



# THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

[www.leadershipjax.org](http://www.leadershipjax.org)

September 2014

## Annual Reunion Luncheon

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

New Location: Omni Hotels & Resorts Jacksonville, 245 Water Street

-Inducting Honorary Lifetime Members

**Helen Lane** and

**The Honorable Warren Jones**

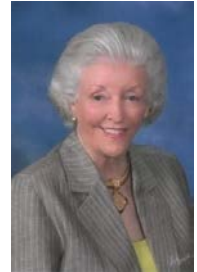
-Welcoming our newest alumni from **LJ Class 2014** and **NLS XII**

-Presenting "**A Legacy of Leadership**"

Cost: \$35 (dues paid) / \$45 (dues not paid)

or combine your annual dues with the luncheon reservation for \$135

Conveniently make your reservation and payment at the **Payment Center**. Click **here** for additional details and payment options. Select the 'Reunion Lunch 2014' document.



Lane



Jones

**Reservation and Payment deadline is Thursday, September 18.**

TUNE IN TO  
WJCT



Thursday, SEPTEMBER 25, 2014 at 8:00 p.m.



Godbold

### The Jacksonville Legacy Series

presents the 6th episode of our award winning series of conversations with Jacksonville's community trustees.

This episode will feature The Honorable **Jake Godbold**, former mayor of Jacksonville whose efforts were instrumental in securing an NFL team, revitalizing downtown, starting the Jacksonville Jazz Festival and securing continued public housing funds.

All episodes of the Jacksonville Legacy Series are available for viewing at [www.leadershipjax.org](http://www.leadershipjax.org).

## Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2015 Opening Retreat



Becky Steele and  
Erin Skinner

57 members of LJ Class 2015 completed their Opening Retreat August 23. We welcome them as they embark on their 9-month journey exploring and analyzing community concerns while building relationships with other community leaders and developing a personal commitment to trusteeship.



Kevin Gay and  
Tom Hackney



Jessica Evans, Jeff Winkler,  
Joanelle Mulrain and Jerry Collins



Josh Martino, Jason Spencer  
and Bill Boutwell



Kelley Moore, Tracy Raulerson  
and Leila Sundstrom



Kathy Miller and  
Daniel Davis



Some of our volunteer facilitators  
Mickee Brown, Lynne Elliott, Michael  
Howland, Laurie Price and Noah  
Henderson that helped make the  
Opening Retreat a great success!



Jennifer Garizio and  
Eric Sandler



Richard Salkin and  
Jacqueline Rudloff



Tiffany Green and  
Javelyn Arvay



Lisa Gall Kight and  
Jill Bechtold



Steffani Fletcher and  
Tanya Johnson-Coomes

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Leadership Jacksonville is often asked about the impact of our programs. We want to share with you this recent email from **Rakhil Patel** (included here with his consent).

"I am a graduate of YLJ Class of XXIV. I feel extremely fortunate to have been a part of the program and would like to donate \$100 from my summer job earnings to help support future students of this very worthwhile program."

It means so much to us to know that our program had such an impact on Rakhil that he would contribute a portion of his hard-earned summer income to support Youth Leadership Jacksonville. Clearly Rakhil found benefit and value in his experience.

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Beginning September 8, nominations for **Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2016** and **Collegiate Leadership Experience Class of 2015** will be accepted on the Leadership Jacksonville website.

You may nominate more than one qualified candidate. Remember, nominations are just the first step. Nominees will be invited later in the year to complete an application.

Further information will be available on our home page at [www.leadershipjax.org](http://www.leadershipjax.org) when the nomination process opens.

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#### **Upcoming events:**

**YLJ XXV Opening Retreat**  
Saturday, September 6, 2014

**LJ 2015 Program Day**  
Thursday, September 11, 2014  
Social Responsibility and Sustainability Day 1

**LJ 2016 and CLE 2015 Nominations Open**  
Monday, September 8, 2014

**YLJ XXV Program Day** Thursday,  
September 18, 2014 "One for All"

**Reservation Deadline for Reunion Luncheon**  
Thursday, September 18, 2014

**Reunion Luncheon**  
Tuesday, September 23, 2014  
11:30 a.m., Omni Hotel Jacksonville

**Jacksonville Legacy Series**  
**The Honorable Jake Godbold Episode**  
First Airing, Thursday, September 25, 2014  
8:00 p.m., WJCT

**CELEBRATION 2015**  
Thursday, April 9, 2015  
6:00 p.m., Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront

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## **Class Notes**

### **1988**

**Davalu Parrish** is serving on the boards of the Jacksonville Children's Commission and the Gateway Foundation. Since retiring, she also volunteers at the Bridge to Success School at The Bridge of Northeast Florida and continues to serve on its board of directors.

### **1989**

**Mike Hightower** has announced his resignation from Florida Blue after 24 years with the corporation. Mike continues to serve as chair of the board for JEA.

## 1991

**Dave Pierson** has announced his plans to retire as president of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra upon selection of his successor.

