

# Okaloosa-Walton Bar Association

President: Wanda Clapp  
Vice-President: Ashley Smith-Herndon

Secretary: Martin W. Lester  
Treasurer: Coy H. Browning

January 2006 Edition

## Next Meeting

When: Tuesday, February 21, 2006  
Where: The Black Pearl, Okaloosa Island  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$10.00 per person

RSVP via email to Marty Lester at [OWBA@cox.net](mailto:OWBA@cox.net)

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### FEbruary MEETING

Please note that February's meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, so as not to conflict with Valentine's Day. We thought about holding a Valentine's-themed meeting, with hearts and little candies. The suggested theme was "Spend Valentine's Day with your Sweetheart at the Bar Meeting . . . Before You Go Home To Your Family." However, that was too much in poor taste, even for us.

If you want to, you can still send Valentine's gifts to your Board. We especially like chocolates. We promise to treat you really well afterwards.

### NOTES FROM THE JANUARY MEETING

For those few of you who couldn't make the January meeting, here are the highlights . . .

- Judge Barron displayed the blueprints for the new courthouse, which will be complete with gold leaf, marble columns, and a grand entrance hall modeled on the Roman Forum. Litter-bearers will carry the judges to hearings on sedan chairs while law clerks fan

them with palm fronds. All attorneys present received a key to the combination Attorney Lounge and Sauna.

- The State Attorney's office raffled off a "Get Out Of Jail Free" card, with proceeds to be used to install a revolving door at their staff entrance.
- Judge Samuel Alito appeared via video to promise that, if confirmed, he has no plans to reverse the precedent of Lester v. Remington, whereby attorneys who usually forget to contribute to the judge's coffee fund receive at least partial amnesty.
- Free drinks were provided by Anchors, Smith, Grimsley in honor of the hiring of their one-thousandth attorney.

See what you missed? And for what? To watch reruns of Law & Order? Shame on you. Come to the next meeting to see for yourself.

**SOVIET-STYLE ELECTIONS NEAR**

We at the OWBA office know that democracy is breaking out all over, with free and fair elections in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Palestinian Authority. However, we as attorneys believe strongly in tradition and are reluctant to overturn precedent. Therefore, in the true spirit of the OWBA, we are pleased to announce that elections are soon approaching. A "suggested" list of candidates will be provided. Others are, of course, free to run. Hey, we're not barbarians. We just wouldn't suggest it.

In the words of that old spiritual,  
"Gimme that old Bar election,  
Gimme that old Bar election,  
Gimme that old Bar election,  
It's good enough for me.  
It was good enough for Lenin,  
It was good enough for Stalin,  
It was good enough for Khrushchev,  
And it's good enough for me."

(Sung to the tune of, "Gimme that Old-Time Religion)

## **POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Associate Position Available: Sole practitioner, board certified in wills, trusts, and estates, seeking associate with 3-5 years experience to help in busy estate planning/probate practice. Excellent credentials required. Pay commensurate with experience. Contact Kevin M. Helmich, P.O. Box 5499, Destin, FL 32540, facsimile (850) 650-8090.

Attorney Needed! Finally, a less stressful position in which you can wear your jeans. It is possible to maintain your practice while helping us. We require: an active Bar license, a car, cell phone, computer with internet connection, and notary seal. Fax your letter of interest and resume to: J. Benton Stewart, Esq., (813) 354-5574.

Looking for a great opportunity to join a busy, established, growing Destin law firm? We need an associate with 2 to 3 years litigation

experience. You will be handling a wide variety of files, including construction litigation, contract disputes, and corporate/business law. Salary is based on experience. Please fax resume to (850) 837-5187.

## **LOCAL CLE UPDATE**

The Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association (that bunch of wild 'n crazy guys and gals) invites you to attend their local seminar: "Probate Issues for Trial Lawyers and Trial Issues for Probate Lawyers", on Friday, February 3, 2006 at their office in the PJC Building, 418 W. Garden Street, Pensacola, FL. Those interested should contact Steven Quinnell at (850) 434-3601 to register. The OWBA takes no responsibility for any injuries or deaths to attendees caused by sheer boredom.

## **FACDL MEETING**

The Okaloosa-Walton Chapter of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (FACDL) will hold a lunch meeting on Monday, February 20, 2006 at noon at Nikki's in Uptown Station, Fort Walton Beach. Agenda items will include election of officers for 2006, as well as election of a Chapter Representative to fill the position vacated by the death of Chris Saxer. All local criminal defense attorneys, members or not, are invited to attend.

## **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"The only laws I respect are the ones which make old men and women warmer in the winter, children happier in the summer, and beer stronger."

-- *Berthold Brecht*

***We are only as strong as our weakest link...please support your local Bar Association.***