



COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Volusia County Bar Association | July 2024



Greetings VCBA,

As we find ourselves in the midst of summer, there's a palpable shift in the atmosphere. The days are longer, the weather is (much) warmer, and there's a sense of relaxation that seems to permeate everything, including the legal profession. While it seems our work never truly takes a vacation, there's something about this season that allows us to approach some days with a slightly lighter heart and a refreshed perspective.

We've all heard of the mythical "summer slowdown" in the legal field. Clients are on vacation, court schedules are (sometimes) less hectic, and there's supposedly more time to catch up on those lingering tasks that never quite make it to the top of the priority list. But is this slowdown real? For some, it might be. For others, the summer months are just as busy as any other time of the year. Regardless of your personal experience, summer offers a unique opportunity to balance the scales between work and leisure.

Let's face it, we're all guilty of pushing through and working long hours. But summer is the perfect reminder that taking a break is not only okay, it's necessary. A well-timed vacation or even a long weekend can rejuvenate your mind and body, making you more effective in your work. So, if you haven't already, do try and plan some time off in the coming months if possible. Your clients will still be there when you get back, and you'll be better equipped to serve them after a bit of rest and recharging.

If you're looking for some light reading to take on your vacation or enjoy during a summer afternoon, consider adding a few legal-themed novels to your list. Classics like "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee or more modern titles like "The Lincoln Lawyer" by Michael Connelly can be both entertaining and thought-provoking. As an estate planning attorney, one of my personal favorites is "The Testament" by John Grisham because it has just enough of a legal platform to work, without the story line being entirely about the legal profession itself.

Ah, but summer comes and then it goes. So, while we enjoy the slower pace and the sunshine, it's also a good time to look ahead and prepare for the busy months that will inevitably come. Use this time to reflect on your goals, organize your files, and maybe even tackle that continuing education course you've been putting off. If you were unable to attend the Florida Bar's 2024 Annual Convention in Orlando last month or would like to earn additional CLEs for knowledge and credit, there are plenty of online courses offered through the [Florida Bar's website here](#).

In closing, let's remember that summer is not just a season, but a state of mind. It's a time to enjoy life, both inside and outside the office. So, take a deep breath, soak up some sun (but of course with sunscreen... definitely with sunscreen), and let's make the most of these beautiful summer days.

Wishing you all a wonderful and productive July and Happy Independence Day America!

Warm regards,

Catherine Taylor Lamb

President, Volusia County Bar Association



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VCBA EVENTS

VOLUSIA
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ASSOCIATION



2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Join us for our Annual Meeting, an insightful and inspiring gathering where we discuss the state of our association, share updates, and network with fellow members.

A Southern Buffet lunch is included at the beautiful Daytona One Autograph Collection hotel. The event is \$20 for VCBA members.

REGISTER NOW!



ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING

Date

Friday, 11:45am - 1:00pm
August 02, 2024

Venue

Daytona Marriott @ Daytona One
1870 Victory Circle Daytona Beach, FL

RSVP

Volusiabar.org
\$20 for VCBA Members



CLE: Cybersecurity

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FREE for VCBA members!

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and your business

Cost: FREE for VCBA members
\$20 for non-members
CLE:1

13 Sept 2024
12:00 - 1:00PM

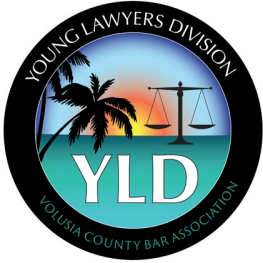
Virtual Event
ZOOM

The Young Lawyers Division (YLD)

WHAT IS THE YLD?

Are you a young lawyer? Do you know or employ? If so, send them to the VCBA Young Lawyers Division! The VCBA YLD is an active group of young lawyers from Volusia County with currently 30 members.

You may be familiar with popular YLD efforts, such as the annual Christmas Toy Drive, CLEs, social events, and more. The YLD is a great place for young lawyers to meet, collaborate, and build lasting relationships with all local lawyers and the judiciary. The YLD looks forward to hosting you at the signature VCBA event, the Masquerade ball on Friday, October 18th! Get your tickets and sponsorships in now, as we look forward to another great event!



