

A GREAT YEAR IN THE SENIOR COUNSEL SECTION

Senior Counsel Section

Chair: Thomas Newcomb Hyde, Attorney at Law



Thanks to all of the attorneys who attended the Senior Counsel Section luncheons

during the 2015 - 2016 Bar year. The attendance this year was exceptional. Thanks also to the many federal and state court judges who came to our luncheons (even though some were not old enough to be in the Senior Counsel Section!). Finally, a special thank you to Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court Chief Judge Ronald Ficarrotta for his counsel and enthusiastic support.

At our first luncheon we were honored to have Second District Court of Appeal Judge Edward C. LaRose give a powerful presentation entitled “The Nuremberg Justice Ministry Trial of 1947.” Judge LaRose told the chilling tale of 76-year-old Leo Katzenberg, a prominent Jewish businessman in Nuremberg, Germany, who was wrongly convicted and sentenced to death by Judge Oswald Rothaug in a trial without due process in a Nuremberg Special Court. The Special Courts were not legitimate courts at all, but rather vehicles for suppressing expression whose victims included Poles, Jews, and Gypsies. In the end, Judge LaRose asked the thought-provoking question: “What does the Justice Ministry Trial say to us as lawyers

and judges in a diverse, pluralistic, and ever shrinking world beset by violence, prejudice and inequality?”

Our January luncheon featured a presentation on “Resolving Professionalism Complaints” led by Circuit Court Judge Herbert J. Bauman, Jr. and his team from the Ferguson-White Inns of Court. The presenters included Erica T. Healey, James B. Murphy, Jr., Carly Self, Tiffany Fanelli, Michael C. Addison, and myself. Using a video of an obnoxious lawyer at a deposition, a dramatic demonstration of misconduct in the courtroom and a panel discussion, we highlighted what behavior to avoid and the critical importance of legal ethics and professionalism in the practice of law.

At our March luncheon, it was back to the future with attorney Richard “Rick” Georges, who spoke on “Wearable Tech, Tablet Computers, the Internet of Things and the Modern Lawyer.” Rick brought us up-to-date on smartwatches, Google glasses, the current state of online research, legal software, and other tools to help attorneys use technology in their 21st century law practice.

Attorney and historian Ronald L. Weaver was the speaker at our final luncheon in May. Ron took us on a tour through “503 Years of the Spiciest Florida History.” Ron’s entertaining presentation narrated tales and scandals of our state’s earliest history, from Ponce de Leon’s travesties until his death by arrows in 1521, to 1565 when the Spanish martyred the French at Matanzas because they would not renounce their Protestant faith. He also recounted the more recent deal to bring Henry B. Plant’s railroad to Tampa, and how when Edward Ball of the St. Joe Paper Company told Walt Disney that he did not “deal with carnies,” Disney World ended up going to Kissimmee.

Finally, I would like to give a special thanks to W. Donald Cox for volunteering to serve as the Senior Counsel Section’s representative to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee and Bill Wagner for volunteering as the Senior Counsel Section’s representative to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee.

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