



# THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

September 2017

REUNION \* SPOTLIGHT \* CLASS NOTES \* LEADERS WANTED

## Leadership Jacksonville's Nonpartisan Political Campaign Seminar

Are you or someone you know considering running for elected office? The **Fall 2017** Nonpartisan Political Campaign Seminar is for you. This intensive five-session course provides the practical knowledge you need to execute an effective campaign and is tailored specifically for the First Coast.

Don't miss this opportunity.

**Apply online by September 15.**



Ju'Coby Pittman, Alberta Hipps, and Jim Overton address the Spring 2017 seminar cohorts. Participants told us "All candidates should have a class like this before starting the campaign."

Seminar dates: **October 6, 13, 27 and November 3 and 10.**  
Space is limited to 20 participants, so apply soon.

[Click here for more information and application.](#)



You don't want to miss

## Reunion Lunch

**Tuesday, October 17, 2017**  
**11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront**



This annual event, for all alumni of Leadership Jacksonville, New Leadership Summit and Honorary Alumni, is sure to be a highlight of your day.

Join us as we:



Paul

- induct **Pam Paul** as an Honorary Member
- honor **Laura D'Alisera** as recipient of the 2017 Tillie K. Fowler Distinguished Leadership Award
- welcome our newest alumni from **LJ Class 2017** and **NLS XV**



D'Alisera



Graham

Guest speakers are former U.S. Senator **Bob Graham** and LJ's own **Chris Hand** (LJ 2014)



Hand

Make your **reservation and payment online** using Visa or MasterCard.

Cost: \$35 (dues paid) / \$45 (dues not paid)  
or combine your annual dues with the luncheon reservation for \$135

**Reservation and Payment deadline is Tuesday, October 10.**



**Leadership Jacksonville  
Class of 2018**



Asghar Syed, Chris Shea, Whitney McGuire and Jarret Dreicer



Luke Layow, Kathy Barbour, Raj Adhikari and Sara Alford



Keith Marks, Ruple Galani and Parvez Ahmed

Opening Retreat was held August 18-19 at the World Golf Village. Thank you to our many volunteers who gave their time to make the retreat a success.



Deanna Brown, Angela Strain and Jeannine Bytwerk



Trisha Meili, Anne Detlefsen and Whitney George



Karin Hoffman, Deidra Johnson and Tom Beames



Jimmy Midyette, Christopher Ball and Ravi Raheja

## Youth Leadership Jacksonville Class XXVIII



Opening Retreat was held at Camp Weed on August 25-26. A big thank you to the volunteers and overnight chaperones who helped get the program year off to a great start for our 53 high school participants.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**YLJ XXVIII Program Day**  
Thursday, September 14, 2017  
"In Living Color"

**Nonprofit Political Campaign Seminar**  
Application Deadline  
September 15, 2017  
(Seminar begins October 6)

**LJ 2018 Program Day**  
Thursday, September 28, 2017  
Poverty Day

**Reunion Lunch**  
Tuesday, October 17, 2017  
11:30 a.m., Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront

The **Leadership Connect** list for October get-togethers will be sent out on or around September 15.

If you are not already a part of this group, think about signing-up to Connect with future lunch groups. Click [here](#) to send your name, class year, preferred email and phone number.



## Alumni Spotlight

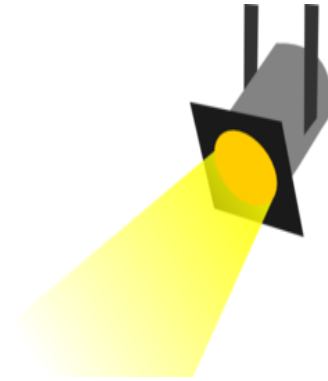


**George Scanlon** moved to Jacksonville in 2009 and is an alumnus of the New Leadership Summit Class X. He currently serves on the boards of Jacksonville University and the Jacksonville Civic Council.

When asked why he continues to

stay involved in Leadership Jacksonville, George said that "Leadership Jacksonville is an asset to the community. Everyone has had a personal experience with LJ. When you have an experience that is both positive and personal, you owe it to others to promote it and help others have that experience." George is a former board member of Leadership Jacksonville and supports the Celebration program. Thanks George for helping to make Northeast Florida a better place.

The Alumni Relations Committee will continue short spotlight interviews on Leadership Jacksonville alumni as a regular feature in *The Lead Story*.



## Class Notes

### 1977

**Suzanne Judas** has retired from Holland & Knight. Enjoy your retirement!

### 1984

Best wishes to **Jane Upton** who retired from JEA on June 2.

### 1989

**Mary Bland Love**, attorney with Marks Gray, was appointed to the Jacksonville Ethics Commission by Public Defender **Charles Cofer** (LJ 2000) and approved by City Council in July. The purpose of the Commission is to provide a local forum for consideration and investigation of ethical problems and issues. Mary's term will expire in December 2019.



