

COMMUNICATOR

The Volusia County Bar Association | Newsletter December 2024



Message from the President:

Dear VCBA Members,

As the year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible accomplishments and memorable moments we've shared in 2024. This year has been filled with growth, collaboration, and community, all thanks to your dedication and involvement.

The "Bench and Bar BQ" in April and the Masquerade Ball in October were standout events, showcasing the energy and spirit of our association. A special thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, and attendees for making our events possible.

Our CLE sessions this year have been invaluable, offering tools and knowledge that enhance our profession. From technology to practice insights, your enthusiasm for continued learning has been inspiring.

As we look ahead to 2025, I am excited about the initiatives we have planned, including the progress of our new Technology Committee and Professional Symposium Committee. These efforts aim to elevate our association, offering more opportunities for engagement, innovation, and professional growth.

During this holiday season, I encourage you to take time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the company of your loved ones. Your hard work and commitment to the VCBA make a lasting impact, and I am grateful for each of you. Thank you for being an essential part of our community. Here's to a joyful holiday season and a bright, successful New Year ahead.

Warm regards,

David Ellzey

VCBA President, 2024 - 2025

Message from the Executive Director:

As the year ends and I reflect on my first six months with the VCBA, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for being so welcoming. I'd also like to express my gratitude to our Board of Directors (VCBA and YLD alike) for their incredible patience and guidance. They've graciously answered my many questions and provided invaluable support as I've settled into this position, I'm still learning something new every day.

One of my top priorities is ensuring that we serve you, our members, as effectively as possible. To that end, I want to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to complete this [Member Survey](#). Your feedback will help us shape future initiatives, events, and resources that best meet your needs. I'm excited to continue working together to make this a thriving community for all our members.

Thank you,

Sarah Grover

Executive Director



VCBA MEMBERSHIP DUES UPDATE

VCBA Exciting Updates to Member Platform and Dues Payment

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Volusia County Bar Association's new Member Platform - JoinIt, designed to make managing your membership easier and more efficient! This enhanced system offers a user-friendly experience to:

- Pay Membership Dues securely online.
- Update Your Profile information anytime.
- Access Member Benefits and resources conveniently.

To get started:

1. [Visit our new Member Platform - JoinIt](#)
2. As an existing member, your profile should be available and you should be able to login. If you are unable to login, please contact volusiabar@gmail.com
3. Explore the features and update your profile information.
 - As a reminder, the attorney search feature on the website is an additional fee of \$50 plus \$10 for each additional field of search.
 - If you wish to use this feature, please fill out the information and you will receive a separate invoice from QuickBooks.
4. Process payment for 2025 dues.

For questions or assistance, please contact us at volusiabar@gmail.com.

Thank you for being a valued member of the Volusia County Bar Association. We're excited about this step forward and can't wait for you to experience it!

Warm regards,

The VCBA Technology Committee

CHECK IT OUT NOW!!



YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION - TOY DRIVE

The YLD is excited to invite you and your firm to join us in spreading holiday cheer to foster children through our 8th Annual Holiday Drive!

This year we have three different ways to contribute.

1. **Sponsor a Foster Child:** [Review the list](#) and pick a child. The list shows wish-list items. You do not have to purchase the exact gifts. View the list here and email us (volusiabar@gmail.com) with your Family ID# donation to mark it off the list.
2. **Support Children's Safety:** The same organization that works with us to collect gifts for foster children, is in need of bike helmets and knee/elbow pads of all sizes for children who get bikes and scooters this holiday season.
3. **Gift Cards:** The foster agency can also always use Walmart or Visa gift cards to buy gifts for any children that come into their care at the last minute.



How to get involved:

- Review the above 3 options. If you are sponsoring a foster child, please email us (volusiabar@gmail.com) with the specific child or children you are sponsoring.
- Do not wrap the gift(s). Please place all gift(s) in a gift bag without tissue paper.
- If you have selected to sponsor a foster child, please mark the bag with that Child's ID number.
- Deliver your gift(s) to one of the three in-person drop-off locations or the Amazon delivery location by Monday, December 9, 2024 at 5:00 pm. If using Amazon delivery, please make sure to include the child's ID number on the Amazon "gift receipt."

