

YLD VIRTUAL SUMMIT

PROGRAM GUIDE



Thursday, November 2, 2023



8:30a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



100% ONLINE & FREE Live via Hublio



THE FLORIDA BAR

TRIAL

LAWYERS SECTION



THE FLORIDA BAR
**GOVERNMENT LAWYER
SECTION**

HMH

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HENDERSON**



LEADERSHIP MESSAGES



“This year, to coincide with the YLD’s theme of “Professionalism in Practice,” we have created programming and initiatives to ensure young lawyers are given the tools, education, and resources they need to exhibit the highest standards of professionalism and excel in their legal careers. The over 30 CLE sessions at the YLD Virtual Summit were designed with this in mind, and we’re excited to see you all there!”

Anisha Patel
YLD President



“The YLD Virtual Summit chairs, Tiffany Hilton and Warren Chin, under the guidance of President Anisha Patel, have created a unique space with speakers from across the state addressing a wide variety of topics. This one stop shop CLE covers all things a young lawyer or law student could ever need to know to master the practice of law. We hope you enjoy it!”

Ashlea Edwards
YLD President-Elect



LEADERSHIP MESSAGES



“In the ever-evolving landscape of legal practice, the inaugural virtual summit serves as a beacon of innovation, knowledge, and collaboration. This landmark event showcases the remarkable potential of technology to bridge geographical gaps, unite legal minds, and empower the next generation of legal professionals. With a diverse array of expert speakers, young lawyers will be able to learn and grow in their skills from anywhere. This virtual summit represents a pivotal moment in the legal landscape, one where this board is leveraging technology, experience and innovation to benefit the minds who will shape it.”

Tiffany Hilton

YLD Virtual Summit Co-Chair



“The Young Lawyers Division is excited to host the Virtual Summit: Mastering the Practice of Law. This event is the first of its kind and will offer over 30 free CLE credits to our members. The topics covered will provide something from every type of young lawyer and will help enhance their real-world practical skills.”

Warren Chin

YLD Virtual Summit Co-Chair



EVENT SCHEDULE



Thursday, November 2, 2023



8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Opening Remarks: 8:30 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.



Session 1: 8:35 a.m. - 9:25 a.m.



Session 2: 9:25 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.



Break: 10:15 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.



Session 3: 10:20 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.



Session 4 The Florida Bar Section Showcase:

11:10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Session 5: 12:10 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Session 6: 1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.



Closing Remarks: 1:50 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.



SESSION 1 BREAKOUT ROOMS

SCHEDULE

🕒 8:35 a.m. - 9:25 a.m.

Legislative Updates - Business Law, Employment Law, Real Estate, Tort Reform

Moderated by: YLD Governor Ayana Barrow - 18th Circuit

SPEAKER BIOS



Kevin Johnson, Esq.
Johnson Jackson PLLC

Kevin Johnson is a founding shareholder of Johnson Jackson PLLC, a Tampa law firm specializing in management-side labor and employment law. Kevin graduated from the University of Florida's Levin College of Law in 1994. He has been Board Certified by The Florida Bar in Labor and Employment Law since 2007. Kevin has been named to the SuperLawyers list of the Top 100 lawyers in Florida eleven times since 2012.

Kevin is a past chair of The Florida Bar's Civil Procedure Rules Committee, its Standing Committee on Technology, its Solo and Small Firm Section, and its Council of Sections. He currently serves on the The Florida Bar's Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence. Kevin is also a past President of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

Kevin has litigated cases in courts throughout the United States. He enjoys helping employers work through challenging circumstances to make good decisions about their employees and their employment practices.





Patrick Neale, Esq.
Patrick Neale & Associates

Patrick is an attorney, a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil mediator and qualified arbitrator who practices law in the areas of construction law, small business law, bankruptcy, land use, contractor licensing, real estate, zoning, governmental and administrative law and aviation law. His firm specializes in a holistic approach to solving clients' problems. Patrick is the Code Enforcement Magistrate for Collier County and the attorney for the Collier County Contractor Licensing Board. He has represented clients before the Legislature, Governor and Cabinet, the Collier County Commission, City of Marco Island Council, state and federal courts and various governmental boards and agencies.

Patrick has been a resident of Collier County since 1987 and member of the Florida Bar since 1978. He is a member of the Senior Lawyers and Voluntary Bar Liaison Committees and Chair of the Aviation Law Committee. Patrick has received many awards, including: the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce in 2007; the Collier County Women's Bar Association Special Recognition Award for his service on the Foreclosure Task Force in 2009; the Legal Aid Leadership Award in 2012; Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year for 2017; the Collier Bar Foundation Service Award in 2019; and the Leadership Collier Foundation Distinguished Alumni Award.

A proud Hurricane, Patrick is a graduate of the University of Miami with a BS in Chemistry and a graduate of the University of Miami School of Law. He is also an adjunct professor of hospitality law at FGCU.



Manuel Farach, Esq.
Mrachek Law

Manuel Farach is a shareholder in the West Palm Beach office of Mrachek Law where he represents clients with complex real estate, business and appellate issues. Mr. Farach is board-certified by The Florida Bar in Real Estate Law, Business Litigation and Appellate Law.

Manny is: Co-Chair of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section's Real Property Litigation Committee; Chair-Elect of the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar; past Chair of the Florida Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instructions for Contract Cases; and an elected member of the Florida Bar's Board of Governors, the Board of Governors of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers, and of the American Law Institute.

He serves as an Adjunct Professor of Real Estate Law at the Florida State University College of Law, and is the author of West's Florida Real Estate Law treatise and the Case Law Update.





Todd Michaels, Esq.
The Haggard Law Firm

Todd Michaels, a lifelong Miami-Dade resident, joined The Haggard Law Firm in 2009 and was named partner in May 2014. Todd handles a wide array of cases involving wrongful death and catastrophic personal injury, representing clients who were injured through the negligence of others.

His practice primarily involves negligent security throughout the State of Florida and nationwide. Todd frequently speaks on various aspects of negligent security law and has published articles relating to negligent security cases. In addition to his negligent security work, Todd also handles rideshare (Uber/Lift) liability, premises liability, aviation, pool drowning, auto accident and other injury cases.

In 2019, Todd Michaels tried a medical malpractice wrongful death case that resulted in a \$24.5 million verdict in Broward County Court. Todd also tried the negligent security case of *Snell vs. Family Food Saver* which resulted in a verdict of \$5.7 million for the Snell family. It was the largest premises liability verdict in the State of Florida that year.

Todd was twice named Most Effective Lawyer by the Daily Business Review and named several times to the Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers lists, including the Top 100 Super Lawyers. In 2019, he was recognized as a BRONZE EAGLE Award Winner by the Florida Justice Association, an award bestowed to those who show an extraordinary contribution to the FJA EAGLE Program. Todd is FJA Secretary and will become President of the organization.

Before joining The Haggard Law Firm, Todd served as an assistant public defender for nearly five years. During his last year with the public defender's office, he worked as a felony training attorney who supervised other felony trial lawyers. After leaving the public defender's office, Todd served as a federal public defender and a private criminal defense practitioner. He tried more than fifty trials in both the State and Federal Court systems.

In 2018, Michaels was selected by his peers to become one of the distinguished and exclusive Fellows of The Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers, the National Trial Lawyers, top 40 Under 40, and is a member of ABOTA, along with several other organizations.

Todd often says that his greatest accomplishment was becoming a father to his two sons, Ashton and Jackson Michaels.



The Entrepreneurial Lawyer: How to Start and Organically Grow Your Own Law Firm

Moderated by: YLD Governor Veronique Malebranche - 11th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Geralda David, Esq.
David Law Office, P.A.

Geralda David is a personal injury attorney who speaks French and Creole fluently. She's a member of the Young Lawyers Division of the Florida Bar, the Broward County Bar Association, and she's currently the Vice- President of the Haitian Lawyers Association.

Geralda developed a passion for law at a very young age. After earning her B.A. degree with honors at Florida International University (FIU), she decided to pursue her dream of becoming an attorney. She received her Juris Doctorate from FIU Law and successfully passed the Florida Bar Exam. While attending FIU Law, Geralda spent a summer studying abroad in Seville, Spain.

Geralda worked at the Carlos A. Costa Immigration and Human Rights Clinic at FIU as a Certified Legal Intern (CLI), representing low income immigrant clients in cases involving, but not limited to, political asylum, citizenship, cancellation of removal, and deportation. She also worked for the Investor Advocacy Clinic at FIU as a CLI, representing small investors in securities arbitration claims.

