



COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Volusia County Bar Association | June 2024



Catherine Taylor Lamb

2023 - 2024 President

Volusia County Bar Association

Greetings VCBA,

As we head into June, we mark the halfway point of our calendar year (I can't believe it either).

In doing so, I am delighted to reflect on what we've achieved and continue to achieve through the Volusia County Bar Association. Our local bar association's commitment to professional growth and community support continues to shine brightly, especially through our recent accomplishments in hosting current, on-topic continuing legal education seminars. Most recently, the VCBA hosted CLE seminars on "Artificial Intelligence" as well as "Legal Tools for Mental Health & Substance Abuse." The feedback from these sessions has been positive, and we will continue to plan additional programs for the rest of the year. If you have a great idea for a CLE or have one you wish to present, let us know!

In addition to our educational endeavors, it's essential to continue to recognize the significance of mentorship and mutual support within our association. As attorneys, it's our responsibility to guide and support our newer colleagues as they navigate the complexities of the legal profession. By fostering a culture of mentorship and camaraderie, we not only strengthen our individual practices but also elevate the standards of our entire legal community. I have mentioned before how instrumental it was for me when I was a younger associate. Let's keep up the good work.

As we embark on this new month of June, let us reaffirm our commitment to excellence, collaboration, and community. Together, we will continue to uphold the values of the Volusia County Bar Association and make meaningful contributions to the legal profession and the community we serve.

And on a warm note of welcome (very appropriate for June), I am pleased to spotlight the arrival of our new Executive Director, Sarah Grover, who now takes over for Kathie Selover starting June 1st. Sarah brings with her a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective, and I have no doubt that her skills and contributions will further propel the VCBA to future successes. Let us extend our heartfelt greetings and support to Sarah as she begins this exciting journey with us.

Wishing you all a productive and fulfilling month ahead!

Warm regards,

Catherine Taylor Lamb

President

Volusia County Bar Association



Dear VCBA,

I am honored to join you as your new Executive Director. It is a privilege to be part of such a dynamic and esteemed organization and I look forward to working with you to continue advancing our mission and serving our legal community.

My career and education has equipped me with a diverse range of experience that will be invaluable in my role. I received my undergraduate degree in Integrated Business from the University of Central Florida and Master of Business Administration from Stetson University. Over the past eight years I have worked in association management as well as spent time volunteering and have served two terms on a local non-profit Board. Throughout my experience I have learned the importance of building strong relationships, fostering engagement, and creating value for members.

I am committed to supporting our association in every way possible; through organizing impactful Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminars, enhancing our communication and engagement, ensuring the seamless execution of our programs and events, my goal is to make sure the VCBA continues to thrive and serve as a valuable resource for all our members.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunities ahead and am here to support you in any way I can. Please feel free to reach out with any ideas, questions, or feedback. Thank you for welcoming me to this role, together we can achieve great things for the Volusia County Bar Association.

Sincerely,

Sarah Grover

Executive Director

Volusia County Bar Association

CLE RECAP

Artificial Intelligence 2024: Thinking in a New Era

May 17, 2024

CLE Credits: 3

Thank you to our speakers for making this event possible:

- **Lori Sandman**, Esq. Sandman Law Office, PLLC
- **Jeff Franklin**, Esq., Prince Law Offices PC
- **Derreck Ogden**, CEO of W-O-M Technology Management Group

We will also have a recording available for purchase for those who were unable to make it.

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



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Lori Sandman



Lori specializes in Intellectual Property law, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets. Additionally, she is proficient in Alternative Dispute Resolution, encompassing mediation and arbitration.

Born on an Air Force base in Newfoundland, Canada, Lori's early life was marked by frequent relocations. She spent her childhood in south Florida but also experienced living in various countries, including a memorable third grade in Guatemala and eighth grade in Australia. Lori pursued her undergraduate studies at the University of Vermont, graduating in 1986. She later attended law school at the University of Montana in Missoula, where she earned her law degree in 2008.

Lori's legal career was notably devoid of a traditional mentor. She believes this lack of guidance initially put her at a disadvantage. However, working with many inspirational and influential individuals, particularly women, helped her develop her professionalism. Lori strongly advocates for mentorship within the legal field, emphasizing the importance of having a reliable advisor for career development and support.

If Lori were not practicing law, she envisions herself as an explorer or adventurer. This alternative career choice highlights her curiosity, love for discovery, and passion for experiencing new challenges and environments. Lori has a deep appreciation for music, particularly the Americana genre, which blends traditional American styles and instruments with contemporary sounds and technology. In addition to her legal career, Lori is currently studying beekeeping!

