Thanks to all the attorneys and judges who attended the Senior Counsel Section luncheons in the 2017 - 2018 season. We are grateful to have had such interesting speakers and such great attendance.

Because of Hurricane Irma, our first luncheon was not held until October, when former Governor Bob Martinez was our featured speaker. Martinez, the only Governor of Florida from Tampa, discussed the "business of politics," contrasting politics in the 20th century with politics of the 21st century.

In the 20th century, the election business plan terminated on Election Day. Politicians used television broadcasts, newspaper advertisements, and direct mail, but there were few, if any, political consultants and no political action committees. In the 21st century, the business model changed dramatically. Some candidates never stop campaigning even after Election Day. Newspaper advertisements are more sophisticated, but often more brutal.

In November, we were honored to receive Tim Marks, President and CEO of Metropolitan Ministries. After many years in the corporate world, Tim joined Metropolitan Ministries in 2006. Its mission is to alleviate suffering, promote dignity, and instill self-sufficiency for homeless and at-risk families. Metropolitan Ministries works in partnership with non-profit groups and public agencies to be an effective caregiver to poor and homeless. They give hope to those in desperate need.

Florida Supreme Court Justice Fred Lewis was our January luncheon speaker. Justice Lewis was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1998. Justice Lewis expressed his concern for the health and wellness issues facing Florida's lawyers. He explained that statistics have demonstrated the need to provide more resources to ensure that lawyers in Florida are developing a better quality of life. Over 75 people came to hear Justice Lewis, including several members of the judiciary.

Cynthia Gandee Zinober, the Executive Director of the Henry B. Plant Museum, spoke at our March luncheon. She told the story of the Tampa Bay Hotel from its beginnings in 1881, through the tumultuous years of the Spanish American War, and the remarkable impact Henry Plant had on the growth of Tampa. The museum is the portion of the Tampa Bay Hotel that retains its original form and character. Most of the furnishings in the museum were purchased for the hotel by Henry Plant and his wife Margaret. They reflect the opulence and the lavish lifestyle of America's Gilded Age.

Judge Anthony K. Black

**Please join us in September for the next Senior Counsel luncheon, featuring 2nd DCA Judge Anthony Black.**

Our final speaker was Julianne Holt, who has been the Public Defender for the 13th Judicial Circuit for 25 years. She explained the key role played by the Assistant Public Defenders in the criminal justice system, not only by working in the courts, but also by being involved in the community.

I would like to give a special thanks to Leonard Gilbert, Richard Martin, Judge Susan Bucklew, and Antina Mobley for introducing our speakers; Judge Greg Holder, Magistrate Judge Mary Lou Cuellar Stilo, and Judge Daryl Manning for leading the Pledge of Allegiance; and to Andy Mayts, Kevin McLaughlin, Judge Paul Huey, and Gil Singer for offering the invocation at our luncheons.

Please join us in September for the next Senior Counsel luncheon featuring Second District Court of Appeals Judge Anthony Black.

*Author: Thomas Newcomb Hyde - Attorney at Law*

Florida Supreme Court Justice Fred Lewis and Chair Thomas Newcomb-Hyde

Leonard Gilbert, Frank "Sandy" Rief, III, Former Governor of Florida Bob Martinez, and Chair Thomas Newcomb-Hyde.

Florida Supreme Court Justice Fred Lewis speaking to the Section in January.