



Broward County Bar Association
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Broward County Bar Association BARRISTER

FEBRUARY 2010 • WWW.BROWARDBAR.ORG • 954-764-8040 • VOLUME 42, ISSUE 2

BROWARD COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION 2010 ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPEN SEATS ON BCBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOTE: Candidates for Executive Committee Officers and Directors must complete the Nomination Petition on page 2 of this issue of the Barrister. The signed petition must be received in the BCBA Office by 5:00p.m. March 1, 2010. Call Art Goldberg at (954) 764-8040 for more information.

NOTE: There will be no paper ballot printed and mailed this year. All voting will be by electronic ballot posted on our website. The voting period is scheduled April 1 through April 15, 2010.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS:

President Elect
Secretary
Treasurer

DIRECTORS:

Directors shall be elected to the Board from each of the following geographical areas and shall serve a two (2) year term, starting July 1, 2010.

NORTHEAST- Two (2) Directors shall be elected in the even years.

Office Location must be North of the centerline of Commercial Blvd. and East of the centerline of State Road 7 (441)

CENTRAL- Three (3) Directors shall be elected in the even years.

Office Location must be East of the centerline of State Road 7 (441), north to the centerline of Commercial Blvd. and south to the centerline of State Road 84

WEST - One (1) Director shall be elected in the even years.

Office Location must be West of the centerline of State Road 7 (441), north to the centerline of Commercial Blvd. and south to the centerline of State Road 84

SOUTHEAST- Two (2) Directors shall be elected in the even years.

Office Location must be South of the centerline of State Road 84 and East of the centerline of State Road 7 (441)

SOUTHWEST- One (1) Director shall be elected in the even years.

Office location must be South of the centerline of State Road 84 and West of the centerline of State Road 7 (441)

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**Broward County Bar Association
Board of Directors
2010 NOMINATING PETITION**

This Nominating Petition needs to be completed if seeking either a seat on the Board of Directors or seeking a position as an officer on the Executive Committee, including President-Elect, Treasurer or Secretary.
The office of President shall be filled by the person elected President-elect at the preceding year's election.
No member may be nominated for more than one (1) position.

Mail to BCBA at: 1051 SE 3rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316 or Fax to: 954-764-8060

CANDIDATE _____

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA _____
(office location)

POSITION SOUGHT _____

Signatures of Ten (10) current BCBA members are required. Completed petition must be submitted to the bar association office no later than 5:00 p.m. on **March 1, 2010.**

Signature	Print Name
1 _____	_____
2 _____	_____
3 _____	_____
4 _____	_____
5 _____	_____
6 _____	_____
7 _____	_____
8 _____	_____
9 _____	_____
10 _____	_____

FEBRUARY 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, February 5th:
Solo/ Small Law Firm Networking Lunch. At Bimini Boat Yard. 1555 SE 17th Street, Fort Lauderdale (954) 525-7400, RSVP to: Beth Lindie (954) 764-5400 and or blindie@lawyers.com.

Friday, February 5th:
4-Hour CLE Seminar. Topics: Ethics, Elder Law & End-Of-Life (Hospice). \$77.00 8:30a.m.- 12:30p.m. Held at Hospice By The Sea, 1531 W. Palmetto Park Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33486. 4.0 CLER including 1.0 Ethics granted by the Florida Bar. To reserve space and for information contact: www.hbts.org/cle or 561-416-5013.

Saturday, February 6th:
4 Hour Minor Guardianship Class. 9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. Norma B. Howard Bar Center, 1051 SE 3rd Ave. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316. Cost: \$100.00. Attorneys Welcome, approved by the Florida Bar for CLE Credits. Guardian for anyone under the age 18. To sign up please call Tish at 954-764-8040 Ext. 200.

Tuesday, February 9th:
BCBA Board of Directors Meeting. 5:15p.m. BCBA Conference room.

Friday, February 12th:
Solo/ Small Law Firm Networking Lunch. At The Ark Restaurant, 6255 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL (954) 584-3075. RSVP to: David Silverstone (954) 367-0770 and or david@dsilverstone.com.

Saturday, February 13:
CLE Seminar for NSU Alums, with a special CLE presentation by Dean Emeritus and Professor of Law Joseph D. Harbaugh. Shepard Broad Law Center Alumni Continuing Education. Alvin Sherman Library. 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Effective Negotiation: Controlling Information in the Bargaining Process. 2 CLE credits pending. A visit to NSU for Homecoming 2010 would not be complete without stepping foot in a classroom. Alumni can enjoy a full breakfast and a class of their choice for \$5. Reservations and any fees must be paid online prior to the event at www.nova.edu/alumni/events/index.html.

