

RES GESTAE

LCBA CARES ABOUT KINDNESS

FEBRUARY 2017

NO KINDNESS TOO SMALL

LCBA sends out an endless ripple with

#KINDLEE

LEE COUNTY KIDS IN CRISIS

Moving the needle on pediatric mental health



On the cover: The LCBA is kicking off the #KindLee Campaign in February to inspire members and our community by sharing acts of kindness on social media using the hashtag "#KindLee"



features

20 Moving the Needle on Pediatric Mental Health

by *Christin Collins*

22 No Kindness Too Small

LCBA sends out an endless ripple with #KindLee

by *Sara Fitzpatrick Comito*

departments

6 Letter from the President

by *Kelly L. Fayer, Esq.*

8 Letter from the Executive Director

by *David Seitz*

10 Calendar of Events

12 Ethically Speaking

by *Henry Lee Paul, Esq.*

14 Family Law Practice Section

by *Dustin Michael Butler, Esq.*

16 New Members

18 YLD Spotlight

26 Legal Lens

EC Induction Luncheon

28 Legal Lens

EC Induction Luncheon

30 The Dish

San Luis Cuban Café

32 Legal Lens

YLD Reception

34 LCBA Judges Care

Senior Judge James H. Seals

36 LCBA Members Care

Lori Moore, Esq.

38 LCBA Members Care

Matt Raulerson, Esq.

39 100 Club

40 Advertisers' Spotlight

Martin Law Firm

43 Introducing the FRLS/LCBA Pro Bono Case Challenge

44 In the News

News and Happenings

ADVERTISORY

Accurate Investigations & Drug Screening	41
Annual Bench Bar Shrimp Boil	29
Boyle & Leonard, P.A.	46
Brad Jessen, Edward Jones	37
Brodeur Carvell	19
Business Observer	37
Calvo & Calvo Attorneys at Law	19
Compass Law Firm	42
CONRIC PR & Marketing	34
Copy Lady	9
DeMine Immigration Law Firm	11
Denise Kennedy	19
Donna Tisch	27
Edison National Bank	BC
ENCORE Bank	IFC
Experience Real Estate Group, LLC	45
FineMark National Bank	16
Fort Myers Court Reporting	13
Garvin Law Firm	43
Get Smart Bail Bonds	21
Geraghty Mediation	13
Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A.	27
Hotel Indigo	41
Joe Viacava Law	IBC
Kushner & Kushner Attorneys	19
Law Firm of Scott T. Moorey	42
Law Offices of David L. Orosz	35
Law Offices of Dennis L. Webb	36
Leonard P. Reina	17
Leslea Ellis, LLC	17
Livingston Loeffler, P.A.	41
Martin Law Firm	11
McHale, P.A.	37
Merit Court Reporting, Inc.	33
Musca Law Office, Inc.	3
Panther Printing	45
Patterson Eskin & Ball	19
Roetzel & Andress	21
Safeguard Shredding	17
Sanibel Captiva Community Bank	42
Sheldon E. Finman, P.A.	40
Simon M. Harrison	11
Spivey Law Firm, P.A.	5
The North Law Firm, P.A.	38
The Place on First	33
The Strayhorn Building	13
Trinity Commercial Group Inc.	35
Veranda Restaurant	35
Vantage Construction Services	39
Von Ahn & Associates	7
William DeForest Thompson Jr., LLC	15



Why kindness?

When people are asked to use one word to describe lawyers, is that the word that comes to mind? Sadly, there are plenty of news stories featuring the wrongdoings of lawyers, which can color public perception unfairly. Many in the public don't know my friends and colleagues, though. And when I think of them, "kindness" is often the first word that comes to mind.

I am fortunate to know so many lawyers who make a difference in people's lives through pro bono work or volunteering with a charitable organization. Mostly, I know many

lawyers who help people in their everyday lives without the expectation of repayment. They are the reason we dedicate this issue of Res Gestae to kindness – it's at the core of who many of you are.

Christin Collins, 2016 News Press Person of the Year nominee, will be the speaker at our February meeting. Her reputation is built on causes that have kindness at their core, like Golisano Children's Hospital. She's also the founder of PACE Center for Girls' Love That Dress! fundraiser, which has become a statewide event. At Lee Health, she supports wellness within that organization and the community.

This year, her efforts will be focused on making a difference in the lives of children by leading an initiative for pediatric mental and behavioral health. On page 20, you'll discover a real opportunity to make a difference in children's lives. Florida receives the second lowest rate of mental health-related funding in the country - and Lee County receives the lowest amount of all of the counties in Florida.

A child will follow our example, not our advice, so it is always important to reflect on our actions. Thanks to Amanda Bartley and our Random Acts of Kindness Committee, the LCBA will be able to take concrete action to enable us individually and as a group to realize the power of kindness.

Amanda, a long-time volunteer of the LCBA, has been open about the devastating loss of her son, Trevor. I was so moved by how her friends and family participated in a Random Acts of Kindness Project to honor his memory. She is the inspiration for our LCBA project. To honor Trevor's memory, and to honor all who have suffered a loss, we will focus on what we can do to make the lives around us richer, fuller and happier.

You will be hearing a lot about the hashtag, #KindLee. Why kindness? Because that is the word that describes you every day.

#KINDLEE

Kelly L. Fayer, Esq.
Kelly@FayerLaw.net | 239.415.3434

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Indera DeMine, Esq.

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Fort Myers Track Club, Board Member

Many of us participate in walking and running events for fun, competition or just to be healthy, but have you ever asked yourself where the money from those events goes or who those volunteers are?

