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The Barrister is published monthly by the Broward County Bar Association. All editorial, advertising and photos may be submitted for consideration through email to bonnie@browardbar.org. We reserve the right to reject any ad for any reason.

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ON THE COVER:

The Broward County Bar Association and the BCBA Publicity Committee wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. The committee members meet monthly and work collaboratively to provide up to date legal content to our readers. If you are interested in joining the Publicity Committee, please let us know by emailing membership@browardbar.org. Pictured in the top row (left to right): Michelle Karinne Suarez and Natalie Giachos. Bottom row (left to right): Alan Bryce Grossman, Jared S. Guberman, Kimberly Gessner, Braulio N. Rosa, Bonnie H. Ross, Edwina V. Kessler, and Gavin MacMillan.

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Young Lawyers' Section **Letter from the President** Todd L. Baker

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Medical Marijuana Part 3 Michelle K. Suarez

It's a TECH-nicality Scheril Murray Powell

Immigration Law Update Larry J. Behar

Legal Health Corner Louis Reinstein

Recent Developments In The Law Nancy Little Hoffman

Calendar of Events



















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letter from the president



Greetings from the President.

Despite everyone's best intentions, the courthouse move has not begun. It seems this saga is destined to drag on through my entire presidency. Even more frustrating is the county's refusal to come forth with any information as to the actual status of the courthouse, the problems that exist and how long the solution is going to take. A recent Public Records Act request revealed that several floods have occurred in the new building, including one 5th floor

bathroom flood that resulted in all the lower floors being inundated and mold growing behind the walls in the lobby and other places.

We strongly urge the County Administrators office to seize the day, make the repairs, ensure the air quality is excellent, and open our courthouse.

From a membership and fiscal standpoint, your association is on top of the world. We have more members now than we ever have at any point in the past, particularly for this time of year; we also are fiscally ahead of the curve. Your board of directors and their conservative management has really paid off.

I attended our new attorney orientation at the Broward County Law Library on October 28. Seven judicial representatives for the 17th circuit were in attendance and the new, young lawyers, some of them on their second careers, listened intently as they were exhorted to do the right thing, keep their word and learn by not only coming to the courthouse and learning the ropes but also trying to get internships and/ or externships to enhance their practice of law. It's an excellent program and one that we will continue each year.

Our annual holiday party is on Thursday, December 1, 2016. This party will be held at the Fort Lauderdale Antique Car Museum with all of their beautiful Packard automobiles on display. This is a don't miss signature event with excellent hors d'oeuvres and libations. Please join us and bring a new and unwrapped toy for children ages 3 - 15 to benefit the Young Lawyers Annual Holiday in February event.

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letter from the young lawyers' president



The year has flown by and the holiday season is upon us. I hope each of you have worked hard throughout the year so that you can wind down and spend time with family and friends. There will be lots of holiday parties throughout Broward County, including our YLS Holiday Luncheon with the Dillard High School Choir, the BCBA Annual Holiday Party, a Northeast and Northwest Section party at Alpine Jaguar and a West Broward and Weston Section party at Moon Thai located in Weston. Please check the BCBA calendar for dates and times. These parties are a great way to catch up with friends and colleagues you may not have seen in a while. Here is a quick recap of some of our recent events.

Our 29th Annual Golf Tournament benefitting 4Kids of South Florida was our best tournament to date, raising \$38,000. Even with slightly inclement weather, everyone who participated had a blast. None of it would have been possible without a great charity to work with, fantastic sponsors from our legal community, and the leadership of Stacy Weissman, Jeff Hegewald and the rest of the Golf Tournament committee, including Jacqueline Revis. Jacqueline has consistently devoted her time to this event for years and we really appreciate it.

