
2017 Reporters' Workshop Panelists and Speakers

ANA-KLARA H. ANDERSON

NBC Universal Golf Channel

407-355-4668

Ana-Klara.Anderson@golfchannel.com

Ana-Klara H. Anderson is counsel to NBC Sports and represents both English and Spanish-language media clients, including Golf Channel, GolfNow and Telemundo, in the areas of intellectual property, commercial litigation and sports and entertainment law. She provides pre-broadcast and pre-publication review and newsgathering advice, counsels media clients concerning digital content and publication practices, and advises on privacy and security issues related to data collection and commercial transactions. She has additional expertise in legal issues affecting sports operations and marketing, including anti-doping, amateur and professional sporting events, and talent negotiations. Anderson is a former associate of the law firm of Thomas & LoCicero PL, where her practice focused on First Amendment issues, business litigation and access to government records. She earned her law degree from the University of Florida Levin College of Law and a Ph.D. in Media Law and Policy from UF's College of Journalism and Communications. She earned her undergraduate degree from George Washington University, after which she served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. She is the current chair of The Florida Bar Media & Communications Law Committee and legal adviser to the Tee-Lo Golf and Adam's Corner charities.

THE HON. NINA ASHENAFI-RICHARDSON

Second Judicial Circuit

850-606-4316

RichardsonN@leoncountyfl.gov

Judge Nina Ashenafi-Richardson was elected as Leon County Judge in 2008 and re-elected without opposition in 2014. She presides over both misdemeanor criminal and civil matters and is the acting circuit judge presiding over Felony Drug Court, Uncontested Divorces and Adoption cases. Judge Ashenafi Richardson co-authored, along with Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Jorge Labarga and Tricia Knox, Senior Court Operations Consultant, Florida Office of the State Courts Administrator, an article "Should I Tweet That? Court Communications in the 21st Century." It was published in the 2016 issue of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) journal, Trends in State Courts. She is a 1991 Florida State College of Law graduate. She currently chairs the 2nd Judicial Circuit's Communications Committee which was created to implement the Supreme Court's Communication Plan. Judge Nina Ashenafi-Richardson is married to Tallahassee City Commissioner Curtis Richardson and is the mother of two daughters.

EDWARD L. BIRK

Marks Gray, P.A.

904-614-6876

EBirk@marksgray.com

Edward L. Birk represents news organizations and other clients interested in the First Amendment. He is a former journalist whose work for news organizations includes fighting for access to public records and public meetings, opposing overbroad subpoenas, defending news organizations and journalists when targeted by threats and lawsuits for libel and defamation, and advising journalists on all facets of newsgathering. He earned his J.D. with honors in 1995 from Florida State University College of Law, where he was editor-in-chief of the Florida State University Law Review. Birk attended the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, where he received his B.A. in journalism with a minor concentration in legal studies in 1983. He started his journalism career as a staff writer for the Massachusetts Daily Collegian, a student newspaper with daily circulation of more than 20,000, followed by an internship with the Southbridge News, an afternoon daily newspaper, then as a stringer for The Associated Press, which led to his work for the AP in Boston, Miami and Tallahassee. Before becoming an attorney, he also worked for the Florida

Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles as public information administrator from 1989 to 1992. After law school, Birk was law clerk to U.S. District Judge Lacy A. Collier in the Northern District of Florida.

STEVE BOUSQUET

Tampa Bay Times

850-224-7263

bousquet@tampabay.com

Steve Bousquet is capital bureau chief for the Tampa Bay Times, Florida's largest newspaper, and a member of the partnership in Tallahassee with the Miami Herald. He joined the Times in 2001 after 17 years at the Herald, where he covered city and county government, courts, tourism, growth and the Florida Legislature. He has covered every session of the Legislature for the past 30 years. He has a master's degree in U.S. history from Florida State University and contributed to all three editions of The Almanac of Florida Politics.

MICHAEL BRAGA

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

941-361-4877

michael.braga@heraldtribune.com

Michael Braga is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and investigations editor for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. He graduated from Duke University with B.A. in history in 1982 and has a master's in economics from the University of Texas at Austin. He reported for magazines and newspapers in Valencia, Venezuela, and in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and has spent more than 20 years working for business publications and daily newspapers in Florida – the last 15 at the Herald-Tribune. He was part of the investigative team that won a Pulitzer in 2016 for “Insane. Invisible. In Danger” - a series of stories about violence and mismanagement at Florida's mental hospitals. He also has worked on prize-winning investigations about real estate flipping fraud, the collapse of 70 Florida banks during the Great Recession and bias in Florida's judicial system.

