



THE VOICE

The Government Lawyer Section of the Florida Bar

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Message from the Immediate Past Chair



BY JACEK STRAMSKI, GLS PAST CHAIR

As we head into the summer, I would like to offer this reminder to renew your membership for the coming year as you submit your annual Florida Bar membership dues.

Your membership allows the GLS to fulfill our mission of serving our members and advocating for government lawyers. GLS membership dues have helped us to put on first-class CLEs at no or reduced cost to our members; to reach out to law students and encourage them to explore public service and bar involvement; to advocate for government lawyers within the Bar; to highlight to the Bar and the public the critical work that government lawyers do on a daily basis; and much more. We have had a very active 2020-21, and under the leadership of our current chair Patyl Oflazian, I fully expect our next year will see the section achieving even more. None of our service is possible without your membership and engagement.

We hope you continue your membership for this coming year, and we invite you to contact the executive council if you have any interest in getting involved in section activities, or even planning a section-sponsored event.

Editor's note: Thank you, Jacek, for your leadership this past year!

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM PATYL OFLAZIAN, GLS CHAIR, 2021-2022

I am so honored to serve as Chair of the Government Lawyers Section. I am proud to serve with our amazing Executive Council and succeed past Chairs including my friend, Jacek Stramski. Jacek worked incredibly hard this past year and surpassed our expectations during an unquestionably difficult, unprecedented time of our lives. We thank Jacek for his hard work and commit ourselves to work harder this year. We also thank all of YOU--our Members who make the GLS exactly what it is: an honorable section of hardworking, excellent lawyers.

The GLS is committed to inspiring our Members to get involved. Last year, with the guidance of our immediate past Executive Council, we began an initiative to reach every law school in Florida to have a Lunch & Learn. We created panels of Government Lawyers who committed countless hours of time and energy to create speaking engagements which included Question & Answer sessions with law students throughout the State of Florida. We encourage our Members to join us in continuing our mission to reach every Florida Law School this year in continuing our GLS Lunch & Learn Panels. We welcome any of our members who want to participate in this awesome initiative, please--tell us. We received extraordinary attendance by eager law students wanting to become Government Lawyers during a year of grave difficulty. We look forward to reconnecting with our Florida Law Schools who hosted us throughout last year. Additionally, we plan on extending this initiative throughout the country as we have many Florida Lawyers who graduated from law schools all across America.

As we begin to transition back into our legal world with Courthouses reopening throughout the State, we encourage you to stay strong and be brave. Remain vigilant in your purpose. We know and understand that each of us has experienced something very different this past year. We are here for you and are proud of you. Our members work in many different practices. Some are even outside the State of Florida. We appreciate each of you. We respect what you contribute to the GLS and our profession. We are a very special part of the legal practice. We are true advocates who are proud of our work each day. Our skills as trial lawyers, litigators, and leaders are unparalleled. When we walk into a Courtroom, we are unmatched. Accordingly, we must give back to our community and our future generation of Government Lawyers.

We know and understand everything is changing. We continue to offer our Lawyers extraordinary opportunities with excellent training in CLEs. We have opportunities to participate and contribute throughout our section. We have state-wide initiatives with each Committee spearheading a different agenda. If you want to be involved in anything, please--let us know. The GLS is committed to the continuous improvement of ourselves and the profession. We are proud to be Government Lawyers. However, to continuously improve and create the best next generation of Government Lawyers, we need your help. We welcome your involvement, contribution, and views to make us better.

Thank you to our amazing Executive Council, Past Chairs, Members, Committee Chairs, Representatives, and of course--our Section Administrator, Calbrail Banner. Please know that I am here for each of you, for anything. I am here to work with you to achieve our continued accomplishments. I am here to help you in any way I can. Everyone in the State of Florida has my number.

GLS DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE HOSTS SUCCESSFUL SEMINARS AND LOOKS FORWARD TO THE FUTURE.

On March 31, 2021, the Government Lawyer Section held its inaugural diversity seminar, entitled “Breaking Down Barriers to Promote Diversity and Inclusion.”

The keynote speaker was Ms. Arnell Bryant-Willis, Diversity Initiatives Program Manager for the Florida Bar. The seminar provided a thought-provoking discussion on biases, as well suggestions on dealing with challenges to achieving diversity.

On May 19, 2021, the Government Lawyer Section also partnered with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Florida for its annual Black History Program. The program was a celebration of the life and legacy of the Late Honorable Stephan P. Mickle, Sr, Senior Federal District Court Judge. The keynote speaker, Prof. Kenneth Nunn, University of Florida Levin College of Law provided historical insight into Judge Mickle’s contributions to the legal community and society, as a whole.

Other speakers, included judges, former law clerks, and attorneys. The program was initially scheduled for February 2021 but was postponed due to Judge Mickle’s passing in late January 2021.