On November 23, we hosted a social in honor of Veterans' Day with NSU Shepard Broad School of Law and Legal Aid Service of Broward County's Mission United. It was well attended by young lawyers and law students and helped raise awareness for the Mission United program. There were many eager law students looking for clerkships. If you are looking to hire a summer associate or part-time help during the year, I would post the position on NSU's job posting. These students were personable, smart and passionate. Why not help a law student integrate into the legal field while getting an extra body to share the workload at a relatively low cost? It is also a great way to screen people to determine if they are worth hiring full time.

On November 19, we helped Judge John Bowman, the Heart Gallery of Broward County, and ChildNet host Broward's 11th Annual National Adoption Day event. Over 30 kids in the foster care found their forever homes. It was an incredible experience that I encourage everyone to support. Thanks to all of the volunteers and sponsors for making the event a special day for these amazing children and their families.

I typically write articles encouraging involvement and charitable giving to your community. This past election day was a big day for Broward County and our country. Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed Judges, including BCBA members and new Florida State Senators, Gary M. Farmer Jr. and Jose Javier Rodriguez. If you are reading this and the election did not turn out as you would have liked, do not sit on the sidelines and read about the feelings of others on social media. Do something – be the change you want.

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During the 2016 regular legislative session, Governor Rick Scott signed 269 bills into law: 69 went into effect the day Governor Scott signed them; 159 went into effect on July 1, 2016; 26 went into effect on October 1, 2016; and the remaining laws required approval from local voters. Below are some of the highlights.

Law enforcement agencies are now required to submit sexual-assault evidence kits, or other DNA evidence if a kit is not collected, to a member of the statewide criminal analysis laboratory system within 30 days of receipt of the evidence if a report of the sexual offense is made, or after being notified by alleged victims or victims' representatives that they wish to have the evidence tested.

Individuals convicted of domestic violence crimes involving intentional bodily harm against another face increased minimum terms of imprisonment – between 5 days and 30 days.

Churches, religious organizations, clergy members, ministers and church or religious organization employees may not be required to solemnize any marriage or provide services, accommodations, facilities, goods, or privileges for related purposes if such action would violate a sincerely held religious belief. A refusal may not serve as a basis for a civil cause of action.

by Jared Guberman

Civil and criminal penalties are increased if evidence of prejudice is witnessed when someone commits an offense against a person with a mental or physical disability.

A person commits a second-degree felony for making false reports concerning the use of firearms in a violent manner. The law also makes it a first-degree misdemeanor to threaten with death or serious bodily harm a law-enforcement officer, state attorney or assistant state attorney, firefighter, judge, elected official or any of their family members.

In an effort to crackdown on illegal credit card skimmers at gas pumps and ATM machines, scammers who use credit car skimmers will face significantly more prison time. The new law makes the crime a second-degree felony, potentially punishable by a 15-year maximum prison sentence — up from a third-degree felony that carried a maximum fiveyear sentence. The law also includes requirements for gas-station owners to use security measures by placing tape over the panel opening that leads to the scanning device on the gas pump. If the tape is broken, it could indicate a possible skimming situation.

New laws specifically address the access or disposition of an individual's digital assets either during their incapacity or

upon death. A digital asset is an electronic record in which an individual has a right or interest (for example, e-mails, text messages, online photographs and social media accounts). The Florida Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act provides the legal authority for the fiduciary to manage the digital assets much like they have the legal authority to manage tangible assets.

Lastly, Florida now prohibits the sale of over-the-counter medicines containing the cough suppressant dextromethorphan to minors. This law curbs minors from abusing over-the counter cough medicine. Florida is the tenth state to pass a law addressing the issue of cough medicine abuse among teens. The other 9 states are: California, New York, Arizona, Louisiana, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Washington and New Jersey.

For a complete list of general and special laws enacted by the Florida Legislature in 2016, please visit laws.flrules.org.



