

HISTORIA JURIS



Newsletter of the
Florida Supreme Court Historical Society

October 2006

Tallahassee, Florida

Bar dues 'checkoff' is key

Society membership reaches record level

The addition of 123 new members to the Society's ranks over the past few months has boosted the organization's membership to the highest level in its 25-year history.

Most (112) of the new members were added as a result of "checkoff" responses to The Florida Bar's 2006 fee statement. Checkoff respondents joining the Society were offered membership at a special dues rate of \$50, half the normal rate for an individual annual membership. In addition, many of the new members also ordered advance copies of Volume II of the history of the Florida Supreme Court, scheduled for release later this month.

At present, the Society has 457 members "in good standing" – including Life Members and those who've paid dues through June 30, 2007. That number should increase, since many members still have not paid dues for 2006-07. *(See mailing label on this newsletter. If your name is preceded by an asterisk, you have NOT paid current dues.)*

Review of the list of new checkoff members reveals a significant number of women and out-of-state members. The list includes 26 women and new members from 11 states and the District of Columbia. The Florida location with the largest number of new members is Miami-Dade County, with 31 new members.

See complete list of new members on page 4.

RUSSOMANNO ELECTED PRESIDENT

Herman Russomanno of Miami was elected president of the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society for 2006-07 at the organization's 24th annual meeting in Boca Raton on June 22.

A former president of both The Florida Bar and the Florida Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates (FLABOTA), Russomanno has served for the past several years on the Society's executive committee, moving up through the ranks after serving as second vice president and first vice president. He succeeds Howard Coker of Jacksonville.

Other 2006-07 officers are Rutledge Liles of Jacksonville, first vice president; Alan Greer of Miami, second vice president; Linda Wells of Tallahassee, secretary; and Ruth McDonald of Tallahassee, treasurer. Executive committee members also include former Society presidents Coker, John DeVault (Jacksonville), Dexter Douglass (Tallahassee), Bob Ervin (Tallahassee), Ben Hill (Tampa), Mark Hulsey (Jacksonville) and Russell Troutman (Winter Park), as well as Bill Wagner of Tampa.

The Society Board of Trustees consists of 42 members, each serving a two-year term. New trustees are Miles McGrane of Coral Gables, Alan Bookman of Pensacola, Steve Busey of Jacksonville, Sammy Cacciatore of Melbourne, Sheldon Schlesinger of Ft. Lauderdale and Bill Davis of Tallahassee.



Chief Justice Fred Lewis talks with Mary-Grace Reeves, PATS Center, Brentwood Middle School, Pensacola, on Constitution Day. See "Under the Dome," page 3.

Vol. II, Supreme Court history

NEW BOOK IS OUT

The second volume in the Society's series of hardcover books presenting the history of the Florida Supreme Court comes out this month – and is expected to attract lots of attention. Covering the period 1917-1972, the 512-page volume has been praised by those who've read the manuscript.

Designated reviewers for the University Press of Florida, the publisher, have been lavish in their praise. One wrote: "Reminds one of William Manchester's *The Glory and the Dream: A Narrative History of America, 1932-1972* ... and shares with it a highly readable, fast-moving 'snapshot' view of events that contributed to the Supreme Court's evolution."

Another reviewer called it a "first-rate narrative history that peels back the curtain of this understudied and oblique, yet extremely important, institution ... Not simply a recitation of court cases and opinions ... this is living, breathing history that will inform as well as satisfy."

Volume II co-authors Walter Manley, II, and Canter Brown, Jr., led the team that also researched and wrote the highly-acclaimed first volume nine years ago. Volume I covered court history from 1821, when Florida became a U.S. territory, through 1917.

A special pre-publication discount price for Volume II of \$50.00, including tax and shipping, remains in effect through the end of October – then, the purchase price from the Society increases to \$55.00, plus tax and shipping. A "package" discount price for Volume I and Volume II of \$92.00, including tax and shipping, is available until November 1 – then the "package" price increases to \$100, plus tax and shipping.