Jep Barbour

### 1991

**Jeptha Barbour** has been named the Best Lawyer's 2018 Jacksonville Personal Injury Litigation-Defendants "Lawyer of the Year." Only a single lawyer in each practice area in each community is honored as Lawyer of the Year.

### 1992

**Sol Brotman** received a Public Service Award from the Florida Dental Association at its 2017 convention in Orlando. Sol was honored for his leadership work throughout the community with groups including OneJax, HandsOnJacksonville, the Mental Health Foundation of Jacksonville, the United Way, Jacksonville Human Rights Commission and the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

### 1993

**Karen Bowling** has been elected to serve as chair of the board of Florida State College at Jacksonville.

### 2001

**Jane Loop Pomar** is co-chair of the 2017-18 Florida Forum, the 26th annual series presented by The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital.

### 2003

**Sally Lee** is serving on the board of Greenscape

### 2005

**Jarik Conrad** has accepted a position as senior director, HCM innovation with Ultimate Software in San Diego, California. In this role he works to help organizations stay abreast of the latest workforce trends and innovative approaches to people management.

### 2006

**Hope McMath** is a participating artist in the Survive to Thrive Exhibit at the Downtown Jacksonville Public Library's Makerspace Gallery. 30% of the proceeds from the sale of art in the exhibit go back to the JPL Foundation in support of library programs. Hope has also opened Yellow House on King Street. Yellow House will host public events and exhibitions and be a hub for educational outreach and for artists, writers, organizations and communities to collaborate. Its inaugural exhibit Small Matters, delivering messages of social importance through small works, will be on display through September 28.

### 2008

**William Cody** and his wife Betty received the Distinguished Couple Award from The Women of Color Cultural Foundation, Inc. at its 17th Annual Gala Event in early August.

### 2009

**Anna Brosche** received the inaugural Jacksonville Women's Business Center ATHENA International Leadership Award. This award was presented by the Jacksonville Women's Business Center in cooperation with ATHENA International. The award is an honor for professional excellence, community service and actively assisting other women.

**Mickee Brown** has joined the Justice for Girls Duval County Initiative: Leadership Council. Members of the council make recommendations to create long-term systemic change for justice-involved girls and their families and raise awareness in the community to inspire meaningful action.



Mickee Brown

**Sheri O'Brien** has joined Operation New Uniform as director of veteran recruitment.

### 2010

**Rose Conry** received the inaugural Jacksonville Women's Business Center Volunteer Excellence Award.

**Snowden McFall**, president of Brightwork Advertising and Fired Up!, has returned to Northeast Florida. Welcome back!

**Pat Willis** has joined the board of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund as a non-voting ex officio member.

### 2012

**Michelle Barnett** has been elected vice chair for 2017-18 for the 4th Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission.

Volunteer Florida recently presented its Champion of Service Award to **Leon Baxton**, recognizing Leon for his outstanding efforts in volunteerism and service.

## 2013

**Pat Kilbane** has been elected chair of the 4th Judicial Circuit Nominating Commission.

**Jamie Shelton** has been chosen to serve as chair-elect of Gator Bowl Sports. In this role he will also oversee the Game Committee for the 73rd Annual TaxSlayer Bowl on Saturday, December 30, 2017.

## 2014

**Gordon Bailey** has been promoted to vice president, public affairs and community engagement at Florida Blue. Gordon will be responsible for leading and managing areas that include state and federal legislative relations, the Florida Blue Foundation, Corporate Social Responsibility and the Florida Blue Center for Health Policy.

## 2015

**Rick Moyer** has joined Dream Finders Homes as CFO.

## 2016

Monique Brown and Kristin Keen were incorrectly identified as Class of 2015 in the August Lead Story. Both are alumni of Class 2016.

**Monique Brown** was a speaker at July's 2017 Florida Women Lawyers of Color Summit.

**Kristin Keen** was featured in HuffPost's "The Inspirational Woman Project" on July 11. Click on HuffPost to read more about Kristin and her work as founder of Rethreaded.



Selfies were fun when Erin Skinner (LJ 2015), Paul Risner (LJ 1994), Terri Florio (LJ 2004) and Jim Robinson (LJ 2007) 'connected' for lunch in August.

**Josh Cockrell** has joined the board of directors of the Women's Center of Jacksonville.

## 2017

**Gette Dumont** has filed to run for Jacksonville Beach City Council Seat 5, District 2.

**Tia Leathers** has been promoted to executive director of parental and community involvement where she oversees the Family and Community Engagement Department for Duval County Public Schools.