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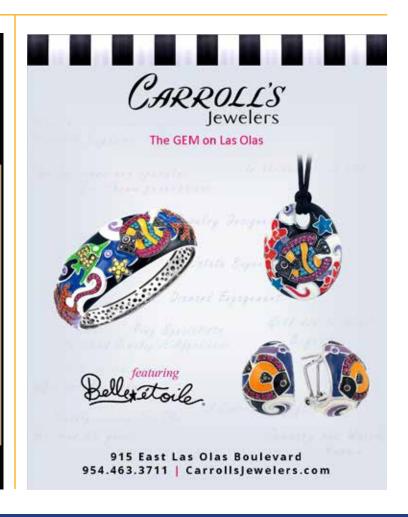
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The Future of Medical Marijuana in Florida Has Arrived; the Voters Have Spoken.

by Michelle K. Suarez Part 3 of a 3-part series.

Florida voters made it clear on November 8, 2016, with a resounding 6,467,381 votes of "YES" on Amendment 2, and an astounding 71% passage rate, well over the 60% required, that patients with certain debilitating medical conditions will no longer need to leave Florida to receive medical marijuana. While medical marijuana remains illegal federally, the federal government has stated that it does not intend to devote resources to prosecuting marijuana use complying with statutes implemented by states for medical marijuana. Moreover, the "Rohrabacher-Farr Amendment" enacted by Congress prohibits the United States Department of Justice from expending funds to undermine state laws authorizing the use and distribution of medical marijuana.

So where does that leave businesses, attorneys, and medical doctors with regard to counseling or becoming involved with a medical marijuana business? Based on the language of Amendment 2, which will become law on January 3, 2017, the Department of Health will be the quasijudicial entity responsible for implementing regulations no later than six (6) months after the effective date of Amendment 2. Certain restrictions are clear from the language of the statute, such as what it means to be a qualified patient, what is required of a physician certification, what constitutes a caregiver, and what entities qualify as a "Medical Marijuana Treatment Center" (MMTC). However, the Amendment was clearly drafted in such a way as to broaden the scope of the types of businesses who may now get involved in the cannabis industry via different processes, be it through cultivation, transportation, sales, distribution, dispensing,

or producing products or related supplies. MMTC's must be registered to engage in any of the activities listed above, but do not have to engage in all of them. This creates a vast area for businesses to get involved at vertical and horizontal levels of the cannabis industry. Keep in mind, however, that since marijuana remains a schedule 1 highly regulated substance by the Drug Enforcement Administration, all production, manufacture, and commerce related to cannabis in Florida must remain within the state.

The drafters of Amendment 2 took great care to adhere to the 'single subject rule' required of any Constitutional amendment, and ensuring that the amendment was clear as to its ultimate purpose. They also took great care to ensure that the definition of medical marijuana cannot be changed in a way that limits the scope of the application of the provision. While many of the regulations provided by Amendment 2 remain under the purview of the Department of Health, Amendment 2 addresses concerns previously voiced by Florida residents, such as ensuring a designated caregiver is at least 21 years old and that for a physician certification to be issued to a minor, a parent or legal guardian of the minor must consent in writing.

Finally, with many businesses eager to enter the medical marijuana market in Florida, legal counsel should be wary of advising clients in a way that could be construed as assisting or aiding a person or entity in engaging in illegal activity. Given the fact that all use of marijuana remains federally illegal, legal professionals must inform their clients, and maintain any counsel that is provided within the confines of the statutory limits of this provision. Amendment 2 is not intended to affect other criminal prohibitions on marijuana, negligence law, medical ethics or malpractice, or insurance law. This means that the effects are yet to be seen on employment law, workers compensation, safety concerns, data privacy compliance, insurance coverage, taxation, land/ use and zoning challenges, and more. With businesses, investors, private equity funds, and entrepreneurs flocking to Florida to see how they can get involved in the cannabis business, lawyers have a duty to ensure that they become competent on Amendment 2 and its effects before rendering any type of legal advice. The Broward County Bar Association is one of the first bar association's in the state to address the legal effects medical marijuana will have on businesses in Florida, and by serving as an educational resource, you will not want to miss the Medical Marijuana Legalization Summit on February 10, 2017. Regardless of your position on the subject, medical marijuana remains positioned in a genre much like technology was back in 2000; it's not coming, it's here! For more information visit www.browardbar.org/calendar or call 954.832.3618. **B**



Michelle Karinne Suarez, Esq. is a business attorney practicing transactional and litigation work at Kelley Kronenberg, P.A.'s Fort Lauderdale office. She is also a fitness competitor. She can be reached at (954)370-9970 or via email at msuarez@, kelleykronenberg.com.



