

FORUM 8

Volume 62, No. 3

Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, Inc.

November 2002

President's Letter



by Pan Zettler

GREETINGS TO ALL ATTORNEYS OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT! If you received this newsletter in the mail, then EJCBA does have your correct mailing address. If you are viewing this on our website, and live in our circuit, and did not receive this newsletter, please

immediately send us your correct address, telephone number, fax, and e-mail address - so you will be a part of our database. Thanks.

At our last bar meeting on October 4th, we had a presentation from the two judicial candidates for circuit judge. Each talked about having practiced in small town law practices, which engendered a practice of "taking what comes in the door", which gave each a broad view of the needs of clients for legal services.

I started pondering some questions about our practice of law. Why are we attorneys? What does being an attorney mean to you? Our profession allows such a great variety of ways to "be lawyers". Look around and think about the jobs done by our comrades in this profession. When I was in law school, I had no clue what I would do when I graduated. Maybe that is because "planning" is not my greatest strength (for those of you who understand Myers-Briggs types, I am a true INTP, with an emphasis on the P portion of my type). I have "happened into" what I do today. I began the practice of law thinking that my objective was to assist people in solving their problems - and that still is what motivates me to go to my office today. As a child, I loved nothing more than solving puzzles, both word puzzles and jigsaw puzzles - and maybe I loved doing so because it was just a natural for me. I still feel like that is what I do. A client comes into my office with a problem, and I try to find a solution for that problem. Sometimes I can personally assist that client, and sometimes I know I need to refer the matter to someone else who can better provide the services needed. So I am constantly looking for what other attorneys do and who I can send cases to. One of the best things EJCBA does for me, is to provide the contact with many attorneys in our circuit who I would not otherwise know.

When I first considered practicing law in the small town where I lived, I knew I had some things going against me: one, I was a woman in a male dominated profession and locale; two, I was not an "chat over the fence" type person, as I was born without the gene that I call the "gossip gene"; and three, I was not a native of this town. None of these factors were more than a brief thought in my decision about setting up my practice. For the first, I came from a family that had always encouraged me to be whatever I could be; second, I could relate and identify completely with one of the tenets of our profession - confidentiality - knowing that this would never be a problem for me as I do not chat about other people's problems; and third, sometimes a non-native survives just fine and brings a new attitude to an area. I was willing to give it a try - and I note now that 30 years is a long time in Florida.

So next, I had to decide: if I was going to offer legal services, in which areas would I become proficient enough to advise others about the intricacies of the law? Civil law for sure, that part was easy. Family law was also an easy decision, as I felt I had some knowledge and natural instincts for solving such problems, so I began assisting clients with their family law issues. This also suits my personality, as I do not need to be "patted on the back constantly" and I knew I was providing advice to clients at difficult times in the their lives, and when their cases were resolved, all they wanted was to forget about the ordeal. When mediation first came on the scene, I began training as a mediator, as I felt that if I could just talk to the parties on both sides of an issue, solutions would be more readily determined by the clients themselves. After a number of years, I became more interested in the areas of probate and trust administration, and now try to stay out of any matters that require filing a suit and going to trial.

So I go back to where I began, how do you practice law and why? What is the critical thing that makes you go to your office every day? We each have a core, basic reason

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Any and all opinions expressed by the Editor, the President, other officers and members of the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, and authors of articles are their own and do not necessarily represent the views of the Association.

News, articles, announcements, advertisements and Letters to the Editor should be submitted to the **Executive Director** by Email, or on 3.5" diskettes labeled with your name. Also, please submit a black and white photograph with your name written on the back. Diskettes and photographs will be returned. Files should be saved in any version of MS Word, WordPerfect, or ASCII text.

Deadline is the 5th of the preceding month.

Clerk's Corner



by Buddy Irby, Clerk of the Circuit Court

The Clerk's office continues to implement new legislation that went into effect on October 1st. For instance, there is no longer a charge to file a Petition Against Domestic Violence. However, there is a \$200.00 fee to file a Petition Against Repeat Violence. The fee schedule for the Clerk's office is on our web

site at www.alachuaclerk.org.

