



# Hillsborough County Bar Association

*HCBA Leadership Institute  
Member Biographies*

**Class of 2016-2017**

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## Attorney Bio – David Befeler

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David Befeler is a shareholder at Befeler Law Firm, P.A. He is a member of the Florida Bar and in addition to being an attorney, he is also a certified mediator. David was born in Miami Beach, Florida, and has lived in Tampa, Florida, since 2010. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Florida and subsequently attended law school at Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law. David focuses his practice on real property law, immigration law and family law. When David is not practicing law, he enjoys spending time with his wife and hobbies including sports, photography, music, film and art.

## Attorney Bio – Steve Berlin

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Lieutenant Colonel Steve Berlin is the Assistant General Counsel for Criminal Law, Ethics, and Administrative Compliance at United States Central Command. Previously, Steve has served as in-house counsel and as a criminal law litigator with a focus on prosecuting family and sexual violence. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and served as a field artillery officer prior to attending law school at the University of Florida. Steve and his wife are volunteers at Northeast High School where their two children attend school. He is also the social director for HCBA's Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

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## Attorney Bio – Nicolette Bidarian

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Nicolette L. Bidarian is a senior associate attorney with Allen, Norton & Blue, P.A. Her practice is focused on representing employers in labor and employment law matters. In this capacity, she advises employers on best employment practices and represents clients before various federal and state agencies, and in federal and state courts. Although not born in Tampa, Nicolette considers herself a Tampa native having resided in the Tampa Bay area since childhood. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Florida and earned her Juris Doctor degree from Florida State University College of Law. In her spare time, Nicolette enjoys playing soccer, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

## Attorney Bio – Cole Carlson

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Cole Carlson is an Associate with GrayRobinson, P.A. He focuses his practice on intellectual property matters including patent prosecution and litigation as well as copyright, trademark, and trade secret matters. Cole received his Bachelor of Engineering from Vanderbilt University in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and earned his Juris Doctorate from Stetson University College of Law. He has an English springer spaniel puppy named Chloe. During his spare time, Cole enjoys sports (watching and participating), trying out different restaurants, and spending time with family and friends.

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## Attorney Bio – Kyle Carter

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Captain Kyle Carter serves as Chief of Contract Law at MacDill Air Force Base assisting in legal obligation of funds. His previous assignment was as Chief of Legal Assistance leading the office in providing legal advice to active duty personnel, their dependents and the retiree population. Kyle grew up in Texas, has lived in four other countries and visited 22 others working as a project manager for nine years prior to earning his J.D. at Regent University School of Law. He entered active duty in January 2015 as an Air Force Judge Advocate. He is an avid outdoorsman.

## Attorney Bio – Jennifer Cohen-Deihl

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Jennifer Cohen-Deihl is a staff attorney at Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. where she is a member of the Senior Advocacy Unit. Jennifer focuses her practice on the area of housing and elder law where she assists her clients by defending them in foreclosure and eviction lawsuits. Jennifer received her undergraduate degree from Illinois State University and earned her Juris Doctor from Southern Illinois University School of Law. Jennifer moved to Tampa after graduating law school in 2013. In her spare time she enjoys getting together with friends and exploring the Tampa Bay area with her husband.

## Attorney Bio – Sadie Craig

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Sadie Craig is an associate at Akerman in the Litigation Practice Group. Her practice focuses on commercial litigation in state and federal trial and appellate courts. Sadie has handled proceedings as first chair trial and appellate counsel. In addition to her commercial litigation practice, Sadie advises clients with intellectual property, First Amendment, and public records issues. Sadie also provides advertising and marketing law advice, helping clients prepare advertisements, sweepstakes and promotions in compliance with state and federal law. Prior to attending law school, Sadie was a journalist, working for *The Associated Press*, *The Kansas City Star*, and *The Missoulian*. In her free time she runs half marathons and plays soccer.

## Attorney Bio – Nicole Duga

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Nicole D. Duga is an associate with Hill Ward Henderson and is a member of the firm's Litigation Group. Her practice includes the defense of product liability and tort claims, as well as some medical malpractice, hospital liability, and personal injury actions, along with a diverse array of construction and design claims and employment and labor law claims. Nicole graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Florida Levin College of Law where she served as an Articles Editor for the Florida Law Review. She is a member of the Order of the Coif.

