15th Annual Golf Tournament

Living in Florida we know how unpredictable the weather can be. The week leading up to our golf tournament we experienced severe flooding, forcing us to reschedule the tournament to October. When our October day arrived it was absolutely picturesque, with a high of 71 and not a cloud in the sky.

CONGRATULATIONS GOLF WINNERS

1ST PLACE - 51
Lance Ivey
Rusty Lamm
Patrick McKane
Fred Rodgers

2ND PLACE - 53
Michael Blum
Vinny Cuomo
Graham Davidson
Kyle Henderson

3RD PLACE - 53
John Angelone
John Baker
Dave Schultz
Tyler Vail

Golf Tournament Photos
Event Spotlight
Golf Tournament and Bowling Night
President’s Message
PBCJA Creates an Equality Committee
Liability Medicare
Set Asides, Insurance Carriers and Unsubstantiated Demands
Cases of the Quarter
Calendar of Events
Loyal Advocate Sponsors
Welcome New Members
Why Absentee Ballots Should Only Be Used as a Last Resort
Event Spotlight

GOLF TOURNAMENT AND BOWLING NIGHT

They wanted to play too

Lance Ivey, Fred Rodgers, Rusty Lamm, and Patrick McKamey

Greg Yaffa takes a swing

Pat Love, Freddy Rhoads, Jimmy Mentzer, and Matt Rounds

Nicolas Rojo and Dan Tighe

Freddy Rhoads

Greg Zele, Tara Gomez, Kate Baloga, and Tim Murphy

Tim Murphy

Mark Greenberg, David Prather, Tim Murphy, and Tom Hedler

Adriana Gonzalez

Freddy Rhoads, and Greg Zele
I cannot believe it has been an entire year already. We have made some serious gains and suffered some losses. Let’s recap the progress we made and the obstacles we faced.

We have had a great deal of excitement and progress this year with the election of three new Judges in Palm Beach County by way of election. Jessica Ticktin, Jaime Goodman and Samantha Schosburg Feuer each won their respective seats and have given up private practice to devote themselves as civil servants to the public. PBCJA Members that were at our Meet the Judicial Candidates Reception on August 4th had a chance to meet our newest Judges and observe them during a question and answer session that night. We also hope that our Members will show their support for our Judiciary and make it a point to join us in attending the investitures of each of the new Judges at the Courthouse scheduled for:

Jessica Ticktin on January 16, 2015;
Jaime Goodman on January 30, 2015; and
Samantha Schosburg Feuer on February 6, 2015

We held another successful annual Golf Tournament at Old Marsh Country Club. Despite initial bad weather, the tournament was reset and turned out to be a big success. A portion of the proceeds from the Tournament was donated to Florida’s Children First. Feel free to visit their site at www.floridaschildrenfirst.org. I want to again thank immediate Past President Scott Smith for providing us the opportunity to have this tournament at Old Marsh and to our generous sponsors for helping to underwrite this event.

While this year’s gubernatorial race was disappointing, it was encouraging to see the efforts of so many PBCJA Members and allies join together. I want to personally thank the PBCJA Board Members and general membership for the countless hours of time, money and spirit they gave during this election. It was a good fight and I am proud to know that Palm Beach County delivered its fair share of votes in favor of the candidate that believed in protecting the rights of access to the Courts. The fight ahead remains yet I feel with the continued efforts of this organization we will continue to do justice for our clients. I believe this is a time for trial lawyers in the State of Florida to unite and regroup as we move ahead.

On November 20th, we had our annual Jurist of the Year Dinner where we honored Florida Supreme Court Justice Fred Lewis. We also had speaker Dr. Michael Freeman who specializes in forensic medicine and forensic epidemiology. It was exciting listening to Justice Lewis provide such an inspirational and impassioned speech. He reminded us why we cannot ever let our guard down in the fight against those that seek injustice. As always, Dr. Freeman helped provide those in attendance with useful and insightful perspective on causation issues. We are attempting to make the PowerPoint presentation of Dr. Freeman’s brief lecture available to our Members, as he provided valuable tips and strategies to attacks on causation.

