

# MENTORING PROGRAM

Shepard Broad College of Law

Mentoring Breakfast  
Friday, September 21, 2018  
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM  
Faculty Study - RM 236

## The Business of Law

### Alumni Panelists:

**James Sawran**, (JD '82) Managing Shareholder and Vice President, McIntosh  
Sawran & Cartaya, P.A.

**Alison Smith**, (JD '03) Partner, Weiss, Serota, Helfman, Cole & Bierman

**Jeffrey M. Wank**, (JD '09) Partner, Kelley Kronenberg

## NSU Law Mentoring Program Agenda

7:30 – 7:50 a.m. : Check-in and Breakfast Networking

7:50 – 8:00 a.m. : Welcome, Introductions and Overview  
**Janice Shaw**, Assistant Dean NSU Law Office of Career and Professional Development

8:00 a.m. : Program: **“The Business of Law”**

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### Moderator

**Janice Shaw**, Assistant Dean NSU Law Office of Career and Professional Development

Our distinguished alumni panelists will address key business principles and the financial factors that impact attorney and law firm success. Following the panel, attendees will have an opportunity to network with the panelists and alumni to gain deeper insights for leading a fulfilling and successful career.

8:35 a.m.. : Networking

## PANELISTS



**James Sawran** is the managing shareholder and vice president with McIntosh Sawran & Cartaya, P.A.. He is actively engaged in professional liability and healthcare litigation, having represented hospitals, nursing homes, physicians, surgeons, podiatrists and other healthcare providers in medical malpractice and related claims. He is lead trial counsel to one of the largest hospital corporations doing business throughout Florida. Mr. Sawran has also represented other professionals—including lawyers, nurses, pharmacists and physician assistants—and has been involved in product liability actions. His dedication to the support of peers and medical staff was illustrated in his success in the case of Cruger v. Love, a case of first impression argued before the Florida Supreme Court, which resulted in the Court upholding the peer review privilege relating to a physician's application and delineation of staff privileges.

Mr. Sawran has authored and co-authored a number of legal publications, including an article dealing with the recent Constitutional Amendment passed in Florida—entitled "*Amendment 7: Will the Patient's Right to Know Come At Too High A Price?*"—which appeared in the Spring 2005 issue of the Trial Advocate Quarterly. He also co-authored a chapter, entitled *Preparing Your Client for Deposition: Trials and Tribulations* in a book for the Florida Defense Lawyers Association (FDLA). He has also lectured to physicians, surgeons, nurses, hospital risk managers and medical records custodians, as well as other professionals involved in the delivery of healthcare.

Mr. Sawran is a member of the Florida Defense Lawyers Association, the American Society of Law and Medicine, the Defense Research Institute and the Florida Medical Malpractice Claims Council, Inc. He has been appointed by the Florida Bar to serve on the Board of Governors of the Florida Medical Malpractice

Joint Underwriting Association (F.M.M.J.U.A) as well as the Military Affair Committee. An elected member of the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC), he serves on the Professional Liability and Medical Malpractice Committees for that organization.

Mr. Sawran was awarded an "AV" rating from Martindale-Hubbell, the highest rating given by that organization. An accomplished trial lawyer, he is admitted to practice in state and federal courts in the State of Florida as well as before the United States Supreme Court.



**Alison Smith** is a partner at the law firm of Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L. Her primary areas of practice include: labor & employment, commercial litigation, appellate law, and administrative and regulatory law. In the labor and employment field, Ms. Smith has experience handling discrimination lawsuits brought against various public and private entities pursuant to the ADA, Rehabilitation Act, Title VII, and the Florida Civil Rights Act. Ms. Smith provides labor advice to several municipalities such as the Town of Golden Beach, City of Miramar, City of Lauderhill and the City of Homestead on numerous labor and employment topics. These include the FMLA, FLSA, state and federal discrimination laws, EEOC regulations, among others. Alison has drafted numerous policies and employee handbooks for municipalities throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties. She provides in-house training to

municipal clients on various cutting edge labor and employment topics and has acted as a speaker/presenter at several labor and employment seminars throughout Florida.

Prior to joining the Firm, Ms. Smith worked as an Appeals Referee at the Agency for Workforce Innovation, now the Department of Economic Opportunity. She adjudicated unemployment appeal claims via a live hearing and issued written opinions following the hearings.

Ms. Smith graduated magna cum laude from Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law in 2003 and was the valedictorian. She was President of the Student Bar Association and a member of the Nova Southeastern University Law Review. While in law school, she was a Research Assistant and Law Student Advisor, as well as a Teaching Assistant for Contracts and Property. She won the Book Award for Property and Remedies and was on the Dean's List every semester.



**Jeffrey M. Wank** is a partner in the firm's Fort Lauderdale office focusing his practice on First Party Property Insurance Defense Litigation, including coverage and bad faith litigation. Jeffrey also handles the defense of a wide array of Third Party Insurance Defense claims.

Jeffrey assists insurers in all aspects of coverage disputes, including responses to civil remedy notices of insurer violations, pre-suit investigations and coverage evaluations, declaratory judgment and bad faith litigation. He defends property insurers throughout Florida in first-party coverage matters, where many of the claims involve sinkhole, windstorm, fire, mold, theft and water losses.

In addition, Jeffrey serves as coverage and bad faith counsel in third party actions, including monitoring the defense of litigation. As part of this role, he is often asked to draft detailed coverage opinions, reservation of rights letters, declinations and prosecute declaratory relief actions.

Jeffrey also has experience in handling complex civil and commercial matters, including the defense of personal injury, premises liability, employment discrimination, medical malpractice, nursing home liability, homeowner and condominium association claims, and construction defect cases.

Jeffrey was named a Florida Super Lawyer Rising Star in 2014 & 2015. In 2011, he was elected to the Broward Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Board of Directors, where he served as Secretary on the organization's Executive Board and moved up to President in June 2015.



## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The NSU Law Mentoring Program includes the following:

- A group mentoring model and not the traditional 1:1 pairing of mentor to mentee
- In-person meetings at NSU during the academic year bring all mentors and mentees together
- A list of suggested activities organized by group to help mentors discover opportunities to help mentees achieve the learning outcomes for the program

### **The Mentoring Program Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the academic year, the mentees should:

- Plan for the transition from law student to lawyer, including time management skills and goal-setting
- Create and maintain a mentoring relationship with a colleague
- Understand strategies to manage: clients, cases, projects, and employees
- Practice preparation techniques in professional settings, such as meetings, hearings, depositions, trials, business transactions
- Prepare strategies to address novel situations as they arise in the business and practice of law

### **Upcoming Mentoring Programs**

Friday, October 26, 2018: Mentoring Breakfast

Friday, January 25, 2019: Mentoring Breakfast

Mid February 2019: Mentoring Dinner

### **NSU Law Career and Professional Development**

law-careerdevelopment@nova.edu | Phone: (954)262-6124 | Fax: (954) 262-3834

### **NSU Law Alumni Relations**

lawalumni@nova.edu | Phone: (954)262-6303 | Fax: (954) 262-3834