

The Florida Law Practice

LINK

For Florida Lawyers – By Florida Lawyers

A JOURNAL OF THE GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO AND SMALL FIRM SECTION

The Florida Bar

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www.gpssf.org

Spring 2015

Annual Solo and Small Firm Conference Deemed Huge Success

by _____

The GPSSF Section's annual technology conference this year brought in more than \$80,000 in sponsorships, attracted 29 exhibitors and increased lawyer attendance by nearly 20 percent – the most successful event in the conference's eight years of existence.

"We set very lofty goals for ourselves to make this event The Florida Bar's premier technology conference," said 2015 Conference Chair Jennifer Kuyrkendall, a Child Support Hearing Officer from Live Oak. "Thinking creatively, providing hands-on training, and marketing the event to a wide array of new participants – both lawyers and exhibitors – directly impacted the conference bottom line."

Kuyrkendall developed the conference theme– Wild, Wild Tech: Getting Down and Dirty With Technology – and named each presentation topic around the Western theme. Participants earned 10 CLE credits, including two for ethics, with internationally known speaker presentations on courtroom technology, social media use and evidentiary issues, e-discovery, PDFs for small firms, Microsoft Office, PowerPersuasion using PowerPoint, and more.

According to 2014-15 Section Chair Teresa Byrd Morgan of Morgan Law Center in Lake City, the section moved in a very different direction with this year's conference by focusing on a theme and more interactive

and networking opportunities for its attendees and exhibitors. The conference also provided more opportunities for Winter Meeting guests to participate, through prorated registration and invitations to the Friday-night reception.

"We received excellent feedback from our attendees and vendors on the various avenues we included for networking," said Morgan. "Networking is the single most important component of law firm marketing for solos and small firms. This year, we decided to have fun with it, and even included a Western-themed reception and line dancing."

Key conference features included:

- **Free Software Demonstrations** by Clio, LexisNexis Firm Manager®, LexisNexis PCLaw®, Rocket Matter, Tabs3, Thomson Reuters Firm Central Time & Billing.
- **Networking** during the practice-area luncheon, speed networking (optional) and interaction with Florida Bar leaders and Winter Meeting guests at the Friday-night reception.
- **Giveaways and Discounts** including a Trail Wagon™ TW200 light utility vehicle grand prize provided by Lexis Nexis, an iPad mini, a \$150 Amazon gift card,

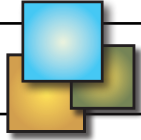
software discounts, a \$400 Coach handbag, a Gopro, numerous books and other freebies.

The conference took place Jan. 23-24, 2015, at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista. Next year's conference is scheduled for the same weekend at the same location. Paid attendees for the 2015 conference will receive a discount for 2016, if they register during the early bird discount period. The section is already accepting exhibitor applications for "Wild, Wild Tech: Taming the Technology Beast" – and is seeking volunteers to serve on the Solo and Small Firm Technology Conference Committee. For more information, contact Program Administrator Ricky Libbert at [\(850\) 561-5631](tel:8505615631) or rllibbert@flabar.org.

See "Conference," page 7

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

by Teresa Byrd Morgan
2014 – 15 GPSSF Section Chair

April 7, 2015–

I can hardly believe my year as Chair of the General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Section is nearing its end! As I reflect on our past year, I am gratified to see that the Executive Council has made outstanding progress on several issues I wanted to move forward during my year as chair.

One issue that is near and dear to my heart is our Section's recognition of the absolutely vital work paralegals perform in our law firms. The attorneys may get all of the credit (or blame!), but our paralegals carry much of the workload. I should know, I worked as a paralegal during my undergraduate career and, in fact, obtained my BA degree in what was then referred to as "Allied Legal Services."

Times have certainly changed since I graduated from UCF in 1984 and entered law school! "Back in the old days," regardless of the level of work we were performing (I interviewed witnesses, investigated accidents, drafted pleadings, and wrote appellate briefs), we were viewed as "glorified legal secretaries" and paid little more than a typist. Fortunately, that is no longer the case. Since 2008, a Florida paralegal who has met the education, training, certification and work experience required may become a "Florida Registered Paralegal." This certification reflects not only the education, training and experience the paralegal has obtained, but also that the paralegal has elected to adhere to the Code of Ethics of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

I think that's a big deal, and this Section's executive council does as well. In fact, we have been honored to have a paralegal serving on our executive council since 1995, well before the FRP program was established. When the FRP program was established, we began welcoming paralegals as affiliate members of our section. This year, we voted to lower affiliate members' dues to the same amount as attorney members, we began offering a free one-year section membership to paralegal students, three members of our executive council attended the annual Paralegals of Florida Conference, and we are presenting our first Paralegal of the Year Award at our June meeting. I hope our message is being received loud and clear: Paralegals, we value you!



