

**Special Committee on Criminal Justice Roundtable
“Pandemic in the Criminal Justice System: Are We Better or Worse Off?”**

CLE Course Number **5226** **Level: Intermediate**
Approval Period: **6/3/21 – 12/31/22**

CLE Credits

General **5.0**
Ethics **1.0**
Technology **1.0**

Certification Credits

Appellate Practice **5.0**
Criminal Appellate Practice **5.0**
Criminal Trial Practice **5.0**
Juvenile Law **5.0**

The Florida Bar’s Special Committee on Criminal Justice is comprised of a diverse group of lawyers, judges, and non-lawyer members representing a number of criminal law-related associations as well as the Legislature. The COVID-19 pandemic has manifestly changed how the justice system has operated, especially in the criminal justice realm. We are currently examining what changes will become permanent, and what processes have negatively affected the rights of criminal defendants.

The panels include many of the leading Florida criminal justice practitioners, and will discuss a variety of issues including court administration, funding issues, technology challenges, and constitutional issues.

Biography of Moderators/Panelists

12:00 – 12:15 Greeting

***Co-Chair Michelle Suskauer, Dimond Kaplan & Rothstein, P.A., West Palm Beach**

Michelle Suskauer a criminal defense attorney and the managing partner of the West Palm Beach office of Dimond Kaplan & Rothstein, P.A., a law firm that focuses on criminal defense and finance fraud with offices in West Palm Beach, Miami, Naples, Los Angeles and New York. Michelle began her legal career as an assistant public defender in West Palm Beach. She has been practicing in Palm Beach County since 1991 with a focus in criminal law in both state and federal courts. She and her law firm have handled thousands of criminal cases. Michelle is the Past President of The Florida Bar, the third largest unified bar in the country. She served as President of The Florida Bar from 2018-2019. She has also served on The Florida Bar Board of Governors from 2010-2017. Michelle is an AV rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell, which indicates that an attorney has reached “the height of professional excellence” and is recognized for the “highest skill and integrity.”

***Co-Chair Hank Coxe, Bedell, Dittmar, DeVault, Pillans & Coxe, Jacksonville**

Hank Coxe received his undergraduate degree from the University of the South (Sewanee) and his law degree from Washington and Lee University. Board certified by The Florida Bar, he specializes in serious federal and state criminal matters. He joined the Bedell Firm in 1996. Coxe has served as president of The Florida Bar and the Jacksonville Bar Association and has recently served on the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission and the Florida Supreme Court Innocence Commission. He has been recognized with the highest awards of the Criminal

Law Section of The Florida Bar, the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Florida Bar Foundation, and Jacksonville Area Legal Aid. He is listed in Florida Super Lawyers (Top 10, Top 100 and Jacksonville Top 25), Florida Trend magazine's Legal Elite Hall of Fame, and Best Lawyers in America.

12:15 – 1:30 Panel 1 (75 minutes)

James E. Felman, Kynes Markman & Felman PA, Tampa

James E. Felman has concentrated his practice of law in the defense of complex criminal matters and related civil litigation for over 30 years. Mr. Felman represents clients in federal and state matters in every phase of the criminal process — investigation, trial, sentencing, appeal, and post-conviction proceedings. He has represented clients in a wide range of matters, including allegations of bank fraud, health care fraud, mail and wire fraud, securities fraud, public corruption, environmental crimes, antitrust violations, synthetic/illegal drugs, illegal gambling, child abuse/pornography, and murder. Mr. Felman has also devoted a significant portion of his professional efforts to legal reform and policy work. He has testified on an array of topics before the United States Senate, House of Representatives, and Sentencing Commission, and has given more than 100 presentations on criminal justice policy issues. He is a Past Chair of the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association. From 2014-2017 he served as a member of the Steering Committee of the Clemency Project 2014. Mr. Felman is a graduate of Wake Forest University, B.A. cum laude, 1984, and Duke University, M.A. Phil. and J.D. with high honors (Order of the Coif), 1987. Following law school, he was a law clerk to Judge Theodore McMillian of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