The new criminal courthouse is taking shape and planning is ongoing. The court is in the process of defining exactly what court events will take place in the current courthouse and what events will take place in the new building. The Chief Judge recently advised the Clerk's office that juvenile, dependency and delinquency will remain in the current courthouse.

In the coming months there will be a great deal of interest in how the legislature will address the recent amendment to Art. V of the Constitution requiring state funding of the judicial system. We are hopeful that this change in funding, which will take place in 2004, will not adversely effect either the operation of the Clerk's office nor the court in general. While no one knows what the Legislature will do, we are very happy that Senator Rod Smith as been named as Chair of the Senate Committee charged with the responsibility of responding to this amendment and look forward to working with him on this important matter.

President's Letter

Continued from page 1

for doing what we do. When I look at the attorneys in our circuit, I observe such a variety of ways to be a lawyer, and such a variety of attitudes about our practice. One that I consider most honorable, is the high standard and concern of all the attorneys that I have contact with, to provide the best services each can, given the circumstances of each situation. I know of no other profession that gives each of us so many choices in what we do. I read article after article in the many law journals about the need for "satisfaction" in the practice of law, and believe strongly that each of us must find the way to make this profession of ours give us that measure of satisfaction that makes us want to continue to provide the best services we can for our clients. And for this I feel fortunate and thankful that I have enjoyed this profession so very much, and am satisfied more often than not.

Who's on First?

by Stephen N. Bernstein

Coach Vince Lombardi once said "Winning is not everything, it's the only thing." Vince was wrong. In life and in our profession the philosophy to win at all costs simply encourages people to take chances, lie or do something they wouldn't ordinarily do to come in first. Believe me, I understand the will to win and as attorneys, it's paramount to want to win all of our cases and we should strive to do exactly that. But what I am saying is that we should not do so at all costs. Winning at all costs encourages a breakdown in the system that we must work within and gives rise to the lack of confidence in the administration of justice and respect for our profession.

Recently, I've been asked to be a guest speaker for both the Bar and University of Florida on the topic of "professionalism." Young lawyers and new students are always thirsty for knowledge and practical tips; they want to know how to build a successful law practice and how to gain a good reputation. I always remark that it's easy to get a bad reputation, but it takes a long time and a lot of hard work to get a good one. Simply being able to afford your photograph on the back of a bus or full page color ads is not going to do it. Neither will direct mail solicitation and slick brochures.

We all remember "the good ole days," and to many people these meant lower prices, fewer crowds and a slower pace of life. There was a sense of trust and fellowship that mark those days in my memory. In the practice of law there were times when a lawyer's words spoken on the telephone, in the courtroom, or on the courthouse steps was all that was needed to rely upon. There existed a degree of courtesy which went unspoken by the majority of practicing lawyers and was taught to me by the likes of Joe Wilcox. Today, it seems as if a lawyer's word is challenged by a fellow lawyer if it suits his purpose, and unless there is something "in writing," there's an argument as to whether or not someone indeed gave their word. Today, many lawyers are trained

with a sense of competitiveness that drives them to file any motion or pleading which would result in getting the upper hand on the other side.

The worst reputation that a lawyer can earn (yes, he does earn it) is that he can not be trusted. That reputation is far worse than that of one who practices mediocre law or is not considered a daunting adversary. Once fellow attorneys believe that one of their own can not be trusted, then a judge comes to the same conclusion, there's absolutely nothing left upon which to build a successful practice.

There is a need for us to give back to society with our professional skills. I ask you to join all the legal and community organizations that are of interest to you. Volunteering for committees in the local Bar Association, agreeing to speak in public forums and writing an occasional article for publication where other lawyers can learn about you, are all important in building a good reputation and becoming a professional. Furthermore, judges quickly recognize and appreciate those lawyers who are prepared when they come to court. It is very easy to spot the lawyer who "shoots from the hip." That, more than anything else, is what sets the good lawyer apart from the mediocre one. Judges talk about lawyers all the time. We all know that lawyers talk about each other all the time. To be known as a prepared lawyer who has done his or her "homework" is invaluable in our practice.