Judicial performance feedback sought from Bar members

The Judicial Administration & Evaluation Committee is encouraging all Bar members to participate in the Confidential Judicial Feedback Program developed by the committee and approved by The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

The purpose of the Confidential Judicial Feedback Program is to promote judicial self-improvement and enhance the quality of our judiciary as a whole. Attorneys are asked to evaluate the judge's demeanor, knowledge, fairness, and other factors, but not to discuss issues of their specific cases. The commenting attorney's identity is kept confidential

and the comments are provided only to the judge who is the subject of the review. All feedback is and remains confidential pursuant to Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.051(c)(4).

There are separate forms for trial court judges and appellate court judges. Feedback may be provided two ways" by completing the forms online at www.floridabar.org/JudicialFeedback or by downloading the forms at www.floridabar.org/JAEC and following the instructions.

The Florida Law Practice LINK is prepared and published by The Florida Bar General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Section.

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AFFILIATES CORNER

News for Paralegals to Use...

Submitted by Priscilla Horn Warren, CP, FRP

Yee-Haw! The “Wild Wild Tech” annual conference hosted by the GPSSF Section on January 23-24, 2015, was a tremendous success! In addition to the 120-plus attendees, two of the state’s PAF officers were there (thank you, Patricia DeRamus and Jodee Buck!), and participated at a table set up near the registration/vendors/sponsors section at the Conference to provide membership materials and answer questions. Several paralegals also signed up for affiliate membership with the GPSSF Section, and provided positive and supportive comments about the two-day technology workshop.

MORE good news: The Florida Bar’s General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section announced they

will be offering an annual Paralegal of the Year award, commencing with the June 2015 annual meeting of The Florida Bar in Boca Raton. This prestigious award will be given to that singular paralegal who has contributed significantly to the community and/or (his) (her) law firm. The Section’s purpose in providing this award is to recognize a very deserving individual for above-and-beyond efforts in achieving a high standard of professionalism in the delivery of paralegal services. Nomination forms were due by February 27, 2015, and the GPSSF committee will review the nominations and announce the winner in the next few weeks.

With all the activity generated in the last six months to encourage

and foster paralegal membership in this Section, please consider joining? There are so many benefits of paralegal affiliate membership with the GPSSF Section, and I encourage you to participate. The application may be obtained through the website: www.gpssf.org.

OTHER news for you: PAF is having its Spring Seminar on May 29-30, 2015, at the Wyndham Grand Jupiter at Harbourside Place in Jupiter, Florida. The PAF Palm Beach County Chapter is the host, and the topic is “Shining a Light on Our Legal System.” For more information or to register, please go to: www.pafinc.org.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. My direct email is: pris2323@yahoo.com.



LRS

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- Provides a good source for new clients

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FLORIDA BAR
TODAY FOR MORE
INFORMATION.**

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THE
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CLE

The Florida Bar Continuing Legal Education Committee and
the General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Section present

FLORIDA LAW UPDATE 2015

COURSE CLASSIFICATION: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

One Location: Thursday, June 25, 2015

**Boca Raton Resort & Club • 501 East Camino Real
Boca Raton, FL 33432 • 561/447-3000**



Course No. 1871R

To register for June 25, 2015 presentation, you must use the Annual Convention registration form in the May 1 Bar Journal or at www.floridabar.org.

NOTE: Only use this brochure to register for the real time live webcast/virtual seminar or to order the audio CD, DVD, and course book.

7:55 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Peggy Hoyt, Program Chair

8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.

Criminal Law Update

Denis De Vlaming, Clearwater

8:50 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.

Employment Law Update

Kevin Johnson, Tampa

9:40 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Bankruptcy Law Update

Dennis LeVine, Tampa

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m. – 11:35 a.m.

Business Law Update

Jay Kim, Ft. Lauderdale

Robert Vaughn, Ft. Lauderdale

11:35 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

Family Law Update

Wade Luther, Orlando

12:20 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch

1:45 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.