***Carey Haughwout, 5th Circuit Public Defender, West Palm Beach**

Carey Haughwout took office as Public Defender in the 15th Judicial Circuit in January of 2001. She graduated with High Honors from Florida State University College of Law in 1983. In 1979, she earned a degree in economics and sociology from New College in Sarasota. She began her career as an associate with a Tallahassee trial firm. From 1985 to 1990, she was an assistant public defender in Tallahassee and Palm Beach County, working her way from misdemeanor to capital cases. She practiced as a private criminal defense attorney in Tallahassee and Palm Beach County for 17 years. As a leader for poor people in our justice system, Carey has worked with many organizations throughout Florida. She has been a member of the Palm Beach County, state and national Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Criminal Justice Commission, Legal Aid Society and the Florida Association of Women Lawyers. She has been recognized by her peers many times including receiving the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Professionalism Award, Palm Beach Association of Criminal Defense Lawyer's Champion of Justice Award and the Legal Aid Society's Criminal Law Service and Homeless Advocacy awards. Her legal expertise was recognized with the Governor Lawton Chiles' appointment to the Domestic Violence Clemency Panel from 1995-1998, and the Supreme Court of Florida 1997 Appointment to the Special Advisory Committee on Minimum Standards of Competency for Counsel in Capital Cases.

Kathy Fernandez Rundle, 11th Circuit State Attorney, Miami

Katherine Fernandez Rundle is a second-generation attorney committed to administering smart justice for all. After her appointment as Miami-Dade State Attorney in 1993, residents made history in 1994 by electing her as the first Cuban-American State Attorney in Miami-Dade

County and the State of Florida. She was subsequently re-elected to eight terms as the county's top law enforcement officer. Before her initial appointment, Fernandez Rundle served our community for 15 years as an Assistant State Attorney, serving as Chief Assistant State Attorney and Legal Counsel to the Dade County Grand Jury under then-State Attorney and future United States Attorney General, Janet Reno and Legal Counsel to the Dade County Grand Jury. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Miami and post-graduate and law degrees from the University of Cambridge Law School in England. The State Attorney's dedication to smart justice is rooted in her family's commitment to public service. Her father, Dr. Carlos Benito Fernandez, served as Miami's first Hispanic judge and a founder of the Cuban American Bar Association (CABA). Ms. Fernandez Rundle followed in her father's footsteps when her peers elected her CABA's first female president in 1993. State Attorney Fernandez Rundle is a renowned prosecutorial innovator recognized for many ground-breaking accomplishments that have transformed the administration of justice. State Attorney Fernandez Rundle is passionate about her community and shares her time, influence, and resources contributing to its success. She is a founding member and vice president of Women of Tomorrow, a mentorship and scholarship program that serves at-risk young women. Among other service organization memberships, Ms. Fernandez Rundle supports Amigos for Kids, 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and The Children's Trust. She is a member of Prosecutors Against Gun Violence, a national group formed to address the issue of gun violence in the United States.

Kathleen A. Smith, 20th Circuit Public Defender, Fort Myers

Kathleen A. Smith was elected Public Defender for the 20th Judicial Circuit in 2008 serving the citizens of Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Glades, and Lee Counties. Ms. Smith obtained her BA and Law Degree from The University of Florida, and recently earned her Master's Degree in Public Administration from Florida Gulf Coast University. Ms. Smith began her law practice as an assistant Public Defender in 1990. She currently specializes in representing client's living with mental illness and is a past recipient of Advocate of the Year awarded by Lee Mental Health Inc. Furthermore; Ms. Smith was honored with a Florida Senator's Proclamation for her advocacy on behalf of mentally ill clients. Because of her passion to assist clients living with and recovering from mental illness and substance abuse issues, Ms. Smith was appointed on behalf of the Florida Public Defender Association to serve on Florida Supreme Court's Substance Abuse and Mental Health task force. In addition to Ms. Smith's role as Public Defender for the 20th Circuit, she is very involved in the community. She is an adjunct professor at Florida Gulf Coast University teaching Constitutional Criminal Procedure. She has served on the Board of Directors for the PACE School for Girls in Lee County, Southwest Florida Addiction Services, Lee Mental Health Inc., and the Institute for Youth and Justice Studies through Florida Gulf Coast University. Lastly, Ms. Smith is also a member of Elk's Lodge 2596 in Cape Coral, FL. and currently serves in the role of Justice of the Forum. Putting her Public Administration degree to good use, Ms. Smith's office has been a recipient of the prestigious Prudential Davis Productivity Award recognizing major government improvement initiatives for 2011, 2012, and 2013.