JUSTICE CHARLES T. CANADY

Florida Supreme Court

850-410-8092

OutlawJ@flcourts.org

Justice Charles Canady was born in Lakeland in 1954. He received his B.A. from Haverford College in 1976 and his J.D. from the Yale Law School in 1979. Justice Canady practiced law with the firm of Holland and Knight in Lakeland from 1979 through 1982. He practiced with the firm of Lane, Trohn, et al., from 1983 through 1992. From November 1984 to November 1990, Justice Canady served three terms in the Florida House of Representatives, and from January 1993 to January 2001, he served four terms in the United States House of Representatives. Throughout his service in Congress, Justice Canady was a member of the House Judiciary Committee. For three terms, from January 1995 to January 2001, Justice Canady was chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution. After leaving Congress, Justice Canady became general counsel to Gov. Jeb Bush. He was appointed by Gov. Bush to the 2nd District Court of Appeal for a term beginning Nov. 20, 2002. On Aug. 28, 2008, Justice Canady was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Gov. Charlie Crist, and he took office on Sept. 8, 2008. He served as chief justice from July 2010 through June 2012. He is married to Jennifer Houghton, and they have two children.

TALBOT “SANDY” D’ALEMBERTE

FSU College of Law

850-644-0800

dalembert@fsu.edu

Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte, president emeritus at Florida State University and a professor at the FSU College of Law, is a former president of the American Bar Association (1991-92). He was dean of FSU College of Law from 1984 to 1989 and was appointed president of FSU in 1993, serving in that capacity through January 2003. He

is a member of the American Law Institute, served as president of the American Judicature Society (1982-84), practiced law for several years with Steel Hector & Davis in Miami and was a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1966-1972. D'Alemberte has won numerous national awards for his contributions to the profession, including the 2001 Wickersham Award given by the Friends of the Law Library of Congress, the 2001 Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, the 1998 ABA Section of Legal Education Robert J. Kutak Award, the 1998 ABA World Order Under Law Award, the 1996 American Judicature Society's Justice Award, the 1996 National Council of Jewish Women's Hannah G. Soloman Award, the 1986 National Sigma Delta Chi First Amendment Award, and an American Academy of Television Arts and Sciences "Emmy" in 1985 for his work in open government. He is the author of "The Florida Constitution" (Greenwood Press 1991).

JOSHUA DOYLE

The Florida Bar

850-561-5600

jdoyle@floridabar.org

Josh Doyle is the executive director designate of The Florida Bar. The Florida Bar is the organization of all lawyers who are licensed by the Supreme Court of Florida to practice law in the state. The Florida Bar's core functions are to prosecute unethical lawyers through the attorney discipline system; administer a client protection fund to cover certain financial losses a client might suffer because of misappropriation by a lawyer; administer a substance-abuse program; and provide continuing education services for lawyers. The Florida Bar provides many other services to members and the public, including publishing legal periodicals, administering a public information program, providing ethics and law office management advice, and sponsoring conferences and meetings. Before working at The Florida Bar, Doyle worked in various positions within the federal government and practiced law in Florida.

THE HON. PETER F. ESTRADA

10th Judicial Circuit, Polk County

863-402-6994

PEstrada@Jud10.FLCourts.org

The Hon. Peter F. Estrada is a 10th Judicial Circuit Court Judge of Polk County located in Bartow. He was the first Hispanic circuit judge in the history of the 10th Circuit, which he has served since 2005. Judge Estrada has served as a member of the Florida Supreme Court's Standing Committee on Fairness and Diversity for more than seven years. On July 1, 2016, Judge Estrada was appointed by Chief Justice Jorge Labarga to serve as the chair of the Standing Committee on Fairness and Diversity. Judge Estrada was a Highlands County Court judge from 2003-2005 and was the assistant state attorney of the 10th Circuit from 1988-2002. He has presented diversity training at law schools throughout the state. He was instrumental in the development of the Fairness and Diversity Best Practices Guide. Judge Estrada, along with the Standing Committee on Fairness and Diversity, is currently working on a train-the-trainer program for judges in reference to sentencing bias. Judge Estrada received his B.A. from the University South Florida (history; minor American studies) in 1983 and his J.D. from the South Texas College of Law in 1988. He is a member of the Bars of Florida and the United States Middle District Court Florida, and the Highland Bar Association; the Tenth Judicial Circuit representative on the Select Committee Justice Teaching; and the South Florida Community College Foundation Board of Directors, along with numerous civic and community organizations.

BRENDAN FARRINGTON

The Associated Press

850-224-1211

bfarrington@ap.org

Brendan Farrington has worked for The Associated Press for 20 years, including 16 years of covering politics, government and the Florida Legislature in Tallahassee. He moved to Florida from Massachusetts, where he was a reporter for nine years covering communities south of Boston for the Patriot Ledger. He earned his journalism degree at Boston University.