Lastly, I want to thank the many sponsors of this organization. Without them we would not be able to operate as an effective organization. I ask our Members to please take the time to extend Thanks to our sponsors and reach out to them for needed services.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the remaining events scheduled for December. On December 11th we have the End of the Year Reception and our favorite Scope Seminar on December 12th.

I will be forever grateful to have served as your President for this 2014 year and to have worked among the best trial lawyers in Palm beach County who are strongly committed to doing whatever is necessary to preserve our civil justice system and protect the rights of the citizens of the State of Florida.

Don’t forget to check the PBCJA website to look for and/or register for the upcoming events. www.pbcja.org. May your holiday season be blessed and may you have a prosperous and healthy 2015!

J. Freddy Rhoads

PBCJA Creates an Equality Committee

PBCJA is concerned with increasing our diversity and making all of our members feel welcomed and appreciated. We recognize that we have struggled in having our membership resemble the diversity of our profession. We also have heard from our members that their concerns need a forum to be addressed so that they can have the opportunity to thrive. As an organization that stands for justice, it only seems fitting that we address this deficit not only in our organization, but also to participate with other voluntary bar organizations to make our profession a more perfect one. The mission of the equality committee will be to foster a seat at the table for all that are a part of our organization. We intend to incorporate equality into our programming and to support other aligned organizations in their efforts to level the playing field for all in our profession as we believe that we are all part of one team.

Dena Roman
Insurance carriers are bringing up the Medicare set aside (MSA) “issue” when it comes time to draft the release more frequently. In many instances, the plaintiffs are not yet eligible for Medicare benefits, nor may they ever be entitled to receive Medicare benefits. Plaintiff attorneys need to proceed with caution with regard to the Medicare set aside release language. Inappropriate provisions in the release could constrain their client’s options relative to receiving public benefits and have adverse tax implications, which could result in a legal malpractice claim.

As a recent example, Synergy was asked to review Medicare release language. The insurance carrier insisted the plaintiff agree to language indicating he would not ever apply for social security disability benefits. Agreeing to this would impede his ability to receive disability income and eventually Medicare benefits. In another case, the insurance carrier insisted the plaintiff not only establish an MSA but also submit the MSA to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for review and approval. The insurance carrier attempted to build these terms into the mediation agreement. This client was receiving Medicaid benefits but was never going to be eligible for Medicare since she had not earned enough working credits to qualify.

These problems are occurring because some MSA vendors, in an effort to drive business, have been convincing insurance carriers that failing to do a set aside in any case exposes them to future liability/consequences if not properly addressed. CMS has made it clear that the MSA issue is the plaintiff’s responsibility and the role of the defendant is to report current Medicare beneficiaries under Section 111* mandatory insure reporting. The reality is that the defendant has no exposure but plaintiff counsel has legal malpractice risks if they fail to properly advise the client regarding the set aside issue when they are a current Medicare beneficiary or have a reasonable expectation of becoming one within 30 months.

If you have a client who is a current Medicare beneficiary that is going to require accident related care in the future and there are funds earmarked towards future medical treatment, a Medicare set aside should be considered. However, there are numerous ways to deal with Medicare secondary payer compliance to ensure both your firm, as well as your clients are protected. At Synergy, we have the solutions that will help you settle cases compliantly for Medicare beneficiaries.

*It should be noted that it is impossible for a defendant/insurance carrier to report a claim to Medicare when the plaintiff is not a current Medicare beneficiary.

For all of your Medicare secondary payer compliance needs, please visit us at www.synergysettlements.com or call us at 877-242-0022.
Keep your cases moving and your clients’ finances on track.

At Black Diamond Funding, we make sure your cases don’t get derailed by clients’ concerns over finances. Our pre-settlement funding helps plaintiffs meet their immediate financial needs, keeping you on track toward the best possible settlement. And unlike other litigation financing firms, we won’t obscure the payback amount with fuzzy math. It’s what puts us clearly at the front of our competition.