I never like to lose a case, but the temptation to act outside the boundaries of our profession should never be yielded to with the justification that "winning is everything." The admiration that we hold for each other as fellow attorneys really does stem from how we play the game, the hard work we put into the cases we prepare and the ultimate presentation before a jury. If we really do the best that we can under those circumstances, the verdict will be one that is based on fairness and we can all be proud of our profession and be glad to be in the company of one another.

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Criminal Law

by Bill Cervone



Although it seems like only a matter of minutes since I submitted last month's comment, your newsletter editors have been relentless in their pursuit of this, the second in what I assume will be a regular series of columns. My choices seemed clear: run like a fox being pursued by the hounds, barricade myself in my office in the hopes that the editors will not get through, or again take computer in hand. For whatever reason, I opted for the latter.

This month I thought I'd discuss one of the hot button topics in criminal law: why we plea-bargain. Everyone knows about the concept. Most people agree that although the words have a negative connotation, the idea is a necessity. In many ways, plea-bargaining is the criminal justice system's version of some of our nation's noblest ideals in that our democracy is built around compromise in the name of what serves the betterment of the majority. Certainly, it is the criminal court equivalent of the civil process of negotiation that resolves most cases in that arena.

Although overly simplistic, it is accurate to say that we plea-bargain because we must. There are, for example, approximately 4500 felony cases pending in Alachua County alone as I write this comment. That amounts to more than 1000 cases for each of our four felony divisions in Alachua County, each of which has three prosecutors assigned to it. Even taking into account the prosecutors with smaller, specialized caseloads or supervisory responsibilities, the average caseload is still nearly 300 per attorney. Obviously, not all of these cases will be docketed for trial in any given month. While many cases could be tried in a single day, others would require multiple days or even weeks to try. There are, in each division, four available trial days each month. Once those days are filled, extra days are available only if Court Administration can put additional judicial resources, such as senior judges, into place. The result is an obvious incentive to resolve cases through plea-bargaining.

Is that necessarily wrong? I don't think so. Cases that are plea-bargained fall into a variety of categories. Beyond the simplistic approach that we must plea bargain to manage our caseloads, there are other reasons that illustrate why I feel this way.

Take, for example, the case of Victor McIntosh. McIntosh was charged with an especially brutal murder a couple of years ago. He had broken into a neighboring apartment and killed the occupant while burglarizing the apartment. His crime was clearly First Degree Murder because it was a killing committed during a burglary and because he killed the victim by striking her on the head multiple times with a machete, demonstrating premeditation. Although there are never guarantees at trial, the available evidence was likely to result in a conviction despite the best efforts of very able defense

counsel. The case, however, was not tried. McIntosh was allowed to plead to Second Degree Murder and other offenses, for which he received a sentence of 50 years in prison.

Why? There are several reasons. First, under the law, McIntosh was not, in my view, subject to the death penalty. That meant that if convicted of First Degree Murder, he would have received a mandatory life sentence. For the crimes that he pled to under his plea-bargain, he received a sentence that he must serve 85% of, or 42 1/2 years. McIntosh was about 30 years old at the time, meaning that he will be over 70 years old before he may be released. The odds of him either living to that age or, if he lives to be released, being a threat to society at that age, are small. The advantage of a guaranteed sentence of this sort, that effectively removes a dangerous person from our community, when weighed against the marginally more severe sentence that might have resulted had McIntosh been tried and convicted, demonstrate one of the reasons for plea-bargaining. Sometimes, virtually everything that can be accomplished in a case can be achieved through a negotiated plea. Additionally, in many cases the victim or the victim's survivors want the finality and certainty that a negotiated plea and sentence can provide, rather than run the risks that a trial poses or face the years of appellate uncertainty that can follow after a trial conviction, especially in serious cases.