Michael Lyons
President, YLD

**THERE'S
NO TIME
TO SPARE!**

WE'RE GOING BOWLING
FOR BACKPACKS!

AUGUST 7 • 5:30PM
ORMOND LANES BOWLING
260 US-1, ORMOND BEACH, FL 32174

REGISTER NOW!

THE 2024 MASQUERADE BALL

Join us for a night full of fun and dancing! This event is hosted by our Young Lawyers Division, but open to all members and guests. Dinner and drinks are included in this exclusive event, \$100 per person before September 25th, and will increase to \$125 after. Don't delay!

We are also looking for sponsors for the event! To help make this event reality and make an impact with your business, download the form below.

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The Volusia County Bar Association
Young Lawyers Division Proudly Presents

THE 2024 MASQUERADE BALL

SAVE THE DATE!

18 October 2024 • 6:30 PM

The Brannon Center
105 S. Riverside Drive
New Smyrna Beach, FL



ARTICLE

Electrifying Connections: VCBA's Dynamic Experience at the 2024 Florida Bar Convention

The 2024 Florida Bar Convention concluded last week in Orlando. The Florida Bar's annual convention provided attendees the unique opportunity to engage with a diverse array of legal professionals, gain insights into pressing legal issues, and celebrate notable achievements within the legal community. The Florida Bar welcomed Roland Sanchez-Medina, Jr., of Miami, as the Bar's 76th president and Rosalyn Sia Baker-Barnes of West Palm Beach as president-elect. Our immediate past president, Scott Westheimer, concluded a trailblazing year. His tenure included the free availability of Nota and the establishment of the first-in-the-nation ethical guidelines for AI in the legal profession.

A highlight of the convention was the recognition of the Honorable Rachel Myers and the Honorable Katherine Miller for their involvement in the Counsel-to-Counsel Mentoring Program. Judge Miller, a co-creator of the program, attended alongside Judge Myers, who brought her mentee from the inaugural group of participants. Their dedication to mentoring young lawyers exemplifies the program's impact and the commitment of our judiciary to fostering the next generation of legal professionals.

Ashlea Edwards of Jacksonville became the president of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD), while Arti Hirani of Orlando became president-elect. Our very own Carleen Leffler, of Shuffield Lowman, was sworn in for her second term as the 7th Circuit Representative on the YLD Board of Governors. Carleen is the second VCBA young lawyer to serve in this capacity, following in my footsteps, and I am incredibly proud to see her represent our young lawyers. In addition to this role, Carleen has been appointed vice-chair of the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee, which coordinates the activities of voluntary bar associations throughout Florida. Adding to her accolades, Carleen received the "Leader in the Law" award from the Florida Association of Women Lawyers (FAWL). Congratulations, Carleen!

Beyond the individual honors, the convention's annual section meetings and receptions were a source of excitement and connection. The Council of Sections, the collaborative body overseeing the various Sections, held a significant meeting to discuss finances and programming. I am honored to be serving as Secretary this year and look forward to contributing to our shared goals. The Government Lawyer Section, in particular, hosted its first reception in several years. As the rising chair-elect, I am eager to promote our section and encourage my fellow government lawyers to become more involved. Other notable events included the Young Lawyers Division reception, which was beautifully themed "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and the Appellate Practice Section's much-loved annual dessert reception, whimsically decorated to resemble Rome.

Overall, the 2024 Florida Bar Convention was a resounding success. The convention not only reinforced our commitment to legal excellence but also celebrated the enduring values of justice, service, and community that define the Florida legal profession.

*By Maria Pecoraro-McCorkle
Director, Volusia County Bar Association*



ARTICLE

A Journey to Havana: The VCBA's Unforgettable Trip

In April 2024, members of the VCBA embarked on an journey to Havana, Cuba. This trip was not just a getaway but an immersion into the vibrant culture and history of a city filled with rhythm and color; filled with unforgettable experiences. We had the privilege of meeting with a Cuban legal professional, who helped us understand the Cuban legal system and the legal issues impacting the people and economy of Cuba.

