

COMMUNICATOR

The Volusia County Bar Association | Newsletter October 2024



ITS FALL Y'ALL

Don't miss out on important updates, upcoming events, and opportunities to get involved! Be sure to check out this month's newsletter for details on our upcoming events, including the much-anticipated YLD Masquerade Ball on October 18th. You'll also find information on CLEs, socials, and other networking opportunities. Get plugged in and make the most of your VCBA membership!

Join the Professional Symposium Committee!

We're thrilled to announce the formation of a new Professional Symposium Committee at the VCBA, and we're looking for passionate members to get involved! This committee offers a unique chance to help plan and organize impactful symposiums aimed at professional development for our members. With minimal time commitment and no prior event planning experience necessary, it's a fantastic way to contribute and connect with colleagues. We are seeking a small group of 3-5 members.

If you're interested, please reach out to volusia-bar@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29 VCBA EVENTS	30	1	2	3	4 Community Legal Services Event	5
6	7	8	9	10 Mental Health Awareness Day	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Volusia County Paralegal Meeting	18 Masquerade Ball	19
20	21	22	23 Community Legal Services Event	24	25	26
27	28	29 CLE: Tools and Tech of a Private Investigator	30	31 Halloween	1	2

YLD President Message

Dear Colleagues,

As we enter October, it's a great time to pause and reflect on the importance of mental health, especially as World Mental Health Day approaches on October 10, 2024. Mental health is critical to our well-being, and as lawyers, we often face unique challenges that can take a toll on our emotional and psychological health. Whether it's the stress of managing a heavy workload, navigating the complexities of our cases, or balancing personal and professional life, it's essential to prioritize self-care.

This World Mental Health Day, I encourage each of you to take a moment to focus on your own mental wellness. That might mean taking a break, seeking support from a mentor or peer, or engaging in activities that bring you peace and joy. Remember, taking care of your mental health is not a luxury—it's a necessity for sustaining long-term success in this demanding profession.

On a lighter note, our highly anticipated **Second Biennial Masquerade Ball** is just around the corner! Join us on **October 18, 2024, at the Brannon Center in New Smyrna Beach** for an unforgettable evening of fun, elegance, and networking. This is a fantastic opportunity to unwind and reconnect with fellow members of the bar in a festive atmosphere.

If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to secure your tickets and/or consider becoming a sponsor. With the event approaching quickly, tickets are selling fast—don't miss out on being part of this wonderful tradition!

I look forward to seeing you all there, masked and ready for an amazing night.

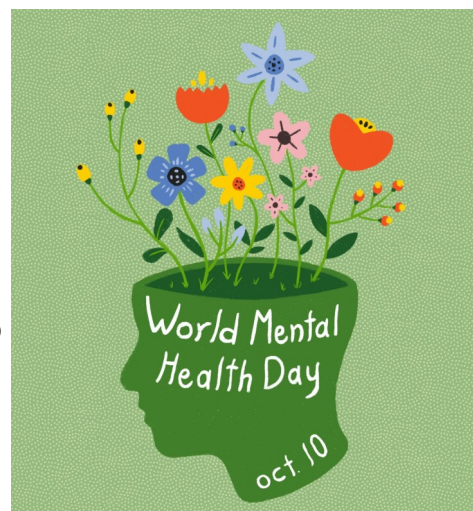
Sincerely,

Carleen A. Leffler

Volusia County Bar YLD President

REGISTER NOW!

BECOME A SPONSOR



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

UPCOMING EVENTS



Tools and Technology of an Expert Private Investigator

By Nathan A. Deschenes

Date: Oct. 29, 2024, at 6:00 pm

Location: Venue 142, 142 N. Woodland Blvd., DeLand, FL, 32720

Cost: VCBA Members: \$20

CLE Credits: 1.0 Technology

Tools and Technology of an Expert Private Investigator (1 hour). Followed by social hour with lite bites, beer and wine.

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Kelsey Hansen-Walter

Kelsey is a first-year associate attorney at Smith Bigman Brock P.A. in Daytona Beach, where she practices insurance defense litigation. Born in Rhode Island, she moved to New Bern, North Carolina, as a child and grew up there.