Tuesday, February 16th:
Bench and Bar Meeting. Noon. Norma B. Howard Bar Center.

Wednesday, February 17th:
BCBA Young Lawyers Section Board of Directors Meeting. At BCBA Offices, Noon. To RSVP please contact the BCBA at 954-764-8040.

Wednesday, February 17th:
ASFMA Dinner Meeting. Tropical Acres Restaurant. 5:30p.m. Speaker: Adria Quintella, Chief Broward Bar Counsel. Topic: Florida Bar, Mediators Ethics and Professionalism for both attorney and non-attorney Mediators. Credits: 2 Ethics CME's. Price: \$40.00 Members; \$50.00 Non-Members. Please RSVP to Jerome R. Siegle at 954-229-2226.

Thursday, February 18th:
BCBA Young Lawyers' Section, TJ Reddick Bar Association, and Caribbean Bar Association will host a luncheon to celebrate Black History Month. Noon. Tower Club. The cost to attend is \$25.00 per person. Please RSVP to BCBA at 954-764-8040 or to Marissa Pullano, Esq. at marissa.pullano@brinkleymorgan.com.

Friday, February 19th:
Broward County Bar Association Young Lawyers' Section Happy Hour. 5:00 p.m. YOLO on Las Olas, in Fort Lauderdale.

Friday, February 19th:
Solo/ Small Law Firm Networking Lunch. At Olive Garden (Coral Springs), 1555 N. University Drive, Coral Springs (954) 344-5226. RSVP to: Evan M. Ostfeld (954) 227-7529 and or Evan@Attorney4life.com.

Friday, February 19th:
Natl. Assoc. of Real Estate and Foreclosure Mediators (NAREFM) is offering a comprehensive 3.0 hour training on the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP). Learn how you can help distressed borrowers facing foreclosure retain

their home. Tuition is \$129.00. Earn 3.5 CME/CLE hours. Sign up for either the morning session (9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. with registration at 8:30 A.M.) or the afternoon session (1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. with registration at 1:00 P.M.) For more information, contact Monica Kalker Caruso, Esq. at 561-792-1771/ 561-389-3453 or Leo Grachow, M.Ed at 954-536-9403. Payable in advance by check or Paypal (go to: narefm.com/register)

Saturday, February 20th:
YLS "Holiday in February" project. At the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Discovery and Science. Contact Sue-Ann Robinson, Esq. at snr@beferalaw.com, or Ashley Sawyer, Esq. at Ashley.Sawyer@akerman.com for more information and sponsorship opportunities.

Tuesday, February 23rd:
Solo/ Small Law Firm Networking Lunch. At Champps, 6401 N. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL (954) 491-9335. RSVP to: Jane Bolin, (954) 316-1339 and or jane@peytonbolin.com.

Wednesday, February 24th:
Solo/ Small Law Firm Networking Lunch. Olive Garden, 807 S. University Drive, Plantation (954) 424-7201. RSVP to: John Rizvi (954) 452-0033 and or johnrizvi@ideattorneys.com.

Friday, February 26th:
Solo/ Small Law Firm Networking Lunch. East City Grill, 1800 Bell Tower Lane, Weston Town Center, Weston (954) 659-3339. RSVP to: Rick Woolf (954) 252-0043 and or rwoolf@woolffinancial.com.

Friday, February 26th:
Broward County Bar Association worker's Compensation Section Seminar. 11:30a.m.- 5:00p.m. Lunch included in program cost: \$75.00 for members, \$90.00 for non-members. At the Riverside Hotel, 620 East Las Olas Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL. Please register with BCBA by calling 954-764-8040 Art at ext. 204 or Traci at ext. 202, or register online at www.browardbar.org/events.

Saturday, February 27th:
8 Hour Adult Guardianship Class. 9:00a.m.- 5:00p.m. Cost: \$180.00. Norma B. Howard Bar Center, 1051 SE 3rd Ave. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316. Attorneys welcome, approved by the Florida Bar for CLE Credits. Guardian for anyone over the age of 18. To sign up please contact Tish at 954-764-8040 Ext. 200.

Tuesday, March 9th:
BCBA Board of Directors Meeting. 5:15 p.m. Broward County Bar Association Conference Room.