This kind of situation is only one of many illustrations that could be made for why plea-bargaining happens. Underlying all of those situations, and far more important than the simple consideration of limited resources, is the idea that as prosecutors we seek to do justice. Last month I wrote about that and what it means to those of us who have chosen prosecution as a career. Without meaning to repeat myself, a just result is not always a maximum sentence. Sometimes justice requires an understanding of issues that are more gray than black and white. That can include deciding what justice requires for the defendant and his rehabilitation as well as what it requires for the protection of our communities from those who cannot be allowed to live among us. The decisions we make in trying to accomplish a just result, many times through plea-bargaining, are often difficult. Plea-bargaining is one of the means we have to accomplish justice because it provides the give and take between both sides of the process, subject to the ultimate approval of the courts, that allows reasoned and reasonable results to be obtained.

Holiday Shopping for a Good Cause

Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Holiday Auction to be held at the December 13, 2002 bar luncheon. Whether you are looking for an autographed basketball, a guitar or jewelry, we will have it there. All proceeds will benefit the Guardian Ad Litem program.

David A. Glant, PA



Circuit Judge Candidate

Common Sense...

A Circuit Judge will be selected by the voters of Baker, Bradford, Union, Alachua, Gilchrist and Levy Counties. The legislature funded this newly created judicial position; there is no incumbent. I believe I am best qualified to be your next Circuit Judge, because:

- **Practice in all six counties:** I have practiced law for nearly 24 years. During that time, I have practiced in all six counties affected by this Circuit Judge position. This is important, because the needs of each of the six counties vary. A Circuit Judge must work well with the Court Clerks, Sheriffs and other offices and people essential to the administration of justice. I work very well with all of these offices and people because firstly, I love people, and secondly, I listen.
- **Broad range of legal experience:** I was a prosecutor for 4-1/2 years and served as Felony Division Chief in Baker, Bradford and Union Counties. I worked two years as attorney for the University of Florida Student Legal Services and 17 years of private practice experience, most of which has been as a sole practitioner.
- I have done extensive divorce and family law litigation, adoptions, juvenile and dependency (neglect & abuse) cases. I have litigated real property issues (foreclosures, boundary line disputes, and quiet title actions). I served 10 years as attorney for the Town of Bell, in Gilchrist County, and am currently the Codes Enforcement Board attorney for the City of High Springs. I have done business litigation, injunctions and Probate litigation.
- I conducted a free legal clinic for senior citizens for 12 years in Alachua County, preparing Wills and Powers of Attorney among other services. During this time, I wrote legal articles for a senior citizen monthly newsletter.
- I am a Family Law Mediator and have done criminal law mediations. I have taught legal courses to Correctional Officers and business law at Santa Fe Community College (Starke Campus).
- **Active in legal organizations, church and community:** I am active in Rotary, Florida Bar Committees, and professional organizations. My wife, Casey, and I are active in our church, the First United Methodist Church of High Springs, where I serve as Lay Leader. Casey and I also sing Gospel music in two Gospel music groups.
- **Judicial philosophy:** I do not believe in judicial 'activism'—that is, interpreting the law in ways which have the effect of creating legislation by judicial decree. That is the prerogative of the Legislature and I am certain they do not need my help. I will follow and apply the

law. Also, a healthy measure of common sense goes a long way in generating respect and credibility for Judicial decisions.

- **Personal perspective:** I love the law and people! By listening, treating everyone with respect, and continued careful study of the law, I will be a Judge known for Fairness, Promptness, and Common Sense—decisions that follow the law. I ask you to vote for experience and common sense in November.

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C. Gary Moody announces his availability as a mediator for family law cases. Gary is a certified civil trial attorney and brings to the mediation process over 30 years of legal experience, during which time he has handled a substantial number of complex family law cases.