***Warren Lindsey, Lindsey & Ferry, P.A., Winter Park**

Warren W. Lindsey is a Florida Bar Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer. He is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, U.S. District

Court, Middle District of Florida and all the state courts of Florida. He has practiced law in Winter Park since 1980 after graduating from the University of Florida College of Law with honors. He represents clients in a wide range of criminal matters, including felony, misdemeanor and traffic allegations. He represents lawyers on disciplinary matters and professionals before the Department of Business and Professional Regulation. Orlando Magazine selected Warren Lindsey as their 2016 “Lawyer of the Year” in the area of Criminal Defense Non-White-Collar. Mr. Lindsey is active in leadership roles in both the state and local bar associations. He previously served on The Florida Bar Board of Governors. He has served as chair of The Florida Bar Legislation Committee (2006-2007), co-chair of the Disciplinary Review Committee (2003-2004 and 2007-2008) and on the Executive Committee (2006-2007) and was elected President of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division for 1990-1991. He is a past member of The Florida Bar Criminal Rules Committee. He was President of the Orange County Bar Association from 1996-1997 after serving two years on its Executive Council. He is a member of the Orange and Seminole County Bar Associations. He is past-President of the Central Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is a former member and past President of the Seminole County Legal Aid Society; a 1996 graduate of Leadership Orlando; and a 1998 graduate of Leadership Winter Park. Mr. Lindsey has been awarded the highest rating (AV rating) for ability and ethics by Martindale-Hubbell, and has been designated a leading attorney in criminal law following a statewide survey of Florida lawyers.

***Judge Charles Williams, 12th Circuit Judge, Sarasota**

Judge Charles E. Williams is a Circuit Court Judge in the 12th Judicial Circuit which includes Sarasota, Manatee and Desoto Counties, Florida. Judge Williams is an alumni of Howard University in Washington D.C., and earned his law degree from the University of Florida. He worked as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney in the Sarasota/Manatee area upon graduation from law school. His past awards include the Community Service Award from the Manatee County Bar Association, and the Manatee County NAACP Public Service Award. He is a recipient of the Sarasota County NAACP Public Service Award and also the recipient of the Sarasota County Branch NAACP’s Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the recipient of the C.L. McKaig Award, presented by the Sarasota County Bar Association in recognition and appreciation of his tireless dedication to promoting the ideals of equality, justice, and professionalism. When he is not involved in his judicial duties, Judge Williams writes, directs, and produces documentary films. His Film Through The Tunnel won Best Historical Documentary at the DocMiami International Film Festival. He received the 2015 Sidney Poitier Family Award for his work on the film Newtown at 100, and for promoting diversity in film. He currently sits on the Board of Directors of Embracing Our Differences, Florida Studio Theatre, and The Boxser Diversity Initiative, and The Community Foundation of Sarasota County. He is committed to diversity and inclusion and was a founding member of the Sarasota County Bar Association’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee. He works closely with the Booker High School Law Academy in hopes of inspiring a future generation of lawyers and leaders who understand and respect the role the law has played in shaping our society.

1:40 – 2:55 Panel 2 (75 minutes)

Michael Pasano, Carlton Fields, Miami

Michael Pasano focuses his practice primarily on complex criminal and civil litigation in both federal and state court, including the handling of appeals. Michael's areas of concentration

include the defense of a wide variety of white-collar matters, including fraud and money-laundering; forfeitures; tax issues; FDA, FTC and SEC cases; and antitrust and environmental issues. He has represented a wide array of professionals in the corporate arena, including attorneys, doctors, accountants, and executives. Michael worked for seven years in the U.S. attorney's office in Washington, D.C., and the Southern District of Florida, where he was a member of the major crimes, public corruption, and fraud units, and where he served as chief of the Broward and West Palm Beach satellite offices. In March 1983, he became chief of the Miami Fraud Section and, in October of that year, was named chief of the U.S. attorney's Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach offices. Michael is former chair of the ABA Criminal Justice Section and remains active in the ABA, which has published a book he authored on trial practice. He is a frequent lecturer and has received numerous awards and commendations for his legal work.