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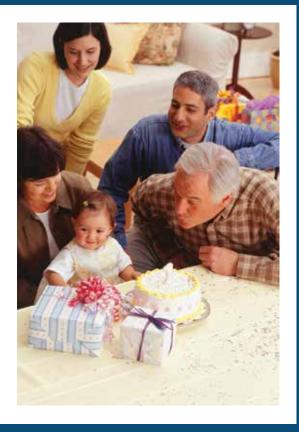
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Using Google Alerts to Stay on The Pulse of What Is New, Current, and Emerging in the Legal World

by Scheril Murray Powell

After three years of law school, enduring bar prep, taking the bar exam and the agony of waiting for bar results, many attorneys like to believe that their educational journey has come to an end. As the celebrations begin, then comes the sobering reality that as a lawyer, the learning never ends. Attorneys have a responsibility and obligation to stay up to speed on the latest developments in our practice areas. We attempt to keep up with CLE's, practice area newsletters, legal news subscription services, online legal research, and by reading weekly state case law updates. To properly represent our clients, we must stay on the cusp of the most recent trends and changes in the law. This can be an overwhelming thought, considering that the law has potential to change daily as decisions are being made in courtrooms across the country. I am not asserting that I have the solution to this conundrum, however, I have found a tool that eases the pain of having to constantly search for the most recent changes in law. Indeed, I have found a friend in Google Alerts. The best part is that this tool is available for free.

Accessing Google Alerts

To set Google Alerts, you simply need to go to www.google.com/alerts or type google alerts into your favorite search engine.

Setting an Alert

Once you go to www.google.com/alerts you will see the screen where you can enter your search phrase. Once you enter your phrase, a field will appear for you to enter your preferred email address. The tool will then send an email to you to confirm the alert. Once you click on the link in the email, your alert will be confirmed and you will start getting updates by email as they are available. As you are typing your search phrase in Google Alerts, an Alerts Preview will appear with "hot" articles related to your topic of interest.

Narrowing your Search Phrase

It is important that you narrow the term to be as specific as possible. I am sure you can imagine the plethora of hits that will appear for a generic term. Ex: when searching for information on Probate issues. I would search for something specific such as "homestead property vesting in heirs Florida", not just "Property vesting in heirs". I have also found it helpful to set multiple alerts related to a particular topic. Ex: As a Cannabis Law Attorney, I set alerts for "Cannabis Law", "Medical Marijuana Florida", "Marijuana Dispensaries", and "Amendment 2 Florida" to capture both national and local headlines of interest. You may have to experiment with topics to find your desired level of specificity.

Monitoring your Name/Client's Names/Opposing Party's Names

Many attorneys create Google Alerts for their own name or firm name. This way they can monitor their digital footprint and the presence of their name on the internet. By monitoring the appearance of your name, you can track where you are published, cited, recognized, or even the presence of identity theft. Google Alerts is also helpful for monitoring internet traffic on the names of opposing parties. This is especially helpful if you are involved in high profile cases. You want to be among the first to know about any new articles that may affect vour case or matter.

Protecting Intellectual Property of **vour Clients**

Google Alerts are especially helpful to intellectual property/patent attorneys. It can be used to ensure that the license holders of your clients do not exceed to limits of the license agreement, or use the license beyond the date of termination. You can use the alerts to make sure that protected slogans or catch phrases are not being used without permission. Also, it can be used to get notified if published works are being used without proper citing, permission, or credit.