"These books make excellent holiday gifts for lawyers, judges and anyone interested in the history of our courts and state," said Mark Hulsey, project coordinator for the Society Board of Trustees. "We hope you'll remember this when doing your gift shopping."

An order form can be found on page 4.



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Herman Russomanno
Society President

It is a privilege and an honor to serve as president of the Society for 2006-2007. Our executive committee and trustees are fully committed to the Society's two-fold mission of preserving Florida's judicial history and educating the public about the important work of the courts. And we are excited about the organization's programs in support of this mission.

Within the next few weeks, we will release our second hardcover book presenting the history of the Florida Supreme Court -- from 1917 to 1972.. The first volume, published nine years ago, was extremely well received and we believe Volume II will be even more highly acclaimed. Critics called Volume I, which covered the period 1821-1917, the most complete history of any state court ever published. Reviewers who've read the Volume II manuscript say the new book is even better.

In addition, the Society's executive committee recently decided to move forward with publication of Volume III, which will bring the Court's history forward from 1972 toward the present. The first step, which will begin in the near future, will be selection of a project coordinator and author(s).

Meanwhile, plans are underway for the Society's 2007 annual dinner, scheduled for Thursday, January 25, in Tallahassee. We expect Florida's newly elected governor to be the keynote speaker. In addition to our members, guests will include the Justices of the Florida Supreme Court and the members of The Florida Bar Board of Governors. We look forward to a record turnout, noting that 2006 attendance doubled that of the previous year.

We also are moving forward with the *Evolution of Justice* project -- a planned series of video modules that will tell the story of how Florida's judicial system has evolved over the centuries, from the era of the state's original inhabitants up to the present. Former Governor Reubin Askew is assisting with project fundraising and will introduce the video modules. By using video, we can extend the reach of the program into every part of the state -- reaching schools, local community groups and television audiences in all 67 counties. At a time when some people are clamoring for reinstatement of "civics" education in our schools, the *Evolution of Justice* videos should be well received.

In the future we will be adding to the Society's series of oral history programs. Over the past two decades, we've conducted 20 oral histories -- which are available from the Society on DVD. In those programs, the people who have been instrumental in shaping the history of our state's court system "tell it like it was" -- in their own words. We encourage you to "stay tuned" for information regarding future oral history programs -- and to take advantage of the availability of past programs via DVD.

To all of you who are members of the Society ... thank you for supporting this important cause. We know you realize just how important a strong, independent judiciary is to our American way of life. Each of us has a responsibility to make sure this system of government that has served us so well is not threatened by those who lack an understanding and appreciation of the role of the courts in a *balance and separation of powers*. We must not take what we have for granted. We must protect and preserve both our history and the doctrines that give us our freedoms.

Florida Bar fee statement

'Checkoff' yields members, Volume II advance orders

After a three-year absence from The Florida Bar's annual fee statement, the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society made a successful return to the fee statement this year. Through the end of September, the Bar dues "checkoff" had yielded pre-publication orders for 262 copies of the Society's soon-to-be-released second volume of the history of the Florida Supreme Court and 112 new Society members.

With almost 96 percent of Bar members having paid their dues, Society contributions total \$30,954. A large portion of that amount was earmarked for advance orders for Volume II (at \$50 each) and a special one-year membership rate for new members (also \$50).

"We are very pleased with response to the checkoff," said Society President Herman Russomanno. "Even though we received only about \$12,000 in contributions beyond those covering books and dues, you have to feel good about the response. This solidifies our first-year sales of Volume II and boosts our membership to an all-time record level."

The Society first appeared on the Bar fee statement as a checkoff opportunity in 2001, when Bar members contributed about \$32,000. Checkoff contributions dropped to about half that amount in 2002.