Kelsey completed her undergraduate degree at Queens University of Charlotte in 2012, earned a master's in Global Sustainability from the University of South Florida in 2017, and graduated from Barry Law School in 2023. During law school, her mentor was Professor Rachel Deming, who taught her about the practical aspects of law and the importance of building relationships. More recently, Kelsey has learned from her supervisors, Jeff Bigman, Elizabeth Myers, and Brooke Gaffney, whose guidance has been invaluable to her growth.

Kelsey loves Hollerbach's German restaurant, but closer to home, she enjoys La Terraza and Izzy's in New Smyrna Beach. If she wasn't practicing law, Kelsey says she would probably be a park ranger leading nature tours for the National Park Service, preferably out west. A surprising fact about Kelsey is that the 1999 movie *The Mummy* briefly inspired her to pursue a career as an Egyptologist. She still loves *Revenge of the Mummy*, her favorite ride at Universal Studios.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Judge Kathleen McNeilly

Judge McNeilly's exposure to excellent judges came early. Based on her law school achievements she was honored to be hired before law school graduation in December, 1987, by Federal Trial Court judges, starting in the Middle and then in the Southern Districts of Florida. Only a handful of law graduates are selected as law clerks in Federal Court. She, thereafter, practiced primarily commercial litigation and insurance defense through her 7th year as an attorney when she relocated home to Volusia County, where she opened a satellite office for a Miami law firm at which she practiced almost exclusively insurance defense. She opened her own law firm approximately a year and a half later in 1995. The first half of her career (after completing 2 federal clerkships) she primarily litigated insurance defense cases for 8 different insurance companies. For the most recent 15 ½ years before taking the bench, she appeared in court no less than 4 days a week practicing primarily criminal and juvenile dependency. She had a highly successful law practice in Volusia County and surrounding counties for 22 of her 29 years before taking the bench in January, 2017.

In a case that lasted 5 ½ years in litigation, a senior professional had occasion to write when the case concluded: "Kathleen, you are a true professional. There are not many of your caliber left." Judge McNeilly was humbled by the words and has always believed the observation was made because her ego does not get in the way of doing her job. Judge McNeilly cannot imagine a more interesting career than law!

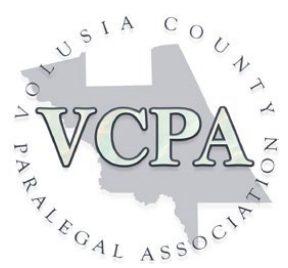
Judge McNeilly understands the value of preparation and carefully listening and considering all parties' positions. She rotated to the criminal felony division in May, 2024. Up until this year, most of her time on the bench had been devoted to working with our most vulnerable children. Throughout the 7th Circuit in all four counties: St. Johns, Palatka, Flagler and Volusia, over her tenure she has covered dockets for other judges.

Outside of her legal career, Judge McNeilly enjoys cooking Italian, and enjoys all cuisines, including the *original Bellini's Roast Beef sub* offered at "Wrap it Up" where a nephew has added to the menu a few of the former Bellini's Delicatessen submarine sandwiches in the Mainstreet Center, DeLand, Florida.

An interesting fact about Judge McNeilly is she treats no one as a stranger. She worked from a young age at Duff's Smorgasbord, Quincy's Steakhouse and one weekend day a month at Furchgott's Department Store in the Daytona Beach area, simply because she enjoyed working, her independence (and the shoe discount), and she graduated from Stetson (college and law school) in 5 ½ years.



VOLUSIA COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION



125 N. Ridgewood Ave., Suite 100, Daytona Beach, FL 32114
volusiaparalegals@gmail.com - volusiacountyparalegal.com

BASKET BRIGADE

The Volusia County Paralegal Association is teaming up with the Volusia Thanksgiving Basket Brigade! We have committed to 20 boxes. The approximate cost to fill a box is \$35-45. If you or your firm would like to contribute, we will be happy to pick up all donated items for package and delivery during the week of November 15th-22nd. Don't have time to shop and still want to contribute? Donations are accepted and we will do the shopping for you! Below is a suggested list of items, but additional items are welcome.