Advantages of using Black Diamond Funding:

- Minimal administrative burden on you
- No interference from us during court proceedings
- No upfront fees
- If your clients do not win the case, they do not pay us back
- No employment verification
- Competitive rates
- Responsible funding
- No monthly payments
- No credit checks
- Your clients receive funds within 24 hours of approval

Make sure your clients have the funds they need so that you can pursue the best possible settlement. Call one of our case managers today at 844-352-2274 or visit blackdiamondfunding.com
The order stated that the petitioner’s counsel could video the inspection which would be conducted at the defendant’s expense, and in the presence of the plaintiff’s attorney at an agreed time, place and date. The order enumerated the following steps to be followed by the expert: (1) Install write-protect software to ensure no alteration of the phone’s hard drive would be made during the inspection; (2) Download a copy of the cell phone’s hard drive, making a master copy, a review copy, and a copy for plaintiff’s counsel; (3) Return the cell phone to plaintiff’s counsel immediately after copying the hard drive; (4) Review only the data on the hard drive for the nine-hour period permitted by the court including call records, text messages, web searches, etc.; (5) Prepare a summary of the data reviewed including type of data, use of data, etc.; (6) Provide the summary to the plaintiff’s attorney prior to the dissemination of any more specific findings. The court ordered that Plaintiff’s counsel should have ten days from the service to file a motion for protective order, or other form of objection to the release of all or a portion of the data, citing grounds for each objection; (7) It then said, if no objection was made by the plaintiff, then the defendant’s expert could release his or her findings to the defendant’s counsel.

After analyzing the order, the court found there was no departure from the essential requirements of law, and found that the order did properly balance the privacy interests with the right to discovery.

Plaintiff Where The Defendant Had Secured Workers’ Compensation Coverage By Virtue Of The Coverage Secured By Its Subcontractor

VMS, INC. v. Alfonso, 39 Fla. Law Weekly D2049 (Fla. 3RD DCA September 24, 2014):

VMS contracted with the F.D.O.T. to maintain portions of specified roadways and bridges in the tri-county area. As part of the contract, VMS was obligated to secure-and did secure--workers’ compensation insurance. It subcontracted some of the work to ABC, thereby obliging ABC to also secure workers’ compensation insurance.

Plaintiff never sought workers’ comp. benefits. Instead, it sued ABC and VMS for negligence. Plaintiff moved for the entry of partial summary judgment against VMS, arguing it was estopped from claiming workers’ comp. immunity or comparative negligence, because VMS had

ABC hired another person to perform some of the work, and that person in turn hired a number of day laborers, including the plaintiff who was injured. The sub-subcontractor ABC hired did not have workers’ comp. coverage and neither ABC nor VMS reported the incident to their compensation carriers.

continued
failed to notify its workers’ comp. carrier that the plaintiff had been injured.

§440.10(1)(a) provides that every employer shall be liable for and shall secure the payment to his or her employees the compensation payable under other statutory sections. The liability is “to secure payment” of compensation. It requires only that the employer insure and keep insured the workers—not a duty to actually pay benefits.

Here, there was no dispute that VMS had secured coverage for ABC’s employees by virtue of the coverage secured by its subcontractor ABC. VMS was not liable for injuries sustained by ABC or any of its subcontractor’s employees while at work, once it satisfied that obligation. So long as security for compensation is maintained for all statutory employees, the contractor obligated to secure such compensation is immune from suit.

Where the statutory employer secures coverage, or ensures that the subcontractor does so, the statutory employer is then immune from suit or the employee’s personal injury. Because VMS had no obligation to notify its carrier for the plaintiff’s injury, and cannot be estopped from asserting the immunity it enjoys by virtue of ABC having secured and having in place workers’ compensation coverage, it was still immune from Plaintiff’s tort claim.