"Happy as we are with the checkoff results," Russomanno continued, "we can -- *and must* -- do a lot better job of getting people interested in the important work of this organization. Less than 1 percent of Florida Bar members made a checkoff contribution to the Society. When you consider that the Bar has 80,000 members -- and that the Society less than 600 members -- you quickly see that we've only scratched the surface. We've simply got to do a better job of persuading prospective members to join the Society's effort to preserve Florida's rich judicial history and improve public awareness of how the courts serve the public interest."

Florida Supreme Court Historical Society

A 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization

P. O. Box 11344, Tallahassee, FL 32302-3344

Telephone & Fax: 850/222-3703

E-mail: fschs@earthlink.net

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Court Liaison: Justice Peggy A. Quince

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Executive Director: Park Trammell

Under the Dome

**Chief Justice
R. Fred Lewis
Florida Supreme Court**



The Select Committee on Justice Teaching, which was created by administrative order this summer, includes a trial judge from all 20 judicial circuits in the state and an appellate judge from each of the five District Courts of Appeal, leaders of The Florida Bar, the Florida Association of District School Superintendents and the Florida Law-Related Education Association. The first organizational meeting was held in Tampa in early September.

The Select Committee is actively developing a comprehensive plan to provide each school in Florida with a judge, lawyer or other legal professional to act as a partner and a resource. The Select Committee will also develop and provide programs and materials to be used by visiting judges and attorneys to present information on the structure, function and work of the judicial branch.

The focus will be on curricula to engage students in their classroom, that encourages them into courthouses and that provides them with hands-on activities such as mock trials and simulated oral arguments. The initiative will also encourage participation in existing activities, such as the annual Constitution Day each September and the annual Law Day each May.

The Supreme Court hosted 90 middle and high school students from two dozen schools around the state on Sept. 15. The energy and the interest demonstrated by the students, their parents and advisors as they considered the scope of constitutional rights was most inspiring and, if possible, even strengthened my resolve to make Justice Teaching an effective tool for schools, teachers and students.

Interacting with the justices and each other, the students were asked to decide which rights they would keep if they were ever forced to relinquish some. At the end of the program, one student had this to say: "I learned that we need some of the rights to have the other rights. Without one right, we couldn't have the other right."

That's a young person with a clear view of our history and a promising perspective for our future.

The vision of justice we have inherited from the generations that came before us is a tremendous and magnificent legacy. Every day as we go about our business, as individuals and as a society, we are resting on a foundation that is strong and stable because of our shared respect for the rule of law and our dedication to the constitutional guarantees outlined by the founders of this nation. We must preserve this vision and this foundation. We must pass on to the next generations our experiences and that which has been provided to us by our preceding generations.

The vision of justice is not some thing that is to be kept on a fading document shielded behind glass. It is not merely a mantra or a piece of dogma to be simply memorized and recited. The vision of justice of which I speak is something for which we must search constantly in each generation. It may not be a destination: It may -- more accurately -- be a journey.

We are all connected in the search. Some of us give our time and energy to an organization such as the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society. Some of us are lawyers or judges who every day

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Florida Supreme Court Historical Society

Please print:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (including area code) _____

Fax (including area code) _____

E-mail _____

Annual Membership:

- Student, \$25
- Individual, \$100
- Contributing, \$500
- Patron, \$1,000

Life Membership:

- Benefactor, \$5,000 within 5 years

Payment by: check; Visa; MasterCard

Credit card no. _____

Expiration: month _____, year _____

Signature _____

Please mail completed form and check (payable to FSCHS) or credit card information to:

Florida Supreme Court Historical Society
P. O. Box 11344
Tallahassee, FL 32302-3344

... OR FAX completed form to: (850) 222-3703

SAVE THE DATE

The 2007 annual dinner of the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society will be held Thursday evening, January 25, in Tallahassee. Don't miss this great event! More information forthcoming.

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represent clients or make decisions in cases. Some of us are teachers who breathe life into fundamental principles of justice for our students.

Over the last several years, I have been privileged to see some of these teachers at work during classroom visits. I have been privileged to interact with our students, engaging them in discussions about our constitutional rights and guarantees. Discussions directed to the promises of liberty and freedom as contained in our core documents.