- Green Beans (3)
- Canned Corn (3)
- Brownie Mix (2)
- Yams (2)
- Boxed Stuffing (2)
- Gravy Package Mix
- Mini Marshmallows
- Corn Bread Mix
- Scalloped Potatoes (2)
- Mashed Potato Mix (2)
- Cranberry Sauce (2)
- Cream of Mushroom Soup (2)
- Fried Onion Strings
- \$10-\$15 Gift Card for a Turkey*



*VCPA will provide the gift cards for every filled donated box.

Please contact Michelle Williams at mwilliams@lawdaytona.com if you are willing to participate in providing a Thanksgiving meal to families in need in our community. For additional information regarding the Volusia Thanksgiving Basket Brigade, please visit <https://www.volusiabasketbrigade.com/>

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 17, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M @ Houligan's

Our presenter will be Jessica Roberts, Esq. who will be presenting: "Criminal Law: Handling/Managing Clients in Crisis". You will receive 1 NALA CLE for the presentation. (The Florida Bar recognizes NALA CLEs)

- Membership Cost with dinner: \$ 21.00
- Membership cost without dinner: \$7.00
- Non membership cost with dinner: \$26.00
- Non membership cost without dinner: \$10.00

Payment will be taken at the door. Please RSVP by October 15, 2024, by emailing Volusiaparalegals@gmail.com.

Community Legal Services

Friday, Oct. 4, 2024

3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Sealing & Expungement Clinic

*John H. Dickerson Community Center, 308
Dr. M.L.K. Jr. Blvd, Daytona Beach*

 [FLYER Daytona S&E Att.pdf](#)

We are looking for attorneys to provide legal advice to clients regarding their chances of having their criminal charge sealed or expunged. No criminal law experience necessary and we will provide CLE accredited training.

Wednesday, Oct 23, 2024

3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Volusia Walk-in Clinic

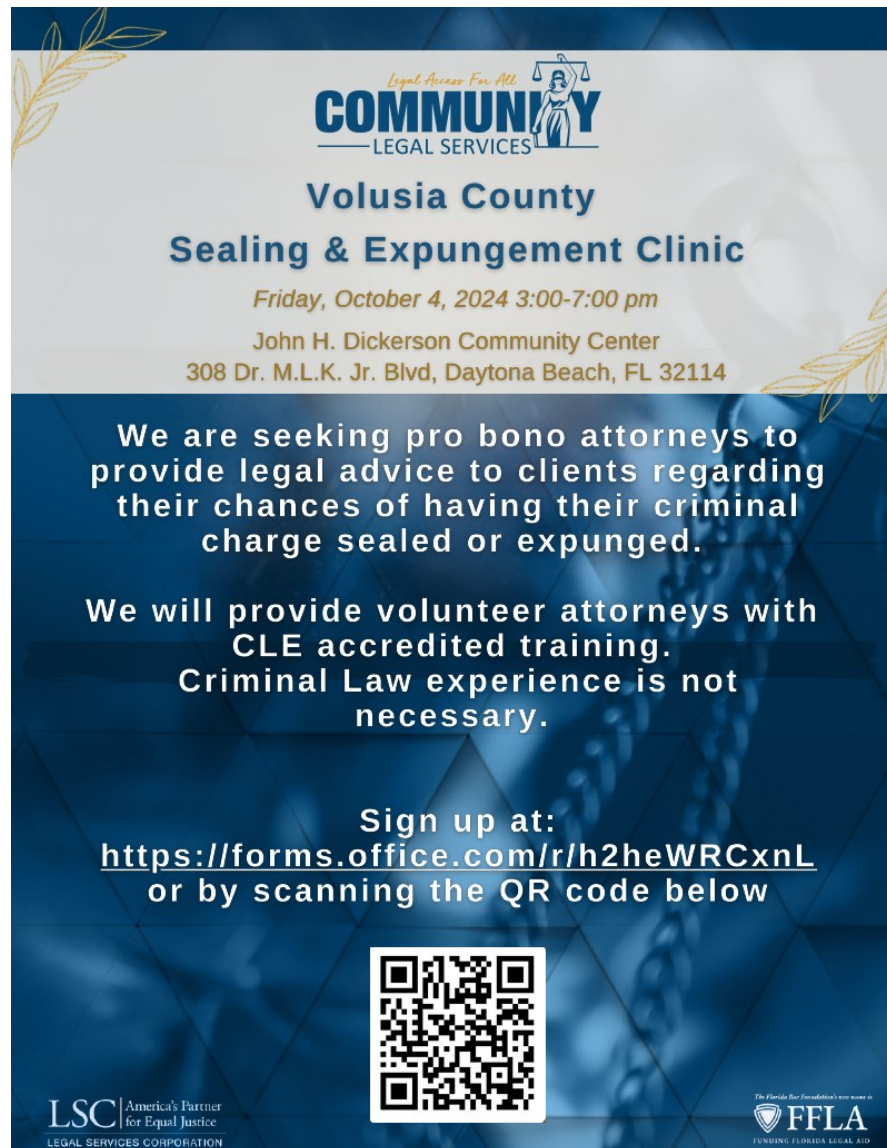
CLS Office located at 1440 N Nova Rd Ste
101, Daytona Beach, FL 32117