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500 E. University Avenue, Suite A
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Telephone: (352) 373-6791
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Gil Schaffnit is the best qualified, most experienced candidate for Circuit Judge.

Experience

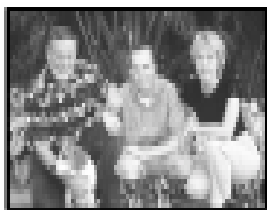
- 26 years of experience in all six counties of 8th Judicial Circuit.
- Highest rating in Martindale-Hubbell Law Director for legal ability and ethics.
- Chair of 8th Circuit Judicial Poll Committee.
- Chair of Northern District Magistrate Selection Committee.
- President, 8th Circuit Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys.
- Adjunct Professor, UF College of Law.

Community Service & Faith

- Financial supporter or volunteer in 30 area nonprofit organizations.
- Former Big Brother and foster parent.
- Former board member, Big Brothers / Big Sisters.
- Volunteer, American Cancer Society.
- Volunteer attorney representing abused and neglected children for Guardian Ad Litem.
- Grace United Methodist Church.

Education

- Phi Beta Kappa graduate of University of Florida.
- Graduate of UF College of Law - Awarded Best Brief by Fla. Supreme Court-UF Moot Court.



Gil Schaffnit with wife Brenda, son Brian, and Charlie.



Phil. Fed. Act. Panel for panel approved by Gil Schaffnit

Please Vote November 5

GAL/DCFS Need Your Help

The Guardian Ad Litem Office and the Department of Children and Family Services need help and have asked EJCBA members to participate in a donation drive.

Due to a space problem, the GAL office has asked that donations be limited to Target or Walmart gift cards only. These will be used to purchase backpacks, clothing and school items for the children they are serving.

The Department of Children and Family Services needs board games, puzzles and books. These types of activities are great for facilitating interaction between children and their parents or family members during visitation.

The GAL and DCFS greatly appreciate your generous donations. Please bring all gift cards and items for donation to the November 8th EJCBA luncheon.

Thank you!

BE AN ANGEL . . .

SPONSOR A CHILD FOR CHRISTMAS

Guardian ad Litem Program

Eighth Judicial Circuit

201 E. University Avenue (mailing address)

105 SE 1st Street (physical address)

Gainesville, Florida 32601

(352) 374-3656 (Office)

(352) 491-4598 (fax)

The Guardian ad Litem Program is looking for angels to sponsor a child for Christmas. There are over 800 abused, neglected or abandoned children who are in this circuit's court system. Many of these children will not receive any gifts without help from businesses, churches, organizations and individuals from our community who are willing to sponsor them.

If you would like to sponsor a child, but do not have time to shop for gifts, donations can be made to the Guardian Foundation, Inc. and we will purchase the gifts and present them to the child on your behalf.

To sponsor a child for Christmas, please call the Guardian ad Litem Program, or complete the bottom portion and fax to our office. Once we receive your request, you will be given names and ages of the children that you will be sponsoring.

Please deliver all gifts wrapped and tagged to the Guardian ad Litem Program by December 6th.

Person or Contact Name

Organization/Company/Church Name

Address/City/State/Zip

Phone

Fax

Email

Number of children that you or your organization/ company/church would like to sponsor

CGAWL Celebrates Cedar Key

The tradition continues! CGAWL (formerly 8-FAWL) will once again provide the dessert after the Bar Association dinner at Cedar Key. The theme of this year's contest, in keeping with the Gators' season, is: "Gettin' Creamed!"

So make something fabulous with cream in it, and do your best, because never mind football — THIS is the most important contest of the year!

The venue for this year is Old Fenimore Mill, which is a five-minute walk from the Captain's Table. Directions will be available at dinner.

For CGAWL members only, there will be a pre-dinner cocktail hour at Old Fenimore, starting at 5:30. You may pay your dues at the door, or send them in now. Join us, so you may join us!