## Attorney Bio – Tami-Lyn Gryś

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Tami-Lyn is currently an attorney and the Director of Operations at St. Michael's Legal Center for Women and Children, LLC. St. Michael's is a non-profit organization that offers pro-bono legal assistance to qualifying families. Tami-Lyn's current areas of practice include most facets of family law, as well as foreclosure defense and bankruptcy. After receiving her B.B.A. in finance, Tami-Lyn spent a number of years working in New York City in the financial services industry. She is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. In her spare time she would love to say she cooks, crochets, and does cross-fit, but in reality, you are far more likely to find her dining out with friends or exploring Tampa's vibrant arts community.

## Attorney Bio – Harold Holder

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Harold Holder represents businesses and professionals in litigation and alternative dispute resolution. As an associate with Bush Ross, P.A., Harold's practice focuses on contractual disputes, business torts, employment matters, professional liability defense, and other commercial litigation. After graduating from Tampa Jesuit, Harold attended University of Florida where he earned undergraduate and law degrees and enjoyed eight seasons of student football tickets. Harold also enjoys running, paddle boarding, and hanging out with his dog Jackson and fiancé Lauren.

## Attorney Bio – Lauren V. Humphries

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Lauren Humphries is an associate in the Products Liability practice group at Banker Lopez Gassler PA. She primarily practices in the areas of toxic tort litigation, products liability defense, professional liability, and aviation torts. Lauren was born and raised here in Tampa, FL. She graduated from undergraduate at the University of Florida with a major in Political Science and minors in History and Environmental Science. She earned her JD degree from the University of Florida Levin College of Law in May 2015. During her spare time, Lauren loves to travel, play tennis, spend time with her family, and cook.

## Attorney Bio – Nehemiah Jefferson

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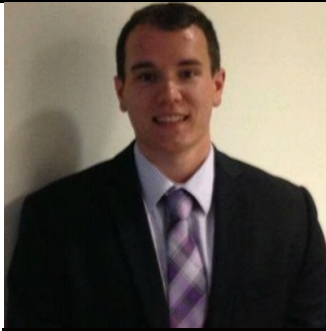


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Nehemiah Jefferson is a solo practitioner with The Jefferson Firm, LLC. His focus practice is taxpayer civil and criminal representation before the IRS, the Florida Department of Revenue, and other taxing jurisdictions. He is also an IRS Enrolled Agent. Nehemiah was a former scholarship track athlete at FSU and enjoys college football, especially his beloved Florida State Seminoles. Attorney Jefferson received his Bachelor of Science degree from The Florida State University (FSU), his Juris Doctor from John Marshall Law School (Atlanta), and is currently completing coursework towards an LL.M. in Taxation.

## Attorney Bio – David Kalteux

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David Kalteux is an Associate with FordHarrison LLP. He focuses his practice primarily on representing clients in labor and employment litigation. David was born in Chicago, Illinois. David moved to Florida when he was three years old and has lived there ever since. David graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in Business Marketing. David earned his Juris Doctor degree from Stetson University College of Law. During his spare time, David enjoys playing and watching sports, working out, and socializing with friends and family.

## Attorney Bio – Kimberly Koves

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Kimberly Koves is an Associate with Wiand Guerra King P.A. Kim's practice includes complex commercial disputes and regulatory matters, with a focus on securities and financial services litigation and arbitration. Kim represents securities broker/dealers, investment advisors, and their associated persons in federal and state court and in arbitration. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from James Madison University and her Juris Doctor degree from Stetson University College of Law. Prior to law school, Kim was a paralegal with a law firm in Washington, D.C. and New York City. In her free time, Kim enjoys yoga, running, and cooking.



## Attorney Bio – Jennifer Lada

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Jennifer Lada is an associate with Holland & Knight, LLP. She focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation and dispute resolution. Jennifer was born and raised in France, and moved to the U.S. in 2009 to play tennis for Mercer University. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Mercer University and earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

## Attorney Bio – Lexie Larkin

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Lexie Revord Larkin is a junior partner at Probasco Law, P.A. She focuses her practice on marital and family law, including divorce, paternity, child support, post judgment enforcement and modification, and domestic violence. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and earned her Juris Doctor degree from Stetson University College of Law. In her spare time, Lexie enjoys going to concerts, playing with her two rescue dogs, and being a “foodie” with her husband, Chris Larkin.

## Attorney Bio – Chance Lyman

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Chance Lyman is a staff attorney for the Honorable Marva L. Crenshaw with Florida's Second District Court of Appeal. Before working with Judge Crenshaw, Chance was a staff attorney with the Central Staff division of the Second District. Chance obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Education degrees from the University of Florida and earned his Juris Doctor degree from Florida State University. He has lived in Tampa for three years. His hobbies include playing and recording music. He is a multi-instrumentalist and plays the guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, piano, and drums.