We are looking for attorneys in all areas of law to provide legal advice to clients at our annual walk-in clinic in Daytona Beach. The topics covered will depend on which attorneys volunteer. This is one of our busiest clinics since it is during pro bono month!

 [Annual Walk In Clinic 2024 Att.pdf](#)

If you are interested in volunteering, please feel free to reach out to Courtney Jones at courtnej@clsmf.org or at 404-593-3812.

If you would like to go ahead and register as a volunteer for one of the clinics, please use the QR code that can be found by following the PDF link for that specific clinic. We are open to all suggestions and also consider mentoring and community educational sessions as pro bono work as well.



The flyer features a blue and white color scheme with a background of a chain of links. At the top, it reads "Legal Access For All" above the "COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES" logo, which includes a scale of justice icon. Below this, it specifies "Volusia County Sealing & Expungement Clinic" for "Friday, October 4, 2024 3:00-7:00 pm" at the "John H. Dickerson Community Center, 308 Dr. M.L.K. Jr. Blvd, Daytona Beach, FL 32114". The main text states: "We are seeking pro bono attorneys to provide legal advice to clients regarding their chances of having their criminal charge sealed or expunged. We will provide volunteer attorneys with CLE accredited training. Criminal Law experience is not necessary." It provides a sign-up link: "https://forms.office.com/r/h2heWRCxnL" and a QR code. Logos for LSC (America's Partner for Equal Justice) and FFLA (The Florida Bar Foundation's arm to fund FLA) are at the bottom.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 27, 2024

CONTACT: Andrew Morgan

Seventh Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission

Phone: (904) 824-9402

Email: amorgan@cananlaw.com

**SEVENTH CIRCUIT JUDICIAL NOMINATING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF CIRCUIT COURT VACANCY
AND REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – Governor Ron DeSantis has requested that the Seventh Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission convene for the purpose of selecting and submitting a list of highly qualified lawyers for appointment to the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court. The Seventh Judicial Circuit Court includes Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns, and Volusia counties. This appointment shall fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Terence R. Perkins.

The Seventh Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission shall accept applications for the vacancy. Applicants must meet the qualifications for circuit court judges as described in Article V, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution.

The deadline to apply is 12:00 pm EST on Wednesday, October 23, 2024. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered by the JNC. All applications must be delivered by email to Commissioner Andrew Morgan at amorgan@cananlaw.com.

The current version of the application (“Judicial Appointment Application 2022”) is available at: <https://www.flgov.com/judicial-and-judicial-nominating-commission-information/>

To be considered, an applicant must deliver the following by email:

1. A .pdf version of the complete application with all attachments; and
2. A .pdf redacted version of the complete application with all attachments, excluding all exempt information under Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, or other applicable law.