CGAWL

by Howard Rosenblatt, President, Clara Gehan Association for Women Lawyers

The Clara Gehan Association for Women Lawyers (formerly 8-FAWL) has begun an exciting year and we'd like to invite all attorneys who support the advancement of women in the legal profession to join us.

We meet the first Thursday of each month at Leonardo's 706 for a business meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., after which many of our members stay for dinner so they can discuss what's happening in their practices, in the court system or in particular types of cases. Many members seek and receive input on specific matters with which they are dealing. Prospective members are always welcome.

For members who want additional opportunities to socialize with their colleagues, we also meet informally on the fourth Friday of each month for lunch at Szechuan Panda on 13th Street, Just north of Gainesville High School.

November should be a particularly busy month for CGAWL as we will begin with our annual retreat the first weekend of the month at Steinhatchee Landing. Less than two weeks later, we'll host the dessert party in Cedar Key in conjunction with the 8th Circuit's traditional pre-homecoming party. By the time you read this, we may also have an hour or two of CLE scheduled as well.

We hope all attorneys—male and female—who support women in the legal profession will become members and participate with us in our programs.

CGAWL CLE Presentation

CGAWL is pleased to provide a presentation (CLE pending) on the "Patriot Act" on December 2, 2002 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm, to be presented by Professor Fletcher Baldwin. The cost is \$20 per person. Please call Susan E. Lindgard at 955-5212 for location, registration and any questions. CGAWL will also provide a CLE program in the spring by Ms. Celia Yapita, "Successful Lawyering in a Diverse Society".

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Associate Position:

Gainesville firm seeks attorney with at least three years experience to practice in the area of family law. Please fax resume to Moody & Salzman, P.A. (352) 377-2861 or mail to P.O. Box 2759, Gainesville, FL 32602 or e-mail to Suzanne@MoodySalzman.com

Paralegal Position:

Gainesville firm seeks paralegal with at least three years experience in the area of family law. Please fax resume to Moody & Salzman, P.A. (352) 377-2861 or mail to P.O. Box 2759, Gainesville, FL 32602 or e-mail to Suzanne@MoodySalzman.com

For Lease:

Class-A office space. 761 sq ft for \$1275.00 per month, 3120 sq ft for \$5000.00 per month, or all 3881 sq ft for \$6000.00 per month. Call Joseph Freck, Owner/Agent (352) 225-4620 or (352) 475-9792.

Eighth Judicial Circuit

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II - #6332

(Bi-lingual, Spanish/English)

Preferred Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: Fluent in English and Spanish. Knowledge of the court system. Starting salary is \$28,571/annually (hiring at base is normal). Closing date is 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 6, 2002. Please see our website at www.circuit8.org for more information.

Advertise Here!

Would you like to advertise your practice? Have some office space to share or rent? Run your ad in the Forum 8 newsletter. There is no charge for classified ads for EJCBA members and we offer reasonable rates for all other advertising. Please contact Chris Tharp to place your ad. Telephone: (352) 380-0333 Fax: (352) 380-9112.

Cedar Key Feast – A Member Tradition: Use It or Lose It!!!

In case you did not hear Co-Chair Zelda Hawk's announcement at the October Bar meeting, please know that, based on last year's slim turnout and consequent blow to the Bar's budget, our Circuit's treasured tradition of feasting and festing together at Cedar Key on Thursday night before UF Homecoming is FACING EXTINCTION! This is a call to ALL JUDGES AND ALL ATTORNEYS of the 8th Judicial Circuit to shake off the 9/11 blues, the stock market dump, and whatever else is bugging you by defying gloom and opting for the Pursuit of Happiness – GET YOUR BRILLIANT MINDS AND GORGEOUS BODIES OVER TO THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE AT CEDAR KEY BY 6:00 PM ON **NOVEMBER 14, 2002.**

Remember that this famous annual pilgrimage is nearly a half-century old and was instituted by the lawyers, for the lawyers, and of the lawyers in the 8th JC. It has turned into an Epicurean Extravaganza whose reputation far exceeds the 8th JC borders. Supreme Justices and DCA Judges are known to show up and Homecoming colleagues visit with us, too. It is that one precious time of the year that we can share a first-class glimpse of the sun setting over the Gulf, share the laughter of new jokes and old stories, and share a cup of kindness, too. It is definitely a Come-as-You-Are Party. Wear your comfies and casuals; school colors are permissible, too.