Lori Sandman's multifaceted career and interests paint a picture of a dedicated legal professional with a rich personal life and an adventurous spirit. Her journey through various cultures, academic achievements, and personal pursuits exemplifies her dynamic approach to both her profession and life.

Justin Munizzi



Justin is a dedicated legal professional specializing in Business, Real Estate, and Title Services. His primary focus is on advising business owners on routine legal matters and overseeing mergers and acquisitions transactions. His expertise ensures that businesses navigate legal complexities with confidence and precision.

Born in Winter Park, Justin grew up in Lake Mary, Florida. He pursued his undergraduate studies at Stetson University, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2013. He then attended Barry University School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctor degree in 2016.

Throughout his career, Justin benefited from mentors who helped him identify his strengths and weaknesses during his pre-law days. In his legal practice, he learned the most from peers who were also new law firm owners and young attorneys with a business focus. Justin emphasizes the value of learning through experience, acknowledging that mistakes are often part of the process. Recognizing the lack of mentorship in his early legal career, he is now passionate about mentoring others, addressing both spiritual and vocational needs. He recently completed the Florida Bar's mentoring program, forming a meaningful connection with a young attorney. Justin advocates for greater emphasis on mentorship within the legal profession.

If Justin were not practicing law, he envisions himself as either a teacher or the owner of a landscape maintenance company, whimsically named "Munizzi Lawn Firm." Justin's musical tastes are broad, ranging from jazz and southern rock to acoustic and heavy metal. A staple in his household is classic Christian hymns and psalms, with a particular fondness for Brian Sauvé's renditions of the Psalms. One might be surprised to learn that Justin and his family of five own and operate a small hobby ranch on their land. When he's not managing legal matters, Justin enjoys building structures, mowing, and caring for animals on the ranch; this lifestyle brings him immense joy and fulfillment.

Justin's multifaceted career and personal interests highlight his dedication to both the profession and his family.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Michael Drywa



Michael serves as the Associate General Counsel for a software services company headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, while working from home in Volusia County. His practice areas encompass Contract Law, Employment Law, Mergers & Acquisitions, and Litigation Management. Before this role, Michael spent 18 years in private practice in Greater Boston, focusing on Commercial Litigation and Employment Law.

Michael was born and raised in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology from Rhode Island College in 1988 and later pursued his Juris Doctor degree from Roger Williams University School of Law, graduating in 1998. His background in industrial technology provided a unique perspective and foundation for his legal career. Before and during law school, Michael worked as an industrial engineer.

Michael did not have a traditional mentor, but there are many individuals whose generosity aided him greatly throughout his career. He began trying cases only seven months after law school, often relying on his own initiative and the generosity of judges and more experienced opposing counsel. These individuals offered invaluable insights and strategies that helped him refine his legal skills and avoid burnout.

Michael's musical taste leans towards Hard Rock, both classic and modern. His alternative career choice would be to become a full-time writer. A lesser-known fact about Michael is his talent for writing and illustrating children's books, although none of his works have been published yet.



“Why you gotta be so mean?”

Taylor Swift, *Mean*

Recently, it has become more obvious that some of the shiny civility shown in professional practice has started to tarnish. The Florida Bar has noticed too. We are now all required to complete an additional CLE Requirement: *Professionalism Expectations: A Mandatory CLE for Members of The Florida Bar*. Here is a link to the free course: [Florida Bar New CLE Requirement](#)

In addition to the course requirement, the Supreme Court of Florida adopted revised Professionalism Expectations. Part of the Court's Corrected Opinion emphasizes “Florida’s professionalism standards apply to all forms of communication, including online communication, and to both in-person and remote (video or audio) interactions with others”. See [Supreme Court of Florida SC2023-0884](#). It never hurts to take a minute (or more) and consider a response to an email before replying in a manner that is lacking in professionalism and serves little purpose.

Family law practice, in particular, requires the management of clients and their emotions on a heightened scale. While it is easy to mirror the outrage of our clients, rarely is the client’s best interest served by parroting back what they want to hear. Often this bolstering of client emotion leads to ratcheting up the tensions and turmoil of the case, which inevitably trickles down to the children.

I believe that our local family law bar is overwhelmingly congenial and most of us consider each other friends as well as colleagues. We see each other in court, by Zoom, and often at weddings, holiday celebrations, and major personal life events. Battles are being fought in our personal lives and on behalf of our clients.