Drop off Locations:

Daytona Beach/Amazon:

Attn: Angela Burke or Desiree Castro
Office of Regional Conflict Counsel
149 S. Ridgewood Ave.
6TH FLOOR
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Port Orange:

Attn: Carleen Leffler
851 Dunlawton Ave., Suite 300
Port Orange, FL 32127

DeLand:

ATTN: Sydney Cichon, Cobb Cole
231 N. Woodland Blvd.
DeLand, FL 32724

Join us in making this holiday season magical for children in foster care. Your kindness and generosity will bring so much joy to a child's life and help make their Christmas wish come true.

Young Lawyers Division, VCBA

SAVE THE DATES!



VCBA AND VFAWL PRESENT

MEMBER MEETING

With the Florida Bar Present, Roland Sanchez-Medina

FEBRUARY 7, 2025



11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

REGISTER NOW

“The Daytona”
1870 Victory Cir.
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NOW!**

SAVE THE DATE

BENCH AND BARBEQUE

April 17, 2025
Brannon Center, New Smyrna Beach



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Judge Randell H. Rowe, III



I am a 5th-generation Floridian originally from the panhandle town of Madison where I grew up and attended Madison High School. In 1983 I graduated in the centennial class of Stetson University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance. Thereafter, I received my law degree from the Cumberland School of Law of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama.

Following law school, I returned to Volusia County and began my legal career as the first judicial staff attorney hired for the Seventh Judicial Circuit. Chief Judge Kim C. Hammond offered me the job, and I was assigned to work with him in Flagler and Volusia Counties. It was a great learning experience and Judge Hammond proved to be a true mentor and role model to me. I knew that I wanted to become a judge someday after my law clerk experience.



My next legal job was as an assistant county attorney for Volusia County. After 12 years in that position, in December of 2005 I was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to fill a newly created circuit judge position in Volusia County. Subsequently, I was elected and then twice re-elected unopposed and have been a circuit judge for 19 years now. I have spent most of that time presiding over civil and criminal divisions. Following the retirement of Judge Jim Clayton earlier this year, I became the most senior judge in the Seventh Judicial Circuit. The time has really flown by! I remind my colleagues that, while I may be the most senior judge now, I am not the oldest judge around – yet!

For the entire time I have been a judge, I've a member of the Volusia County Law Library Board of Trustees, the Dunn-Blount American Inn of Court, and the DeLand Rotary Club. I am a former officer and director of the Volusia County Bar Association and a two-term past president of the Flagler County Bar Association.

Concerning the “favorite local restaurant” question, I like any place that has good lasagna or a great rib-eye steak. However, I would have to say that I frequent Tom’s Pizza the most because it’s next door to the DeLand courthouse and is the preferred lunch place for many of the judges there.

As for my career choice if not in the legal profession, I would say that I probably would have used my business degree and sought a position in the corporate world. Maybe it’s not too late for that if I decide to retire soon! Chances are, though, upon retirement I most likely will spend my time traveling and pursuing my gardening hobby.

Something not known about me, I make awesome homemade chocolate milkshakes! Also, that I spend a fair amount of weekend time managing my family-owned timber LLC.

Notice: Judge Foxman has retired effective November 29 to focus on his health. “Judge Foxman has been a great friend to me personally and to many of my colleagues on the bench,” Chief Judge Leah Case said in a news release. Judge Foxman was admitted to The Florida Bar in 1999 and elected to a circuit judgeship in 2010. He was reelected in 2016 and 2022 without opposition. Foxman served in the Family Law and Felony divisions in Volusia and Flagler counties. Before joining the court, Foxman was an assistant state attorney. Foxman’s seat will be filled by gubernatorial appointment.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jeffrey Bigman



Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Bigman says “You can take the boy out of Brooklyn, but you can’t take the Brooklyn out of the boy.” While Brooklyn shaped much of his character, it didn’t dictate his sports allegiance—he’s a proud Yankees fan, steering clear of the Mets, Giants, or Dodgers.

