



THE SIDE BAR

Newsletter of the Martin County Bar Association

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THE SIDE BAR NEWSLETTER

Published monthly, excluding June & July, by the Martin County Bar Association as a service to its membership.

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

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY!

The genesis of the Martin County Bar Association in 1949 was a group of 10 male attorneys who met once a month for lunch to discuss and settle cases, and to agree on a minimum fee schedule (according to **Portia Scott**, whose Dad, **W. R. Scott**, was one of those founders).



BARBARA A. KREITZ COOK
2018 - 19 PRESIDENT

The association was incorporated in 1983, and the articles amended in 2001 to a 501(c)(6) not-for-profit entity by then President **Sheila Biehl**, Secretary **Jack Sobel**, and Resident Agent **James Bowdish**.



First MCBA Composite Photo Of Record - 1961

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MCBA 2018 - 2019 Executive Board:

President:
Barbara Kreitz Cook

Treasurer:
Adam G. Schwartz

Immediate Past President:
Elizabeth R. Hunter

Vice President:
Jason D. Berger

Secretary:
Barbara Kibbey Wagner

Executive Director:
Michelle D. Katzman

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The way we do business has changed in the intervening years - now technology rules the day:

- Where once legal secretaries typed legal documents in triplicate on carbon-copy sets, now attorneys draft their own legal documents using laptop computers and word processing software, and make an unlimited number of copies on office printers.
- Where court papers were then filed by U.S. Mail (now known as snail mail) or rush filings were delivered to the courthouse by courier . . . but only during business hours . . . now attorneys use the e-portal to file those documents anytime of the day or night.
- Where back then we stored physical documents and case files in banker boxes or file cabinets, now we utilize the internet cloud storage via Drop Box, Amazon, Microsoft and others for electronic storage and back-up of our files.
- Where then we had to travel to the clerk's office to view copies of case files, now we access those files via CCIS, the Florida Clerk of Courts Comprehensive Case Information System.
- Where then we had to travel to the clerk's office to research public records, now we view those on the internet.
- Where then we had to seek advice from partners and close attorney friends on how to draft a complaint or conduct our practice, now we merely access a similar case on CCIS to see a copy of the complaint and fees.
- Where once attorneys may have worked late into the night in their offices and sometimes had long commutes, now attorneys can work from anywhere in the world and even on their boat, wherever the internet is available, to do research or access office files.
- Back then we corresponded using snail mail and talked via the office landline. Now we use email and texting and talk on our cell phones, 24 hours a day from anywhere.
- We met clients in our offices . . . Many attorneys now work a lot of the time from home or elsewhere out of the office and with video conferencing via Skype a reality, the physical office is fast becoming obsolete.

So where do we go from here? Technology is a high speed train that has left the station with or without us. Now cyber security is a key concern. At our monthly luncheon meetings you will learn from cyber security experts how insecure your devices are and how to protect them. You will also hear about new technology and processes from the Clerk of Court, the Chief Judge of the Circuit, the Chief Judge of the 4DCA, and others, while you earn CLE credits. See you there!

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Kreitz Cook