Friday, March 12th:
Stephen R. Booher Inns of Court Luncheon. Featuring: Supreme Court Justice Ricky Polston. Noon. Riverside Hotel, Fort Lauderdale. Members FREE. \$55 non-Inns of Court members; \$45 Government Employees. For more information or to RSVP contact: tracilewis@bellsouth.net

Saturday, March 13th:
ASFMA Annual Educational Seminar. Marriott North Hotel, Andrews Ave. and Cypress Creek. Featured Speaker: Janice Fleischer, New DRC Director. Topic: Legislative Update for Mediators and Arbitrators. Total Seminar Credits: 9 CME's. Breakfast, lunch and breaks included. Price: \$190.00 Members; \$240.00 Non-Members. New Members signing up at event: \$265.00 (includes seminar and 15 month ASFMA membership). Additional event details and RSVP information at www.asfma.org.events

Tuesday, March 16th:
Bench and Bar Meeting. 12:00 p.m. Norma B. Howard Bar Center, 1051 SE 3rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316. To RSVP call (954) 764-8040.

Saturday, March 20th:
The Broward County Bar Association Young Lawyers' Section & Cystic Fibrosis presents The 8th Annual Bowl-A-Thon. 5:00p.m.- 8:00p.m. Manor lanes, 1517 NE 26th Street, Wilton Manors, FL 33305. For more details and sponsorship information please contact Matt Lerner at 954-966-0011 or mgllaw@fdn.com or Vickie Swain at 954-739-5006 or vswain@cff.org.

MARCH 2010

OFFICE SPACE

DAVIE

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DELRAY/ BOYNTON

Law Office has several space options available near Delray Beach courthouse. Includes use of reception area, conference room, file room and kitchen. Call for options and prices. 561-737-3133.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Carlos M. Llorente

"Build it and they will come" seems to be the mantra of some professional sports franchises, business owners, and local governments in south Florida. When they build it and they come, the belief, among those who subscribe to the mantra, is that revenues generated from the attendance of those that came, benefits the host city, county or surrounding area.

Undoubtedly, it is now common for private enterprise owners, in conjunction with local governments, to ask the taxpayers to finance stadiums and other privately owned venues and renovations. Requests for publicly funded private enterprises appear to be unaffected by good or bad financial times. In fact, one could argue that in bad times, there is a greater need in order to stimulate the economy of the surrounding area and create jobs.

Naturally, not all taxpayers in the cities, counties and surrounding areas share the views of professional sports franchises, business owners and local governments that if the taxpayers pay to build it and they come, it will benefit the taxpayers. Continually asking the taxpayers for such funding, has played a role along with other factors, in eroding the confidence of taxpayers that such funding would be fruitful in the short or long run. Moreover, it has had an after effect of eroding taxpayer confidence in the financing of purely public projects, including public works and construction projects.

There is a building located at 201 S. E. 6th Street that was built with public funds for the exclusive use and benefit of the public. It is the Broward County Courthouse. Its construction dates back to the 1920s and through the years it has taken on many renovations and new facades to accommodate a growing public's needs. It can not stand to be renovated anymore and any contrived renovations would either be too costly or too disruptive. Moreover, the net effect of renovations would fall short of meeting the current demands for spacing now and into the future. What is needed is a completely new courthouse.

The task force that was created to study the feasibility of a new courthouse has come up with a viable plan to finance the construction of a new courthouse. The plan requires the expenditure of public funds, some already realized, and the remainder to be financed. The plan does not need voter approval by the weary taxpaying public. Moreover, the plan can be implemented without the delays and costs associated with a public information campaign and a ballot vote.

Anyone who has been to that courthouse is already

informed: the county needs a new courthouse and it needs to be built now. The current courthouse has exceeded its usefulness and its continued use in the patched up condition, has and will continue to negatively impact the administration of justice. Many have been coming to the courthouse, or summoned to it in growing numbers, and this will continue to be the case into the future. The BCBA supports the plan that does not require a ballot vote and urges its members to vocalize the need for a new courthouse and the urgency of that need.

In the coming months the County Commission will consider the options on the construction and funding of the courthouse. We urge them to act in the best interest of the public and work expeditiously to build it. We resolve to support and assist them in their labor to do so, and with humble tidings, we inform them that they need not worry whether they will come, for we are already here, overcrowded, inconvenienced and with no where to park.

Relief for Haiti:

Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere has experienced a devastating earthquake. The loss of human lives and suffering is staggering. Governments around the world have mobilized their respective emergency response teams and are sending aid. Broward County is home to many Haitian Nationals and all of south Florida feels a particular affinity with the Haitian people and the country of Haiti. The immediate needs of Haiti can only be coordinated by governments around the world and such efforts are now underway in Haiti.