**Ellen Sullivan** has moved from interim to permanent director of the Jacksonville Women's Business Center.

## New Leadership Summit

**Tonya Ray Bailey** (NLS XV) has been elected as vice chair for Girls Inc. of Jacksonville.

## Honorary

A group from UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville and UF Health Jacksonville played a major role in a recent US-China Forum on Obstetrics-Gynecology and Pediatrics in Chengdu, China. The group included LJ's **Tom Chiu**.

## Collegiate Leadership Experience

**Clayton Levins** (CLE 2014) has been accepted into the James Madison Institute's Leaders Fellowship program for 2017-2018. Clayton is the community relations coordinator for Jacksonville University.

## Youth Leadership Jacksonville

**Corey Portnoy** (YLJ XVII) joined Marshall, Dennehey, Warner, Coleman & Groggin as an associate attorney.

## Various

Several LJ alumni have been recommended to Governor Scott by the 4th Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission to be selected to fill a Duval County Court vacancy: **Michael Bateh** (LJ 2017), **Crystal Freed** (LJ 2013) and **Jennifer Mansfield** (LJ 2011).

The speaker line-up for October 14's TEDxJacksonville "We, the People" conference includes **Chris Hand** (LJ 2014) and **Arjola Miruku** (CLE 2005).

**Wyman Duggan** (LJ 2009) has filed to run for Florida House District 15, where he looks to succeed outgoing representative, **Jay Fant** (LJ 1996), who has filed to run for Attorney General.



Mary Bland Love

Marks Gray attorneys selected by their peers for inclusion in the 2018 edition of The Best Lawyers in America include: **Mary Bland Love** (LJ 1989) - Medical Malpractice Law-Defendants; **Gerald Weedon** (LJ 1985) - Commercial Litigation, Litigation-Construction, Personal Injury Litigation-Defendants, Product Liability Litigation-Defendants; and **Jeptha Barbour** (LJ 1991) - Insurance Law, Litigation-Insurance, Medical Malpractice Law-Defendants, Personal Injury Litigation-Defendants, Product Liability Litigation-Defendants. Jeptha (photo above) has been recognized by Best Lawyers for the 12th consecutive year.



Jerry Weedon

One Voice, a project of OneJax, held the Spirit of JAX event on August 31, exploring religious, spiritual and secular diversity among young adults in the Bold City. Three storytellers were **Kalilah Jamall** (CLE 2014), **Clayton Levins** (CLE 2014) and **Asghar Syed** (LJ 2018).

## Notes of Sympathy

Our condolences to **Suzanne McCormick Taylor** (LJ 1988) and her family upon the unexpected death of her son, Gavin Moore, on August 27.

Our condolences to **Cheryl Grymes** (LJ 1994), **Leah Donelan McDermott** (YLJ VI) and **Rachel Donelan** (YLJ XVII) and their family upon the passing on September 2 of Cheryl's husband and Leah and Rachel's step-father, **Warren Grymes** (LJ 2007) following a long battle with kidney cancer. Warren recently retired from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida where he was recognized as a passionate advocate for Jacksonville's children. He will be missed by family, friends and our community.

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## Leaders Wanted

### Girls Inc. of Jacksonville

Girls Inc. of Jacksonville is seeking STRONG, SMART and BOLD women or men who identify with the organization's mission to serve on its Board of Directors. The mission of Girls Incorporated of Jacksonville is to inspire girls in grades K-8 with the skills they need to be Strong, Smart and Bold in three key areas: Healthy Living = STRONG, Academic Achievement = SMART, and Life Skills Development = BOLD.

Working collaboratively with our education system, community stakeholders and families, the Girls Inc. experience focuses on the development of the "whole girl" (socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively), and equips girls from low-income families with the skills they need to break female generational cycles of poverty, and to successfully navigate gender as well as economic and social barriers so that they grow into healthy, educated and economically independent and self-sustaining adults, prepared employees, and responsible family, community, and global citizens.

To further the organization's strategic goals and comprehensive mission within the Jacksonville community Girls Inc. is actively seeking diverse individuals, preferably with previous board experience, from the following career fields and/or competencies: 1) finance, 2) higher education, 3) healthcare, 4) media/communications, 5) sports/active living, 6) STEM/technological careers (aviation, marine, computer, coding, military, etc.), 7) education - reading literacy, math, economic literacy backgrounds, 8) visionary, strategic thinkers and 9) business acumen.

If you are interested in learning more about Girls Inc., please contact Robin Rose at [roserr@girlsincjax.org](mailto:roserr@girlsincjax.org).

## MAKE A LJ DONATION

Many companies sponsor matching gift programs that will match the charitable contributions made by their employees. This is a great way to enhance the impact of your giving. Check with your employer for details.

[DONATE NOW](#)



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40 East Adams Street, Suite 230, Jacksonville, FL 32202

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