties have been separated since 09/2005. The applicant has not been served with a summons and complaint.

Case 2: 37 year old female with two children (ages 9 and 7) would like assistance with obtaining a divorce, child custody and related issues. There is no domestic violence. DCF is not involved. The parties have been separated since 11/2006. The applicant has not been served with a summons and complaint.

Submissions for Future Newsletter Articles Welcome

Have an idea for a future SLCBA Newsletter Article? If so, submit it for possible inclusion in The Brief by emailing Jason Halliburton at jhalliburton@deanmead.com. All articles of general interest to the membership of the St. Lucie Bar Association will be considered.

Note to Advertisers

Space is available for advertising in future issues of The Brief, as well as the St. Lucie County Bar Association's website www.slcb.org. So, if you are an advertiser or wish to advertise your services in either the Newsletter, the website, or both, please contact Jason Halliburton at jhalliburton@deanmead.com for rates and more information.