



Newsletter of the Martin County Bar Association

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Message (Pg. 1)
- CLE Luncheon Meeting (Pg. 3, 40)
- Constitution Week (Pg. 4)
- Annual Membership Renewal (Pg. 5)
- Annual Fall Reception (Pg. 7)
- TD Bank "Free \$" (Pg. 9)
- Cheers (Pg. 22)
- Camping/Kayak Trip (Pg. 25)
- Online Resources (Pg. 29)
- Member Benefit Program (Pg. 33)
- Links, Jobs & Legislation (Pg. 38)
- Calendar of Events (Pg. 39)

Law/Bar Related Committee Reports:

- Admiralty (Pg. 6)
- Appellate (Pg. 21)
- Bankruptcy (Pg. 20)
- Criminal (Pg. 28)
- Diversity (Pg. 12)
- Employment & Labor (Pg. 27)
- Florida Bar News (Pg. 31)
- Immigration (Pg. 16)
- Judicial Relations (Pg. 7)
- Justice Teaching (Pg. 5)
- Legal Resources (Pg. 30)
- Legal Aid (Pg. 32)
- Real Property (Pg. 34)
- Scholarship (Pg. 8)
- Small & Solo Practice (Pg. 10)
- Social Committee (Pg. 15)
- Social Media (Pg. 36)
- Trial (Pg. 19)
- Young Lawyers Division (Pg. 24)
- 5K (Pg. 11)

THE SIDE BAR NEWSLETTER

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If you have an article, opinion, news or other information for publication in the *SideBar*, please call (772) 220-8018 or email information to: martincountybarassociation@msn.com

The due date for all advertisements, articles and announcements is the 1st of the month preceding publication.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
ON CLOUD COMPUTING**



Barbara Kreitz Cook
2018-19 President

Cloud Computing is the practice of using a network of remote servers hosted on the Internet to store, manage, and process data, as opposed to or in addition to using a local server or a personal computer. Why should we be "Cloud Computing" in our businesses? Here is what Legal Fuel, the Practice Resource Center of The Florida Bar, has to say about cloud data backup in a free 10 CLE credit webinar regarding preparation for hurricanes and other natural disasters:

Lawyers can't afford to miss a beat—no matter what. Even when a hurricane or other natural disaster heads their way, attorneys need to keep providing service to their clients. And in this day and age, there's no reason why they can't! Cloud and internet technologies allow lawyers to access data and communicate from anywhere at any time. Also, a little disaster preparedness and business continuity planning can go a very



long way in protecting yourself and your firm. "In this CLE, you'll learn all the basics you need to know. We hope it helps keep you and your law firm safe!" Going paperless and getting your firm in the cloud is the best way to keep your work safe.

Wall Street Personal Technology columnist, David Pierce, says we should "Look to the cloud to safeguard our digital lives", and

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MCBA 2018 - 2019 Executive Board:

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Continued From Previous Page . . .

subscribes to the 3-2-1 Rule widely respected and recommended by the U.S. government - have at least three copies of everything, on at least two different types of media, at least one of which should be somewhere else. The first two are the traditional means of protecting data: one computer and a backup hard drive (or paper for neanderthals). Cloud storage accomplishes the last tier - the “elsewhere”.

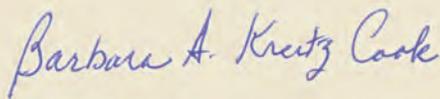
One approach to cloud storage is to upload everything to your cloud server on a regular basis, just like a local hard drive back-up. The other approach is to use a cloud service that maintains the data in real time as it is created and changed, and to access the data via the internet. The four biggest services are Dropbox, Google Drive, Microsoft’s One Drive, and Apple’s iCloud. All of these are free for storing anywhere from 2GB (Dropbox) to 15 GB (Google Drive) with One Drive and iCloud at 5 GB. All will store 1-2TB for \$10 or less per month.

I like Dropbox for my business and for Martin County Bar Association documents because it can manage multiple devices (i.e. the computers of each attorney, paralegal or other office user’s device). The Dropbox app adds a file folder resident on each user’s computer. The folder is connected to the Dropbox cloud server. Move all or a few files into the Dropbox folder. Open and change files in the folder and the changes are automatically uploaded to the server via the internet when the file is saved, yet still locally resident in the folder of both the active and other on-line Dropbox users. Dropbox updates data on all computers as it is changed and saved on a user’s device, keeping a real-time copy locally on all on-line devices. When a computer is first powered on, the Dropbox folder app on that computer updates all the files in the folder to the current versions, indicating on the app icon that it is updating, and then that the update is complete. Yes, there can be synch issues if two users work on the same file document at the same time, and sync issues are so identified to be resolved by the two users.

Apple’s iCloud synchs contacts, calendars, notes and messages across all Apple devices. It can sync and back up every Apple device of a single owner. However, files must be downloaded every time a user wants access to the file.

Research the other cloud storage options to see what fits your small business needs.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Kreitz Cook
President