I look forward to a new Volusia County Bar year, if you have not attended a happy hour social at Chart House, I encourage you to do so. Not only is it totally free for members, but these socials give us an opportunity to connect with colleagues, meet new ones, and remember that we are all more than just advocates for our clients. I hope to see you all there.

Sara E. Glover
Family Law Section and Social Chair, VCBA




SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR IRAQ-AFGHANISTAN MEMORIAL

Dunlawton Avenue, Port Orange

We are excited to announce that "A Grateful Nation Cares, Inc." (AGNC), a Florida non-profit (pending), which three local volunteers are in the process of forming is planning to erect an Iraq Afghanistan Memorial to the Fallen and the Families of the Fallen. The project has been initiated by Eric Gill, Diana Johns, and Jake Johansson. Dedicated not just to those lost in combat; equally important we recognize losses extend beyond the war zone, including veteran suicides. In 2018, one study found nearly 20 veterans per day die by suicide. Since Sept 11, 2001, the total lost to post-combat suicide is over 30,000 which is several multiples of those lost during time of war. Cause and result are the same.

THE MESSAGE: *"It's not enough a grateful nation remembers. More so, a grateful nation cares."* Honoring those lost in service to our country, their families and all whose lives they touched. Their Memorial Day is 24/7 for the rest of their lives.

MEMORIAL CONCEPTUAL PLAN: Looking like they are coming home from deployment, life size bronze castings of soldiers will be the center piece of the monument. Our central figure draws inspiration from Air Force Sgt Tara Brown fallen in Afghanistan in 2011, our central figure is smiling and flashing thumbs-up, happy to be home. The second statue draws inspiration from two fallen service members: Daytona's Anthony Davis fallen in Iraq, 2009, and Sgt Tulsa Tuliiau, late of New York, fallen in Iraq 2005.

	<p>Air Force Master Sgt. Tara R. Brown, 33 of Deltona, FL assigned to Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Joint Base Andrews, MD</p> <p>Died April 27, 2011 serving during Operation Enduring Freedom in Kabul, Afghanistan of wounds sustained from gunfire from an Afghan military trainee.</p>
	<p>Army Staff Sgt. Anthony D. Davis, 29 of Daytona Beach, FL, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia.</p> <p>Died January 6, 2009 serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Tikrit, Iraq, of wounds sustained when he was shot by enemy forces.</p>
	<p>Army Master Sgt. Tulsa T. Tuliiau, 33 of Watertown, NY, assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 314th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 78th Division, Fort Drum NY.</p> <p>Died September 26, 2005 serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom, in Baghdad of injuries sustained when an IED detonated near his Humvee during combat operations near Rustimayah, Iraq.</p>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **Attorney with non-profit corporation experience** to help in creating the organizational structure best suited for the project,
- **Attorney or CPA volunteer** to qualify the non-profit corporation for IRS 501 C-3 status,
- **Professional Engineer** to help refine our site-plan for upcoming meeting with Port Orange Planning Department,
- **Website designer** to get a website up, and also social media person to assist with multiple social media platforms
- **General Contractor/Builder** to advise on the nuts and bolts of taking this from two dimensions to three.
Example: the Iraq-Afghanistan wall that will be the backdrop to our bronze servicemember statues

VCBA members, if you are interested in volunteering for this project, please contact VCBA member Eric Gill, 386-547-1488 or ericgill4393@gmail.com.

General Counsel

Program/Dept.: Court Administration
Location: Daytona Beach
Position #: 11912
Annual Salary: \$95,064
Deadline to Apply: June 7, 2024

Function:

This position serves as legal counsel for the interests of the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court (Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns & Volusia counties). Duties will include but are not limited to:

- Provides legal advice and counsel concerning issues affecting the circuit, including employment-related matters.
- Directs and supervises staff attorneys.
- Assists in the interpretation and implementation of legislation.
- Assures compliance with federal, state, and local regulations and laws.
- Prepares and reviews contracts and administrative orders. Renders opinions relative to substance, form, and propriety.
- Coordinates legal representation for judges and court staff in litigation involving official duties.
- Conducts investigations.

Minimum Requirements:

Juris Doctorate from an accredited law school and 7 years of law-related experience. Membership in good standing in The Florida Bar.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Extensive knowledge of the Florida State Courts System.
- Ability to communicate clearly and succinctly to a variety of audiences using multiple platforms.
- Ability to work cooperatively with Court colleagues and other legal professionals across the state.
- Knowledge of Microsoft Word applications (Word, Excel, and Access).
- Ability to organize work, establish priorities, and meet deadlines.
- Ability to use independent judgment and discretion concerning confidential information.