In A Case Where A Person Admitted To The Hospital Due To Complications Related To Copd Died As A Result Of Being Dropped Accidentally Onto An X-Ray Table While Being Moved From The Gurney, The Trial Court Properly Dismissed The Complaint For Failure To Comply With Medical Malpractice Pre-Suit Requirements Because The Case Was For Medical Negligence And Not Simple Negligence

Buck v. Columbia Hospital Corp., 39 Fla. Weekly D1921 (Fla. 4th DCA September 10, 2014):

A woman with COPD was admitted to the hospital. Two days later she was scheduled to have x-rays and was transported from her room to the radiology floor. Prior to the x-rays being taken, the transport techs moved the patient from the transport gurney and lifted her onto the x-ray table. In the course of moving her, they accidentally dropped her onto the hard x-ray table surface causing her to sustain a fracture of her lumbar spine which ultimately resulted in her death.

The plaintiff sued based on simple negligence. The hospital moved to dismiss the complaint alleging that the plaintiff should have pre-suit the case because it arose out of medical negligence.

The Fourth District reminded us that §766.106 defines “a claim for medical negligence or a claim for medical malpractice as a claim arising out of the rendering of, or the failure to render, medical care or services.” The court concluded that because this wrongful act was directly related to the improper application of medical services, and the use of professional judgment or skill, that it arose out of medical negligence.

The court tried to distinguish other cases arising out of “ordinary” negligence (for example, a case where medical treatment had not yet begun when the plaintiff was hit in the head with a dental x-ray machine, or when a patient was injured, because a hospital employee attempting to return the patient’s chair to an upright position by kicking the footrest, and inadvertently kicked the patient).

The lesson here is that very few medical cases that arise in a “medical setting” will be able to escape from pre-suit.
2ND ANNUAL
High Roller Night

Sat. | April 11 | 2015

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
The National Croquet Center
700 Florida Mango Road
West Palm Beach FL 33406
Litigation Library

- Increased Search Capabilities
- Updated Legal Categories like: Appeals, Daubert, Research & Outlines
- More than 600 Depositions, Research & Outlines
- Updated CME Information

If you need assistance finding a document, or have materials to upload please call our office at 561.790.5833 or e-mail us at info@pbcja.org.

The Litigation Library has evolved into one of the best PBCJA member resources for legal information. Please continue to submit your documents.
Calendar of Events

**JANUARY**

15

National Croquet Center
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**FEBRUARY**

13

Young Lawyer Luncheon
“Negotiating the Ultimate Settlement”
Bear Lakes Country Club
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

26

FJA Legislative Dinner Reception
Bear Lakes Country Club
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**MARCH**

5

Joint Happy Hour with N. County Bar
Yardhouse Palm Beach Gardens
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**APRIL**

11

2nd Annual High Roller Event
National Croquet Center
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Register for any of our events online
www.pbcja.org
Advocate Members & Attorney Advocates

The following advocate members are loyal supporters of the Palm Beach County Justice Association. Some have been with us from the very beginning and some are brand new this year, so please take a moment to review our growing list of notable advocates. As you know they are the cornerstone of the PBCJA. The wide range of educational and networking events offered to the members wouldn’t be possible without their financial support. Please join us in thanking our old and new Advocate Members for their support.

Founding & Black Diamond

Sabadell United Bank, N. A.
Contact: Donn Londeree
Phone 561.750.0075
or 561.688.9400
www.sabadellbank.com

Signature Grand

Black Diamond Funding
Contacts: Keston Robinson and Salt Weekley
Phone: 1-844-FLA-CASH
info@blackdiamondfunding.com

Platinum Members

Above & Beyond Reprographics
Contact Chris Shelby
Phone: 561.478.4774
css@aboveandbeyondrepro.com

Matrix Mediation
Contact Name: Lynette Romano
Phone Number: (561) 340.3515
lynn@matrixmediation.com

Gold Members

Grand Bank & Trust
Contact: Vinny Cuomo
Phone: 561. 615.5065
vcuomo@gbof.com
www.grandbankflorida.com

Rock Legal Services & Investigations, Inc.
Contact: Denise Rock
Phone: 561.296.7574
denise@rocklegal.com
www.rocklegal.com

Synergy Settlement Services
Contact: B. Josh Pettingill, MBA, MS, MSCC
Phone: 561.685.7035 (direct)
josh@synergysettlements.com
www.synergysettlements.com