Dancing at the Buena Vista Social Club and The Tropicana

We visited the world-famous Buena Vista Social Club as well as the Tropicana Club, an iconic venue that has been entertaining guests since 1939. Nestled in a lush, open-air setting, the stage came alive with dazzling performances, vibrant costumes and captivating rhythms. The cabaret show with its mix of salsa, mambo, and cha-cha-cha transported us to an era of glamour and extravagance. Dancing under the stars at this legendary club was a highlight of our trip, leaving us mesmerized by the sheer talent and passion of the performers.

Cruising in Vintage Automobiles

Havana is renowned for its fleet of vintage American cars, and we had the pleasure of experiencing this unique aspect of the city firsthand. Our group enjoyed leisurely rides in these beautifully restored classics, which are a testament to Cuban ingenuity and resourcefulness. We were able to take in the city's stunning architecture, colorful buildings, and lively street scenes. The nostalgic charm of these vintage cars, contrasted against the crumbling architecture and a social structure so different from our own made for a truly meaningful experience.

Exploring Fusterland

We also visited Fusterland, the whimsical art village created by Cuban artist José Fuster. Often referred to as the "Picasso of the Caribbean," Fuster transformed his neighborhood into a vibrant, mosaic-covered wonderland. We were amazed by the intricate tile work, vivid colors, and imaginative designs that adorned every surface. This artistic enclave is a testament to the power of creativity and community, and it provided us with a few lovely things to bring home.

Savoring Authentic Cuban Cuisine...and Rum!

No trip to Havana would be complete without indulging in its rich culinary traditions. We were treated to an array of dishes that showcased the island's diverse flavors and influences. From succulent ropa vieja (shredded beef) and tender lechón asado (roast pork) to fresh seafood and hearty black beans, each meal was an experience. We dined at paladares, family-run restaurants that offered a warm and intimate dining experience, as well as at renowned establishments that presented modern twists on classic recipes. The vibrant spices, ingredients, and combinations of flavors left us satisfied, but the music served up with lunch elevated it to amazing. And the trip to the rum factory...just WOW.

Our trip to Havana brought us closer as a group and enriched our appreciation for Cuban culture. As we returned home, we carried with us not only souvenirs and photographs but also a sense of connection to the people and spirit of Cuba.

By Lori Sandman

Treasurer, VCBA



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

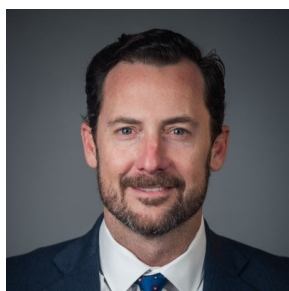


Jude Joseph Ledonne

Judge Joseph Ledonne has roots deeply planted in Port Orange, Florida. Growing up in a family home where his father still resides, Ledonne's formative years were spent attending Spruce Creek Elementary School, Silver Sands Middle School, graduating from Father Lopez Catholic High School. Ledonne's earned a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Studies from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 2002. He then pursued his passion for law, earning his law degree from Stetson University College of Law in 2005. His career has been shaped by the invaluable guidance of numerous mentors, both attorneys and judges, in Colorado and Florida. Judge Chris Miller stands out as his current judicial mentor. Ledonne emphasizes the critical role mentors play in the legal profession, providing support, guidance, and shaping the careers of those they influence. He states "I can honestly say that I have taken something from every judge that I have practiced in front of and every attorney that I have practiced with to make me who I am today."

Music eases his commutes to and from DeLand, where you could catch him listening to 90's music, Alternative, and Hawaiian Reggae. Had he not pursued a career in law, Ledonne believes he would have found a path in public service, whether in law enforcement, firefighting, or the military. This inclination towards serving the community underscores his dedication to making a positive impact.