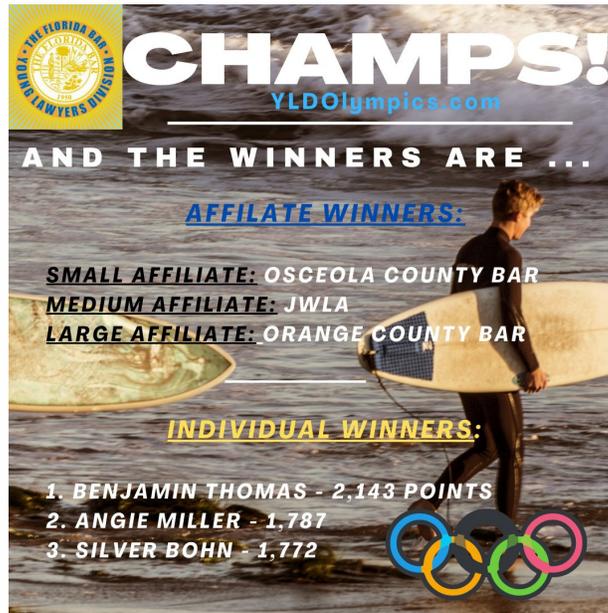
The Government Lawyer Section looks forward to providing more diversity and inclusion programs. The Government Lawyer Section’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee is chaired by Winifred L. Acosta, an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida.

*For more information on the Florida's Bar's commitment to diversity and inclusion,
please visit [www. FloridaBar.org/diversity](http://www.FloridaBar.org/diversity).*

GLS OFFICER EXCELS IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

GLS Executive Council Leader Angie Huston Miller won second place in the first annual YLD Health and Wellness Olympics. She amassed a total of 1,787 points in April and May of this year to win second place out of over 400 participants.

Congratulations Angie and to all the winners of the competition!



GLS MEMBER HELPS PRODUCE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PODCAST ON LEADERSHIP

GLS Publications Chair, Maria P. McCorkle, was excited but nervous about being selected as Class VIII of the Florida's Bar's Wm. Reese Smith, Jr., Leadership Academy. While her Class was unable to meet in person, they developed a fourteen-episode podcast series called "Limited Liability Leadership: Raising the Bar in Leading the Bar." Maria served as a Marketing Director. In this role, she created the graphics and marketing materials for the podcast. She also introduces each episode.

The series addresses several important topics, including access to justice, financial planning, and the importance of Bar services. CLE credit is available.

JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT
RAISING THE BAR IN
LEADING THE BAR.

LIMITED
LIABILITY
LEADERSHIP
PODCAST



A PROJECT BY CLASS VIII OF THE WM. REESE SMITH JR.
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

GET TO KNOW A GOVERNMENT
LAWYER

PATYL OFLAZIAN, ESQ.

Attorney Advisor,
The Office of Disaster Assistance,
United States Small Business
Administration

GLS Executive Council,
GLS Chair, 2021-2022



How long have you been a government lawyer?

I have been a government lawyer for over ten years, which is a majority of my career.

Did you always want to be a government attorney?

Yes, I always knew I wanted to be a lawyer-specifically in public service. I knew I wanted to be a prosecutor. I served as an Assistant State Attorney from 2011-2018 which was an amazing experience allowing me to build my advocacy and trial skills. I tried over 100 jury trials serving in the misdemeanor trial unit, felony trial unit, sex crimes & child abuse unit and homicide trial unit. I also served as an Assistant Public Defender (2019-2021). I did not know where my public service would take me. However, I am proud of my public service.

Why is health and wellness important for government lawyers?

Health and Wellness is so important for us as lawyers. It is absolutely necessary to make time for yourself. I exercise by going to spin class and/or running daily. I love sports, especially golf. I also volunteer for many community organizations--including instructing/teaching/coaching at law schools.

What would you tell a young lawyer considering government service?

Government service is an incredible opportunity to learn the law and practice true advocacy. No matter what law we practice, Government lawyers have extraordinary responsibility.

NEXT EDITION: GLS PETS!

Next season we will celebrate the PETS OF GLS! Be sure to look out for the submission form to show off your furry family member!

Have an idea for a different topic? Interested in being in our "Get to Know A Government Lawyer" or in our Spotlight? Don't wait another second- send an email to Maria Pecoraro-McCorkle at mvpmccorkle@gmail.com TODAY!



Heidi "Puppo" McCorkle,
Doggo-in-Chief of The Voice



The Voice

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Mission of the Section:

The Government Lawyer Section is dedicated to promoting the professionalism and competence of its members; improving the delivery of legal services to all governmental entities; improving the administration of the legal system; and enhancing The Florida Bar's and the public's understanding of the unique needs of the government lawyer.

GLS IS ONLINE



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