When Attorney David started practicing law, she found her passion in helping people who have been injured as a result of someone else's negligence. She enjoys helping people who are seriously hurt, and she helps them recover monetary damages for their injuries. Specifically, Geralda handles different types of personal injury cases such as automobile accidents, bicycle accidents, premises liability, defective products, slip and fall, trip and fall, nursing home abuse, wrongful death, dog bites, medical malpractice, food poisoning, prescription errors, inadequate security, pedestrian accidents, construction accidents, and drowning accidents. Attorney David has successfully handled wrongful death cases and several 6-figure settlements contributing to her overall settlements exceeding 7-figures.



Career Showcase

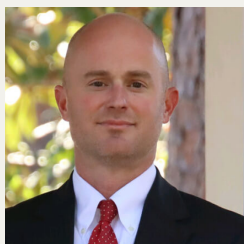
Moderated by: YLD Governor Alexis Deveau - 13th Circuit

SPEAKER BIOS



Angela Castronovo, Esq.
Progressive

Angela Castronovo began her career as a Miami-Dade county prosecutor. During her tenure, she served as a County Training Attorney and one of four Assistant Chiefs for County Court. She prosecuted many cases and jury trials including a homicide. She also represented the State Attorney's Office during community events with the Spanish media. She later worked as retained counsel for insurance defense firms and worked for Allstate Staff Counsel as an of counsel attorney. She is Board Certified in Civil Trial. Currently, she manages the House Counsel bodily injury office for Progressive in Broward. She is also the President of ABOTA Ft. Lauderdale Chapter.



John Durrett, Esq.
Office of the State Attorney for the Third Judicial Circuit

John Durrett serves as the State Attorney for the Third Judicial Circuit of Florida. He was elected State Attorney by the people of the Third Circuit in August, 2020, and was sworn in on January 5th, 2021.

John has been with the State Attorney's Office since beginning his legal career in 2007. In his time with the office he has prosecuted crimes ranging from misdemeanor offenses to capital felonies.

Prior to election John was assigned to the Special Prosecution Division within the State Attorney's Office, where he prosecuted homicides and those who committed sexual crimes against children. John additionally served as the supervising attorney for the Columbia County Office of the State Attorney.

He and his wife have two children and reside in Lake City, Florida.





Lieutenant Junior Grade Jeremy Lorenzo-Rivera
Staff Attorney: Coast Guard

LTJG Lorenzo-Rivera is a Reserve Officer serving on Extended Active Duty with Coast Guard's General Law office in Washington, D.C.

Prior to this assignment, he served as a Reserve JAG with Legal Service Command in Norfolk, VA. While there, he mobilized for Operation Allies Welcome and augmented several active duty units during critical personnel shortages including: Sector New York, the Office for Information and Intelligence Law, and Military Personnel Policy Sustainment. He attended Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and received his commission in June of 2021.

Before joining the Coast Guard, LTJG Lorenzo-Rivera worked in both criminal defense and prosecution. He later went on to work in securities litigation for Pomerantz, LLP in New York City, which specialized in representing defrauded investors in large class-action lawsuits. Currently, he serves as a Police Officer for the New York City Police Department where he is assigned to Patrol in the Bronx.

LTJG Lorenzo-Rivera graduated from the University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law in 2013. While there, he spent his summers studying at the University of Cambridge in England. He also worked for legal aid clinics both in Richmond, VA and in London, England. LTJG Lorenzo-Rivera is admitted to the New York Bar and is fluent in Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese.

LTJG Lorenzo-Rivera is both a second generation Police Officer and second generation service member with a mother who is retired NYPD and a father who is retired U.S. Army (Master Sgt.) He has a sister who is an Army veteran and a brother currently serving in the U.S. Air Force. LTJG Lorenzo-Rivera resides in New York City and enjoys running, traveling, and video games.





Lieutenant Junior Grade Kwadwo Yeboah-Kankam
Staff Attorney: Coast Guard - Cyber Command

LTJG Kwadwo Kankam serves as a Reserve Judge Advocate for Cyber Command at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Prior to this assignment, he graduated from the Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination (“ROCI”) program at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy as part of ROCI Class 1-23.

Before joining the Coast Guard, LTJG Kankam was a federal civilian attorney at the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Justice. At these agencies, LTJG Kankam practiced law in various areas, including employment and labor law, federal government contracts and procurement, ethics, privacy, and criminal law. LTJG Kankam’s currently works for PwC US Group LLP in his civilian capacity, where he specializes in contracts and transactional work.

LTJG Kankam is originally from Ghana and is the first member in his immediate family to serve in the U.S. Military. LTJG Kankam received his Bachelor’s Degrees in Business Management and Political Science from Virginia Tech in 2008, his J.D. from the University of Richmond School of Law in 2013, and his MBA from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2014. While in law school, he served as President for the Black Law Students Association, participated in both the International Business Law and Intellectual Property clinics, and was on the Global Business Journal. LTJG Kankam is licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia and regularly engages in pro bono work through the D. C. Pro Bono Center, where he represents indigent clients in matters ranging from landlord-tenant issues, family law, business, and criminal law.

When not working, LTJG Kankam enjoys spending time with his 14 year-old son, traveling, hiking, and running. He also enjoys visiting wineries and attending live performances. He currently resides in the D.C. Metropolitan Area.





Melissa Fair
Federal Bureau of Investigations

Melissa Fair has been a Special Agent with the FBI for over 15 years. She was assigned to the St. Louis Division's Joint Terrorism Task Force for nearly 10 years. She then transferred to the Tampa Division where she also worked International Terrorism investigations. Most recently, SA Fair serves as FBI Tampa's Special Agent Applicant Coordinator and Recruiter. Prior to the FBI, SA Fair enlisted in the US Army Reserves and trained and operated as a Counterintelligence (CI) Agent. She deployed for Iraq in 2004 and served as a CI Agent at an Enemy Prisoner of War detainment facility. SA Fair was later assigned to US Central Command as a reservist and was also hired as a federal contractor working CI and Targeting matters. She has a BA in Criminal Justice from Bellevue University. She is married with two kids!



Brian Kobel, Esq.
Federal Bureau of Investigations

Supervisory Special Agent Brian Kobel has been with the FBI for over 27 years. He currently serves as the Acting Chief Division Counsel for the Tampa Division, where he has been an Associate Division Counsel since 2008.

Prior to his Tampa assignment, SSA Kobel served in the FBI's Phoenix Division, where he spent most of his time investigating violent crimes occurring on Native American reservations following his initial assignment to complex white collar crime matters. Before entering the FBI, SSA Kobel was an Assistant State Attorney in Punta Gorda, Florida. SSA Kobel has a JD from Florida State University (FSU) College of Law (1992) as well as a BS in Computer and Information Science, also from FSU (1990).





Elizabeth Tarbert, Esq.
The Florida Bar

Elizabeth Clark Tarbert is Director of the Lawyer Regulation Division for The Florida Bar which is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of disciplinary complaints against Florida Bar members. She also serves as counsel to The Florida Bar Board of Governors Disciplinary Review, Disciplinary Procedure, and Rules Committees. Elizabeth was Ethics Counsel for The Florida Bar from 1997-2021, providing oral and written ethics opinions to members of The Florida Bar and advising: the Professional Ethics Committee; Standing Committee on Advertising; and Board Review Committee on Professional Ethics. She currently serves on the ABA Standing Committee on Professional Regulation and is a former member of, and current liaison to, the ABA Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

She was an Assistant Public Defender in both Dallas, Texas and the Eighth Judicial Circuit in Gainesville, Florida. While at the Defense Contract Management District Mid-Atlantic, Defense Logistics Agency in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Elizabeth worked in a special fraud remedies unit.

Elizabeth graduated from the University of Florida College of Law with honors and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Florida. She frequently speaks on legal ethics and professional responsibility.

Florida Sunshine Law & Public Records

Moderated by: YLD Governor Allan Charles - 2nd Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Patricia Gleason, Esq.
Attorney General Office

Pat Gleason serves as Special Counsel for Open Government for Attorney General Ashley Moody. She has served as the Advocate for the Florida Ethics Commission and Chief of the Administrative Law Section in the Attorney General's Office. She is a graduate of Florida State University College of Law in Tallahassee and is the editor of the Sunshine Manual and the Public Records Guide for Law Enforcement agencies.



Criminal Scoresheets

Moderated by: YLD Governor Caleb Kenyon - 8th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Alexander Gilewicz, Esq.

Office of the State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit

Alexander J Gilewicz is an Assistant State Attorney with the 7th Judicial Circuit working in Putnam County. His caseload includes a wide range of felony charges including those punishable by life in prison. Alexander spent eight years in the United States Marine Corps before moving to Florida to attend law school. He graduated from Florida Coastal School of Law in 2015 and began his legal career as a criminal defense attorney before moving across the aisle. Alexander is an Associate member of the St Augustine Inns of Court and a member of the Putnam County Bar Association.