Judge Michael Andrews, 6th Circuit Judge, Clearwater

Judge Michael Andrews is a judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court in Florida. He has served in this position since May 2003. He was most recently re-elected to a new six-year term in 2016. Andrews received his A.A. degree from Florida State University in 1985 and his B.S. degree (in political science) from the same university in 1987. In 1991, he earned his J.D. degree from the FSU College of Law. Prior to his legal career, he spent one year as a History/Social Studies teacher in Dade County. Andrews began his career as an assistant state attorney. He worked in that capacity for six and a half years before joining the County Court in July of 1997. He then became a circuit court judge in May of 2003. In 2007, Judge Andrews was selected to receive the Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice's Distinguished Judicial Service Award, presented annually to a Florida judge for "outstanding and sustained service to the public."

Andrew Warren, 13th Circuit State Attorney, Tampa

Andrew Warren was elected as State Attorney of Florida's 13th Judicial Circuit, Hillsborough County, in November 2016 and re-elected in November 2020. Warren leads an office of approximately 130 prosecutors and 300 total employees whose mission is to build a safer community while promoting justice and fairness for everyone in the criminal justice system. Since taking office on January 3, 2017, Warren has been reforming our local criminal justice system. He has been tough on violent criminals, fraudsters, and repeat offenders who threaten the safety of our neighborhoods. He has utilized innovative reforms and created successful diversion programs to hold low-level offenders accountable while steering them away from the downward spiral of the system, including civil citation programs for juveniles and adults. Warren has focused on treatment, prevention, and rehabilitation for offenders with substance abuse and mental illness in order to reduce recidivism rather than further the revolving door of the criminal justice system. He created a Conviction Review Unit to address wrongful convictions and has embraced data-driven approaches that improve safety, cut crime, and save taxpayer dollars. Warren previously served as a federal prosecutor with the United States Department of Justice. After initially prosecuting street crime in Washington, DC, he spent the majority of his career with the Justice Department prosecuting complex financial fraud all across the country—crimes that victimized retirees, investors, and taxpayers. As a prosecutor, Warren earned multiple accolades from the Justice Department and federal law enforcement agencies, including the 2013 Attorney General Award for Trial Litigation. He has lectured and served on panels across the United States and abroad regarding criminal justice, and he was an instructor at the Justice

Department's national training center. Warren studied economics and political science at Brandeis University before receiving his law degree from Columbia University. Following law school, he clerked in federal district court in San Francisco and then practiced complex criminal and civil litigation with an international law firm in New York and Washington, DC. Born and raised in Gainesville, Florida, Warren returned home to the Sunshine State to continue his public service.

Stacy Scott, 8th Circuit Public Defender, Gainesville

Stacy Scott was appointed Public Defender of the Eighth Judicial Circuit by Governor Charlie Crist in 2010. In 2012, Stacy was elected and subsequently re-elected in 2016. Prior to becoming the elected Public Defender, Stacy served as an Assistant Public Defender in the Eighth Judicial Circuit for over 10 years, served as an Assistant State Attorney, and worked in the private sector as a criminal defense attorney. Immediately prior to becoming the elected Public Defender, Stacy was the County Court Supervisor for the Public Defender's Office, responsible for training and supervising the misdemeanor divisions. Stacy has also practiced in the juvenile division of the Public Defender's Office, advocating for the rights of children charged with crimes. Stacy has worked in felony divisions throughout the Eighth Circuit and has tried numerous serious felony cases. Since taking office in 2010, Stacy has become an effective policy advocate in Tallahassee on issues related to criminal justice and on funding for Public Defenders statewide. She is a key leader of the legislative team working on behalf of the Florida Public Defenders Association (FPDA). Stacy was the recipient of the 2017 Craig Stewart Barnard Outstanding Service Award for her relentless pursuit of justice and outstanding service to the FPDA and its members. Stacy also received both the 2017 and 2018 President's Award for exemplary legislative advocacy on behalf of the Public Defenders. Stacy is an Adjunct Faculty member at the University Of Florida Levin College Of Law. Stacy has also served as Intern Director for the Levin College of Law's Public Defender Clinic, training and supervising of a class of interns each semester. Stacy is an instructor in the Trial Practice program at UF's law school and at the Gerald T. Bennett Prosecutor and Public Defender Trial Training Program. She has also been a coach of UF law school's Trial Team, leading the team to two national civil rights championships in 2005 and 2007. Stacy has participated in regulating lawyer conduct by serving two terms on the Florida Bar Grievance Committee, 8B. Additionally, Stacy served on the Florida Bar's Commission on Review of the Discipline System (the Hawkins Commission). She is a longtime member of the James C. Adkins Chapter of the American Inns of Court, the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association and the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. Stacy earned her J.D. with Honors from the University Of Florida College Of Law in 1995 and holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Florida.