After graduating from Queens College of the City University of New York in 1980, he pursued his legal education at Fordham University School of Law, earning his degree in 1983. His career began on Wall Street in Commercial Litigation, where he quickly honed his skills as a trial attorney. Over the next 12 years in New York, he developed a specialization in defending medical malpractice actions and disciplinary matters for healthcare providers.

In 1996, he relocated to Florida, expanding his practice to include a broader array of insurance defense and civil trial work. Today, he is a Board-Certified Civil Trial Lawyer, representing clients in Insurance Defense, injury actions, and product liability cases. His reputation for excellence is built on a foundation of integrity, a value instilled early on by his New York mentors. Their guidance helped him achieve the distinction of becoming one of the youngest partners at the largest insurance defense firm in the country in 1990.

In Florida, his career was further shaped by his partnership with the recently retired Judge Terence Perkins. Working alongside Perkins at what is now Smith Bigman Brock, he gained invaluable insight into balancing zealous advocacy with professionalism—qualities he continues to exemplify.

When he isn’t preparing for trial, he enjoys dining at local favorites like 63 Sovereign and L’angolo in Ormond Beach. However, he may argue that his home kitchen is the best spot in town, as he cooks most evenings when he isn’t immersed in case preparation.

If he weren’t practicing law, his dream career would involve pitching for the Yankees—or at least announcing or writing about them. His passion for baseball extends beyond spectating; he’s a near-expert in Fantasy Baseball, a game he has been mastering since 1988.

From his formative years in Brooklyn to his thriving career in Florida, his journey reflects a commitment to excellence, mentorship, and the joy of pursuing one’s passions—both in and out of the courtroom.

Q&A Time

Q

Who’s a great member you know?

A

Nominate someone to be a VCBA member spotlight and make their day! Email volusiabar@gmail.com



INVESTITURE



You are cordially invited to attend the investiture of

**The Honorable
Robert W. Pickens, III**

as

Circuit Judge

of the

**Seventh Judicial Circuit
State of Florida**

Friday, December 13, 2024

3:30 PM

Historic Volusia County Courthouse
120 West Indiana Ave
DeLand, Florida

Reception to follow

Professional Services Offer

Dear VCBA,

I recently had the pleasure of with the Sarah (Executive Director, VCBA), assisting with transitioning to a paperless system and automating workflows for better efficiency. My experience uniquely positions me to understand and cater to the needs of attorneys and other professionals, providing reliable, professional support to help you focus on what you do best.

I wanted to share the services offered by Prevail Tech Consulting, a trusted partner in providing tailored virtual assistance and managed IT services for professionals and businesses.

Virtual Assistance Services

With over 15 years of experience as an assistant for both a State Attorney's office and private defense firms, I bring a deep understanding of the organizational and operational needs of legal professionals. My virtual assistance services include:

- **Calendar Management:** Scheduling meetings, appointments, and reminders to keep your day organized.
- **Email Management:** Sorting, responding, and prioritizing communications for better efficiency.
- **Client Communication & Follow-Ups:** Ensuring your clients are engaged and informed.
- **Data Entry & Management:** Maintaining accurate and updated records.
- **Document Preparation:** Drafting, proofreading, and organizing essential documents.
- **Research:** Gathering and analyzing information to meet your needs.
- **Administrative Support:** Handling day-to-day administrative tasks.

Managed IT Services

In addition to virtual assistance, Prevail Tech Consulting provides comprehensive IT management solutions, ensuring your technology works seamlessly to support your business. These services include:

- **24/7 Desktop, Network, and Server Management & Monitoring**
- **Managed Backup and Disaster Recovery:** Protecting your critical data.
- **Office 365 Hosted Email Services with SPAM Filtering**
- **RingCentral Phone System Management Services**

If you're looking for professional support tailored to your needs, I'd love the opportunity to assist you. Please feel free to reach out to discuss how Prevail Tech Consulting can support you.

Contact Information

Jennifer Barnes
Email: Jennifer@prevailtechconsulting.com
Phone: 386-227-7309



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JOB POSTING

CITY OF PORT ORANGE ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

Conveniently located on the east coast of Florida between Daytona Beach and New Smyrna Beach, the City of Port Orange is a vibrant, up-and-coming community and home to 66,000 residents. Covering 29 square miles, Port Orange is a moderately sized city in Volusia County with waterfront property lining the intracoastal waterway. Port Orange is accessible via I-95 and US-1. The City operates under a Council-Manager form of government.