Upchurch Watson White & Max Mediation Group
Contact: Chuck Mancuso
Phone: 561.704.9246
cmancuso@uwv-adr.com
www.uwv-adr.com

U.S. Legal Support
Contact: Lana Shrode
Phone: 561.855.0220
lshrode@uslegalsupport.com
www.uslegalsupport.com

Silver Members

BEC Consulting, LLC
Contact: Iola J. Goeke
Phone: 850.558.3104
jgoeke@becserv.com
www.becconsult.com

Global Engineering & Scientific Solutions
Contact: Jennifer Lovelady
Phone: 850.942.5300
info@gess1.com
www.gess1.com

Legal Graphicworks
Contact Name: Jim Lucas
Phone Number: (561) 655-0678
Email: jim@legalgraphicworks.com

Signature Court Reporting
Contact: Dawn Ramos Bachinski, RPR, CRR, CPR
Phone: 561.659.2120
dawn@signaturecrs.com
www.SignatureCRS.com

The Centers
Contacts: Jerry Greger & Todd Belisle
Phone: 877.766.5331
greger@centersmail.com
todd.belisle@centersmail.com
www.centersweb.com

UBS Financial
Contact: Christian D. Searcy Jr.
Phone: 561.776.2546
christian.searcy@ubs.com
www.ubs.com

Veritext
Contact: Britt Sanford
Phone: (561) 512-7706
bsanford@veritext.com
www.veritext.com

Victory Trial Consulting
Contact Name: Betty Dunkum
Phone Number: (561) 793.3703
bettydavidp@aol.com

Visual Evidence
Contact: Mike Downey
Phone: 561.655.2855
mdowney@visualevidence.org
www.visualevidence.org

Specialty Attorneys

Warren Brams
Contact: Warren Brams
Phone: 561.478.4848
wbrams@aol.com
Specialty: Probate & Estate
www.familylawwestpalmbeach.com

Kelly Landers
Contact: Kelly Landers
Phone: 561.655.4483
kvl@bellsouth.net
Specialty: Criminal Defense

Rosenthal, Levy, Simon & Ryles
Contact: Jonathan Levy
Phone: 561.478.2500
jlevy@rosenthallevy.com
Specialty: Social Security, Veterans, & Work Comp
www.rosenthallevy.com

Bruce Rosenwater
Contact:
Bruce Rosenwater
Phone: 561.688.099
bsr@rosenwater.com
Specialty: Real Estate & Foreclosure
www.rosenwater.com

Visit us online at www.pbcja.org
Welcome New Members

Victoria Butler
Law Office of
Salesia Smith Gordon

Samuel Cohen
Slawson Cunningham Whalen & Gaspari

Ayre Corbett
Lytal, Reiter, Smith, Ivey & Frornath

TJ Cunningham
Law Office of
TJ Cunningham Jr.

Michelle DeLong
Pike & Lustig

Christie Domb
Pike & Lustig

Phillip Feldman
Feldman Getz

William Foman
Deitsch & Wright

John Getz
Feldman Getz

Grant Gillenwater
Graves Injury Law

Elizabeth Gormley
LaBovick Law Group

Mina Grace
Ellis & Ged

Cookie Hernandez
Marcos Gonzalez & Associates

Amanda Kriberney
Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley

Michael Kugler
Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley

Christopher Lassen
Freeman Injury

Olivia Liggio
Clark, Fountain, LaVista, Prather, Keen, & Littky-Rubin

Jonathan Mann
Law Office of
Robin Bresky

Nicholas Marzuk
Lawlor Zigler

Chase Nugent
Lyal, Reiter, Smith, Ivey & Frornath

Thomas Prestia
Prestia Holtz

John Richardson
Steinger Iscoe & Greene

Chris Royer
Krupninck Campbell

Matthew Shilling
Matthew Shilling P.A.

Lara Shiner
Shiner Law Group

James Solomon
Rosenthal, Levy, Simon & Ryles

Luis Sosa
Rosenthal, Levy, Simon & Ryles

Trent Swift
Law Offices of
Trent J Swift

Jordan Wagner
Kibbey Law

Linda Wells
Domnick Law

Michael Westheimer
Adam Miller Law

David White
Domnick Law

Grace Wilkerson-Smith
James D. Wilkerson

For over 22 years I have worked with Personal Injury and
Wrongful Death Attorneys, representing clients in:

Probate, Guardianships and
Incacity cases throughout Florida

Many services offered on a flat fee basis.