The Fort Myers Track Club is an all-volunteer non-profit organization founded in 1978 to promote health and fitness through running. The FMTC hosts and partners with local charitable organizations to hold approximately 25 races and fun runs annually, helping to raise nearly \$200,000 in funds each year to support local causes like Golisano Children's Hospital, Moffit Cancer Center, Edison Festival of Light, Strides for Education, Caloosa Humane Society, Habitat for Humanity and Gi Gi's Playhouse. The FMTC also has an active youth running and development program, hosts weekly public group runs and speed workouts and awards annual scholarships to deserving high school seniors.

While being on the Board does typically require some very early weekend hours, I am extremely proud of the generous contributions we make. Start the new year right and consider doing (or volunteering at) an event that will not only help you achieve your goals, but also support and contribute to our community. Email lmoore@ralaw.com or visit www.ftmyerstrackclub.com for more information.



Sex Abuse of Patients in Mental Health Facilities

- A condition that is rampant in these types of facilities.
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- Little or no holding of these types of facilities accountable.
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Is your firm part of the 100 Club? Any firm with 2 or more attorneys and 100% membership in the LCBA qualifies.
If you feel your firm is eligible, email a listing of your attorneys to admin@leebar.org and we will let you know.

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Brian J. Hoops has joined the business litigation practice group at **Roetzel's** Fort Myers office. He earned his J.D. from Stetson University College of Law, where he was the recipient of both a merit scholarship and veteran's scholarship. Prior to law school, Hoops received his Bachelors of Science in international business with honors from California State University, Dominguez Hills. He was also a member of the United States Army Reserve Military Police Corps. During his service, he completed a tour of duty in Iraq from 2008 to 2009, where he worked as a member of a police transition team training Iraqi Police.



Cary Goggin has been promoted to partner at of **Goede, Adamczyk, DeBoest & Cross**. He manages commercial and real estate litigation cases from inception through resolution, and is responsible for advising and representing clients on landlord and tenant litigation, as well as real estate transactions. He assists with judgment collection matters and drafts commercial and residential lease agreements. Goggin also advises clients of the firm's community association law practice primarily in developing effective enforcement and collection litigation strategies.



The Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization & Education has recertified **Richard L. Purtz** of the Southwest Florida law offices of **Goldstein, Buckley, Cechman, Rice & Purtz, P.A.** as a Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer. Purtz was first certified in 1996 and has successfully been recertified every five years by continuing to meet Florida Bar standards that require heightened experience and advanced skills as a trial attorney.

A graduate of Tulane University and University of Florida College of Law, Purtz focuses his practice on personal injury, wrongful death and insurance claims litigation.



Kevin A. Kyle and **Lowell S. Schoenfeld**, partners at **Green Schoenfeld & Kyle LLP**, have achieved the AV Preeminent Rating from Martindale-Hubbell.

Kyle is board certified by The Florida Bar as an expert in wills, trusts and estates, and tax law. Schoenfeld is board certified by The Florida Bar as an expert in wills, trusts and estates.



Esther A. Zuccaro has joined the corporate, tax and transactional practice group at **Roetzel's** Naples office. She focuses her practice on civil litigation, real estate law and estate planning. Prior to attending law school, she served as director of business development for a men's tie and accessory company in Chicago, where she managed wholesale accounts and served as the point of contact for all wholesale buyers and retail customers. Zuccaro earned her J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law, and received her Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern University.



Thomas G. Coleman has joined the law firm of **Coleman & Coleman**, where he will practice with his father, John Charles Coleman, and his uncle, Robert J. Coleman. Thomas has been practicing law since 2011, and will continue to focus on litigating commercial, real estate, partnership, probate and trust disputes arising in Southwest Florida. Thomas served as the President of the Lee County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division in 2016 and is a member of the Calusa American Inn of Court and the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties. Thomas attended the University of Miami School of Law where he graduated magna cum laude and was inducted into the Order of the Coif.

Sawyer Smith, managing partner of **Wilbur Smith Attorneys at Law**, has been appointed to the Conservation 20/20 Land Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee.



Conservation 20/20 is an environmentally-sensitive land acquisition and stewardship program in Lee County. The purpose of the program is to preserve and protect environmentally critical land for the benefit of present and future generations in Southwest Florida. To learn more, visit www.leegov.com/conservation2020.

Kyla Thomson has been promoted to partner at of **Goede, Adamczyk, DeBoest & Cross**. She drafts opinion letters, amendments and restatements of governing documents, covenant violation and collection demand letters on behalf of community associations. She attends and facilitates community association membership meetings, elections and board meetings. She provides general counsel on community association matters to boards of directors and management companies. Thomson also manages and supervises a team of paralegals in the firm's collections and foreclosure practice.



Jose C. Leon has joined the business litigation practice group at **Roetzel's** Naples office. He focuses especially on research regarding construction litigation, education law, business and commercial litigation, and public law litigation.



Leon attended the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where he interned at Fidelity National Law Group's Florida's litigation department. Additionally, he served as a judicial intern for the Honorable Alicia Valle of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Leon received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Florida.

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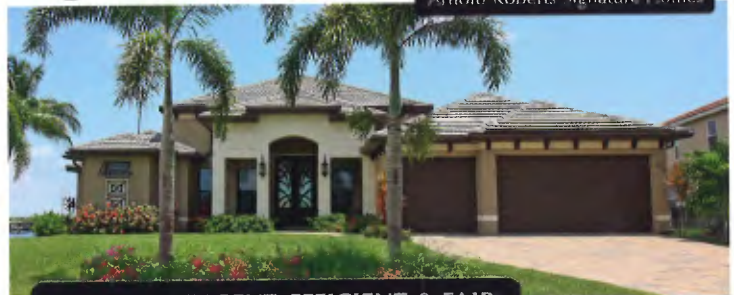
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