GARY FINEOUT

The Associated Press

850-224-1211

GFineout@ap.org

Gary Fineout is a member of the Tallahassee bureau of The Associated Press. A veteran Tallahassee journalist, he joined the AP in 2011. He has covered state government since 1995, including coverage of politics, the budget, the judiciary and election law cases. Fineout has worked at the Miami Herald, the Tallahassee Democrat, the New York Times Newspaper Group and the Daytona Beach News-Journal. His work also has appeared in numerous other publications, including the New York Times, 850 magazine and the Daily Business Review. Before joining the AP, Fineout helped start The Florida Current, an Internet-based news operation for clients of a legislative tracking service. Fineout graduated from Florida State University with a degree in American and Florida studies.

RACHEL FUGATE

Shullman Fugate PLLC

813-935-5098

rfugate@shullmanfugate.com

Rachel Fugate is partner in the law firm of Shullman Fugate PLLC. Her practice handles all aspects of media law and includes representation of national media companies, local and regional newspapers and television stations, book publishers, film producers, reality television programs, artists and nonprofit corporations. Fugate defends publishers and broadcasters in complex defamation, invasion of privacy, and other content-related claims and prosecutes actions for access to government information. She has argued several media matters in federal and state trial and appellate courts throughout Florida. Her practice also concentrates on preventive litigation measures. She provides publishers and broadcasters daily advice on a variety of content-related issues, including newsgathering, responses to retraction demands and subpoenas, pre-broadcast and pre-publication review, and protection and use of intellectual property, Internet content and publication practices. Fugate serves on the Governing Committee of the American Bar Association's Forum on Communications Law and is a past chair of the Media Law Committee of The Florida Bar. She earned her J.D. magna cum laude in 1998 from Florida State University College of Law.

PAT GLEASON

Attorney General's Office

850-245-0140

Pat.Gleason@myfloridalegal.com

Pat Gleason is special counsel for open government for Attorney General Pam Bondi. She also 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 the Florida State University College of Law. She also is currently the editor of the Sunshine Manual and the Public Records Guide for Law Enforcement agencies.

RANDY HAMMER

Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition

850-202-4406

rhammer@ihmc.us

Randy Hammer is the communications director for the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition. He also is the president emeritus of the Studer Community Institute and the former executive editor of the Pensacola News Journal, which was a two-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize under his leadership. Hammer was the president and CEO of the Asheville Citizen-Times and Asheville Media Group in Asheville, N.C., before returning to Pensacola in 2014 to work with Pensacola philanthropist Quint Studer to launch the Studer Community Institute, a Pensacola nonprofit dedicated to improving the quality of life in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. The Gannett Company, which owns the News Journal and Citizen-Times as well as USA Today, twice named Hammer editor of the year. During his 40-year career in journalism, Hammer was a vice president at the Courier-Journal in Louisville, Ky.,

executive editor of newspapers in Springfield, Mo., Huntington, W.Va. and Marion, Ind.; and managing editor of the Jackson Sun in Jackson, Tenn. Hammer grew up in Fairhope, Ala., and Panama City, where his father was a high school coach and his mother was an English teacher. He graduated from the University of West Florida in Pensacola, where he was the editor of the student newspaper, the Voyager.

MICHAEL J. HIGER

President of The Florida Bar, 2017-2018

Berger Singerman LLP, Miami

305-714-4373

president@floridabar.org

Michael J. Higer was born in Miami Beach. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1982 from the University of Florida and his Juris Doctorate degree with honors in 1985 from the University of Miami School of Law, where he was the executive editor of the Law Review. He is a partner of Berger Singerman's Dispute Resolution Team, and an experienced litigator and trial lawyer who has devoted his practice to commercial litigation and civil trial work. He is A/V rated by Martindale Hubbell, the highest available rating. The Best Lawyers in America, Florida Trend magazine's Florida Legal Elite and Florida Super Lawyers have all repeatedly recognized him in his practice areas. Notably, he is the only lawyer in Florida recognized by the prestigious Chambers' legal guide for his representation of policyholders in insurance disputes. He is widely regarded as one of the architects of the business courts established in Florida.

MAMIE JOEVEER

AXS Law Group

305-459-6628

mamiejoeveer@yahoo.com

Mamie C. Joeveer is Of Counsel with AXS Law Group, where she is a part of the Trial and Litigation Team. Joeveer formerly served in the U.S. Marine Corps, as a public affairs officer who achieved the rank of captain. Joeveer has also worked as a national journalist and contributor to Forbes, NBCUniversal and the Miami Herald, where she covered business and entertainment. She started her legal career as an assistant public defender in Broward County. Joeveer is often asked to appear as a military and legal analyst on MSNBC.