A complete application shall include: a signed Certificate, Financial History, notarized Form 6, Judicial Application Data Record, FDLE form, a writing sample, and a current color photograph. All questions in the application must be answered fully and completely. Applicants must include current contact information for all judges, co-counsel, opposing counsel, and references to facilitate the background investigation. Each .pdf file should be titled so that the applicant’s full name and “original” or “redacted” is readily apparent before opening the attachment. The application and all attachments should be combined into a single .pdf file.

After the application deadline, the interview schedule and location shall be published by separate notice. **Interviews are tentatively scheduled to occur on Tuesday, November 19, 2024.**

Urgently Needed

We're Hiring at Kistemaker Business Law Group

Associate Attorney Position

Associate attorney needed in Ormond Beach. Kistemaker Business Law Group has an opening for a 2-6 year attorney to join our boutique firm that focuses on community, real property, business and civil litigation law. Experience in both condo/HOA law and any litigation preferred.

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Partially remote position will be considered

Please send your resume to
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Urgently Needed

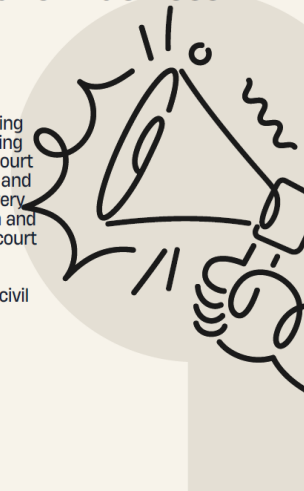
We're Hiring at Kistemaker Business Law Group

Paralegal Position

The Paralegal will assist attorney(s) by providing clerical and research support services including document preparation and review; research, Court filings and scheduling, Public record searches and corporate searches and fact checking; discovery preparation, response and hearing preparation and support, record documents and file and serve court documents.

Real Estate, Business Law, Estate planning, or civil litigation - (Preferred)
Notary Public - (required)
Ormond Beach, FL 32176 (Preferred)
Location Volusia County
Partially remote position will be considered

Please send your resume to
Admin@e-kbusinesslaw.com




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Munizzi Law Firm, a dynamic and client-focused legal practice based in Central Florida, is seeking a highly motivated and entrepreneurial Business Development Attorney to join our team on a 1099 independent contractor basis. This position is designed for a driven legal professional who is passionate about growing their career in business development within the legal industry. At Munizzi Law Firm, we are dedicated to providing innovative and proactive legal solutions to businesses and individuals. Our practice areas include Business Legal Services, Real Estate Services, and Title Services. With a client-first approach, we have successfully formed and advised over 5,000 businesses, handled more than 2,100 real estate transactions and managed over \$200 million in escrowed funds annually. Our mission is to build meaningful relationships with our clients, offering true value to their lives and businesses.

Location: Florida (Remote/Field)

Position Type: Independent Contractor (1099)

Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume, along with a cover letter highlighting their business development experience and motivation for applying, to Legal@munizzilaw.com. For more information on job posting follow [this link](#).