Further recovery efforts could take years. The BCBA urges its members and all lawyers in Broward County to assist in the immediate efforts and believes that the quickest method of achieving this goal is to donate to the nationally coordinated relief effort. There are many and the BCBA has evaluated a few of these methods of donating. The national effort that appears to be the most efficient and immediate is to text "Haiti" 90999, you will be billed for a \$10.00 donation.

As the situation in Haiti stabilizes, the BCBA will evaluate requests for assistance and strive to assist in whatever efforts it can, both locally and in Haiti. Please continue to monitor the BCBA website for further details.



A Message from Michael B. Gilden President, Young Lawyers' Section

The Young Lawyers Section wishes everyone a happy and healthy New Year and plenty of success in 2010.

The YLS Board is very excited about the success of our recent past events, as well as all of the fantastic events up and coming in 2010. I am very happy to report that the YLS Annual Golf Tournament, which was held this past November, raised a record breaking amount of money for our selected charity. We were very proud to present Forever Family with a check for over \$20,000.00. As our golf tournament continues to grow we remain diligent in our efforts to increase the funds we raise each year and to continue to benefit worthy charities in our community that are so needy of financial support, especially during times of this down economy.

Upcoming YLS events include a Happy Hour which will be held on February 19, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at YOLO on Las Olas. This Happy Hour will be more than just a social and networking event, as we will be kindly requesting small donations to benefit our next charitable event which is Holiday in February. The YLS hosts a party for local foster children at the Fort Lauderdale Children's Museum where we invite Santa Claus to give gifts to the young people in our community who may not have received as much joy as they deserved during December's holiday time. As always, the YLS Board looks forward to this event.

On March 20, 2010, the YLS is holding its annual Bowl-A-Thon. Many more details on this event will follow as the time draws closer.

The YLS Judicial Reception planning committee has also begun its preparations for the Broward County Judicial Reception which will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2010. The event will once again take place in the rotunda lobby of the Sun-Sentinel building on Las Olas and as always we will feature fantastic food and drink. This event is widely attended by our Judiciary, including the General Magistrates, as well as Justices from the Fourth District Court of Appeals. We are starting to offer and accept sponsorship opportunities and everyone should be on the look out for our sponsorship forms explaining the various levels of participation available. We will also be putting out all of the information for signing up to attend the reception shortly. In the meantime, please contact the Judicial Reception Co-Chairperson, Shayna M. Reitman, at (954) 377-8175 for more information on

sponsorships or anything else about the event.

The YLS luncheons continue each month and everyone is invited to attend. We have other events such as our Family Day which will be held this summer, which again, more information about will be provided as the time draws nearer.

If anyone has any questions about how they can participate with or in the Young Lawyers Section, please feel free to call me at Kopelowitz Ostrow Ferguson Weiselberg Keechl at (954) 525-4100 or gilden@kolawyers.com.

Young Lawyers' Calendar

January 21 Young Lawyers Section Luncheon at Tower Club.
Guest Speaker Chief Judge Tobin
February 20th YLS Holiday in February project.
Fort Laud. Museum of Discovery and Science.
March 20, 2010- YLS Bowling Tournament
May 6, 2010- YLS Judicial Reception
June 6, 2010- YLS Family Day at TY Park, Hollywood.

The Broward Barrister is published by the Broward County Bar Association a part of our commitment to provide membership with information relating to issues and concerns on the local level. Opinions and positions expressed in the signed materials are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect the views of this publication or the Broward County Bar Association.

1051 SE Third Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316
BROWARD COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS JULY 1 2009- JUNE 30, 2010

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75-99	.044	.040	.037	.035	.033	.031	.028	.026
100-199	.040	.037	.035	.033	.031	.028	.026	.024
200-299	.037	.035	.033	.031	.028	.026	.024	.023
300-499	.035	.033	.031	.028	.026	.024	.023	.023
500-749	.033	.031	.028	.026	.024	.023	.023	.023
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The Broward County Bar Association Workers' Compensation Section Presents:

WORKERS' COMPENSATION 2010
FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Friday February 26, 2010

11:30 A.M.	Registration & Check In
12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.	Lunch*
1:00 P.M. - 1:50 P.M.	Exam & Cross-Exam of the IME Doctor Richard Berman, Esq. & Heath Eskalyo, Esq.
1:50 P.M. - 2:40 P.M.	The Ethics of Dealing with the Other "F" Word Diana Castrillon, Esq. & Jim Price, Esq.
2:40 P.M. - 2:50 P.M.	Break
2:50 P.M. - 3:40 P.M.	Collateral Causes of Action Wage & Hour Disputes: Dennis Card, Esq. Retaliatory & Wrongful Discharge: Eric Burger, Esq.
3:40 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.	Is An Attorney's Fee Challenge on the Horizon? Richard Sicking, Esq. George Kagan, Esq.
4:30 P.M. - 4:50 P.M.	Q&A Session with Broward JCCs Hon. Geraldine B. Hogan Hon. Daniel A. Lewis Hon. Kathryn S. Pecko Please Email Questions for Judges to: artg@browardbar.org .