How can I assist your clients?

Warren B. Brams, Esq.

Law Office of
Warren B. Brams, P.A.
2161 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.
Suite 201, W. Palm Beach, FL 33409
561-478-4848 • wbrams@aol.com

Matrix Mediation

Grand Bank & Trust
of Florida®
A PATIENT HAS BEDSORES.
The family needs your help.
What will you do?

Refer the case to a lawyer with experience in pursuing justice for the victims and families of those who have been neglected by nursing homes or hospitals.

Insurers vigorously defend against allegations of bedsores, neglect, or abuse.
Don’t fight them without us.

HELP A FAMILY RECOVER.

Call us today to refer a case
(561) 697-4440

25% Referral Fee paid in accordance with Florida Bar Rules
Announces New
West Palm Beach Office
Coming January 2015

Our own Class A Conference Facility,
Convenient to Legal Offices, Courthouses
Sabadell Tower, Suite 400
1645 Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard
One Integrated Solution

Protecting Claimants’ Current and Future Public Benefits
- Special Needs Trusts
- Specialty Trust Services
- Medicare Set-Aside Services
- Lien Resolution
- Structured Settlements

Increasing Law Firm Efficiency
- Medical Record Services
- Legal Processing and Support Services
- Case Management Software and Support Services

The Centers provides a wide range of comprehensive, integrated services, specifically designed to meet the needs of attorneys and their clients. Our professional services are designed to help safeguard claimants’ current and future benefits, as well as maximize law firm efficiency and productivity.
Why Absentee Ballots Should Only be Used as a Last Resort

By Cynthia Simpson

"Hi, my name is Cynthia Simpson and I'm a volunteer with the Crist campaign. We are being told by the Supervisor of Elections that your absentee ballot was not signed."

"Oh my God. What do I do now?"

This exchange was repeated over and over during the weekend leading up to the November 2014 election. The answer to the question is two-part. First, the Missing Signature Resolution Form must be signed, and it is available from the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections' website. Second, a copy of a photo identification must be provided. If the photo identification does not have the voter’s signature on it, then a second identification with a signature must be provided as well. These documents must be produced at the Supervisor of Elections by 5:00 p.m. the day before the election. The Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections will take the documents via hand delivery, fax, or email.

"But there isn’t a place to sign the ballot. I swear I signed where I was supposed to on the envelope."

The voter may very well be correct. The actual ballot is not signed. If the actual ballot is not signed, it can invalidate the ballot. Instead, there is a conspicuous place on the envelope where the voter must sign. However, what some voters may not realize is that the signature is compared to the signature on file with the Supervisor of Elections. If the voter’s signature has changed over time, the voter has to update his or her signature with the Supervisor of Elections. The updated signature of the voter must be received before canvassing of absentee ballots begins. Canvassing may begin as early as 15 days before an election. So, if it is the weekend before Election Day, the voter no longer has the option to update his or her signature. The only cure that the voter has at this point is to complete the Missing Signature Resolution Form signing his or her signature exactly the same way as the signature on file with the Supervisor of Elections. His or her voter registration card may serve as a reminder as to how the signature might have been recorded. The voter still must provide the photo identification with a signature, or a photo identification and a separate signature identification. Failure to do supply these documents will cause the absentee ballot to not be counted.

"I'll just go on Election Day to vote."

This seems like the perfect solution, right? Wrong. The voter will not be permitted to vote on Election Day because the Supervisor of Elections already received the vote from the voter. The only way to cure the absentee ballot at this point is to provide the Supervisor of Elections with the Missing Signature Resolution Form and a copy of the required identification.

So it sounds like the solution is easy, right?