So, help your Bar and treat yourself: **SAVE THIS WHALE OF A GOOD TIME.** Mark your calendars NOW for no more work after 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 14 and **RESERVE** your special spot when the official invitations are mailed out in the next week or two.

See ya there ... Marilyn Peterson, the other Co-Chair.

We haven't heard from you...

The EJCBA annual survey was published in the September 2002 newsletter and we haven't gotten many responses. In order to best serve our members, your input is very important. Please take a few moments to answer the survey questions and return it. If you have misplaced or thrown out your newsletter, please visit the EJCBA web site at www.8jcba.org and view the September issue in our online newsletter archive. You can print the page with the survey from there and return it via fax or snail mail to the EJCBA office or to Pan Zettler.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| EJCBA | E.A.W. "Pan" Zettler |
| PO Box 127 | 11 SW First Street |
| Gainesville, Fl. 32602-0127 | PO Box 457 |
| Fax: (352) 380-9112 | Williston, Fl. 32696-0457 |
| | Fax: (352) 528-2226 |

Calendar

November 2002 Calendar

- 5 EJCBA Board Meeting, Dell Graham, 5:30 PM
- 7 CGAWL business meeting 5:30 PM
Leonardo's 706
- 8 EJCBA Luncheon, The Sovereign Restaurant,
11:45 AM
- 11 Veteran's Day – County and Federal
Courthouses closed
- 14 Annual Cedar Key dinner
- 16 UF vs. USC (Gainesville)
- 21 Inn of Court
- 28 Thanksgiving – County and Federal
Courthouses closed
- 29 Thanksgiving – County and Federal
Courthouses closed.

Have an event coming up? Does your section or association hold monthly meetings? If so, please fax the EJCBA office and let us know the particulars. We would like to continue our tradition of including a two-month calendar. So please let us know quickly the name of your group, the date (i.e. last Wednesday) and time and location of the

Have you heard from us?

The EJCBA board members have spent a great deal of time and effort the past two months working to contact every attorney in the circuit to verify that we have correct information in our database prior to publication of the 2002-2003 Directory. If you haven't heard from us, please contact the EJCBA as soon as possible, but no later than November 29th to ensure that all of the information we have is accurate. We need your full name, physical address and PO Box (if applicable), the name of the firm or organization where you work (or if you are in solo practice), your e-mail address (if you would like it published), web site address and specific areas of practice. You may fax your information to : (352) 380-9112 or send it via e-mail to execdir@8jcba.org. Thank you.

EJCBA Web Site

Have you seen the EJCBA web site? Go to www.8jcba.org for helpful information, links, Forum 8 newsletter archives, and membership information. We're adding regularly to the site and hope you'll find it to be a useful resource.

Dues Notices

Dues notices were mailed out in early October **Have you mailed your dues check? Remember: The Annual Cedar Key Dinner is for members only – send your check today!**

Are You a Member of the EJCBA?



by Ben Hutson

As we draw closer to our annual dinner in Cedar Key, a tradition of our association for almost 50 years, I'd like to encourage those of you who haven't had the opportunity to experience this great event and all the other benefits of the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, to please take a moment to complete the application in this month's

newsletter and commit yourself to becoming a member.

As stated in the Articles of Incorporation, the multiple purposes of the Association are to promote the administration of justice; to promote and encourage ethical and professional conduct of the members; to provide educational opportunities to the members; to cultivate professional and social relations among the members; to support the judiciary and judicial system; to improve relations between the public and the Bar; to educate the public on the operation of the legal system; and, to promote the preservation of the American constitutional form of government.