* Lunch included in program cost: \$75.00 for members, \$90.00 for non-members.
Please register with BCBA by calling 954-764-8040

The Riverside Hotel
620 East Las Olas Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

REGISTER ON LINE at www.browardbar.org/events
or call
(954) 764-8040 Art at ext204 or Traci at ext202



491 North State Road 7 (441) • Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33317
www.legalaid.org

LEGAL AID SERVICE'S 2009 HOLIDAY ADOPTERS PUT SMILES ON NEARLY 300 CHILDREN'S FACES

Plantation - January 15, 2010 - The 2009 Legal Aid Service of Broward County (LAS) and Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida (CCLA) Annual Holiday Adopt-A-Family Project was the biggest ever due to the generosity of 33 adopters that consisted of individual attorneys, law firms and families & organizations outside of the legal community. Adopters made it possible for 109 families that included 267 children and 13 senior citizens, to have a memorable holiday season. Adopters delivered gifts, toys, furniture, clothing, food, gift certificates and hosted holiday parties for the families. "We want to thank everyone involved for their generosity," said Kathy Thomsen, Director of Development, LAS and CCLA. "A very special thanks goes out to the Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue and their Santa's Express Project staff for adopting 103 children from 44 families."

This year's adopters included: Atkinson Diner Stone Mankuta & Ploucha, P.A.; G.M. Barbara Beilly; Marybeth Boehm; Julie Bruno, Psy. D; Andy Cagnetta; Chorowski & Moore, P.A.; Colodny Fass Talenfeld Karlinsky Abate; Jordana Contrucchi; Doumar Allsworth Laystrom Wachs MacIver & Adair; Episcopal Church of St. Anne Junior Daughters of the King; Gladys Gerson, Esq.; Gladstone & Weissman, P.A.; the Gordan Family; Jacobson Sobo & Moselle, P.A.; Shaheewa Jarrett, Esq.; Diane & Mark Jones; John Jordan, Esq. & Family; Anthony J. Karrat, Esq. & Family; Kirwan & Spellacy, PA; Sally Lawlor and Family; Brooke & Robert Lochrie Family; Steve Mankodi; Judy McPharlin; Bonnie Miskel; Law Office Siegel, Lipman, Dunay, Shepard & Miskel, LLP; Robin Moselle, Esq. & Family; Patrick Murphy & Associates; Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue-Santa's Express Project; Hon. Linda Pratt; Janet Riley, Esq.; Don Silver; Boardroom Communications; St. Thomas More Society; Kathy Thomsen and Andy Hyman; and Vezina, Lawrence & Piscitelli.



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The Broward County Bar Association would like to thank all the sponsors of the Judicial Robing Ceremony Held on Friday January 29, 2010

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View photos from January 29th Robing Ceremony on www.browardbar.org.

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The Broward County Bar Association hosted a Luncheon for all Voluntary Bar Association leaders and representatives on Thursday, January 7, at the BCBA's Norma B. Howard Bar Center, to discuss the Annual Voluntary Bar Liaison Conference, to take place in July 16-17, 2010.



Front row, L to R: Wilma Stevenson, North Broward Bar; Andrew Daire, North Broward Bar; Jay Kim, Asian Pacific American Bar Association; Cherine Smith, Caribbean Bar Association; Adele Stone, President of the Florida Bar Foundation; Jorge Hurtado, Broward County Bar; Diana Sulea, Broward County Christian Lawyers Association; Robin Sobo-Moselle, Broward County Bar; Kim Zaffere and Kathy Thomsen of Legal Aid Service of Broward, Inc. and Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida.

Back row, L to R: Bruce Weihe, Broward County Bar Association; Art Goldberg, Broward County Bar Association; Chris Neilson, Broward County Bar Association; Scott Golden, Broward County Christian Lawyers Association, Carlos Llorente, Broward County Bar Association President.



