

EXCEPTIONAL SPEAKERS AT SENIOR COUNSEL LUNCHEONS

Senior Counsel Section

Chairs: Thomas Newcomb Hyde, Thomas Newcomb Hyde – Attorney at Law & Don Smith, Smith, Tozian, Daniel and Davis, P.A.



**Please join us for
more exceptional
speakers at the
Senior Counsel
luncheons
in the future.**



Speaker Sasha Lohn and the chairs at the luncheon in January 2020.

Thank you to all the lawyers and judges who joined us at our Senior Counsel luncheons. I would like to highlight a few of our interesting speakers who have presented at our luncheons in the last two years.

Our first event in September 2019 was a joint luncheon with the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee featuring Judge Michael Scionti, a decorated combat veteran, discussing the Veterans Treatment Court which he oversees. The goal of the Veterans Treatment Court is to develop treatment plans to meet the individual needs of veterans, rehabilitate them to foster their reintegration into society, and promote safety by lowering crime rates and reducing recidivism. The judge in the Veterans Treatment Court works together with the State Attorney's Office, Public Defender Julianne Holt, and the Veterans Administration to identify mental health and substance abuse risk factors, implement therapeutic measures and incentives to encourage treatment, and develop problem-solving skills for long-term care and recovery.

Our next speaker, United States District Court Judge James S. Moody, Jr. discussed how scammers earn a "Ph.D. in Fraud" at our luncheon in November 2019. He described the prosecution of fraud cases in his court including Nigerian scams on the elderly, where scammers often play on the emotions of their victims by professing their love. Working with the FBI, federal prosecutors work to prevent mail fraud, bank fraud and what Judge Moody referred to as "love fraud." Several of Judge Moody's former law clerks were present, including Monica Williams Harris who led the Pledge of Allegiance and Judge Lisa Allen who introduced Judge Moody.

The Law of Drones was the topic of the presentation by Sasha Lohn, the General Counsel and Executive Director of the Sun Coast Police Benevolent Association, at our luncheon in January 2020. Ms. Lohn bravely demonstrated the operation of a drone at the luncheon. She explained that under Florida law, a drone is a powered, aerial vehicle

that does not carry a human operator, uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift, can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely, can be expendable or recoverable, and can carry a lethal or nonlethal payload. Drones provide an incomparable opportunity for law enforcement agencies to keep their personnel and the public safe, at a price that allows agencies of almost any size to participate.

Dr. Charles Lockwood, the Dean of the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, was the speaker at our luncheon in October 2020. Dr. Lockwood has been at USF since 2014. He spoke proudly of the College of Medicine, ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the best medical schools in research and primary care. He stated that these rankings provide clear and unequivocal evidence of the sustained and disciplined commitment by all of those at USF Health in the pursuit of excellence.

Please join us for more exceptional speakers at the Senior Counsel luncheons in the future. ■

Author: Thomas Newcomb Hyde – Attorney at Law

Join the Senior Counsel Section at hillsbar.com.