A lesser-known fact about Judge Ledonne is his recent foray into international travel. Before 2022, he had never been outside the U.S. However, in the past two years, he and his wife embarked on a Baltic Cruise visiting multiple cities across six countries, followed by another cruise along the West Coast of Europe. This newfound love for travel has led them to explore 12 countries in a short span, with plans to continue their global adventures.



David Ellzey

David's journey into the world of family law is diverse. Born in Gainesville, Florida, he was a child of a long distance timeshare between California and Florida, but ultimately graduated high school in Chiefland, FL.

After high school, David embarked on an initial career in the Air Force, serving as a weather observer. He completed four years of active duty before transitioning to the University of Florida for undergraduate studies. However, his academic pursuits were interrupted by a recall to active duty following the events of 9/11. Upon his return, David completed his bachelor's degree in Telecommunications News. After graduation, he volunteered for another year of active duty before pursuing his law degree at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami.

David's entry into the legal profession began as an assistant public defender, where he found a lifelong mentor in Judge David Beck. Judge Beck's influence was profound, encouraging David to engage with the Special Olympics and Veterans Court. This mentorship extended beyond professional guidance, aiding David in his commission as a JAG officer in the Florida Air National Guard. Judge Beck's wisdom and support played a crucial role in shaping David's career, particularly in the field of family law.

David harbors a love for music, with Lil Yachty, Zach Bryan, and Mac Miller being his favorite artists. Had he not pursued law, David might have become a TV weatherman, utilizing his background in weather forecasting and telecommunications.

One surprising aspect of David's life is his resilience and positive outlook, shaped significantly by his mother's experiences. He humorously credits her five divorces during his childhood for preparing him to be a compassionate and understanding divorce attorney. Despite these challenges, his mother maintained a positive co-parenting relationship with his father, a testament to the strength and unity David now brings to his practice in family law.

David's story is one of dedication, resilience, and a deep-seated commitment to service, both in his military and legal careers. His experiences have uniquely equipped him to navigate the complexities of family law, making him a trusted advocate for his clients.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - THE HILL BROTHERS



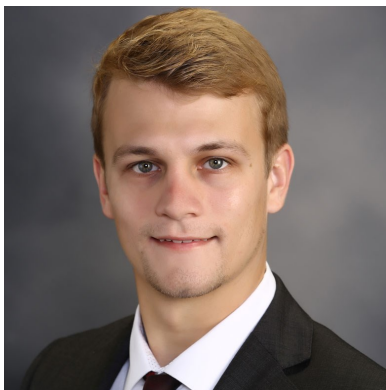
Tom Hill

Born and raised in DeLand and Orange City, Tom has deep roots in the community. They graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University in 2014 and Florida Coastal School of Law in 2017.

Mentorship played a crucial role in shaping their legal career. "I interned for Kirk Bauer while in school and then worked as an associate at his firm for a few years. He is an incredibly talented attorney and I feel very fortunate to have gotten the opportunity to be taught by him," they shared.

When it comes to music, his taste is quite eclectic, with one notable exception, country music. If not practicing law, they would likely be found in the construction industry. "I would have to say either a site developer or a contractor. I love working with skid steers, excavators, front end loaders, etc., plus you get to see your project come to life. Can't beat that," they explained with enthusiasm.

Beyond the courtroom, they have an unexpected hobby that might surprise many. "I'm a 2x harescramble (cross country motorcross) state champion 2022 & 2023".



Dan Hill

Dan proudly graduated from DeLand High, cheering for the Bulldogs. Hill pursued higher education at Florida Gulf Coast University, graduating in 2016, and later earned his law degree from the University of Florida in 2019.

Mentorship has been a significant aspect of Hill's career. He acknowledges his brother, as a mentor despite their sibling rivalry. "While it pains me to say this, probably my brother, Tommy Hill. He worked at the office I had my first job at, and naturally, I found myself going to him for advice and help - he did a decent job helping me through the early stages of my career," Hill lightheartedly shared.