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All sponsors will also receive their name displayed on signage at event and recognition in the BCBA monthly newsletter, the *Broward Barrister*

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

BCBA Members	\$35.00
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Entrance tickets include complimentary hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and desserts

For sponsorship information or to RSVP, please contact:

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Five Ways to Become a Legal Thought Leader

By Margaret Grisdela



Thought leadership is the ability to position yourself as an expert in your area of legal practice.* Becoming a thought leader takes time, patience, and strategic planning.

legislation, you can easily break this into sub-components. Perhaps you could write one article each on health care litigation risks, state level compliance requirements, funding considerations, and fraud.

By having a range of topics to address, you create flexibility to reach out to different publications and/or industry segments for even greater visibility.

4. Speak Often and Enthusiastically on your Topic
 Many of the marketing techniques used in article marketing (as described above) can be applied to speaking engagements as well.

Major annual events book their speakers a minimum of 6 to 12 months in advance, so it is never too early to start your quest for speaking engagements. The sooner you get named as a speaker, the more publicity you can generate through advance promotion. Start today to identify the local, regional, or national events where you would like a seat on the podium. Reach out to the Program Chair or other session planners to suggest one of your topics for inclusion.

5. Position Yourself as an Expert with the Media
 When news is breaking fast on a topic of interest to you, an experienced PR professional can position you as a good source for a quote or background discussion on the topic. Establishing a pattern of press coverage in industry publications and other news sources will reinforce your role as a thought leader.

In summary, establishing your position as a thought leader will help you to naturally attract qualified prospects, so you can spend more time on client fulfillment and less time on prospecting.

*The Florida Bar regulates use of the word "expert" in marketing campaigns, but you can still take the steps necessary to position yourself as a thought leader through writing, speaking, and press coverage.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR. Margaret Grisdela, president of the national legal marketing agency Legal Expert Connections and author of the legal marketing book Courting Your Clients. You can reach her at 561-266-1030 or mg@legalexpertconnections.com.

By definition, a thought leader is a person who has specialized knowledge and expertise in a particular subject and promotes a forward-thinking approach to the topic through speaking, publishing, PR, and other outreach efforts. Take a few minutes now to think of how you can strengthen your own role as a thought leader.

Here are five key steps you can take to become a legal thought leader respected by your peers and sought after by clients.

1. Pick a Niche
 Powerful law practices are built on the concept of specialization. Study industry challenges, demographics, legislative initiatives, and other potential expansion factors when selecting your niche. Look for a sizable growth opportunity with a high probability that it can sustain your practice over the next 5-10 years.

2. Align your Clients and Cases with your Area of Expertise
 Your personal strengths and interests, successful cases, current clients, and highest quality prospects can all help to determine your best area of concentration.

3. Publish By-Lined Articles in Legal Journals and Trade Publications
 A well written article on a timely topic sets you apart from the competition by strengthening your reputation as a legal subject matter expert. Corporate general counsel, among others, frequently contact attorneys based on published articles.

If you want to get published, the first step is to select your topic. You can gain rapid visibility by focusing on subjects that challenge the status quo, like newly adopted legislation or controversial industry trends.

Picking the topic is just the beginning, however. We recommend taking a strategic approach to topic development. For example, if your topic is healthcare



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The Demos think tank organization is based in London, and they never shy away from the tough topics. This 108-page paper released in November 2009 is titled "Connecting the Dots" and was written by Demos staff members Jake Chapman, Charlie Edwards, and Simon Hampson. This paper "offers an approach premised on learning and adaptation, which demands that politicians and policymakers be prepared to embrace uncertainty and complexity." It does this by taking a close look at three very complex and intractable policy issues: illicit drugs in Mexico, London gang crime, and climate change. The report includes five separate chapters, along with a section of references. For anyone looking for a compelling voice in the wide world of public policy and related matters, this paper is an excellent find.

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The Broward County Bar Association Congratulates Juliette Ellen Lippman

Juliette Ellen Lippman is a Martindale-Hubbell AV-rated partner at Kirschbaum, Birnbaum, Lippman & Gregoire, PLLC, in Fort Lauderdale. Her principal areas of practice are marital, family and appellate law. Ms. Lippman has eagerly participated in a plethora of pro bono programs including ones for the Department of Labor Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Department of Education; Paralyzed Veterans Association; Broward Lawyers Care - Legal Aid Service of Broward County; Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center; Guardian Ad Litem; and other programs for the physically and mentally ill. One parent that she tirelessly helped in a Guardian Ad Litem affair said that she is passionate about children and families and does not let anything or anyone prevent her from finding what is needed. Her most intense passion is for helping children and those living with disabilities. The Florida Bar will recognize 21 lawyers for their work on behalf of poor and indigent clients at a Jan. 28 ceremony at the Florida Supreme Court.

The Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award was established in 1981. It is intended to encourage lawyers to volunteer free legal services to the poor by recognizing those who make public service commitments and to raise public awareness of the substantial volunteer services provided by Florida lawyers to those who cannot afford legal fees. President Jesse H. Diner, of Fort Lauderdale, will present the 2010 awards.

The award recognizes pro bono service in each of Florida's 20 judicial circuits and one Florida Bar member practicing outside the state of Florida. Awards recognizing pro bono contributions will also be presented for Distinguished Judicial Service, Law Firm Commendation, Voluntary Bar Association and Young Lawyer during the Jan. 28 ceremony.

Judicial Nominating Commissions Vacancies

Judicial Nominating Commissions: There are two lawyer vacancies for each of Florida's 26 JNCs. The Florida Bar must nominate six lawyers for each Judicial Nominating Commission to the Governor for his appointment. Each appointee will serve a four-year term, commencing July 1, 2010. Applicants must be engaged in the practice of law and a resident of the territorial jurisdiction served by the commission to which the member is applying. Applicants must comply with state financial disclosure laws. Commissioners are not eligible for state judicial office for vacancies filled by the JNC on which they sit for 2 years following completion of their 4-year term.

Applications must be received by mail or fax, (850) 561-5826 no later than **5:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 26, 2010**, in the Executive Director's office of The Florida Bar. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of an application. Screening committees of the Board of Governors will review all JNC applications. The Executive Committee will then make recommendations to the Board of Governors.

Persons interested in applying for any of these vacancies may download the proper application form (there is a specific JNC application) from the Bar's Web site, www.floridabar.org, or should call Bar headquarters at (850) 561-5757, to obtain the application. Completed applications must be received by the Executive Director, The Florida Bar, 651 E. Jefferson St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300 by the Feb. 26 deadline date.

SOLO SMALL / LAW FIRM NETWORKING FEBRUARY 2009 LUNCH DATES!

Friday, February 5th: At Bimini Boat Yard, 1555 SE 17th Street, Fort Lauderdale (954) 525-7400, RSVP to: Beth Lindie (954) 764-5400 and or blindie@lawyers.com.

Friday, February 12th: At The Ark Restaurant, 6255 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL (954) 584-3075. RSVP to: David Silverstone (954) 367-0770 and or david@dsilverstone.com. (FREE LUNCH- SPONSORED BY TriBridge)

Friday, February 19th: At Olive Garden (Coral Springs), 1555 N. University Drive, Coral Springs (954) 344-5226. RSVP to: Evan M. Ostfeld (954) 227-7529 and or Evan@Attorney4life.com. (FREE LUNCH- SPONSORED BY TriBridge).

Tuesday, February 23rd: At Champps, 6401 N. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL (954) 491-9335. RSVP to: Jane Bolin, (954) 316-1339 and or jane@peytonbolin.com. (FREE LUNCH- SPONSORED BY TriBridge)

Wednesday, February 24th: Olive Garden, 807 S. University Drive, Plantation (954) 424-7201. RSVP to: John Rizvi (954) 452-0033 and or johnrizvi@ideaattorneys.com. (FREE LUNCH- SPONSORED BY TriBridge)

Friday, February 26th: East City Grill, 1800 Bell Tower Lane, Weston Town Center, Weston (954) 659-3339. RSVP to: Rick Woolf (954) 252-0043 and or rwoolf@woolffinancial.com.

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**LEGAL AID SERVICE OF BROWARD COUNTY (LAS)
TO CELEBRATE 9TH ANNUAL FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD GALA**

-- Kelley/Uustal Confirms First Major Sponsorship --

Plantation, FL – January 8, 2010 – Fort Lauderdale law firm Kelley/Uustal has become the initial major sponsor of Legal Aid Service of Broward County’s 9th Annual FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD gala dinner to be held on May 14, 2010 at the Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Bob and Kerry Kelley and John and Jennifer Uustal will serve as Honorary Co-Chairs for this year’s event. Founding partners Bob Kelley and John Uustal, Kelley/Uustal, share LAS’s belief in justice for all. “The service that Legal Aid provides goes to the very heart of why all of us are in this profession, to insure that every individual has equal access to legal representation,” said Bob Kelley.