Real Property Law Update

Manuel Farach, West Palm Beach

2:35 p.m. – 4:25 p.m. - Double Session

Estate Planning/Elder Law

Randy Bryan, Oviedo

WEBCAST

As a webcast attendee, you will listen to the program over the Internet. Registrants will receive webcast connection instructions prior to the scheduled course date via email. If you do not receive the email 2 days prior to the event, contact InReach Customer Service at 877-880-1335.

CLE CREDITS

CLER PROGRAM

(Max. Credit: 8.0 hours)

General: 8.0 hours

Ethics: 0.0 hours

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

(Max. Credit: 2.0 hours)

Business Litigation: 1.0 hour

Criminal Appellate: 1.0 hour

Criminal Trial: 1.0 hour

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Labor & Employment Law: 1.0 hour

Real Estate: 1.0 hour

Wills, Trusts & Estates: 1.0 hour

Seminar credit may be applied to satisfy CLER / Certification requirements in the amounts specified above, not to exceed the maximum credit. See the CLE link at www.floridabar.org for more information.

Prior to your CLER reporting date (located on the mailing label of your Florida Bar News or available in your CLE record on-line) you will be sent a Reporting Affidavit if you have not completed your required hours (must be returned by your CLER reporting date).

TO REGISTER ON-LINE

<http://tinyurl.com/FloridaBarCLE1871R>

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Register for the "Florida Law Update 2015" Seminar by clicking the link below.

LIVE WEBCAST ONLY: (056) THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2015

Name _____ Florida Bar # _____

Address _____ Phone: () _____

City/State/Zip _____ E-mail* _____

**E-mail address required to transmit electronic course materials and is only used for this order.*

RDL: Course No. 1871R

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Online Webcast	How to Register
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section Member.....\$205 Non-section Member.....\$240 <p>*Webcast registrants receive an email two days prior to the seminar, with log-in credentials to access course materials and the webcast link. Call InReach at (877) 880-1335 with any questions.</p>	<p><u>CLICK HERE TO REGISTER</u></p> <p>OR</p> <p>Go to www.tfb.inreach.com and search by course number.</p> <p>Please call 877-880-1335 for assistance with webcast registration.</p>

METHOD OF PAYMENT FOR AUDIO CD / DVD (CHECK ONE):

TO ORDER AUDIO CD, DVD OR COURSE BOOK BY MAIL, SEND THIS FORM TO: The Florida Bar, Order Entry Department, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300 with a check in the appropriate amount payable to The Florida Bar or credit card information filled in below. If you have questions, call 850/561-5831.

☐ Check enclosed made payable to The Florida Bar

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\$285 plus tax (non-section member)
+ TAX \$ _____ TOTAL \$ _____

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Executive Council Members, Executive Council Meeting
February 2015, Crystal River



Tradition of Excellence award winner, Frank E. Maloney, Jr.
Presented by Teresa Morgan, Chair, General Practice,
Solo and Small Firm Section

2015-2016

CALENDAR

GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO & SMALL FIRM SECTION

June, 25, 2015

Florida Law Update 2015
Boca Raton

June 26, 2015

Executive Council Meeting
Boca Raton

June 26, 2015

**Navigating Technology in 2015 & Beyond:
What Every Practitioner Must Know About
Technology's Impact on the Legal Profession**
Boca Raton

September 11, 2015

Executive Council Meeting
Coral Gables

October 2, 2015

Annual Ethics Update
Tampa

November 6, 2015

Executive Council Meeting
Tampa

November 20, 2015

Agricultural Update
Gainesville

January 22-23, 2016

Solo & Small Firm Conference
Orlando

February 26, 2016

Executive Council Meeting
Tallahassee

April 8-9, 2016

Long Range Planning Meeting
Nashville, TN

CONFERENCE

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The Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education

The Florida Bar Legal Publications

The Law TV

Thomson Reuters

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Join Clio during the
2015 Annual Florida Bar Convention for:

InSession: Transforming Practices through Technology Powered by Clio

Wednesday June 24, 2015
8:30am - 5:30pm

Clio is proud to announce Professor Richard Susskind OBE, as the keynote speaker for this exciting session. Join industry leaders for practical ways to grow, innovate, and lead within the legal industry.

Florida State Bar CLE hours:

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- CLE Course # 1965R

Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided.

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