Now our work in progress is "Justice Teaching," a comprehensive initiative to support civic education. Working with The Florida Bar and with judges throughout the state, we plan to connect with every school.

Recent state and national surveys suggest that people know little about the design of our constitutional democracy and how the various parts work together to keep the whole balanced. We must take concrete steps to support our schools in educating the next generations about the fundamentals of our government, our democratic values and our search for visions of justice. That's the vision for Justice Teaching.

Society welcomes largest 'class' of new members

Jacqueline Allee, *Coconut Grove*
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 David J. Berger, *Miami Beach*
 James B. Bickner, *Orange Park*
 Martin J. Bidwell, *Ft. Lauderdale*
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 Ian Brown, *Tallahassee*
 Laurence P. Buck, *Palm Beach Gardens*
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 Charles J. Cacciabeve, *Orlando*
 C. Philip Campbell, *Tampa*
 John A. Carlisle, *Jacksonville*
 Paul S. Cherry, *Sarasota*
 Bennett S. Cohn, *West Palm Beach*
 Andrew C. Colando, *Tavares*
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 Gianni Diaz, *Charleston, WV*
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 Thomas S. Edwards, *Jacksonville*
 Lewis S. Eidson, *Coral Gables*
 David S. Eldredge, *Palm Coast*
 Laurence D.J. Faye, *Miami*
 Luis L. Fernandez, *Miami*
 Robert M. Fields, *Palatka*
 Manual A. Garcia-Linares, *Miami*
 R. Kyle Gavin, *Jacksonville*
 Dwight L. Geiger, *Stuart*
 Robert B. George, *Jacksonville*

David S. Glicken, *Orlando*
 Murray Goldman, *St. Augustine*
 Olga M. Gonzalez-Levine, *Ft. Lauderdale*
 Jay Gottlieb, *Miami*
 Thomas T. Grimmett, *Ft. Lauderdale*
 David J. Halberg, *Miami*
 J. Bruce Hoffmann, *Tallahassee*
 Steven G. Horneffer, *Longwood*
 Leanne M. Innet, *West Palm Beach*
 Flora M. Jackson-Holmes, *Miami*
 Karen L. Johnson, *Stuart*
 Michael R. Josephs, *Miami*
 Kenneth M. Keefe, *Jacksonville*
 Timothy D. Kelly, *Minneapolis, MN*
 David V. Kerns, *Tallahassee*
 Martha Q. Kimball, *Clearwater*
 Joseph P. Klock, *Miami*
 Janisse F. Klotzman, *Los Angeles, CA*
 Michael J. Korn, *Jacksonville*
 Charles W. Lammers, *Tallahassee*
 Cindy M. Lancaster, *Downingtown, PA*
 Melissa K. Landy, *Miami*
 William F. Langston, *Tallahassee*
 Constantine P. Lantz, *Miami*
 Alan D. Lash, *Miami*
 Joseph M. Lee, *Lake Worth*
 (Ms.) Sam Lester, *Tallahassee*
 Laird A. Lile, *Naples*
 John E. McMillan, *Temple Terrace*
 Manuel A. Mesa, *Miami*
 Joseph C. Meux, *Jacksonville*
 Stuart R. Mishkin, *Miami*
 Thomasina Moore, *Tallahassee*
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 Richard A. Morrison, *Miami*
 Leatha D. Mullins, *Ft. Pierce*
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Volume II (1917-1972): Before 11/1/06, \$50/copy, incl. tax & shipping – _____ copies; total amount: _____
 11/1/06 & thereafter, \$65/copy, incl. tax & shipping – _____ copies; total amount: _____

Package, Volume II and Volume I (1821-1917): Before 11/1/06, \$92/set, incl. T&S – _____ sets; tot. amt.: _____
 11/1/06 & thereafter, \$115/set, incl. T&S – _____ sets; tot. amt.: _____

Print name _____

Address (*street address only*): _____

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