Under the general direction of the City Attorney, the Assistant City Attorney provides comprehensive support to department heads on routine matters to protect the interests of the City. The Assistant City Attorney will also assist the City Attorney on complex research tasks and occasional civil litigation.

Port Orange seeks candidates who have the ability to work well with the City Attorney's legal team and can earn the trust and respect of the City's management team. A Juris Doctor Degree from an accredited law school preferably with three years or more of experience as a practicing attorney and a substantial amount of which has been in the practice of local government law, or other relevant experience in the government or private sector. The selected candidate must be an attorney eligible to practice law in Florida with an active Florida Bar license and in good standing with the Florida Bar at the time of appointment.

The City of Port Orange offers a competitive starting salary range of \$96,000 - \$115,000 depending upon qualifications and experience. A generous benefits program including health, dental, and life insurance, paid vacation, sick leave, and other professional development assistance is included. The City offers a defined contribution retirement plan 401(a) with a 10% City contribution, and an optional matching program (457 plan) which allows employees to earn up to an additional 3% contribution on a 2-1 match. The Assistant City Attorney position also qualifies for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. Normal office hours are expected (with occasional after-hours meetings), but there is no residency requirement for the position.

Applications for the position will be accepted through December 31, 2024.

For more information on this position please feel free to visit our website www.port-orange.org/jobs.

Thank you sponsors!

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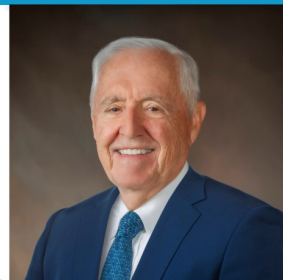
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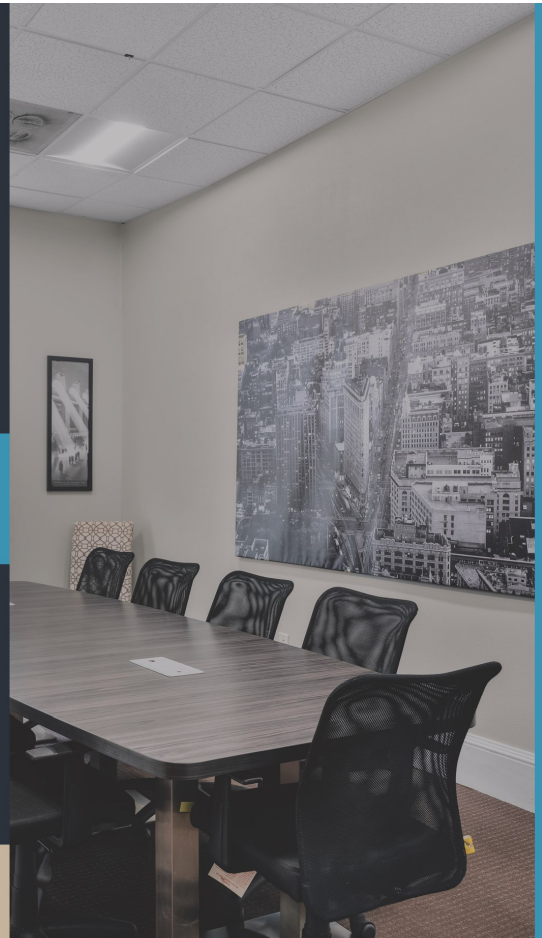
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Volusia County Law Library



Happy Holidays



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Regular Priced Books



December 2nd - December 31st



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101 N. Alabama Ave., Rm. B318
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-25

Board of Directors for the Volusia County Bar Association and the Young Lawyers Divisions for the 2024-2025 year (August - July). The Annual Meeting took place on August 2nd, 2024, for the official vote and swearing in ceremony led by Judge Katherine Hurst Miller.

2024-25 VCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Alyson Bryant, *Treasurer*
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Kelsey Hansen-Walter

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Family Law Section - Sara Glover, Chair
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Workers Comp Section - Clay Meek, Chair

Volusia County Bar Association

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