TOM JULIN

Gunster Yoakley & Stewart P.A.

305-376-6007

tjulin@gunster.com

Tom Julin has litigated free speech issues of almost every type in Florida and around the country and has been a leader in advocating for First Amendment rights of business. Most notably, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled favorably in *Sorrell v. IMS Health, Inc.* on Julin's contention in 2011 that data mining for target marketing is protected against regulation that cannot survive heightened judicial scrutiny. That precedent-setting opinion, which resulted in invalidation of three state laws, has been cited in more than 1,000 subsequent judicial decisions in which companies have challenged laws and regulations restricting advertising, pharmaceutical sales, securities offerings, labor practices, Internet communications and more. In the early part of his 35-year legal career, Julin's clients were primarily newspaper, magazine and book publishers, television stations and networks, wire services and media industry associations. Today, Julin, a shareholder in the Miami office of Gunster Yoakley Stewart PA, has found that most businesses engage in extensive data collection, analysis and use and, as a consequence, all face increasingly complex regulatory and judicial challenges that implicate First Amendment principles. In 1983, Julin persuaded the Florida Supreme Court to enjoin Sunshine Law violations of the University of Florida College of Law and later obtained a consent decree against the Florida State University College of Law. Most recently, he led a journalist's campaign to declassify 28 pages of a congressional report regarding the Saudi government's possible support for the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the United States. The report had been kept secret for more than 13 years until it was declassified by President Obama in 2016.

DARA KAM

The News Service of Florida

850-570-1592

darakam@gmail.com

Dara Kam has spent two decades reporting on Florida government, politics and courts for the New York Times Regional Newspaper Group, Gannett Co., the Palm Beach Post and The Associated Press, where she was part of the award-winning team covering the Florida recount in the 2000 presidential election. Kam's body of work on the death penalty includes detailed analyses of state and national court decisions regarding capital punishment, as well as stories that bring home to readers the emotions involved in executions. She has written extensively about the experiences of inmates on Death Row, as well as those who have been exonerated, and the attorneys who represent them. Kam joined the News Service of Florida as a senior writer in 2013.

MICHELLE KENNEDY

Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

321-637-5355

michelle.kennedy@flcourts18.org

Michelle Kennedy, as public information officer/administrative services manager for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, is responsible for handling the logistics and administrative issues related to high-profile trials. In preparation for *State v. Zimmerman*, she met with media representatives and law enforcement officials for months before the trial to develop strategies to accommodate the media's needs and ensure a secure, smooth process for all involved. Initially hired as a communications director, Kennedy now supervises the probate and guardianship division and manages many of the due process services provided by the courts. She has been with the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit since June of 2000. Before that, she worked in community relations at the Brevard County Sheriff's Office and with various nonprofit agencies. She is a graduate of Florida State University, where she majored in communications and political science.

MARY ELLEN KLAS

Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau

850-222-3095

meklas@miamiherald.com

Mary Ellen Klas is capital bureau chief for the Miami Herald and a co-bureau chief of the paper's merged bureau with the Tampa Bay Times. She is a graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, and a graduate of the University of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minn. Klas has won awards for her enterprise coverage of numerous issues, including for her work on the Herald's investigation of the state's child welfare system and its investigation of the state's prison system, "Cruel and Unusual," and for her contribution to the Herald's award-winning series "Innocents Lost." Those series each won numerous awards, including the 2015 Goldsmith Award from the Shorenstein Center at Harvard for Investigative Journalism, and the Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting by the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism.

Throughout her 30-year career in Florida, Klas has been responsible for ground-breaking coverage of campaign finance, public records, prisons, redistricting, gambling, insurance, utility industries, growth management, nursing home litigation and environmental laws. She has covered five governors. Before she became bureau chief for the Herald in 2004, Klas was Tallahassee bureau chief for Florida Trend magazine and bureau chief for the Palm Beach Post. She is married to John Kennedy, a longtime Tallahassee journalist. They have two daughters. Klas is the recipient of the League of Women Voters' 2016 Making Democracy Work Award for her coverage of redistricting. She also has received the Women of Distinction Award from the Girl Scout Council of the Florida Panhandle, and she is a member of Leadership Florida's Class XXXIII.