Hill's musical taste is firmly rooted in early 2000's punk rock, which he considers the golden age of music. If he weren't practicing law, Hill believes he would have pursued a career as a physical therapist. "I've read and seen a lot of stories about physical therapists helping people relearn how to walk or perform other daily tasks. I would have loved the opportunity to assist someone through that process," he explained.

Despite his dislike for running, Hill participates in the "Dopey Challenge" every year, a series of four running races (5k, 10k, Half-Marathon, Full-Marathon) over four days at Disney World. "It's usually the first weekend of January and I think it's a good way to start the year - proving to myself that I can accomplish things that make me uncomfortable," he said.



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PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

Save the Dates!

**AUG
15**

Membership Meeting
"Family Law - Navigating
Recent Changes in Legislation"
6:00pm - 8:00pm

**SEPT
14**

Seminar: Road Map to
Professional Paralegals
8:30am - 12:30pm

**SEPT
26**

Event: Simple Defense for
Women
Sponsor - Charles Vega, Esq.
6:00pm - 8:00pm



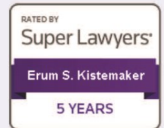
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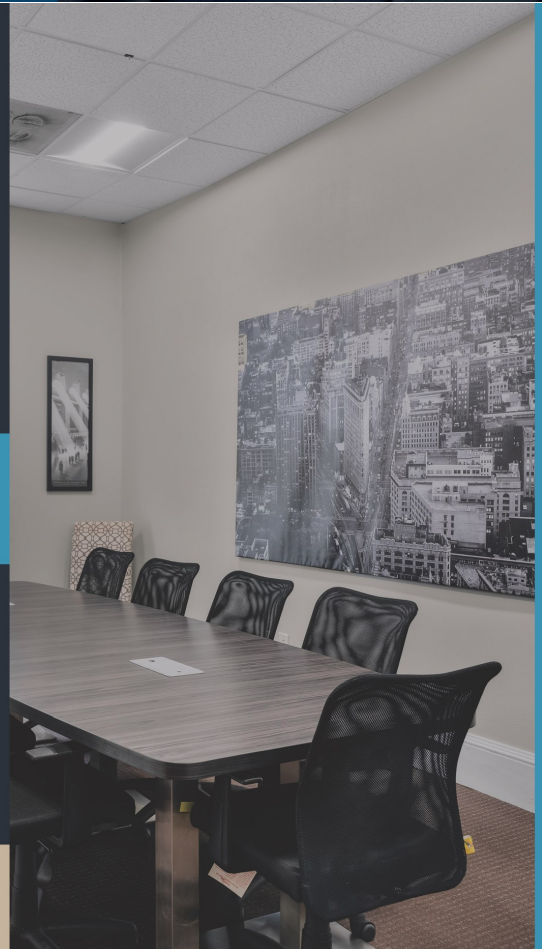
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School Board Attorney

Volusia County School Board is seeking a School Board Attorney. The candidate must have a Juris Doctorate degree from an accredited law school and experience in education law at the K-12 or higher level preferred.

This position will provide legal counsel to the School Board regarding Volusia County Schools and provide policy development services and school Board representation as assigned.

Benefits:

- 401(k)
- Dental insurance
- Health insurance
- Life insurance
- Retirement plan
- Vision insurance
- Eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Schedule:

- 8 hour shift
- Monday to Friday
- On call
- Weekends as needed

Staff Attorney

Volusia County School District is seeking a Staff Attorney. The candidate must have a Juris Doctorate degree from an accredited law school and with preference given to individuals Board Certified in Education Law. Minimum 5 years' experience in the practice of law, with preference for experience in education law at the K-12 or higher education level.

This position will provide legal counsel regarding the day-to-day operations of the Volusia County Schools and provide administration of labor relations, contract administration, and policy development services.

Benefits:

- 401(k)
- Dental insurance
- Health insurance
- Life insurance
- Retirement plan
- Vision insurance
- Eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Schedule:

- 8 hour shift
- Monday to Friday
- On call
- Weekends as needed

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- Daytona Beach Law Library in the Volusia County Courthouse Annex.
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