In addition to dinner, a silent auction and entertainment, the event includes an awards ceremony. FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD honors individuals and organizations in Broward County who have led the way in reaching out to those in need and demonstrated leadership in helping people gain access to justice. Belinda Keiser, Vice Chancellor, Community Relations and Student Advancement, Keiser University, is slated to receive the 13th annual 2010 Russell E. Carlisle Advocacy Award at the event. Kelley Uustal will be honored as Law Firm of the Year in recognition of their continued support for LAS. Additional Honorees will be announced in the next few weeks.

The goal of this year’s event is to raise over \$150,000, according to Committee Co-chairs Angela Renee Neave, Esq., Barry I. Finkel, P.A., and Sheryl A. Moore, Esq., Chorowski & Moore, P.A. “We know that the legal community will answer our question, ‘If not us, then who?’ with their sponsorship dollars, silent auction donations and ads in our commemorative journal.”

Money raised is used to provide free civil legal services to children and families in Broward County. Among the many legal services provided, LAS helps abused children in foster care, the homeless, children in need of special education and families losing their homes to foreclosure.

FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD and Legal Aid Service programs rely heavily on donations and commitments from the local community. For information about sponsorship opportunities, program ads or auction donations for this event, contact Kathy Thomsen, Director of Development at 954-736-2429 or kthomsen@legalaid.org.

###

Legal Aid Service of Broward County (LAS) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit law firm and has been providing free civil legal services to Broward County children, families and senior citizens in the low income and underserved communities for 35 years. Last year LAS assisted over 10,000 family members and over 3000 children at no charge. LAS also manages the largest pro bono program in Broward County, Broward Lawyers Care.



Bob and Kerry Kelley



John and Jennifer Uustal



Legal Aid Service of Broward County (LAS) and Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida Extend Congratulations and Welcome

Plantation, FL (January 8, 2010)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO JULIETTE E. LIPPMAN, ESQ. --
THE FLORIDA BAR’S 2010 17th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT AWARD RECIPIENT**

Legal Aid Service of Broward County (LAS) and Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida (CCLA) congratulate Juliette E. Lippman, Esq., a partner with Kirschbaum, Birnbaum, Lippman & Gregoire, PLLC. Juliette was chosen by The Florida Bar to receive the 2010 17th Judicial Circuit Award.

The award will be presented at The Florida Bar President’s Pro Bono Service Awards Ceremony at the Florida Supreme Court in Tallahassee by The Honorable Peggy A. Quince, Chief Justice, Florida Supreme Court, and Jesse H. Diner, President, The Florida Bar, on January 28, 2010.

With over fifteen years of legal experience, Ms. Lippman practices exclusively in the area of marital and family law. She is an author and lecturer.

We are most grateful to Ms. Lippman, who served as the Co-Chair of LAS’s annual fundraiser, FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD, in 2006, 2007 and 2009. She continually donates her time to LAS, including the upcoming 9th Annual FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD to be held at the Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina on Friday, May 14, 2010.

**WELCOME TO RUSSELL E. CARLISLE, ESQ. –
BROWARD LAWYER’S CARE’S (BLC) EMERITUS ATTORNEY**

LAS and CCLA also extend a warm welcome Russell E. Carlisle, Esq. as Broward Lawyers Care’s Emeritus Attorney. In this capacity, Mr. Carlisle will be spearheading The Florida Bar’s ONE campaign (One Client; One Attorney; One Promise) in Broward County. Additionally, he will be speaking at various Bar Association luncheons, meetings and seminars throughout the County in a tireless effort to recruit pro bono attorneys for BLC.

Mr. Carlisle has long been dedicated to pro bono legal service to the poor. He has received numerous accolades during his more than 50 years as an attorney, including the prestigious 2009 Tobias Simon Pro Bono Service Award by The Florida Bar.

In 1981, as president of the Broward County Bar Association, he established its pro bono services program, Broward Lawyers Care (BLC), which now is administered by LAS and has 1,250 members. He continues to donate his time to BLC and also was selected as BLC’s Attorney of the Month for January 2009. Mr. Carlisle and his wife, Janet, also served as Honorary Co-Chairs of LAS’s 8th Annual FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD in 2009.

Until recently he was the sole practitioner with the Carlisle Law Firm in Fort Lauderdale and Campton, N.H. Mr. Carlisle is a past president of the Florida Bar Foundation, Florida Legal Services, the Broward County Bar Association and former chair of The Florida Bar Commission on Elder Law and its Elder Law Certification Committee. He has been board certified in Elder Law since 1998.