JUSTICE C. ALAN LAWSON

Florida Supreme Court

850-921-1096

lawsona@fcourts.org

Justice C. Alan Lawson was born in Lakeland. After earning an A.A. degree at Tallahassee Community College, he received a B.S. degree from Clemson University in 1983 and his J.D. from Florida State University in 1987. He was an associate and partner at Steel Hector & Davis in Miami and Tallahassee (1987-1995); general counsel at Verses Wear, Inc. (1996); and assistant county attorney in Orange County (1997-2001). He was a judge in the Ninth Judicial Circuit (2002- 2005); a judge on the Fifth District Court of Appeal (2006-2016), serving as chief judge in his final year; and was named to the Florida Supreme Court by Gov. Rick Scott in 2016. Justice Lawson is a member of the Florida District Court of Appeal Budget Commission, Florida Courts Technology Commission, Appellate Court Technology Committee (Fifth District Representative) and Orange County Bar Association. He is a runner who finished the Boston Marathon in 2008. He is married to Julie Carlton Lawson, and they have two children.

KAREN CONNOLLY LEVEY

Ninth Judicial Circuit Court

407-836-2047

ctadkl1@ocnjcc.org

Karen Connolly Levey has been with the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court (Orange and Osceola Counties)-Court Administration for 28 years. Levey is the official court spokeswoman for the circuit and is responsible for the court's communication initiatives. She is responsible for developing and managing the court's social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter, OpenNinth (podcast) and Instagram. She is the point of contact for the media and others who seek information about the court; is responsible for the court's web presence and all court publications; is responsible for providing professional support for legislative issues; and handles public record requests for the circuit. The circuit's successful community outreach programs include: Inside the Courts, Judicial-Ride-Along, Speakers Bureau, Town Halls, Court Tours and various court publications. She is also responsible for the court's strategic planning. She directs and oversees all Due Process Services and Departments for the court, including Jury Services, Court Reporting, Court Interpreting, Problem Solving Courts and Court Appointed Attorneys. Levey is the liaison for Court Security issues, including disaster preparedness. Levey has a Bachelor of Science in journalism from the University of Florida and a Master of Arts in political science with a Certificate in Public Administration from the University of Florida. Before coming to work for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Levey worked for a congressman, was a regional planner and was an agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SUSAN A. MACMANUS

University of South Florida, Department of Government and International Affairs

813-503-0561

macmanus@usf.edu

Susan A. MacManus is a Distinguished University Professor at USF in the Department of Government and International Affairs. She directs the annual USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Survey, the state's most extensive annual public policy survey of adult Floridians (sunshinestatesurvey.org). MacManus received her M.A. from the University of Michigan and Ph.D. from Florida State University. From 1998 to 2015, she was political analyst for WFLA News Channel 8 (Tampa's NBC affiliate). In 2016, she became the political analyst for ABC Action News (Tampa's ABC affiliate.) Since 2008, she has been a featured columnist on sayfiereview.com. She has appeared on every major broadcast and cable television and radio network and been interviewed by major newspapers in Florida, the U.S. and abroad. She is Florida's most-quoted political scientist. MacManus is not affiliated with any political party. MacManus has authored or co-authored a number of publications on Florida politics, including the newly-released "Florida's Minority Trailblazers: The Men and Women Who Changed the Face of Florida Government" (University Press of Florida, 2017); "Politics in Florida," 4th ed.; "Young v. Old: Generational Combat in the 21st Century?" and "Targeting Senior Voters." MacManus and her mother, Elizabeth, are the authors of two local Florida history books published by the University of Tampa Press: "Citrus, Sawmills, Critters & Crackers: Early Life in Lutz and Central Pasco County" and "Going, Going, Almost Gone: Lutz-Land O' Lakes Pioneers Share Their Precious Memories." She

co-edits a series with David Colburn (University of Florida) on Florida Politics for the University Press of Florida. She serves on the UF Bob Graham Center for Public Service Council of Advisors and on the Board of Directors of the Florida TaxWatch Center for Florida Citizenship. MacManus chaired the Florida Elections Commission from 1999-2003.

TIA MITCHELL

Florida Times-Union – Tallahassee Bureau

850-933-1321

tia.mitchell@jacksonville.com

Tia Mitchell, a political journalist, is statehouse bureau chief for the Florida Times-Union newspaper. Based in Tallahassee, she covers state government and politics with a focus on Northeast Florida issues and lawmakers. Mitchell also writes a popular column in the Sunday “Reason” section that focuses on analysis and insight on local, state and national politics. Mitchell is a native of Louisville, Ky. She earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Florida A&M University. She returned to the Times-Union in 2014 after working for four years at the Tampa Bay Times. Most of that time she was stationed in the Times/Miami Herald Tallahassee Bureau, where she concentrated on health care and higher-education coverage. Among her most notable contributions was the national scoop that Gov. Rick Scott had changed his stance on Medicaid expansion. (He has since changed it again.) Mitchell is former president and current member of the Board of Governors of the Florida Capitol Press Corps. You can catch her singing and dancing on stage each year at the annual Press Skits scholarship fundraiser.