Cybersecurity and the Practice of Law

Moderated by: YLD Governor Arti Hirani - 9th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Steven Teppler, Esq.

Mandelbaum Barrett PC

Steven W. Teppler is Mandelbaum Barrett's Chief Cybersecurity/Legal Officer, and leads the firm's cybersecurity and privacy practice. Steven focuses his practice on pro-active, preventive and remedial cybersecurity and privacy work for clients, and advises clients on potential class action and mass tort liability arising from security vulnerabilities and code defects in technology-enabled devices and services. Steven is an ISACA Certified Data Privacy Solutions Engineer, and teaches electronic discovery and cybersecurity law at Nova Southeastern Shepard Broad School of Law.



Professionalism & Mental Health in the Family Law Context

Moderated by: YLD Governor Tiffany-Ashley Disney - 11th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Judge Jason Emilios Dimitris **11th Judicial Circuit**

Judge Dimitris is a 11th Circuit Court Judge presiding over the “Complex Trial Division” of Unified Family Court, which includes Family, Dependency, Delinquency and Domestic violence cases. Judge Dimitris has previously served in the Civil Division of Miami Dade County Court.

Before becoming a judge in 2013, Judge Dimitris held Florida statewide positions. From 2010 to 2013, Judge Dimitris was General Counsel and Chief Ethics Officer at the Florida Department of Management Services (DMS) (a 700 employee Florida agency that essentially handles the business operations of Florida government). Judge Dimitris served from 2007 to 2010 as the Chief of Staff and Interim Inspector General for the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) the Florida Social Services Department consisting of over 13,000 state employees.

Judge Dimitris began his legal career in Miami as a state, statewide, and then a federal prosecutor; he tried nearly 50 jury trials and hundreds of bench trials. As a prosecutor, Judge Dimitris specialized in technology and economic crimes and became the head of technology crimes and identity theft cases for the Florida Office of the Attorney General. Now, as a Circuit Judge, Judge Dimitris has been appointed by the Chief Judge as Chair of the 11th Judicial Circuit Technology Committee.

Judge Dimitris is an adjunct professor at the University of Miami School of Law and teaches trial practice. Additionally, Judge Dimitris is the St. Thomas University School of Law Peter Fay Inn of Court President where he helps organize and lead meetings of students and practitioners. Judge Dimitris is a track leader at the Florida Circuit Court Judicial Conference and a track leader at Florida’s Advanced Judicial Studies School. Judge Dimitris teaches Florida’s new judges at Florida Judicial College. Judge Dimitris regularly teaches judges, lawyers and practitioners throughout Florida and nationally where he has enjoyed participation of nearly 1,000 participants on numerous occasions.

Judge Dimitris has served for multiple years as the Chair of the Judicial Advisory Committee for KidSide, an organization that provides funding for free and reduced-fee services for children and families in Family Court. Judge Dimitris also served for several years as the Judicial Representative for the Community Based Care Alliance.

While a student at Stetson Law School, Judge Dimitris served as Editor-in-Chief of The Stetson Law Review. Before law school Judge Dimitris was a teacher of youth at risk for the Outward Bound School.

Judge Dimitris is married, has two young daughters and a Weimaraner. Judge Dimitris has volunteered as a licensed emergency medical technician and firefighter for over twenty years. Judge Dimitris enjoys health and wellness, completing three Ironman triathlons and nearly twenty marathons, and has summited Mount Rainier.



SESSION 2 BREAKOUT ROOMS

SCHEDULE

🕒 9:25 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Legislative Updates - Elder Law, Estate Planning, Family Law

Moderated by: YLD Governor Kayla Richmond - 20th Circuit

SPEAKER BIOS



Family Law: Andrea Reid, Esq.
The Reid Law Group

Andrea Reid, Esq. is an attorney in Boca Raton, Florida who focuses her practice in Marital and Family Law. Andrea's two terms as co-chair of the Legislation Committee of the Family Law Section and eight years as a member of the Legislation committee, have found her front and center in the campaigns for alimony reform. Andrea has appeared before the Florida Legislature on numerous occasions, strongly advocating for the standing positions of the Family Law Section and for Florida's families. In 2023 as Co-Chair of Legislation, Andrea worked alongside members of the Family Law Section and the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers to pursue fair and balanced legislation. Andrea was the recipient of the 2022 Honorable Raymond T. McNeal professionalism award and has been a long-standing member of the Family Law Section Executive council.





Elder Law - Collett Small, Esq.
Slater & Small PLLC

Collett P. Small is a founding Partner of Slater & Small PLLC. She served as the Chair of the Elder Law Section of the Florida Bar 2017-2018. Ms. Small is Board Certified by the Florida Bar as a Specialist in Elder Law. She is the Vice Chair of the Florida Bar Continuing Legal Education Committee.

Ms. Small is an Adjunct Professor of Law at St. Thomas University, School of Law where she teaches the Elder Law Clinic. Ms Small writes articles that address Elder Law issues and frequently lectures in the area of Elder Law, Estate Planning, Guardianship, and Probate.

Ms. Small has been recognized as a Super Lawyer in Elder Law in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. In law school she worked as an intern with the Social Security Administration Office of Hearings and Appeals on disability cases. Prior to law school Ms. Small enjoyed a successful career as a Bank Manager with two major financial institutions. When she is away from the office she enjoys traveling, competing in marathons, gardening, and spending time with her family.





Estate Planning: Amy Fanzlaw, Esq.
Osborne & Osborne, P.A.

Admitted to the practice of law in Florida in 1995, Amy J. Fanzlaw is a Florida elder law and estate planning attorney who focuses her practice exclusively on wills and trusts; estate planning; nursing home, Medicaid, and long-term care planning; guardianships; disability planning, including special needs trusts; asset protection, wealth preservation, and business succession planning; and estate and trust administration.

Ms. Fanzlaw has distinguished herself as a Florida elder law attorney by becoming one of only nine attorneys out of nearly 94,000 attorneys who is board certified by The Florida Bar as an expert and specialist in Wills, Trusts and Estates and in Elder Law. She has been chosen as a Florida Super Lawyer® “Rising Star” for three straight years, and she is rated as a “10” for “Superb” on Avvo.com. She has also been awarded an AV “Preeminent” peer review rating by Martindale-Hubbell, which is the highest rating afforded an attorney.

As a past president of the Craig S. Barnard American Inn of Court in West Palm Beach, Florida, Ms. Fanzlaw served with other attorney leaders and judges on the Florida Leadership Council, which is a state-wide liaison group advising and assisting more than 38 local chapters of the American Inns of Court in Florida. She is a founding charter member of the South Palm Beach Chapter of Florida Association for Women Lawyers and served as its first membership director. She has also served two terms as a member of The Florida Bar Probate Rules committee. She is currently a member of the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys (AFELA); National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA); South Palm Beach County Bar Association, where she is a member of the Probate and Guardianship Committee; and Palm Beach County Bar Association.



Originating Business, Marketing, Advertising

Moderated by: YLD Governor Kellen Vincent - 3rd Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Michael Orr, Esq.
Orr | Cook

Michael Fox Orr is a partner at Orr Cook in Jacksonville who focuses his practice on complex commercial and civil matters typically in high stakes or high-profile litigation. He has tried more than 20 civil jury trials to verdict and several bench trials, and argued before 5th of the 6th District Courts of Appeal in Florida, with successful opinions as both an appellant and appellee. His work has led to his recognition by many prestigious groups, including the American Board of Trial Advocates, Best Lawyers in America, Florida Trend Legal Elite, Florida Super Lawyers, and others.

Michael's work for the legal profession is robust. More than 17 years in Florida Bar and Jacksonville Bar leadership positions have culminated in Michael being: elected and appointed to the Executive Committee of The Florida Bar Board of Governors multiple times; his re-election as one of two elected lawyers representing lawyers and judges in the Fourth Judicial Circuit; and his past position as President of The Jacksonville Bar.

Michael has been trusted to lead several significant committees for the Board of Governors. Michael presently serves as Chair of The Florida Bar's Budget Committee, which oversees the fiscal and budgetary policies of the Bar. He has served as co-Chair of the Disciplinary Review Committee for The Florida Bar, which oversees the prosecution and appeals for disciplinary violations by Florida lawyers and recommends policy on lawyer regulation and disciplinary matters. Finally, Michael has served as Chair of the Board Review Committee on Professional Ethics (twice) which reviews advisory ethics opinions issued to Florida lawyers and appealed to the Board of Governors.