## Attorney Bio – John Marchione

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John L. Marchione is an associate with Himes & Hearn, PA and practices exclusively in the area of marital and family law. Prior to joining Himes & Hearn, Mr. Marchione worked as an associate at Hennessey & Bienstock, LLP, an esteemed marital and family law firm in New York, New York. Mr. Marchione earned his J.D. degree from New York Law School, *summa cum laude*. Prior to law school, Mr. Marchione earned his B.A. degree in English from the University of Delaware where he was a writer and editor for the school's student-run newspaper, *The Review*. Mr. Marchione is a native New Yorker who relocated to the Tampa area with his family in 2015. He is admitted to practice in Florida, New York and New Jersey and is a member of the Florida Bar Family Law Section, Hillsborough County Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. He is trained in Collaborative Family Law, a no-court alternative dispute resolution process.

## Attorney Bio – Brad McDonald

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**Bradley (Brad) McDonald is an Associate with The Solomon Law Group, P.A. His practice is primarily focused on all aspects of family law, including collaborative divorce. Brad was born in West Virginia, but has lived in the Tampa Bay area for the last 30 years. He received Bachelors of Science degrees in Criminology and History from the Florida State University. He obtained his Juris Doctor from the Florida State University College of Law. Brad was a member of the Flying High Circus at Florida State University. He is currently an active member in the Next Generation Divorce Collaborative Group.**

## Attorney Bio – Kristin Mora

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**A second generation Tampa native, Kristin Mora began her career as a professional community planner for Hillsborough County. After two years, she went on to law school and joined Brickleyer Smolker & Bolves, P.A. as an Associate in 2009 practicing land use law. Kristin’s legal training complements her background and experience as a professional planner and gives her a unique perspective on land use matters. After several years in private practice, Kristin joined the City of Tampa in 2016. While in law school, Kristin was selected for the Florida Supreme Court Internship Program for Distinguished Florida Law Students and served in the summer of 2008 as an intern for Justice Anstead of the Florida Supreme Court. While there, Kristin met her husband Frank, who has now joined her to reside in Hillsborough County.**

## Attorney Bio – Valeria Obi

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Valeria Obi is currently Staff Counsel with Encore Capital Group, Inc. where she handles collection and compliance matters. She also currently serves as the First Vice- President of the George Edgecomb Bar Association. In 2015, Valeria received GEBA's Outstanding Young Lawyer's Award. She graduated, with honors, from The Florida State University with a Bachelors in Political Science and English Literature. She received her Juris Doctor from Stetson University College. Valeria is also a member of the C.H. Ferguson-M.E. White American Inn of Court, Florida Creditor's Bar Association and also serves as a Big Sister through Big Brother Big Sister of Tampa Bay. In her spare time she enjoys reading, traveling, exercising, and watching movies.

## Attorney Bio – Jessica Reder

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Jessica Reder is an Assistant State Attorney for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. As a prosecutor, Jessica has litigated thousands of cases for the State of Florida and has tried over twenty-five jury trials and countless non-jury trials and evidentiary hearings. Jessica was born and raised in Tampa and graduated cum laude from Florida State University with a degree in English Literature. While studying at Stetson University College of law, Jessica also performed part-time as a singer/actor in Busch Gardens' live animal show Critter Castaways before graduating from Stetson in December 2012. In her spare time, Jessica enjoys spending time with family, reading, fitness, dance and musical theater.

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## Attorney Bio – Melanie Senosiain

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Melanie Senosiain is a staff attorney for the Honorable Judge Edward LaRose of the Second District Court of Appeal. She works closely with Judge LaRose and her suite to provide research and recommendations on their cases. Melanie received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Central Florida and her Juris Doctor from Cornell Law School. On her free time, she enjoys spending time outdoors, hanging out with her dog, trying new restaurants, and traveling.

## Attorney Bio – Allison Wallrapp

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Allison Wallrapp is an Associate with Allen Norton & Blue, P.A. Her practice focuses exclusively on management-side labor and employment law. Allison was born and raised in Tampa and is thrilled to be building her career here. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida in 2010 and earned her Juris Doctor degree from Stetson University College of Law in 2013. In her free time, Allison enjoys working out, watching sports, cooking, and exploring all of the new things Tampa has to offer.