## 1993

**Ju'Coby Pittman** has changed her candidacy and is now running for City Council at Large Group 5.

**Michael Stewart**, Jacksonville Aviation Authority's Director, External Affairs, was recently elected president of the Florida Airports Council (FAC) at the group's annual conference in Jacksonville.



Barbara Drake, Barbara Moulding and Suzanne Montgomery

## 1994

**Amy Rankin** has opened her own public relations and fund development messaging practice with a focus on nonprofits. Her new business is Cause to Communicate.

## 1998

**Barbara Moulding** will serve as the 2015 chair of the WJCT Community Advisory Board.

## 1999

**Cheryl Riddick** is now serving as the JTA community engagement manager.

## 2002

**Braxton Gillam** has recently earned Florida Bar board certification in civil trial.

**Samuel Hall** is a candidate for the Duval County Public School Board District 2.

## 2006

**Genni Jett** has joined Berkshire Hathaway HS Florida Network Realty as realtor.



Janice Donaldson and Jana Ertrachter

**Hope McMath** was appointed by Governor Rick Scott to the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

## 2009

**Kevin Cook** has joined Rogers Towers P.A. as shareholder continuing his practice in business disputes and commercial litigation.

## 2011

**Maria Coppola Cummins** has joined the University of North Florida Department of Communication as adjunct professor.



Jack Logue and  
Coley Jones

## 2013

**Nicole Thomas** is currently chair of the executive committee of the United Way of Northeast Florida's Women in Local Leadership (WILL) group.

## 2014

**Bill Adams** has been appointed to the board of directors of Downtown Vision, Inc.

## 2015

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida has elected new members to its board of directors. The list includes **Jason Spencer**, treasurer.

## New Leadership Summit

**William Rupp** (NLS VIII) has announced that he will retire at the end of 2014 as vice president and CEO of Mayo Clinic Florida. Rupp, who also serves as the current chair of the JAX Chamber, has led the institution's Jacksonville campus since 2008.

**Greg Montana** (NLS XI) is the incoming chair-elect for the Catholic Charities board of directors.

**Janette Wilcox** (NLS XI) has been elected to served on the board of directors for Players by the Sea, a non-profit community theatre in Jacksonville Beach.

## Various

**Hester Clark** (LJ 2002) and **Anne Urban** (LJ 2008) were key planners for August's National Minority Enterprise Development Week Conference in Washington, DC. This is a major national event for minority businesses.

**Don Baldwin** (NLS XII) and **Terry West** (LJ 2008) have joined the Jacksonville Symphony board.

It has been a great month for Leadership Jacksonville's legal community alumni:

Florida Trend's Florida Legal Elite chosen by their peers for a standard of excellence in their profession included: **Graham Allen** (LJ 1981) Hall of Fame Inductee, Commercial Litigation; **Bryan Gowdy** (LJ 2012) and **Michael Korn** (LJ 1986) Appellate Practice; **Adrian Rust** (LJ 2007) Banking and Financial; **Gardner Davis** (LJ 1992) and **Ray Driver** (LJ 2007) Business Law; **Jep Barbour** (LJ 1991) , **Chris Hazelip** (LJ 2000) and **Ed McCarthy** (LJ 1995) Civil Trial; **Daniel Bean** (LJ 2010), **Kevin Cook** (LJ 2009), **Fred Franklin** (LJ 1998), **Courtney Grimm** (LJ 2012) and **Melissa Nelson** (LJ 2012) Commercial Litigation; **Sherri Worman** (LJ 2004) Construction; **Lynn Pappas** (Honorary) Real Estate; and **Jill Bechtold** (LJ 2015) Up & Comers.

The Super Lawyers list of Florida's Top 100 for 2014 included **Bryan Gowdy** (LJ 2012) and the Top 50 2014 Women Florida Super Lawyers list included **Courtney Grimm** (LJ 2012). **Adrienne Conrad** (LJ 2006) was selected for the 2014 Jacksonville Rising Stars list.

A group of our members have been included in the 2015 edition of Best Lawyers in America. Our distinguished attorneys include: **Gardner Davis** (LJ 1992), **Chuck Hedrick** (LJ 2006), **Kevin Hyde** (LJ 2005) and **Chauncey Lever** (LJ 1985). More names are likely to be added in future Lead Story editions.

If we have missed any of our legal honorees, please let us know!

## Collegiate Leadership Experience

**Brent Fine** (CLE 2012) has gone to work with Sight and Sound Productions as a project manager responsible for capturing clients' event vision.

## Youth Leadership Jacksonville

**Amanda Spann** (YLJ XIV) is the organizer for Socially Innovative, a technology networking community that hosts and promotes monthly gatherings for multicultural professionals and entrepreneurs in and around tech, providing an interactive outlet to introduce new products and services to the market. The inaugural mixer was held August 21.

## Notes of Sympathy

Our condolences to **Bobby Martin** (LJ 1988) upon the recent passing of his wife Deleah.

Our condolences to **Donna Hulsey** (LJ 1997) and her family on the death of her brother-in-law John.

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## 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.

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