Character & Fitness: Presented by the Florida Board of Bar Examiners

Moderated by: YLD Governor Haley VanFleteren - 1st Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



James “JT” Almon, Esq.
The Florida Board of Bar Examiners

James T. Almon is the General Counsel of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners (“FBBE”). He represents the FBBE in character and fitness matters and rulemaking before the Florida Supreme Court. He also represents the FBBE in federal lawsuits involving civil rights, ADA, and constitutional claims. In addition, Mr. Almon is responsible for developing FBBE policies and procedures, advising on background investigations, and supervising attorneys in the FBBE’s Office of General Counsel. Before serving as General Counsel, Mr. Almon was a shareholder with the Miami law firm Kenny Nachwalter, P.A., where he litigated antitrust cases throughout the United States.



Advising Governmental Agencies

Moderated by: YLD Governors Alexandria Nicodemi - 12th Circuit and Reno Pierre - 17th Circuit

SPEAKER BIOS



Kristen Larson, Esq.

Department of Management Services

Kristen Larson is the General Counsel for the Department of Management Services. In this role, she is responsible for overseeing all of the legal advice and representation provided to the Department's diverse program areas. Kristen is a seasoned transactional attorney who has routinely represented state agencies in the negotiation process for significant state contracts, including several with values over \$500 million.

Kristen has spent her legal career learning the ins-and-outs of state government and providing precise, strategic legal advice to her agency clients. Kristen has negotiated contracts for a variety of services ranging from large banking contracts to wide-scale information technology projects to health care services. She has also advised on significant rulemaking projects, including some that placed her agency client between parties with opposing interests. Kristen's problem-solving mindset in these situations has assisted her clients in finding workable solutions to daunting issues.

Kristen received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Florida International University and a Juris Doctor from Florida State University. During law school, Kristen dedicated herself to gaining as much experience as possible and served on three journals, two of which she served in editorial positions for, while clerking for a state agency and participating in multiple externships. After law school, Kristen served as an attorney for the Department of Financial Services handling procurement and rulemaking processes, and eventually working her way up into a managerial position. Kristen was then selected to be a Deputy General Counsel for the Department of Management Services, where she remained until her appointment into the General Counsel role.





Annika Ashton, Esq.

Office of the Broward County State Attorney's Office

Annika E. Ashton is a Deputy County Attorney at the Broward County Attorney's Office where she advises the County Attorney on the management of the Office. She heads the Office's Finance, Real Property, and Housing practice group, which provides legal services to Broward County in connection with the budget, management of real property, structuring of financial transactions for ongoing capital bond issuances and other financing arrangements, and supports the County's affordable housing programs.

Before joining the County Attorney's Office, she served as a law clerk for the Hon. Adalberto Jordan on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Ms. Ashton has also practiced in the Real Estate and Labor and Employment practice groups of international law firms in New York and Miami. She is a Past President of the Caribbean Bar Association, a graduate of Class I of The Florida Bar's Wm. Reece Smith Jr. Leadership Academy, and serves on committees for Miami-Dade FAWL and the T.J. Reddick Bar Association. Ms. Ashton graduated from Columbia Law School and Princeton University.





Hans Ottinot, Esq.
Ottinot Law, P.A.

Attorney Hans Ottinot is the founder and managing partner of Ottinot Law P.A., who manages the day-to-day affairs of the law firm. Mr. Ottinot has over twenty years of experience handling governmental and complex business law matters.

Prior to founding Ottinot Law, Mr. Ottinot worked for the City of Sunny Isles Beach for 19 years, serving as its City Attorney for 14 of those years. In the capacity as City Attorney, Mr. Ottinot did it all, from running the day-to-day operations of the legal department to handling complex land use and real estate matters, which helped to redefine the City, to drafting ordinances, resolutions and handling labor disputes.

In addition to playing a pivotal role in the redevelopment of the City of Sunny Isles Beach, Florida, Mr. Ottinot played a pivotal role with the founding leaders in the creation of the City of Miami Gardens. He has represented private businesses in complex development matters to promote smart growth development projects and negotiated complex contracts in the areas of commercial leasing, employment, sports law, and joint venture agreements.

Through his Firm, Mr. Ottinot has served as the City Attorney for the City of North Miami Beach and North Miami, and currently serves as City Attorney for the City of Tamarac. Mr. Ottinot attends all commission meetings and workshops and works closely with the city manager, department directors and, most importantly, with the elected officials to handle critical legal matters on the City's behalf. Mr. Ottinot also represents governmental entities and private clients in the tri-county area in land use and business matters.

In addition to the law practice, Mr. Ottinot feels strongly about serving the community. He has served on numerous boards and committees during his legal career including serving as: Past Chair to the 11th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission; Past Chair to the Florida Bar's City, County, and Local Government Section; Government Lawyer Liaison to the Florida Bar Board of Governors; a member of the Miami-Dade County Charter Committee; Past President of Haitian Lawyers Association; and an active participant in the Wilkie D. Ferguson Bar Association, the T.J. Reddick Bar Association, Caribbean Bar Association, the Virgil Hawkins Bar Association, the Cuban-American Bar Association and the Miami MoCaad Contemporary Art Group.

Mr. Ottinot provides a variety of training on issues of local and State Ethics, public records and the Sunshine Law throughout Florida and to legal organizations.



The Art of Jury Selection

Moderated by: YLD Governor Yineth Sanchez Aslan

SPEAKER BIOS



Sia Baker Barnes, Esq.,
Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A.

Rosalyn “Sia” Baker-Barnes is a Shareholder at Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A., and the Chairperson of the firm’s Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee. In her over 20-year career, she has successfully pursued justice for victims in personal injury, medical negligence and product liability cases and frequently lectures throughout the United States on catastrophic injury cases. She has achieved numerous multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements, including a landmark \$20 million compensatory and punitive damages verdict against tobacco giant RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company that was affirmed by the Florida Supreme Court and reached the United States Supreme Court.

Ms. Baker-Barnes is a Florida Bar Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer who is recognized by US News & World Report as one of the “Best Lawyers in America” and by Lawdragon as one of America’s “500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers.” Ms. Baker-Barnes serves on The Florida Bar Board of Governors, representing the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. She is the 2022 recipient of one of the Florida Bar’s highest honors, the Henry T. Latimer Diversity Award, for her long time commitment to diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. Ms. Baker-Barnes is a past president of the Palm Beach County Bar Association (PBCBA). She is the Co-Founder and Inaugural President of the Palm Beach County Sheree Davis Cunningham Black Women Lawyers Association. Ms. Baker-Barnes is a proud long-time member of the F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. Bar Association, where she serves as chapter advisor, and the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (PBC FAWL). A life member of the National Bar Association (NBA), she currently serves as Assistant NBA General Counsel. She is a past recipient of the organization’s Presidential Award, and of the NBA’s “Nation’s Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40” award. Baker-Barnes is also a life member of the Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the NBA.





Vanessa Romero-Molina, Esq.
Wicker Smith O'Hara McCoy & Ford, P.A.

Vanessa M. Romero-Molina is a partner in the Miami office of Wicker Smith where she currently focuses her practice on automotive, civil litigation, and premises liability.

In 2009, Ms. Romero-Molina graduated from Florida International University with a major in English Literature and a minor in Political Science. After receiving her undergraduate degree, Ms. Romero-Molina attended Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law where she earned her Juris Doctor in 2013. Prior to joining Wicker Smith in 2017, she practiced at the Office of the State Attorney for the 17th Judicial Circuit of Florida as a Prosecutor, where she handled misdemeanors up to 1st degree punishable by life felonies.

Ms. Romero-Molina is admitted to practice in the State of Florida and is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar. In addition, she is an active member of the Broward Bar Young Lawyers Division, Cuban American Bar Association, and former Director for the Broward Hispanic Bar Association. When not practicing law, Ms. Romero-Molina enjoys traveling; she is also fluent in Spanish.



E-Discovery

Moderated by: YLD President-Elect Ashlea Edwards - 4th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Brett Burney
NextPoint

Always anxious to encourage legal professionals to take better advantage of the technology available to them, Brett primarily helps law firms and corporate legal departments successfully navigate their e-discovery challenges. Brett co-authored the eDiscovery Buyers Guide designed to help small- and mid-sized law firms understand the options available for their e-discovery needs. Brett is also the eLaw Evangelist at Nextpoint where he helps to educate lawyers and law firms on the duties and responsibilities around collecting, reviewing, and producing electronically stored information.

In addition, Mr. Burney teaches lawyers how to integrate Macs and iOS devices in their practice and coauthored the ABA-published book *Macs in Law: The Definitive Guide for the Mac-Curious, Windows-Using Attorney*.

Brett served as the Chair of the 2015 ABA TECHSHOW Planning Board and regularly speaks around the country to lawyers and legal groups on a wide variety of technology-related topics.