SAMUEL MORLEY

Florida Press Association

321-283-5353

smorley@flpress.com

Samuel Morley is general counsel for the Florida Press Association in Tallahassee. He represents the association before the state Legislature and administrative agencies and oversees the FPA legal hotline, which provides legal advice to newspapers throughout the state. He is former chair of the Florida Bar Media & Communications Law Committee and currently chairs the Media Awards Committee. Morley was formerly an associate and partner at the Holland & Knight law firm. He has been a member of The Florida Bar since 1984.

THE HON. DEBRA STEINBERG NELSON

Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

407-665-4996

Debra.Nelson@flcourts18.org

The Hon. Debra Steinberg Nelson was appointed to the circuit bench by Gov. Jeb Bush in 1999. Since her appointment, Judge Nelson has presided over thousands of cases, ranging from complex civil litigation to death penalty trials. During 2013, she was widely praised for her handling of *State v. Zimmerman*, one of the nation’s most highly publicized and sensitive murder trials. Judge Nelson is a recipient of the Mize-Dickey Outstanding Jurist Award, which goes to judges who exemplify the highest standards of integrity, impartiality and intellect, and the Firm But Fair Award, an honor given jointly by the offices of the State Attorney and Public Defender. Judge Nelson earned her law degree from South Texas College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Florida. Before becoming a judge, Judge Nelson was a prosecutor in Broward County and a staff counsel to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in Tallahassee. She also was an arbitrator for the United States District Court. In private practice, she specialized in civil and family law. Judge Nelson currently serves in the Felony Division at the Seminole County Criminal Justice Center in Sanford.

JUSTICE BARBARA PARIENTE

Supreme Court of Florida

850-488-8421

williamb@fcourts.org

Justice Barbara Pariente is the second woman to serve on Florida's Supreme Court and was its chief justice from 2004 to 2006. She is state coordinating committee co-chair for the National Association of Women Judges' Informed Voters Project. She began a successful 20-year legal career in 1975, first as a Florida federal district court law clerk and then as one of South Florida's pioneering female trial attorneys. Throughout her career, she has been committed to improving the lives of women, children and families in Florida, especially those whose disadvantages have brought them into courts. Since her appointment to the court in 1997, she has championed drug courts, Florida's nationally praised program to rehabilitate people who commit minor crimes because of substance abuse, rather than send them to prison. She has been a driving force behind Florida's Unified Family Courts, a judicial approach to help ensure that each family's legal problems are managed comprehensively by a single judge or team. In 2003, Justice Pariente turned a personal setback – breast cancer – into a public victory by sharing her successful treatment with Florida and national media. She graduated with highest honors from Boston University before attending George Washington University Law School. On March 11, 2008, she was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame.

JUSTICE RICKY POLSTON

Supreme Court of Florida

850-488-2361

adkinst@fcourts.org

Justice Ricky Polston is a justice on the Supreme Court of Florida. A native of Graceville, he earned his bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, in 1977 from Florida State University and his J.D., with high honors, in 1986, from the FSU College of Law. A certified public accountant, he had a public accounting practice from 1977-1984. He was in private law practice from 1987-2000, and was a judge in the First District Court of Appeal from 2001 until 2008, when he was appointed to the Supreme Court by Gov. Charlie Crist. He is married to Deborah Ehler Polston, and they have 10 children, including an adopted sibling group of six.

ALI CARDEN SACKETT

The Florida Bar

850-561-5801

asackett@floridabar.org

Ali Carden Sackett is chief branch discipline counsel at the Tallahassee office of The Florida Bar. She has been a member of the Bar since October 2002 and has worked at the Bar since 2007. Sackett received a B.S. with honors in history from the University of Montevallo in Alabama and a J.D. from the Mississippi College School of Law. Before her current prosecutorial work, Sackett was employed as a senior managing attorney at the Quincy Branch of Legal Services of North Florida, Inc., focusing on family law, domestic violence, dependency and bankruptcy. She is a member of Tallahassee Women Lawyers.