Each year, the Board of Directors sits down and decides how we can best can accomplish those lofty goals. The Association gathers for monthly luncheon meetings to foster relationships between us, and invites esteemed guests to educate us about issues affecting our community. By word and act, we encourage our members to help those who cannot afford to pay for a lawyer to get them justice. We educate the public by holding our annual Law Week, by visiting classrooms and speaking with our friends and families. We contribute monies raised at an annual auction to the Guardian Ad Litem and Children's Home Society. We hold an annual Professionalism seminar to foster professionalism among our membership and beyond. By working with our Florida Bar Board of Governors representative, we stay informed and have a say about the broader issues affecting the legal profession and, ultimately, the public at large. We have a newsletter in which our members can speak their minds.

I have been a member of this Association since I became a lawyer, and could not imagine not being part of this group. I have made some great friends during my time as a member of the association and in my years of service, who have taught me much about the practice of law, who I have been able to count on and who are able to count on me.

This is a call to those of you who want to be a part of something bigger and to participate in a meaningful way, with your peers and coworkers. A call to benefit our members and our community through the activities of the Association, which is only as good as those who are willing to give something of themselves to make it work.

So, if you want to get involved, in any way, at any level, fill out the application and send it in. We look forward to hearing from you. And seeing you at Cedar Key.

EJCBA, Inc.

Application for Membership

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association is to assist attorneys in the practice of law and in their service to the judicial system and to their clients and the community.

Please send a check payable to EJCBA in the amount of \$60, along with your completed application to:

Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 127

Gainesville, FL 32602-0127

Tele: (352) 380-0333

Fax: (352) 380-9112

Email: execdir@8jcba.org

Membership Year: 2002-2003

Voting Members: This category is open to any active member in good standing of the Florida Bar who resides or regularly practices law within the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida.

Non Voting members: This category of membership is open to any active or inactive member in good standing of the Bar of any state or country who resides within the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, or to any member of the faculty of the University of Florida College of Law.

First Name: _____ MI: _____

Last Name: _____

Firm Name: _____

Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone No: (_____) _____ - _____

Fax No: (_____) _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

Bar Number: _____

List two (2) Areas of Practice:

Years in Practice: _____

Are you interested in working on an EJCBA Committee?
Yes / No



Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, Inc.
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Gainesville, FL 32602-0127

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Three Rivers Legal Services Participates in United Way Campaign

by Marcia Lockhart

For the past two months, Three Rivers Legal Services has been actively involved in the United Way campaigns for Alachua County and the Suwannee River Valley. We are pleased to participate in agency fairs, explaining our services to employees and employee representatives of area businesses such as Shands, the Veterans Administration Hospital, and the University of Florida. Many area corporations and organizations set large goals for United Way donations and these fairs are opportunities for potential donors to find out about the various agencies to whom United Way provides funding.

Three Rivers is proud to be a United Way agency. Funding from the Alachua County United Way primarily supports a part-time paralegal whose office is located at the Alachua County One Stop Center. This office is a convenient location for low income individuals who are working to get off of welfare through education and employment training.

When we have the opportunity to tell people from outside the legal community about our program, we are always happy to report the wonderful assistance provided to us through the pro bono activities of the private bar and the volunteer law students.

Money donated to the United Way is an investment in the local community. Eighty-six percent of all donations go to local agencies. Most of these agencies directly and indirectly assist the low income residents of our community, including many clients of Three Rivers Legal Services. Donations to the United Way can be specifically designated for Three Rivers Legal Services. We appreciate being included with other agencies such as ACORN Clinic, Another Way, Peaceful Paths, Big Brothers Big Sisters, ElderCare of Alachua County, the Child Advocacy Center and Consumer Credit Counseling.

***A Heartfelt
Thanks***

from

***Three Rivers
Legal Services***

**for the bar luncheon
donations.**

**These monies will be used for
costs of litigation to ensure
our clients continue to have
equal access to the legal
system.**