Guide to Networking and Navigating the Practice of Law in a New Place

Moderated by: YLD Governor Ciara Willis - 13th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



G.C. Murray II, Esq. DPL **Association GC**

G.C. Murray II, Esq., DPL is a nationally recognized lawyer, executive coach, and political consultant with a specialized focus on election law, executive coaching, and business law, particularly nonprofit management, law firm management, and Time Law™. His firm, Association GC, celebrating its 11th year, stands as a testament to his expansive legal journey. Having worked with multi-million dollar trade associations, national nonprofits, and helping guide multiple successful judicial campaigns, G.C. has also coached clients who've scaled to eight-figured law firms.

He now channels this multifaceted experience into his executive coaching platform, Coach GC. Through Coach GC, G.C. extends his knowledge, facilitating transformative experiences for legal professionals aiming to elevate their practice management, leadership, and professional development. His tailored coaching programs empower individuals to navigate the intricate legal landscape and Create Greater Change™ in their careers, firms, and communities. His approach, holistic in nature, encapsulates a rich blend of legal acumen, leadership cultivation, and a genuine passion for fostering professional growth, alongside a nuanced understanding of political and judicial discourse.



SESSION 3 BREAKOUT ROOMS

SCHEDULE

🕒 10:20 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.

Trust Accounting: Presented by The Florida Bar

Moderated by: YLD Governor Tiffany-Ashley Disney - 11th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Elizabeth Tarbert, Esq.
The Florida Bar

Elizabeth Clark Tarbert is Director of the Lawyer Regulation Division for The Florida Bar. This division is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of disciplinary complaints against Florida Bar members. She also serves as counsel to The Florida Bar Board of Governors Disciplinary Review, Disciplinary Procedure, and Rules Committees.

She was Ethics Counsel for The Florida Bar from 1997-2021, providing oral and written ethics opinions to members of The Florida Bar and advising the Professional Ethics Committee, Standing Committee on Advertising, and Board Review Committee on Professional Ethics. She has also served as counsel to numerous special bar committees and task forces. She currently serves on the ABA Standing Committee on Professional Regulation and is a former member of, and current liaison to, the ABA Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility. She has been an Assistant Public Defender in both Dallas, Texas and the Eighth Judicial Circuit in Gainesville, Florida.

While at the Defense Contract Management District Mid-Atlantic, Defense Logistics Agency in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Ms. Tarbert worked in a special fraud remedies unit, assisting in the investigation and prosecution of government contractors. Ms. Tarbert graduated from the University of Florida College of Law with honors and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Florida. She frequently speaks on legal ethics and professional responsibility.



How to Avoid Florida's Lawyer Discipline System - Presented by Florida Bar President Scott Westheimer

Moderated by: YLD President Anisha Patel - 13th Circuit

SPEAKER BIOS



Scott Westheimer, Esq.
President of The Florida Bar

Scott Westheimer is the 2023-2024 President of The Florida Bar. He joined Syrett Meshad as an associate in 1996 and became a partner in 2000.

Westheimer has an “AV” rating by Martindale Hubbell, which means that he has been deemed to have very high professional ethics and preeminent legal ability. In 2021, he was selected to the Florida Super Lawyers list; in 2010 and 2011, he was selected to the Super Lawyers “Rising Stars” list. For 2012 through 2014, 2017, and 2020, he was recognized among Florida’s “Legal Elite” by Florida Trend magazine.

In 2019, Westheimer was re-elected to a fourth two-year term on the Florida Bar Board of Governors, 12th Circuit Representative, seat one, representing over 1,800 attorneys in Sarasota, DeSoto and Manatee counties. Westheimer has served as the chairman of the Disciplinary Review Committee (2020-2021), serves on the executive committee (for the fifth straight year), served as chairman of the Communications Committee (2017-2018 and 2018-2019), served as chairman of the Program Evaluation Committee (2019-2020), and has served on the Special Committee on Technologies Affecting the Practice of Law and Strategic Planning Committee. Westheimer has been honored twice with the President’s Award of Merit, by Past President William J. Schifino at the June 2017 Annual Convention and by Past President Michelle Suskauer at the June 2019 Annual Convention.

Westheimer’s practice involves primarily the representation of plaintiffs in personal injury matters and various aspects of commercial litigation. He is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the U.S.; U. S. District Court, Middle District of Florida; U.S. District Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; and Florida state Courts.

He is a past president of the Sarasota County Bar Association (2010-2011), a past president of the Sarasota County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, a member (co-founder and former chair) of the Sarasota County Bar Association Diversity Committee, and served on the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors from 2004 to 2013. Westheimer received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, with high honors, from the University of Florida in 1993, and in 1996, received his Juris Doctorate, with high honors, from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.



Practice Series Webinar - Nuts & Bolts of Business Litigation

Moderated by: YLD Governor Caleb Kenyon - 8th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Brian Barakat, Esq.
Barakat + Bossa

Brian Barakat is Board Certified Business Litigator. He began his career as a prosecutor for Miami-Dade County. While there, Mr. Barakat worked in the Economic Crimes Division of the Special Prosecution Section. His experience investigating financial fraud gives him a unique perspective on business disputes. Mr. Barakat has tried hundreds of cases to verdict.

Along with his partner Giacomo Bossa, Mr. Barakat believes in the power of teaching, training, and staying current with trial law. He is lauded for his recruitment and retention of culturally diverse attorneys who serve their business clients in a variety of expert capacities. Building on his own expertise in corporate, labor, and financial fraud, Mr. Barakat conducts classes and trainings on: Trial Skills, Voir Dire, Fiduciary Duties, Restrictive Covenants, Expert Testimony, Financial Fraud, and The Independent Tort Doctrine.

Additionally, he has been recognized by his colleagues for his expertise and leadership and is an active member of the, Business Law Section of the Florida Bar, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts of America, the League of Prosecutors and Kiwanis.



Home Rule in Florida: The History, Today and the Future

Moderated by: YLD Governor Alexandria Nicodemi - 12th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Ginger Delegal, Esq.

Florida Association of Counties

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal is the Executive Director of the Florida Association of Counties (“FAC”) and is an honors graduate of the Mercer University School of Law and a summa cum laude graduate of Salem College in North Carolina. She spent the first 10 years of her legal career in private practice with Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson where she was a shareholder and a member of the General Governmental Law Group. As a part of that group, Ms. Delegal’s practice represented local governments primarily on issues of finance and tax, home rule, and other constitutional matters.

Ms. Delegal has continued her close relationship with local governments, joining the team at the FAC as General Counsel in April of 2003. Ms. Delegal served in that capacity until March, 2017 taking on the role as Executive Director. At the FAC, Ms. Delegal has continued her advocacy on matters of home rule, governance structures, finance and tax, constitutional law, and ethics in the legislative and judicial arenas. Ms. Delegal is a frequent speaker and author on topics of interest to the local government community in Florida and has taught a fundamental class on the U.S. Constitution at Tallahassee Community College. Ms. Delegal is a member of the Florida Bar and the State Bar of Georgia.

Ms. Delegal is also the recipient of the Florida Bar’s City, County, Local Government Section’s 2017 Ralph A. Marsicano Award. Ms. Delegal is married to Mark Delegal, also a lawyer. They have three daughters.



Legislative Update: A recap of the 2023 Florida Legislative Session

Moderated by: YLD Governor Kelly Kibbey Smith - 2nd Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Natalie Kato, Esq.
Kato Law

Natalie Kato is a political attorney specializing in government relations, campaign finance, elections, and tax-exempt entities. She began her career as a staff attorney in the Florida Senate Minority Office, before becoming the Southern State Policy Advocate for Human Rights Watch, where she advocated for criminal justice and immigration issues. Ms. Kato has worked as a successful lobbyist, providing strategic advice on legislative issues throughout the Southeastern United States.

Ms. Kato founded Kato Law to specialize in all aspects of federal and state political law, as well as corporate government relations. Her firm helps clients navigate local, state and national regulatory and legislative challenges, and advise candidates, political committees and tax-exempt entities. Kato Law provides dedicated support on all state and federal campaign finance, election law, and other compliance issues.



Pros & Cons of A.I.

Moderated by: YLD Governor Arti Hirani - 9th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Dr. Jiaying Jiang

The University of Florida Levin College of Law

Dr. Jiaying Jiang is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Florida Levin College of Law. She focuses her research on policy and regulatory aspects of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, FinTech, blockchain technology, cryptocurrencies, and central bank digital currencies. Her scholarship has been published in multiple law reviews and peer-reviewed journals across the United States, China, and Europe. She and her scholarship have also been quoted in the Washington Post, Fortune Magazine, Bloomberg, and other leading industry news outlets.