If the voter has internet access, a printer, and the ability to make a copy of his or her identification, then the solution can be easy. But, what if the voter does not have internet access, does not have a printer, does not have the ability to make copies, and does not have transportation? This means that a volunteer has to meet with the voter to cure the absentee ballot. And, the volunteer is racing against the clock. Add to this scenario that the voter has not answered his or her phone, or has not updated his or her phone number with the Supervisor of Elections, leaving the volunteer to go door-to-door trying to cure twenty or so absentee ballots in forty-eight hours, amounting to a stress-filled beat-the-clock nightmare. Lastly, some voters do not realize that they must put the appropriate postage on the absentee ballot, which for this last election was 3 stamps. If by now you do not agree that absentee ballots should be used only as an absolute last resort, then let us review the benefits of early voting.

• When a voter casts a ballot at an early voting location, it does not matter which precinct the voter is assigned to. Every early voting location site can accommodate any voter from any precinct.

• A voter can perform a name change at the early voting location.

• A voter can perform an address change at the early voting location.

• If it is believed that the signatures do not match at the polling place, the voter can sign an affidavit to cast a regular ballot.

• If the voter does not want to sign an affidavit, then the voter can cast a provisional ballot, which is not preferred, but it is much better than not voting at all.

• Usually there are no lines.

• While some of these same benefits are available on Election Day, election officials are much busier and often are unable to devote attention to these issues.

After meeting dozens of absentee voters who very much wanted their votes to count, I am a firm believer that voting by mail is fraught with too many dangers of the absentee ballot not being counted. Early voting eases the burden of so many people trying to vote all in the same day. It is a protection of the democratic process, and we should advocate it to anyone who will listen.
Certified Florida Supreme Court Circuit
Civil Mediator:
• Fulltime Mediator
• Member: PBCJA and FJA
• ABOTA PB Chapter-Advocate Member
• FJA (Eagle Member); Board of Directors (1992-1999)
• Past President Miami-Dade Justice Association (1992)
• Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer for 25 years (1983-2008)
• Certified Federal Court Mediator: Southern & Middle Districts of Florida

Mediates cases statewide & nationally

Stephen G. Fischer
Matrix Mediation
Scheduling: 561.340.3500
Direct Line: 561.630.7761
Email: steve@matrixmediation.com
Website: www.matrixmediation.com

CHOOSE WISELY.
CLIENTS DO.

Once you resolve the case, let Synergy be your knowledgeable and trusted partner giving you peace of mind. Our experts can help efficiently resolve liens, comply with the Medicare Secondary Payer Act, protect needs-based public benefits and safeguard the financial recovery. We allow trial lawyers to focus on what they do best.

ATTORNEY FEE DEFERRAL
ASSET MANAGEMENT
LIEN RESOLUTION
MEDICARE SET-ASIDES/MSP COMPLIANCE
POOLED SPECIAL NEEDS TRUSTS
SETTLEMENT PLANNING/STRUCTURED SETTLEMENTS

When the time comes, be prepared with a settlement services partner that can give you the edge you need. At Synergy, our clients don’t follow. They lead!

Contact Us Today at 877.242.0022
www.synergysettlements.com
Are You a Plaintiff’s Trial Attorney in West Palm Beach, Broward, or Martin County?

If you’re not a member of the PBCJA - you’re not doing yourself JUSTICE.

Membership benefits include:
• Access to our exclusive e-mail discussion group – Trial Talk
• Access to our Litigation Bank loaded with Trial Transcripts, Depositions, Motions, Rulings, Orders, and the latest information on local CME’s
• Complimentary advertising on Lawyer Legion our new membership attorney directory. Our site will link directly to your profile, firm information, photo, and other information.
• CLE credits through our local Attorney and Paralegal Seminars
• A busy calendar of networking and social events where you can catch up with your colleagues
• Quarterly mailings of our Newsletter Briefings, keeping you informed on all the latest happenings
• Signature Events like our Barrister’s Bash, Marquee Golf Tournament, and our 2nd Annual “High Roller Night”, scheduled for April 11, 2014 at the Croquet Center in West Palm Beach

For more information on how to join visit our website www.pbcja.org
or call Executive Director Kate Baloga at 561.790.5833.