JOSH SALMAN

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

941-361-4967

Josh.Salman@heraldtribune.com

Josh Salman is an award-winning investigative reporter for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, where he focuses on long-form projects. He brings a strong record of enterprise storytelling, versatility and data-driven reporting to the newsroom. Salman grew up in Sarasota. After graduating from Riverview High School in 2003, he moved to the Florida Panhandle to attend Tallahassee Community College. There, he joined the staff at the student newspaper and later became executive editor. After earning an associate's degree, he moved to Jacksonville to attend the University of North Florida, again becoming a top editor of the award-winning independent student newspaper. He was honored

as the university's "Outstanding Graduating Journalism Student" during the spring of 2009. He spent two years as an intern for the Florida Times-Union, covering everything from community sports to complex trend stories. He returned to Southwest Florida in 2009 to work as a government reporter for the Charlotte Sun, a smaller daily newspaper in Port Charlotte. He also spent about a year at the Bradenton Herald as a business writer, before joining the Herald-Tribune in November 2012. His reporting has triggered federal investigations, uncovered illegal activity by convicted felons, exposed loopholes that have cost taxpayers millions of dollars, prompted new city ordinances and helped struggling families save their dream homes. When not working, he spends his time with family, watching sports and enjoying the Florida weather.

MICHAEL L. SCHNEIDER

Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission

850-488-1581

mschneider@floridajqc.com

Michael L. Schneider is executive director and general counsel for the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission. Before working for the commission, he was an assistant state attorney for the Second Judicial Circuit from 1990 to 2006, an assistant public defender from 1986 to 1990, a law clerk to Judge Douglass Shivers in 1985, and in private practice in Cleveland, Tenn., from 1979 to 1984. He is admitted to practice in Florida and Tennessee, the U.S. Sixth and Eleventh Courts of Appeal, the U.S. District Court, Northern Florida and the U.S. District Court Eastern District, Tennessee.

SHANELL SCHUYLER

The Florida Bar

850-561-5673

SSchuyler@floridabar.org

Shanell Schuyler is director of the Attorney Consumer Assistance Program (ACAP) and Intake Department of The Florida Bar. She also supervises the Bar's Grievance Mediation and Fee Arbitration Program pursuant to Chapter 14 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar. In 1990, she graduated from Florida State University, cum laude, with a B.S. in finance. She attended Stetson University College of Law, graduating in 1994, and began her legal career in a South Florida law firm, where she made partner and practiced commercial litigation, banking law, eminent domain, real estate and probate administration. Schuyler chaired the Unlicensed Practice of Law Committee and later became chair of a Grievance Committee in the 17th Circuit. From 2003-2007, she practiced law in Johnson City, Tenn., focusing on representing children with dependency issues. She relocated to Tallahassee in 2007, as a senior attorney in the Bar's ACAP program. She became the director of the ACAP/Intake Department in early 2012. Schuyler taught school law online for Liberty University's School of Education, and she was an adjunct professor at East Tennessee State University. She is also active in her local church and in her community, where she serves on the board of a local theater.

EUNICE SIGLER

Office of Government Liaison and Public Relations

Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida

305-349-7189

Esigler@jud11.flcourts.org

Eunice Sigler has been director of the Office of Government Liaison and Public Relations for the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida, also known as the Miami-Dade Courts, since April 2006. As the public information officer for the largest judicial circuit in Florida, she is the main point of contact for the public and for local, national and international members of the media covering court proceedings in Miami-Dade County. Her office also collaborates with local justice partners and government entities, commercial film producers and visiting judicial and government dignitaries from other nations, and coordinates special events and educational and community outreach programs. She is president of the Florida Court Public Information Officers (FCPIO), an educational organization of all public information officers for Florida's courts. Sigler has been a Miami Herald reporter, freelance journalist and public affairs

representative for the city of Coral Gables. While at the Herald, she covered municipal government, breaking news and features. As the government reporter for the city of South Miami, she was the first to report on the citizens' revolt against Florida's canker eradication program. Also while at the Herald, she shared the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Reporting, for coverage of the federal raid on Elian Gonzalez's Little Havana home the year before. Sigler also was a technology consultant for NCR Corporation and AT&T for more than a decade, working with major accounts such as FedEx and Coke. She holds bachelor's degrees in communications-print journalism and computer science from Florida International University.

DAVID M. SNYDER

David M. Snyder P.A.