Mitchell Stone, Mitchell A. Stone, P.A., Jacksonville

Mitchell (Mitch) Stone received his Juris Doctorate from the University Of Florida College Of Law in 1988. From there he began his career as a prosecutor at the State Attorney's office in Miami and then Jacksonville, Florida. Mitch prosecuted DUI, domestic violence, violent crimes, property crimes, white collar crimes, and DUI manslaughter cases. Later, he was promoted to the Special Victims Unit (SVU) and the Homicide Team of the State Attorney's office in Jacksonville. In 1992, he opened his own state and federal criminal defense law firm based in Jacksonville. Over the past three decades, he has practiced almost exclusively in criminal courts defending clients across the state. Mitch is a board-certified in criminal trial law, and is rated

AV-Preeminent by Martindale Hubble, which is the highest rating a lawyer can receive. He has been named in The Best Lawyers in America, Super Lawyers, Florida Trend's Legal Elite, Jacksonville Magazine's Leading Lawyers and in the Martindale Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers and is rated 10.0 Superb by AVVO. He has conducted over 150 criminal jury trials to verdict in both federal and state court. In 2017, Mr. Stone was elected secretary of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (FACDL) and was sworn in as the 33rd President of the FACDL in 2020. He has served as president of The Jacksonville Beaches Bar Association in 2017-2018 and remains on the board as immediate past president. He has also served in the past on the board of FACDL, as president of the Northeast Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and chairman of the Criminal Law Section of the Jacksonville Bar Association. He is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, The White-Collar conference, and the Florida Bar Criminal Law Section. He is admitted to practice in Florida, Washington, D.C., the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals and the Middle and Northern Federal District Courts of Florida. Mitch currently serves as the editor of the Florida Defender Magazine. For over 10 years he authored the F Words column and the DUI Notes column for the Florida Defender Magazine. He has served as chair of Blood Breath and Tears, the largest and most comprehensive annual statewide DUI defense seminar in Florida. He is a frequent lecturer on a variety of criminal defense subjects at legal and a frequent commentator on criminal law issues in national, state and local media.

***Carolyn Timmann, Martin County Clerk of Court, Stuart**

Carolyn (Barton) Timmann was sworn into Office on January 8, 2013, as the Martin County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller. She was sworn in for her second term on January 8, 2017, and her third term on January 5, 2021. Carolyn is the sixth Clerk to serve since Martin County was formed in 1925. Carolyn started her career in the state court system working for a 19th Judicial Circuit Judge and as the Martin County Law Librarian. She then worked in a local law firm before serving as the legislative assistant to Rep. Tom Warner in the Florida House of Representatives, based in Stuart. Following that role, Carolyn and her family moved to Tallahassee where she worked in the Attorney General's Office as Special Assistant to Florida's first two Solicitor Generals. In 2006, Carolyn transferred to the Office of the Governor as Executive Deputy Chief of Staff, overseeing military and veterans' affairs, gubernatorial councils and commissions, and statewide consumer and technology projects. In January 2011, she was appointed as the Director of Open Government for the Executive Office of the Governor to manage public records and projects to provide statewide electronic information. She resigned from that role in 2012 to return home to Martin County and seek the Office of Clerk & Comptroller. Clerk Timmann attended the University of Georgia, Indian River State College and The Florida State University, earning B.A. and A.A. degrees, as well as Certificates in Public Administration and Records Management.