Before joining the faculty of UF Law in 2022, Dr. Jiang served as a Hauser Global Fellow at the New York University School of Law from 2020 to 2022. In this capacity, she was affiliated with the Information Law Institute and co-directed a project on central bank digital currencies in partnership with the Paul Tsai China Center at Yale Law School. In addition, she has contributed to the RegTrax Initiative at Stanford Law School since 2020 and has served as a peer reviewer for the Stanford Journal of Blockchain Law and Policy. She is also a member of the bar in China and New York.



SESSION 4 THE FLORIDA BAR SECTION SHOWCASE

🕒 11:10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

- ✓ Trial Lawyers Section
- ✓ Labor & Employment Section
- ✓ City, County & Local Government Law Section
- ✓ International Law Section
- ✓ Solo & Small Firm Section
- ✓ Government Lawyer Section
- ✓ Administrative Law Section
- ✓ Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section
- ✓ Appellate Practice Section
- ✓ Elder Law Section
- ✓ Animal Law Section
- ✓ Business Law Section
- ✓ Public Interest Law Section
- ✓ Alternative Dispute Resolution Section
- ✓ Entertainment & Sports Law Section
- ✓ Environmental & Land Use Law Section



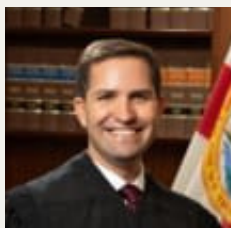
PART 5: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SCHEDULE

🕒 12:10 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

A Professionalism Discussion with the Florida Supreme Court

Moderated by: YLD President Anisha Patel - 13th Circuit



Justice John D. Couriel
90th Justice of the Florida Supreme Court

John D. Couriel is the 90th Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Justice Couriel was born in Miami, Florida in 1978.

Justice Couriel received his A.B. magna cum laude from Harvard College in 2000 and his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2003. He clerked for the Honorable John D. Bates of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia before joining Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York. His practice there included securities offerings, mergers and acquisitions, bankruptcy matters, and investigations. In 2009, he became an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. He prosecuted hundreds of federal offenses, including international money laundering, public integrity, healthcare fraud, and human trafficking crimes. In 2013, he joined Kobre & Kim LLP, where he specialized in cross-border disputes and investigations relating to financial products and services, asset recovery, and government enforcement defense, with an emphasis on clients in Latin America. Justice Couriel is a native speaker of Spanish. His parents emigrated from Cuba in the 1960s, his father is one of approximately 14,000 unaccompanied minors welcomed to the United States as part of Operation Pedro Pan.

He was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Governor Ron DeSantis on June 1, 2020.





Justice Renatha Francis

92nd Justice of the Florida Supreme Court

On August 5, 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Justice Renatha Francis to the Florida Supreme Court. Previously, Governor Desantis appointed her to the 15th Judicial Circuit Court in Palm Beach County, where she successfully retained her seat for a six-year term in 2022. Justice Francis also served on the Circuit and County Courts in the 11th Judicial Circuit of Miami-Dade from 2017-19 by appointment to each by then-Governor Rick Scott. During her tenure on the bench, Justice Francis presided over large dockets, conducted numerous bench trials, and resolved hundreds of cases in family, civil, probate, and criminal law. Justice Francis was raised in Kingston, Jamaica, where she operated small businesses while being a fulltime student. Her second career as a lawyer came after graduating from law school in Jacksonville, Florida. She clerked at the First District Court of Appeal for 6 ½ years. Thereafter, she joined Shutts & Bowen, LLP, Of Counsel, in Miami-Dade, where she was a member of the Mass Litigation and Class Action Practice Group, representing large corporate clients.

Justice Francis has been a member of several bar associations and has served as a panelist or participant at numerous conferences. Justice Francis is the first Jamaican-American to serve on the Florida Supreme Court.



Practice Tips for Interviews

Moderated by: YLD Governor Ashley Wright - 9th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Brandon Faulkner, Esq.
Holland & Knight

Brandon Faulkner is an attorney in Holland & Knight's Tampa office and practices in the areas of general commercial and appellate litigation. He is a litigator who has represented clients in trial in state and federal courts, in arbitration proceedings, and on appeal to the Florida District Courts of Appeal and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Mr. Faulkner also frequently provides pro bono assistance to clients seeking the return of children under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Prior to his legal career, Mr. Faulkner worked as an advanced manufacturing engineer for Honeywell International, managing the production of integrated electronic guidance and navigation systems for the defense industry. As an undergraduate, he served as President of Alpha Pi Mu (the Industrial Engineering Honor Society), worked to improve public school science curriculum as a National Science Foundation Fellow, completed an honors thesis in facilities planning for an entrepreneurial biotechnology company, and received the Outstanding Graduate Award for the engineering department.



Lunch & Learn with Judiciary (Civil)

Moderated by: YLD Governor Gio Girratana - 13th Circuit

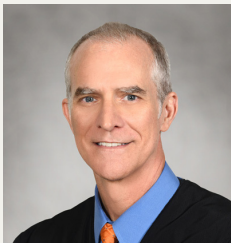
SPEAKER BIOS



Judge Logan Murphy
13th Judicial Circuit

On May 28, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis announced the appointment of J. Logan Murphy to the Hillsborough County Court.

Murphy, of Tampa, was been a shareholder at Hill Ward Henderson since 2019 and began practicing with the firm in 2012. In between his time as an attorney with Hill Ward Henderson, he served as a law clerk for the Honorable James D. Whittemore on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and his law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School.



Judge Stephen Walker
12th Judicial Circuit

Judge Stephen Walker is a circuit court judge sitting in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit in and for Sarasota. He currently presides over the Civil Court Division. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Walker was a criminal defense attorney for over 20 years and is a Florida Bar Board Certified Specialist in Criminal Trial Law. Judge Walker received his undergraduate degree from Stetson University and his J.D. degree from the University of Florida College of Law.





Judge Rhonda Peoples-Waters

4th Judicial Circuit

Judge Rhonda Peoples-Waters was the first black female elected to the bench in the 4th Judicial Circuit. She took office in January 2021 and presides over a Duval County Court in Jacksonville, FL. She has tried over 75 non-jury and jury trials in her career. She was the lead trial counsel in more than half of those cases. She has been licensed to practice law by the Supreme Court of Florida since 1999, after graduating from the University of Florida School of Law where she studied under an academic scholarship. Judge Peoples-Waters began her career at the Public Defender's Office in Jacksonville, FL. Judge Peoples-Waters has handled thousands of cases covering misdemeanors and felonies. Judge Peoples-Waters finished her career at the Public Defender's Office after seven years and after serving as the Division Chief of each Repeat Offender Divisions in Duval County.

In 2007, Judge Peoples-Waters joined private practice with a small firm practicing Criminal Law and Personal Injury Law. With the experience of public service practice and private practice, in 2008 Judge Peoples-Waters opened Rhonda Peoples-Waters P.A. Her firm specialized in civil and criminal litigation. Judge Peoples-Waters' practice experience is very diverse and wide-ranging.

As a small business owner for over 12 years, Judge Peoples-Waters learned valuable lessons beyond the practice of law such as time and employee management, successful customer service, and professional skills to deal with all types of people and circumstances. In addition, Judge Peoples-Waters has served as a legal analyst for News4Jax and other local stations for several years. Her legal advice and opinions are valued and trusted throughout the community. Judge Peoples-Waters' service to the community is well-demonstrated through her leadership roles as a City of Jacksonville Ethic Commissioner, Past President of Daniel Webster Perkins Bar Association, NAACP-Jacksonville Branch Board Member, Past PTA President, Past President of the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid Board of Directors, and Chair of the Florida Bar Grievance Committee.

Judge Peoples-Waters submitted an application to the Fourth Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission for appointment to the judicial bench 16 times, from 2009 to 2020. Judge Peoples-Waters also ran for county judge unsuccessfully in 2012. After 17 NOs, Judge Peoples-Waters' YES came on August 18, 2020, when she became the first-elected black female judge in an area covering over a million people. She received the most votes of any candidate of the ballot.

Judge Peoples-Waters is also a proud graduate of Fisk University. Judge Peoples-Waters is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Links Incorporated, and First Baptist Church of Oakland. Judge Peoples-Waters is a proud wife of Aaron Pinckney and mother to a recent FAMU engineering graduate, Jasmine.





Judge George Odom
17th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable George Odom, Jr is a native of Jacksonville, Florida. He was honorably discharged as a noncommissioned officer in the United States Marine Corp in 2004. Judge Odom started working in the investigations department for the Public Defender's Office in the Fourth Judicial Circuit in 2005. He graduated from Florida State College, formally known as Florida Community College, with an Associate's degree.

In 2007, he worked for the Fourth Judicial Circuit Finance & Accounting Department as an OPS Fiscal Assistant, served as the Vice President of the Finance & Investment Society and he participated in the Students in Free Enterprise, Member of Capital Markets Project, and Top 5/100. He went on to receive a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration of Finance and a Minor in Economics at the University of North Florida in 2008. While working for Deutsche Bank AG as an Operations Analyst-Closing and Compliance Functions.