813-258-4501

dmsnyder@dms-law.com

David M. Snyder is media lawyer in Tampa and an adjunct professor in the Department of Journalism & Media Studies at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Licensed to practice law in New York, Florida and a number of federal courts since 1983, Snyder has helped consumers, taxpayers and the media access information and protected their right to publish it, first as a law clerk in The New York Times Co. legal department, then as an associate or partner in major law firms and in solo practice since 1995. At USFSP, he teaches graduate courses in Digital Media Law and Ethics, Mass Media Law Seminar and News Coverage of Public Life and undergraduate courses in History and Principles of Communications Law, Public Affairs Reporting, Senior Seminar, Research Methods and Writing for Mass Media. He was a staff writer/beat reporter for the Clearwater Sun and St. Petersburg (now Tampa Bay) Times (1975-79). He also served 34 years (1967-2001) in the Naval Reserve as a military journalist NCO and public affairs officer, retiring at the rank of captain. Among assignments around the world, he was a U.S. Navy spokesman for the peacekeeping forces in Beirut, Lebanon, in the months following the terrorist attacks on U.S. forces there. Snyder received a B.A. in English from the University of South Florida (Tampa), where he was managing editor of the Oracle and won a Distinguished Service Award from the Department of Mass Communications. He received a J.D., summa cum laude, and graduated first in his class from Stetson University College of Law, where he was editor-in-chief of the Stetson Law Review. Among his publications, "Rediscovering Florida's Common Law Defenses to Libel and Slander," co-authored with George K. Rahdert and published in the Stetson Law Review, has been cited by the Florida Supreme Court, among others, as a foundational work on defamation defense in Florida.

STEPHEN THOMPSON

Sixth Judicial Circuit

Administrative Office of the Courts

727-453-7176

sthompson@jud6.org

Stephen Thompson is the public information officer for the Sixth Judicial Circuit, which includes Pinellas and Pasco counties in west central Florida. He is a product of the northeast, having attended Boston University and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, with a stint in the Peace Corps in between, in West Africa. He was a newspaper reporter and editor for newspapers in Tampa and Massachusetts for more than two decades, with much of his career spent at the Tampa Tribune covering cops and courts, before he took the job of PIO for the Sixth Circuit in 2014.

MIKE VASILINDA

Capitol News Service

850-224-5546

mikev@flanews.com

Mike Vasilinda received a Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Political Television Journalism in 2005 for his enterprising coverage of the controversial "Felons List" during the 2004 election cycle. He is the longest continuously serving member of the Capitol Press Corps, beginning his career covering Florida politics while he was still a student at Florida State University. In January 1974, he founded what is today Florida Public Radio's "Capital

Report.” Today, he reports for 10 Florida TV stations and produces “Facing Florida,” a 30-minute weekly wrap-up of Florida political news that is seen on seven TV stations in six markets.

FRANCINE WALKER

The Florida Bar

850-561-6834

fwalker@floridabar.org

Francine Andía Walker, APR, CPRC, is director of Public Information and Bar Services for The Florida Bar in Tallahassee. Walker held several positions in hospital and association public relations in Jacksonville before relocating in 1996 to Tallahassee with the Florida Medical Association as vice president of Communications, Education and Meeting Services. She joined The Florida Bar in February 2000. Nationally accredited in public relations, Walker is also a Certified Public Relations Counselor. She has held leadership roles in the Public Relations Society of America/North Florida Chapter and in the Florida Public Relations Association and served as chair of the Communications Section of the National Association of Bar Executives (NABE). In September 2013, she received the E.A. “Wally” Richter Leadership Award from the NABE Communications Section. At The Florida Bar, Walker works with leadership on strategic communications. She is responsible for media relations, consumer awareness programs, the voluntary bar liaison program, law-related education and the www.floridabar.org. A Jacksonville native, she graduated from Episcopal High School in 1977 and received a Bachelor of Science in journalism from the University of Florida in 1981.

R. CRAIG WATERS

Supreme Court of Florida

850-414-7641

watersc@fcourts.org

R. Craig Waters is an attorney and the director of the Public Information Office at the Florida Supreme Court, where he also is its communications counsel, chief web administrator and social media supervisor. He is best known as the spokesman for the Florida Supreme Court in the 2000 presidential election appeals known as *Bush v. Gore*, an event reprised in the fictionalized HBO movie “Recount,” in which he is portrayed by the actor Alex Staggs. In nearly 31 years at the court, Waters became the court’s first web administrator and was executive assistant to Chief Justice Gerald Kogan in 1996 to 1998. It was in this role that he established the court’s Public Information Office in 1996, began the then-novel use of the Internet to distribute court documents to the public, and organized the first live gavel-to-gavel video broadcasts and web streaming of all Florida Supreme Court appeals. Later, he made the Florida Supreme Court a pioneer in the use of social media for outreach to the public. He is the founding president of the Florida Court Public Information Officers, Inc., (FCPIO). In 2016, the Florida Supreme Court assigned him as its liaison to FCPIO when the latter was tasked with implementing a statewide court communications plan now widely viewed as a model in the United States and elsewhere. Waters earned his law degree with honors from the University of Florida in 1986 and his undergraduate degree with honors from Brown University in 1979. He is active in Bar activities and committees. A native of Pensacola, he is the author of several books and many articles on legal subjects, and he was an award-winning reporter with the Gannett Newspapers before he left to attend law school. Most of his journalism career was spent reporting on courts and Florida state government, including the Florida Supreme Court.