***Judge Miguel de la O, 11th Circuit Judge, Miami**

Judge Miguel M. de la O is a Circuit Judge for the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida, in the Criminal Division. Judge de la O has presided over more than 100 jury trials. He serves on the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee which provides advisory ethics opinions to Florida judges concerning the Canons of Judicial Conduct. He is also a member of the Florida Supreme Court's Criminal Court Steering Committee. Judge de la O is on the faculty of the Circuit Court Conference, Advanced Judicial Studies, and New Judges School, in addition to formerly

teaching trial advocacy as an Adjunct Professor at the Florida International University College of Law. The League of Prosecutors presented Judge de la O with its Justice Award in 2016. In 2018, he was given the Maxine Cohen-Lando Community Service Award by Transition Inc. And in 2020, he received the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' Honorable Gerald Kogan Judicial Distinction Award. Judge de la O practiced law in Miami for over 20 years before his election as a Circuit Judge in 2012. He attended Florida State University, graduating cum laude with degrees in political science and criminology, and with high honors from the Florida State University School of Law, where he served as an Editor on the Law Review. After law school, he worked for Steel Hector & Davis and Sonnett, Sale & Kuehne. In 1994, he co-founded de la O & Marko. Judge de la O was an AV-rated trial and appellate lawyer. Judge de la O was an active member in his community before joining the bench. He served on the Florida Board of Bar Examiners for 10 years, including one year as Chair. He chaired the City of Miami Civil Service Board for 8 years. Judge de la O also served on the City of Miami Community Relations Board, Charter Review Committee, and Nominating Committee for the Civil Investigative Panel, and on the Boards of Directors for the Human Services Coalition, People with AIDS Coalition, and the Dade County Bar.

3:05 – 4:20 Panel 3 (75 minutes)

***Neal Sonnett, Neal R. Sonnett, P.A., Miami**

Neal R. Sonnett is the founder and managing partner of his Miami-based law firm, which concentrates on the defense of corporate, white collar and complex criminal cases in Florida and throughout the United States. He earned his B.A. degree in 1967 from the University of Miami and his J.D. degree from the University of Miami School of Law in 1972. Prior to entering private practice, Neal served as an assistant U. S. Attorney and chief of the Criminal Division for the Southern District of Florida. He also served in temporary assignments as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida and for the District of Puerto Rico. A nationally respected trial lawyer, Neal has been honored three times by the National Law Journal as one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America and has been profiled by that publication as one of the Nation's Top Litigators and one of the Nation's Top White Collar Criminal Defense Lawyers. He has an AVVO rating of 10.0 (Superb), has earned Martindale-Hubbell's highest AV rating, and has been listed in the Bar Register of Preeminent Attorneys for more than 25 years. He is a member of the American Bar Association Board of Governors, a past member of the ABA Nominating Committee, and a former chair of both the ABA Criminal Justice Section and the Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities. He has been a member of the ABA House of Delegates for almost 25 years. Neal previously served as chair of the ABA Committee on Criminal Justice Improvements and was a member of the Justice Kennedy Commission, the ABA Coalition for Justice, and the ABA High Profile Trial Resource Team. Neal has served as president of the American Judicature Society, former president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Foundation for Criminal Justice, the Florida Bar Foundation, the Florida Criminal Defense Attorneys Association, the Metropolitan Bar Caucus, the Dade County Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, South Florida Chapter and the Spellman-Hoeveler American Inn of Court in Miami. Neal has been an adjunct professor of law at the University of Miami School of Law, where he serves on the Advisory Board of the Center for Ethics and Public Service. He was president of the University of Miami Law Alumni Association, was vice-president of the UM General Alumni Association, and is a member of the University of Miami Society of Founders.

Melissa Nelson, 4th Circuit State Attorney, Jacksonville

Melissa Nelson took office as the State Attorney for Florida's Fourth Judicial Circuit in January 2017. There, she leads 300 plus attorneys, staff, and investigators in their pursuit of justice. In 1997, Nelson started her career as an Assistant State Attorney and for the next 12 years prosecuted cases ranging from misdemeanors to capital homicides. From 2009-2016, she worked at the international law firm of McGuireWoods. Since taking office, Nelson has implemented many smart justice initiatives and spearheaded modern criminal justice reforms. She established Florida's first Conviction Integrity Review unit, developed a driver's license restoration program, convened the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee aimed at reducing juvenile recidivism, and engaged the office in an academic research study focused on making data driven decisions. Each of these accomplishments reinforce her pledge to the citizens of Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties. Nelson sits on various boards, both nationally and locally, including ATF's National Crime Gun Intelligence Governing Board, Florida's Cold Case Advisory Commission, Columbia University's Executive Session on the Future of Justice Policy, the Florida Supreme Court's Steering Committee on Problem-Solving Courts, and Jacksonville's Sulzbacher Center. She is also a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Nelson earned both her undergraduate and law degrees with honors from the University of Florida.