This State-funded position is paid monthly and includes the State of Florida benefits package. The successful applicant is required to undergo a background check including fingerprinting.



How to Apply

Please submit a writing sample and a completed State of Florida Application via People First OR go to www.circuit7.org, click on "Employment" – then click on "State of Florida Application". To have the application form sent to you, call 386-626-6577.

**Court Administration –
Human Resources
101 N. Alabama Ave
Suite B-206
DeLand, FL 32724**

If you are disabled and require an accommodation to participate in the application/interview process, please contact Anne Pierce at 386-626-6561 or apierce@circuit7.org with as much notice as possible. We will be happy to make every effort to accommodate reasonable requests.

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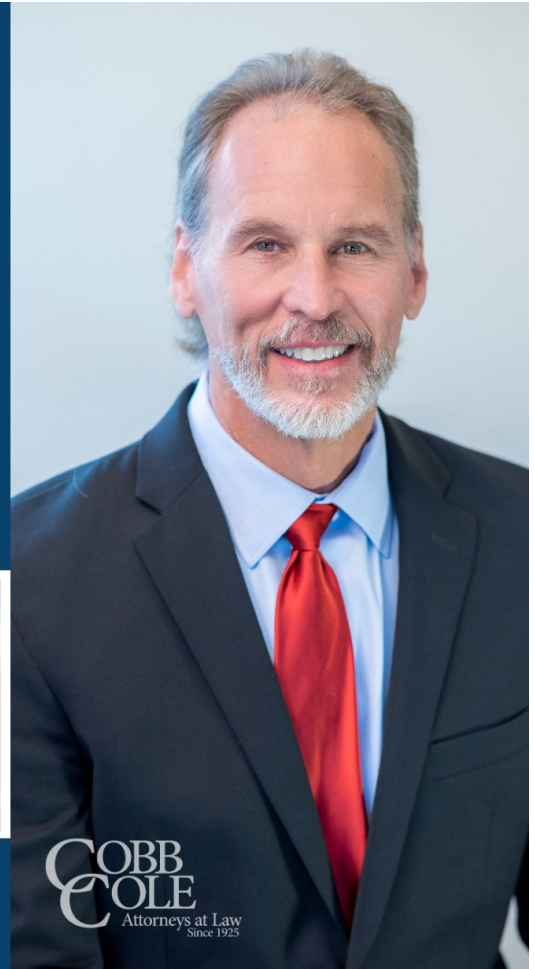
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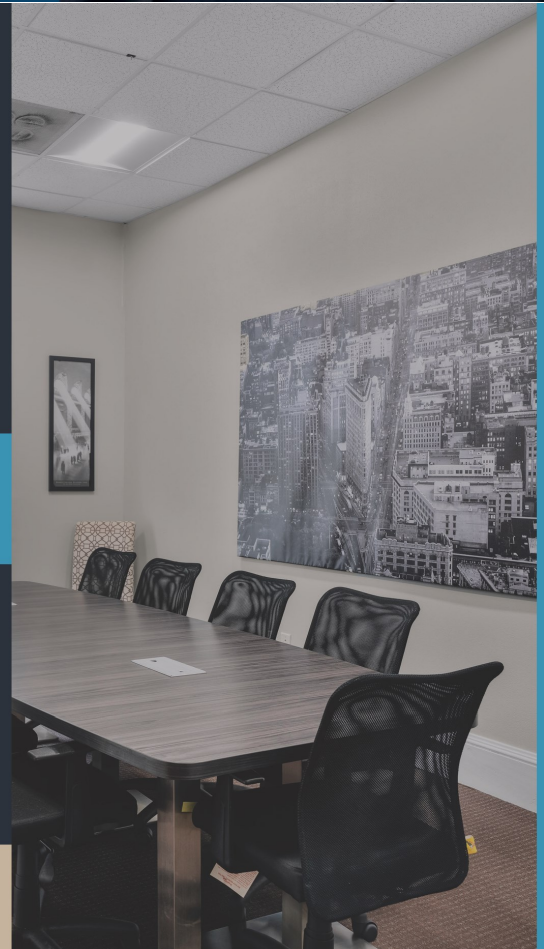
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- Daytona Beach Law Library in the Volusia County Courthouse Annex.
- Volusia County Legal Research Computers in the New Smyrna Beach, Deltona, and Ormond Beach Public Libraries.

www.vclawlib.org

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