Google Alerts is a great, user-friendly free tool for attorneys to stay looped in on new dialogue about their current practice areas. No matter how experienced an attorney is, there is always new information emerging. Google Alerts allows you to proactively flag information of interest to you and that will help you give the best representation to your clients. B



Scheril Murray Powell, is a civil law attorney at Doumar, Allsworth, Laystrom, Voigt, Wachs, and Adair, LLP in Fort Lauderdale. She can be reached at smpesquire@ outlook.com or by phone at (954) 762-3400.

Immigration Law Section Update

EB-5: An Entrepreneur's Road to Residency

by Larry J. Behar

The United States provides a method for investors to obtain lawful permanent residency known as the EB-5 visa. Although it is called a visa, this is a permanent status which allows investors and their family members to work and stay in the country.

Investors receive a conditional residency after making an investment in their own business, or as part of a partnership or limited liability company. To qualify for the EB-5 visa, the prospective commercial enterprise must meet the following requirements:

Qualifying Businesses

- A new business enterprise
- Purchase of an existing business with substantial increase (40% or more) in net worth

Qualifying Employees

• The business must create at least 10 full-time employment positions for

U.S. citizens (or residents) per investor

• Each employee (excluding the investor immigrant) must be employed fulltime or a minimum of 35 hours per week

The application, made to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (US-CIS), must show the following:

- 1. Source of the \$1 million being invested (or \$500,000 in a Targeted Employment Area)
- 2. Establishment of the enterprise
- 3. Capital is at risk
- 4. At least ten jobs will be created
- 5. Investor will be involved in management

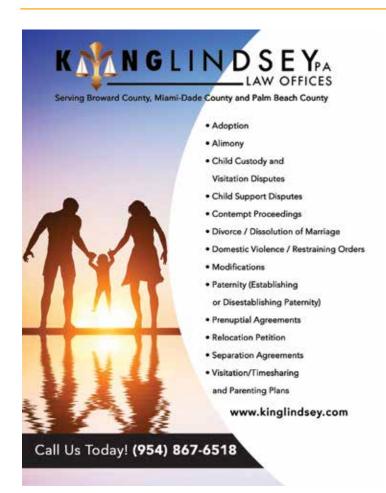
While only 10,000 such "green cards" can be issued annually, this limit is rarely reached. For many, the EB-5 visa is a safe harbor when other categories do not apply. Have your cli-

ents contact a qualified immigration attorney to review this option.

To learn more about the EB-5 visa, join Mr. Behar at the Broward County Bar Association Lunch and Learn CLE on February 1, 2017. Register at www.browardbar.org/calendar.



Mr. Larry Behar is the Managing Partner of the Behar Law Group, which works with investors, Regional Center sponsors, and developers throughout the United States. Mr. Behar can be reached at larry@immigrationflorida. com or by calling (954) 524-8888.







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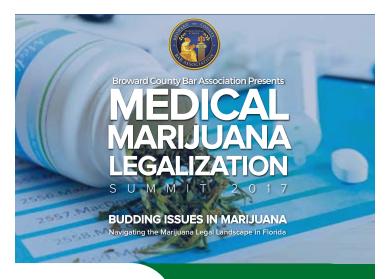
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BCBA member Jeannette Watkin in Húsafell, Iceland visiting Ice Caves in the Glaciers!

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Do Lawyers Need to be More Flexible?

by Louis Reinstein

Do lawyers need to be more flexible? The **Broward** County Bar Association's Appellate Practice Section surely thinks so! This time, though, we are not talking about litigators dealing with each other. Instead, we are talking about the need for mind/body balance to help us get through our busy work week ... which sometimes continues into the weekend. We are talking about Yoga.