Before obtaining his Florida Law License, Judge Odom interned for the Law Office of Kevin Cobbin under senior attorney Kevin Cobbin on the Marissa Alexander case that brought state-wide attention to the disproportionate harsh sentences involving minimum mandatory sentencing laws. Judge Odom founded the Law Office of George Odom Jr., Attorney At Law P.L. in 2012. He practiced in the areas of personal injury, family law, criminal law, probate and civil rights violations.

While serving on the bench, Judge Odom, still finds time to speak at various grade schools, community events and organizations. Some examples are know your rights forums, from the block to the Boardroom, and diversity on the bench. The Honorable George Odom, Jr. is an active member of the New Mount Olive Baptist Church where he is the Director for the Sunday School Intermediate Department.

Judge Odom lives in Broward County with his wife and two children.



Lunch & Learn with Judiciary (Appellate)

Moderated by: Katherine Yanes - Kynes, Markman & Felman, P.A.

SPEAKER BIOS



Chief Judge Mark Klingensmith ***Fourth District Court of Appeals***

Judge Klingensmith has served on Florida's Fourth District Court of Appeal since his appointment in 2013. Before his elevation to the appeals court, he was a Circuit Court judge in the 19th Judicial Circuit. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Klingensmith practiced civil litigation in private practice for 25 years and was board certified in Civil Trial Practice by the Florida Bar in 2001. In 2008 he was elected Commissioner for the Town of Sewall's Point, FL and served terms as Vice Mayor and Mayor.

Judge Klingensmith received his B.A. degree in 1982, and his J.D. degree in 1985, both from the University of Florida. He received his LL.M. degree in Judicial Studies from Duke University in 2016.





Judge Susan Rothstein-Youakim
Second District Court of Appeals

Judge Susan H. Rothstein-Youakim currently sits on the Second District Court of Appeal. A Sarasota native, Judge Susan H. Rothstein-Youakim graduated from Pine View School in 1987. She graduated in 1990 from Duke University with a B.A. in Russian, cum laude, and in 1993 from the University of Florida College of Law, where she was an Executive Articles Editor on the Florida Journal of International Law.

After law school, Judge Rothstein-Youakim moved to Tampa and began her career as a law clerk to the Honorable Charles R. Wilson, United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, who was then a federal magistrate judge. In January 1995, Judge Rothstein-Youakim joined the Appellate Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida. There, she represented the United States and its client agencies in criminal, civil, and post-conviction appeals in the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, personally drafting more than 600 briefs and presenting approximately 60 oral arguments. She also served as an instructor at the Department of Justice's National Advocacy Center in Columbia, South Carolina.

In May 2016, Governor Rick Scott appointed Judge Rothstein-Youakim to the Second District Court of Appeal, and she began her service on the court on July 5, 2016. She is active in the Bruce R. Jacob-Chris W. Altenbernd Criminal Appellate American Inn of Court and received its Altenbernd Award for Excellence in 2015. She also serves as a mentor to students in elementary school, college, and law school.





Judge Carrie Ann Wozniak
Sixth District Court of Appeals

Judge Wozniak was recommissioned to the Sixth District Court of Appeal from the Fifth District on January 1, 2023.

Judge Wozniak grew up in Orlando and graduated with honors from the University of Michigan and cum laude from Stetson University College of Law, where she was Notes and Comments Editor of the Stetson Law Review. Judge Wozniak was the Supervising Staff Attorney for Justice Harry Lee Anstead of the Florida Supreme Court. She later joined a large nationwide law firm and handled appeals and complex commercial litigation. She is Board Certified by the Florida Bar in Appellate Practice.

Judge Wozniak served as Vice Chair of the Fifth District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission, and as a member of the Florida Bar's Appellate Practice Section Executive Council, Appellate Rules Committee, and Appellate Practice Board Certification Committee. She also served as Chair of the Florida Bar Appellate Section, Chair of the Florida Bar Statewide Advertising Grievance Committee and as Chair of the Professionalism and Appellate Practice Committees for the Orange County Bar Association. Judge Wozniak was a volunteer judge and legal advisor for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Teen Court and was awarded the Orange County Bar Association's Elizabeth Susan Khoury Guardian ad Litem Award of Excellence in 2016 for her guardian ad litem work.



Lunch & Learn with Judiciary (Criminal)

Moderated by: YLD Governor Lucie Robinson - 9th Circuit

SPEAKER BIOS



Judge Tanya Davis Wilson
9th Judicial Circuit

Circuit Judge Tanya Davis Wilson was initially appointed in 2014 to serve on the county court bench and won reelection without opposition in 2016. When she was appointed in 2017 to the circuit bench, Judge Wilson served in the Domestic Relations Division before her current assignment in the Circuit Criminal Division. She is the first African American female judge to serve as a County Judge and a Circuit Court Judge in the Ninth Judicial Circuit.

Before becoming a judge, Judge Wilson was an Assistant U.S. Attorney (federal prosecutor), a Federal Public Defender, and an Assistant Public Defender in the Ninth Judicial Circuit when she began her legal career in 1997. Since 2012, Judge Wilson has served as an officer of For The Kidz, Inc., a charitable organization connecting children and teens in poverty to educational, health, and social resources.

Judge Wilson received her undergraduate degree in Journalism and her law degree from the University of Florida. She is a double Gator! Judge Wilson enjoys her volunteer work in various community organizations when she is not on the bench. She also enjoys reading, going to the movies and the beach, and graphic design.





Judge Nina Ashenafi-Richardson **2nd Judicial Circuit**

The Honorable Nina Ashenafi-Richardson, known fondly as "Judge Nina," has served the Leon County court system since 2008, having been twice re-elected. She presides over criminal and civil cases, felony drug court and is faculty for three judicial colleges. Judge Ashenafi-Richardson is known for her humble spirit, devotion to being a fair and impartial judge, and one who treats those who come before her with dignity and respect. This was recognized by Florida's highest court when she was presented by the Florida Supreme Court with the Distinguished Judicial Service Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding and sustained service to the public, especially as it relates to support of pro bono legal services. Judge Ashenafi-Richardson, in the words of one nominator, *"not only exemplifies judicial excellence but also personified the ideals that this award seeks to recognize. She has, throughout her career, demonstrated an exceptional commitment to pro bono legal services and the improvement of law and the administration of justice throughout the state."* In 2021, she received the *Trial Jurist of the Year* from the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Judge Ashenafi-Richardson is also known for her work off the bench, making sure that ALL people have access to the courts, and that services are provided to those facing poverty, mental health, or addiction issues. Her efforts have been recognized by her colleagues, attorneys and community organizations. She received, for instance, the *Distinguished Leadership Award from the Conference of County Court Judges*; and the Conference of County Court Judges, Presidential Service Award, *"Off the Bench, County Court Judges Making a Difference in Their Communities"*; Park's & Crump, *Thurgood Marshall Award*; NAACP Civil Rights Hall of Fame; Martin Luther King Foundation of Florida's *Humanitarian Award*; *Outstanding F.S.U Alumni*, F.S.U Black Alumni Assoc.; *Woman of Distinction*, Girl Scouts of America; *African-Americans in American History and Culture*, Tallahassee Community College; and the *"Hero's Award"* from the Mount Carmen Missionary Church.

Prior to her election to the bench, she personally provided hundreds of hours of pro bono legal services. Her efforts were recognized by The Florida Bar as a recipient of The President's Pro Bono Service Award for the 2nd Judicial Circuit; the Tallahassee Legal Aid Foundation's *Exemplary Service Award*; the Tallahassee Chamber's *"Pace Setter Award"*; and the Tallahassee Democrat recognized her as #4 out of 33 individuals whose *"good works positively impacted Tallahassee."*



Ashenafi-Richardson is the first Ethiopian-born person to serve as a judge in the United States, and also the first African-American elected president of the Tallahassee Bar Association and Stafford Inn of Court. Judge Nina enjoys giving back to her community by serving on numerous civic and non-profit boards. She was recognized by the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism; is a recipient of *Tallahassee Community College's Women Change America*; and *Tallahassee Urban League's Aquillina Howell Award*; and the Desert of Florida's "Trailblazer Award for Outstanding Work in the Community."

Ashenafi-Richardson came to Tallahassee as a teen, when her late father, Dr. Ashenafi Kebede, came to work as the Director of the Center for African-American Culture and as a tenured professor of ethnomusicology at the Florida State University. Judge Nina is married to Tallahassee City Commissioner and former State Representative Curtis Richardson. She is a proud mother of two daughters - Carina, a naval flight officer and graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy; and Aida, who will also be attending the U.S. Naval Academy following her commission by Congressman Lawsons. The Richardson Family was recognized as the 2018 Family of the Year by the Capital Outlook Newspaper.