***Ralph Larizza, 7th Circuit State Attorney, Daytona Beach**

Ralph "R.J." Larizza is a native of Jacksonville, Fl where he graduated from Bishop Kenny High School. He attended Troy State University and obtained his BS degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in English. Upon graduation he entered the workforce with the Florida Department of Corrections, working with young probationers and parolees. He stayed with the Florida Department of Corrections for almost 13 years and attained the rank of Supervisor II at the time of his departure from the Department in 1993. In the summer of 1993 at the age of 35, R.J. left the Florida Department of Corrections to pursue a law degree at Mercer University's Walter F. George, School of Law in Macon, Georgia and graduated in the top one third of his class in May of 1996. While a student at the University, R.J. also worked as a Law Clerk for the Houston County District Attorney's Office in Perry, Georgia. As a Law Student, R.J. was on the Moot Court Board and Law Review for Mercer University in addition to maintaining his rank in the class and also served as Student Prosecutor during his law school career. Upon graduation from The Walter F. George, School of Law, R.J. returned to St. Augustine where he worked as an Assistant State Attorney with the State Attorney's Office of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida. In January 2003 after 6 1/2 years R.J. left the State Attorney's Office to pursue a private practice career. Following his successful private practice endeavor, R.J. successfully ran for the office of State Attorney for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, the Office which he currently holds.

Julianne Holt, 13th Circuit Public Defender, Tampa

Julianne M. Holt has continuously served as the Public Defender in the 13th Judicial Circuit since first elected to office in January 1993. Prior to being elected, she represented citizens as a Special Court Appointed Public Defender from 1987-1992. Ms. Holt's legal career began shortly after graduating from law school when she opened her private law practice in 1981. Ms. Holt graduated from law school with honors, summa cum laude from the South Texas College of Law, where she was listed in the Who's Who of American College Students. She also graduated from the University of South Florida, Hillsborough Community College, and attended

Hillsborough County Public Schools, graduating from Leto High School. As the Public Defender, Ms. Holt manages the largest criminal defense firm in Hillsborough County. Her office employs over 200 staff members. The Office of the Public defender has approximately 120 attorneys in addition to legal assistants, investigators, social workers, clerks, and support staff. Each year her office is appointed to represent over 40,000 cases in Hillsborough County. Ms. Holt carries out her statutory duties as the protector of the presumption of innocence and has worked with many state and national organizations to ensure the rights of all citizens are protected. She has personally participated with numerous committees, councils, and boards focused on issues within the Criminal Justice System. Ms. Holt and her employees have been dedicated to serving our community. Since 1993. Her office has consistently donated their time, financial support, and talent to aid organizations, students, and citizens both locally and nationally. In addition to her duties as the Public Defender, Ms. Holt also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of South Florida.

Brian Tannebaum, Tannebaum Law, Miami

Brian Tannebaum represents law firms as well as future, current, and former lawyers and legal professionals in matters before the Florida Bar and Board of Bar Examiners and in civil and criminal courts. Specific ethics matters include Bar Admission Hearings, Grievance Defense from the initial complaint to argument before the Florida Supreme Court, Reinstatement and Readmission matters, Sanctions Hearings, Legal Malpractice Defense, partnership disputes and dissolutions as well as ethics opinions. He has been counsel in over 50 Florida Bar matters at The Florida Supreme Court level and has been appointed in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida as a Special Master. Assistant Public Defender Miami-Dade from 1994-1997. Currently General Counsel and Special Counsel Chair, Ethics, Professional Responsibility and White Collar Defense Group, Bast Amron, LLP Miami, Florida. Stetson University College of Law (Juris Doctor) 1994; 1994 National Champion, ABA Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition, Chicago, Illinois; University of South Florida Tampa, Florida (B.A. Political Science), 1991; Student Body President, 1989-1991. President, Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 2010-2011, Member, Board of Directors, Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 2001-Present, Legislative Chair, Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 2003-2007, President, Miami Chapter, Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 2005-2006, Executive Council, Florida Bar Criminal Law Section, 2008-present, Member, Board of Directors, Dade County Bar Association, 2002-2005, Member, Florida Bar Criminal Procedure Rules Committee, 2006-2012, Chair, Florida Bar Traffic Rules Committee, 2003-2004, Vice-Chair, Florida Bar Grievance Committee, 2002-2003, Member, Florida Bar Grievance Committee, 2000-2003, Member, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Judge Nushin Sayfie, 11th Circuit Judge, Miami