Yoga is actually a group of physical, mental, and/or spiritual practices or disciplines which can be practiced in many different forms. Some examples are Hatha Yoga and Vinyasa Flow Yoga. The benefits of Yoga are not new and can be traced back over 5,000 years to ancient India.

You might be asking, "Why am I reading about Yoga in a publication for lawyers?" Well, the truth is we probably should be reading more about Yoga for lawvers. Unfortunately, what we usually read about is lawyers burning out or having breakdowns because they have not discovered an outlet for their stress or a way to take time to focus on their own health. These concerns are what led Michele Feinzig, the Appellate Practice Section's Chair, to Yoga, and to suggest to the rest of the Section that a Yoga program could really benefit everyone. She did not have to bend over backwards to convince the Section that offering a Yoga class through the BCBA was a great idea.



Thus was born the BCBA's first Yoga for Lawvers (and friends) event on November 3, 2016 at the BCBA's Conference Center --- although you would not have recognized it as the Conference Center that day. The tables and chairs were taken away, and in their place were traditional Yoga mats, candles, and calming music playing in the background. We were all treated to a Yoga class led by Steve and Darlene, owners of Yoga 1 in Hollywood, who designed a special class for all-levels to help everyone stretch, relieve tension, and feel refreshed. Steve and Darlene guided the group through various poses, and even gave some history about Yoga. Steve also told a few jokes. There was no pressure to complete every posture, as there were a number of beginners who took breaks between each downward dog to enjoy the lemon water and snacks set out in the back of the room.

There is no doubt that everyone who participated felt both a little more relaxed and a little more energized after the class, and ready to tackle another day in our profession. Add to that the opportunity to network with others, and the end result was a win-win on all accounts. The event was a great success, and the Appellate Section hopes to have another one in the near future.

YOGA 1 is located at 2 Oakwood Blvd., Suite 163, Hollywood, FL 33020. Dar-

lene and Steve can be reached at (954) 929-YOGA(9642) or you can find more information about their studio at www.yoga1.net.

This article was submitted on behalf of the BCBA Appellate Practice Section, Michele K. Feinzig, Esq. of the Law Offices of Robin Bresky, Chair, and Louis Reinstein, Esq. of Billing, Cochran, Lyles, Mauro & Ramsey, P.A., Vice Chair. For more information about the Appellate Practice Section, please check the BCBA calendar, or email mfeinzig@breskyappellate.com or ljr@ bclmr.com.



Louis Reinstein is a Partner at Billing, Cochran, Lyles, Mauro & Ramsey, P.A., focusing on civil litigation and his practice includes both state and federal trial and appellate work throughout the State of Florida.



by Nancy Little Hoffman

TRIAL COURTS IN OTHER DIS-TRICTS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW FOURTH DISTRICT'S HOLDING THAT STATUTE IMPOSING CAPS ON NONECONOMIC DAMAGES IN PERSONAL INJURY MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CASES IS UNCON-STITUTIONAL.

After a lengthy trial in Charlotte County, a jury found that the malpractice of a physician and hospital caused such severe injury to a prematurely born infant that she would be dependent upon others for her entire life, and it returned a multimillion dollar verdict. The trial court rejected defendants' motion to reduce the verdict based on section 766.118(3), Florida Statutes, and defendants appealed. The Second District upheld that decision, finding that the statute is unconstitutional. The court explained that after the Supreme Court declared the statute unconstitutional as to wrongful death cases in its 2014 McCall opinion, the Fourth District held that it was also unconstitutional as applied to personal injury cases in its 2015 Kalitan opinion. Since Kalitan is the only district court precedent on the issue, it is binding on trial courts throughout the state, and the trial court correctly applied it. The trial court erred, however, in setting off from the economic damages award against the hospital a pretrial settlement with one of the physicians. Port Charlotte HMA, Ltd. v. Suarez, 41 Fla. L. Weekly D2393 (Fla. 2d DCA Oct. 26, 2016).