Judge London Kite
4th Judicial Circuit

London Kite was appointed by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in September 2021 to serve on the Florida 4th Circuit Court. Previously, Kite served on the Duval County bench as the third African-American woman named to the position. Kite served for 17 years as a prosecutor with the State Attorney's Office of the Fourth Judicial Circuit.

As Director of Attorney Development and Select Prosecutions for the office, she was responsible for prosecuting complex murder cases, including cases involving multiple co-defendants, gang-related murders, and the death penalty. Kite tried over 140 felony jury trials as an Assistant State Attorney and her homicide work was featured on Dateline NBC. Kite received numerous awards for her trial work, including the State Attorney's Office 2004 Rookie of the Year Award, the 2005 Jury Trial Award, and the Distinguished Service Award from State Attorney Melissa Nelson in 2018. Before attending law school, Kite taught middle school Exceptional Education Students, following her graduation magna cum laude from the University of South Florida. She graduated from the University of Florida, Levin School of Law, in 2002, and went on to serve for as an adjunct professor for Florida Coastal School of Law, where she spent four years and taught young lawyers case management, trial preparation, and trial practice skills. Currently, she is a Master member of the Chester Bedell Inn of Courts and a Group Chair for the Inn.



Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness

Moderate by: YLD Governor Tiffany-Ashley Disney - 11th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Barbara Leon, Esq.
Arkovich Law

Barbara C. Leon has been a Florida licensed attorney for 20 years since graduation from Stetson University College of Law in 2002 with honors. In addition to being an editor on Stetson's Law Review, Ms. Leon gained practical experience through an internship with the United States' Attorney's office and a clerkship with a Federal Magistrate Judge. Thereafter, Ms. Leon worked in consumer bankruptcy practice for approximately 5 years. She then spent some time in creditor practice before returning to bankruptcy. Ms. Leon then spent about another 5 years representing both individual and corporate debtors in Ch. 7, 11, and 13 before joining Arkovich Law. As the Managing Partner at Arkovich Law, Ms. Leon has diversified her practice to not only include bankruptcy, but also foreclosure defense, consumer collections litigation, debt defense, and student loans.



PART 6: BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SCHEDULE

🕒 1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.

Mediation Overview and Tactics

Moderated by: YLD Governor Rebekah Taylor - 18th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Chris Griffin, Esq.
Griffin Mediation

Chris Griffin received his undergraduate and law degrees from Florida State University in 1976 and 1978, respectively. He practiced civil litigation in state and federal courts throughout Florida and the United States from 1979 to 2018, during which time he tried cases in virtually every circuit of the State of Florida and in the state's Southern, Middle, and Northern Federal District Courts. He also argued appeals in all of Florida's District Courts of Appeal, the Florida Supreme Court, and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Griffin's experience reached all aspects of commercial, business, employment, real estate, and other related fields of litigation.

Upon retirement from his litigation practice, Mr. Griffin became a Florida Supreme Court and Federal Court Certified Mediator, providing civil litigation mediation services throughout Florida. Chris has mediated hundreds of cases in all areas of civil litigation, and has been admitted to the prestigious National Association of Distinguished Neutrals.

Mr. Griffin was a four-year football letterman at FSU, and in 1974 was named the University's Student-Athlete of the Year. Because of his sports and litigation background, Mr. Griffin has had a long career of service to the National Collegiate Athletics Association ("NCAA"). He was the public member of the NCAA Division I Infractions Appeals Committee ("IAC") from 2002-2011, and chaired that Committee from 2006-2011. Mr. Griffin then was appointed to serve as a public member, and Appeals Coordinator, of the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions ("COI"). Since completing his duties on the COI, Mr. Griffin has represented several NCAA Division I institutions in NCAA rules enforcement investigations and infractions hearings.

He also recently served as mediator in the only mediation that has occurred in any NCAA enforcement/infractions case.



Engagement Letters, Client Communications, and Break-Up Letters

Moderated by: YLD Governor Kellen Vincent - 3rd Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Scott Slater, Esq., *Slater | Grant*

Mr. Slater is the co-founder of Slater | Grant, a firm that focuses on personal injury and wrongful death cases. In addition to representing injured plaintiffs in those cases, he regularly defends lawyers in legal malpractice cases and ethics complaints before the Florida Bar. He has been practicing in the area of civil trials and litigation for over 19 years. Prior to co-founding Slater | Grant, Mr. Slater was an equity shareholder at Hill Ward Henderson.



The Role of a Voluntary Bar Association in a Young Lawyers Career

Moderated by: YLD Governors Arti Hirani - 9th Circuit and Ayana Barrow - 18th Circuit

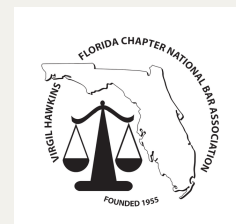
Part 1:

- Escambia-Santa Rosa County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section
 - Alex Messmore
- Hillsborough County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division
 - Sean Bevil
- Miami-Dade Bar Association Young Lawyers Section
 - Beau Bloomberg
- Sarasota County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section
 - Natasha Selvaraj



Part 2:

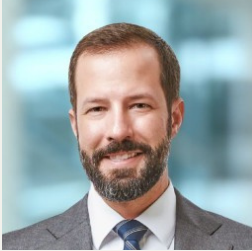
- Cuban American Bar Association
 - Amanda Fernandez
- Florida Association of Women Lawyers
 - Thomasina Moore
- Greater Orlando Asian American Bar Association
 - Xixi Li
- Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association
 - Roger Johnson



Land Use & Real Estate: Local Government Regulation

Moderated by: YLD Governor Allan Charles - 2nd Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Robert Volpe, Esq.
Holtzman Vogel

Robert Volpe is Partner with Holtzman Vogel and represents property owners and developers on land use and real estate development issues. His practice focuses on disputes involving private property rights, complex real estate transactions, comprehensive planning, zoning, developments of regional impact, and other planned and large-scale developments.

Robert routinely presents on the legal aspects of land use and development including lectures at Florida State University in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, and formerly served as Chair of the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Commission and Local Planning Agency.

Complementary to his legal practice, Robert is a Certified General Real Estate Appraiser with experience in the valuation of commercial and agricultural properties.



Fashioning a Plea Offer

Moderated by: YLD Governor Reno Pierre - 17th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Marcus Isom, Esq.

State Attorney's Office for the 4th Judicial Circuit

Marcus Isom is an Assistant State Attorney in Jacksonville, Florida. He's a trial attorney that handles violent crimes cases in the office's Targeted Prosecution Unit. Specifically shooting and gang related cases. Marcus is also a member of the SAO's Community Crimes Strategies Unit that focuses on bridging the gap between law enforcement agencies and the members of the community. He spends a lot of time outside the office speaking about the work the SAO does. Marcus is the current President of the D.W. Perkins Bar Association and his primary focus for this bar year has been increasing engagement and empowering the members. He is a proud Florida Bar Leadership Academy Class X ('ten') alumnus!

Marcus is a strong advocate for voluntary bar membership and community service. In his spare time he enjoys watching football, cooking, and hanging out with his two English Bulldogs Stogie and Macy.



Lawyer Wellness/Substance Abuse

Moderated by: YLD Governor Veronique Malebranche - 17th Circuit

SPEAKER BIO



Rebecca Bandy, Esq.

The Florida Bar Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism

Rebecca J. Bandy serves as the Director of The Florida Bar's Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism. She joined the Center as Assistant Director in March 2017. Prior to joining The Florida Bar, Ms. Bandy was an associate attorney at the Law Offices of Thomas L. Powell, PA in Tallahassee, where she litigated in the areas of family and criminal law. She most recently taught college level courses at Lawton Chiles High School, where she helped establish the school's award-winning mock trial team along with The Honorable Mark Walker, The Honorable David Frank, and attorney David Grimes.

Ms. Bandy previously served as the Director of Alumni Relations at the Florida State University College of Business and as the Assistant Director of Alumni and Development at the Florida State University College of Law. She earned her Juris Doctor from the Florida State University College of Law. A native of the tiny town of Hilliard in Nassau County, Florida, she earned her Bachelor's in Communications with Honors from Jacksonville University and her teaching credentials at Georgia Southern University. She is the 2021 recipient of the Champion of Professionalism Award given by the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, 2nd District Court of Appeal.

Ms. Bandy is active in her church, is a community volunteer at an area elementary school, and she has supported causes including the March of Dimes, Epilepsy Association of the Big Bend, the Holocaust Education Resource Council (HERC), the Kearney Center, and Honor Flight Tallahassee.





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