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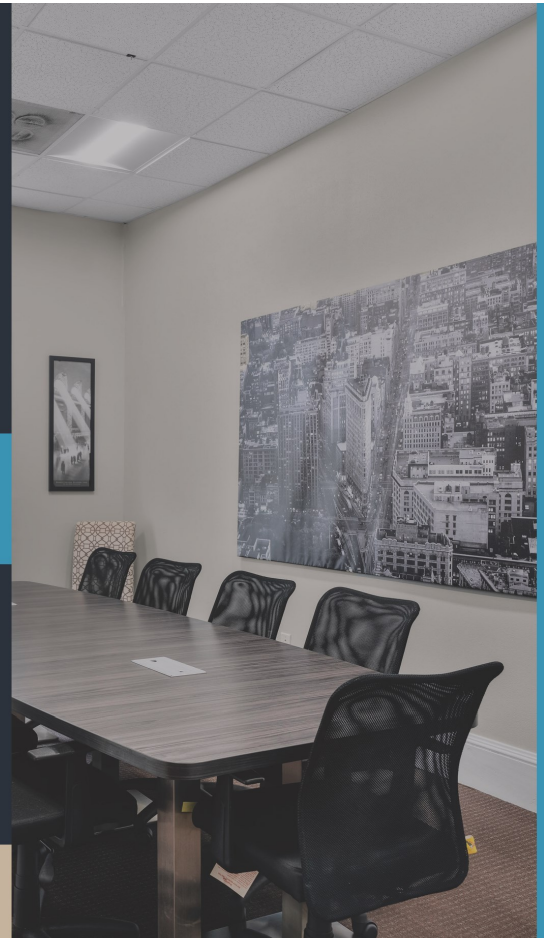
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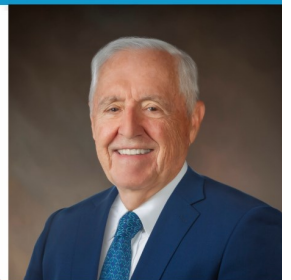


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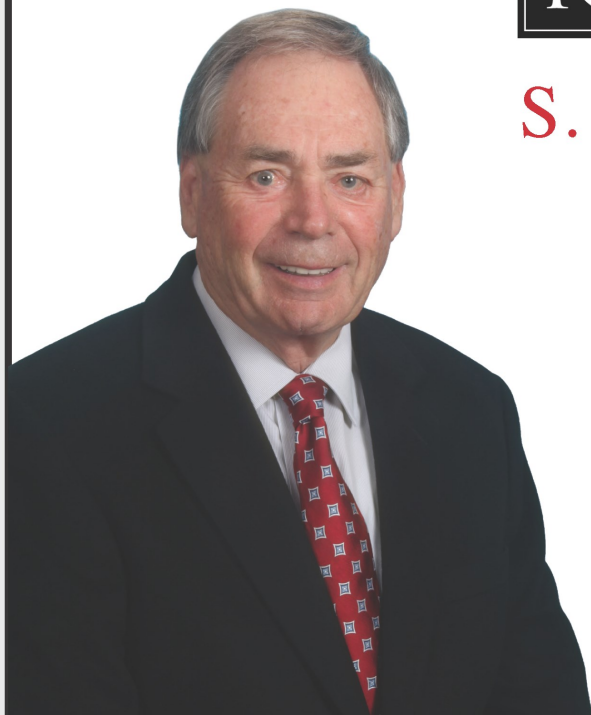
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Volusia County Law Library

<u>RESOURCES</u>	<u>WESTLAW</u>	<u>CLE COURSES</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Case Law & Statutes- Computer Resources- Practice Manuals- Form Books- Law Practice Management	Free access to Westlaw online research in the DeLand and Daytona Beach courthouse law libraries and public	Visit the Law Library's website to view a complete list of titles available to rent at the Daytona Beach and DeLand Law Libraries.

vclawlib.org

KVP



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S. LaRue Williams

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.

<p><u>2024-25 VCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u></p> <p>David Ellzey, <i>President</i></p> <p>Lori Sandman, <i>President Elect</i></p> <p>Tonya Cromartie, <i>Treasurer</i></p> <p>Michael Ciocchetti, <i>Secretary</i></p>		<p>Director 2022-25</p> <p>Charley Vega</p> <p>MaryCatherine Crock</p> <p>Mel Stack</p>	
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		<p>Director 2024-27</p> <p>Sundria Ridgely</p> <p>Tammy Jaques</p> <p>Michele Simonsen</p>	
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SECTIONS & COMMITTEES

Solo/Small Firm Section - Lori Sandman, Chair
 Family Law Section - Sara Glover, Chair
 Elder Law Section - Victoria Zinn, Chair
 State & Local Government Section - Carly Meek, Chair
 Workers Comp Section - Clay Meek, Chair

Volusia County Bar Association

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