DISTRICT FIRST CERTIFIES QUESTION OF WHETHER POLICE OFFICER MAY, AS A MATTER OF COURSE, DETAIN A PASSENGER **DURING A LAWFUL TRAFFIC** STOP WITHOUT VIOLATING THE PASSENGER'S FOURTH AMEND-MENT RIGHTS.

Agreeing with the Fifth District's recent Aguiar opinion, holding that concerns for an officer's safety outweighed the limited intrusion on a passenger's rights, the First District upheld the denial of his motion to suppress evidence obtained during the traffic stop. The court noted, however, that its decision conflicted with the Fourth District's longstanding precedent in its 1999 Wilson opinion, and it certified that conflict to the Florida Supreme Court. Presley v. State, 41 Fla. L. Weekly D2491 (Fla. 1st DCA Nov. 9, 2016).

CERTIORARI GRANTED TO RE-VIEW DENIAL OF DISCOVERY IN ACTION ALLEGING ACCOUNT-ING AND BOOKKEEPING FRAUD.

In an action by the purchaser of a business

against the seller, the purchaser alleged that the seller had given it fraudulent information prior to completion of the sale. Upon learning that the seller's accountants had three boxes of the seller's documents pertaining to the relevant time period, the purchaser sought to discover those documents. It sought certiorari after the trial court denied that request. The First District quashed the trial court's order, holding that the accountant-client privilege did not apply; that the documents did not become privileged by being sent to the accountants; and that the purchaser would be irreparably harmed if it could not review the documents to determine whether they differed from the documents that the seller had provided prior to the sale. pdrGrayson Dental Lab, LLC v. Progressive Dental Reconstruction, Inc., 41 Fla. L. Weekly D2587 (Fla. 1st DCA Nov. 17, 2016). **B**



Nancy Little Hoffmann is a Board-Certified Appellate Lawyer practicing in the Fort Lauderdale area since 1974. She may be contacted at 954-771-0606 or by e-mail at NLHappeals@aol.com

1 2016 BCBA Annual Member **Holiday Party**

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Venue:** Fort Lauderdale Antique

Car Museum

Cost: No Charge BCBA Member;

\$25 Member Guest

6 West Broward & Weston **Sections Holiday Party**

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **Venue:** Moon Thai – Weston **Cost:** No Charge Section Member; \$10 BCBA Member;

\$25 Non-Member

7 CLE: How to be Compliant and Save Your Clients' Money with **Legal Technology**

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Venue:** BCBA Conference Center Cost: \$20 BCBA Member: \$30

Non-Member

8 Northeast & Northwest **Broward Sections Holiday Party**

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. **Venue:** Alpine Jaguar **Cost:** No Charge Section Member: \$10 BCBA Member:

\$25 Non-Member

9 BCBA Mentorship CLE **Breakfast**

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Venue:** BCBA Conference Center Cost: \$10 BCBA Member Only

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Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Venue: BCBA Conference

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2017 Judicial Robing Ceremonies

Dates: Jan 19 • Jan 27 • Feb 10

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Venue: Broward County

Courthouse - Jury Assembly Room

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2017 Legislative Affairs Reception

Date: February 2, 2017 **Time:** 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Venue: BCBA Conference Center Cost: \$25 BCBA Members and Dignitaries; \$35 Non-Member Sponsorships Available

Panthers All-Inclusive Game &

CLE

Date: February 9, 2017 **Time:** 5:30 p.m. Venue: BB&T Center

Cost: \$80 BCBA Member; \$95

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*includes parking, unlimited food &

beverages.

Medical Marijuana Legalization Summit 2017

Date: February 10, 2017 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Venue: Bahia Mar Fort Lauderdale

Cost: \$125 BCBA Member; \$150

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2017 Workers' Compensation Conference & Reception

Date: February 24, 2017 **Time:** 11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Venue:** Bahia Mar Fort Lauderdale

Beach

Cost: \$85 BCBA Member; \$100

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