Judge Nushin Sayfie was first appointed to the Circuit Court by Gov. Charlie Crist in 2007. Prior to her appointment to the Bench, she served as an assistant public defender with the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office since July, 1994, where she rose in rank to eventually train and supervise other lawyers in the Felony Division. She began her judicial career in the Miami-Dade Courts' Juvenile Dependency Division, then transferred to the Circuit Criminal Division in 2009 and was subsequently appointed Associate Administrative Judge in July 2011, and Administrative Judge in March 2013. She was reelected in 2010 and 2016 without opposition.

Chief-Judge Elect Sayfie has served with many local and statewide organizations throughout her judicial career and teaches litigation skills at the University of Miami School of Law. She has also taught fellow judges at the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges and the College of Advanced Judicial Studies. For her contributions to the community, Chief-Judge Elect Sayfie has received numerous awards, including the Women of Impact and In the Company of Women Awards presented by Miami-Dade County, and the Justice Gerald Kogan Judicial Distinction Award presented by the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She received her law degree from Fordham University School of Law in 1993, and her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University in 1990. On February 4, 2021, Judge Sayfie was elected by her colleagues to serve as Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, the Miami-Dade Courts effective July 1, 2021.

4:30 – 5:00 Conclusion (30 minutes)

***Sandy Weinberg, Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, Tampa**

Morris “Sandy” Weinberg, Jr. has been on the winning side of high-profile cases throughout his more than 40 years as a federal prosecutor and private practitioner. A respected white-collar defense attorney, Sandy has represented clients in a wide variety of criminal cases, including health care fraud, government contract fraud, securities fraud, tax fraud and export control. In August 2017, Sandy was elected as Chair of the ABA’s Criminal Justice Section. He previously served as Chair-elect and First Vice Chair of the ABA Criminal Justice Section and as Co-Chair of the ABA’s White Collar Crime Committee, where he chaired the Brady Task Force that led to the adoption of a resolution by the ABA House of Delegates. He serves as a member of the Council for the ABA Criminal Justice Section and as a member of the ABA Criminal Discovery Standards Task Force. Sandy previously served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, where he prosecuted white collar criminal cases. He received the Director’s Award for Superior Performance, as well as an award for outstanding service from the Treasury Department for his work in the high-profile prosecution of international financier and commodities dealer Marc Rich. After his government service, Sandy moved to Florida where he was a shareholder with Carlton Fields from 1985 to 1991, and in 1991 opened Zuckerman Spaeder’s Tampa office. He continues to serve as the office’s managing partner. As a student at Vanderbilt Law School, Sandy helped establish the school’s first student legal services program. He has continued to provide pro bono assistance to those in need throughout his career, including through his work on Innocence Project, local legal services cases, and Clemency Project 2014.

***Lily Ann Sanchez, The LS Law Firm, Miami**

Lilly Ann Sanchez, a former federal prosecutor and a trial attorney with 30 years’ experience, is a Shareholder at The LS Law Firm. Prior to forming The LS Law Firm, Ms. Sanchez was Chair of Fowler White Burnett’s White Collar Criminal Defense Group. Ms. Sanchez handles the full range of white-collar offenses. She has significant experience in the areas of securities fraud, money laundering, antitrust, public corruption and health care fraud. She frequently represents individuals in high profile or controversial matters and deftly handles the accompany media inquiries and scrutiny. Ms. Sanchez was Deputy Chief of the Major Crimes Section of the United States Attorney’s Office in Miami. Prior to that post, Ms. Sanchez served as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Florida and the District of Columbia. Throughout her distinguished career, Ms. Sanchez has taken over 100 cases to verdict and handled thousands of criminal cases and investigations. Ms. Sanchez is also

a member of the Florida Third District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission. Ms. Sanchez is licensed to practice in New York, Washington D.C and Florida. She is fluent in Spanish.

*Member, Special Committee on Criminal Justice 2019-2021