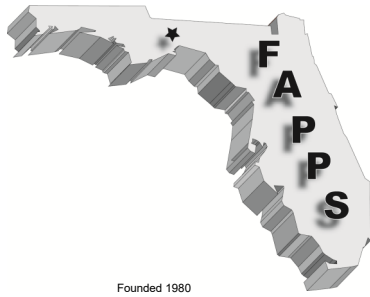


33rd Annual Convention - April 12-14, 2024



THE PAPER CHASE

The Official Newsletter of the
Florida Association of Professional Process Servers

4th Quarter Edition 2023

You're Invited to Join

 zoom

1ST QUARTER BOARD MEETING



 FEBRUARY
10, 2024

 10:00 AM
EST

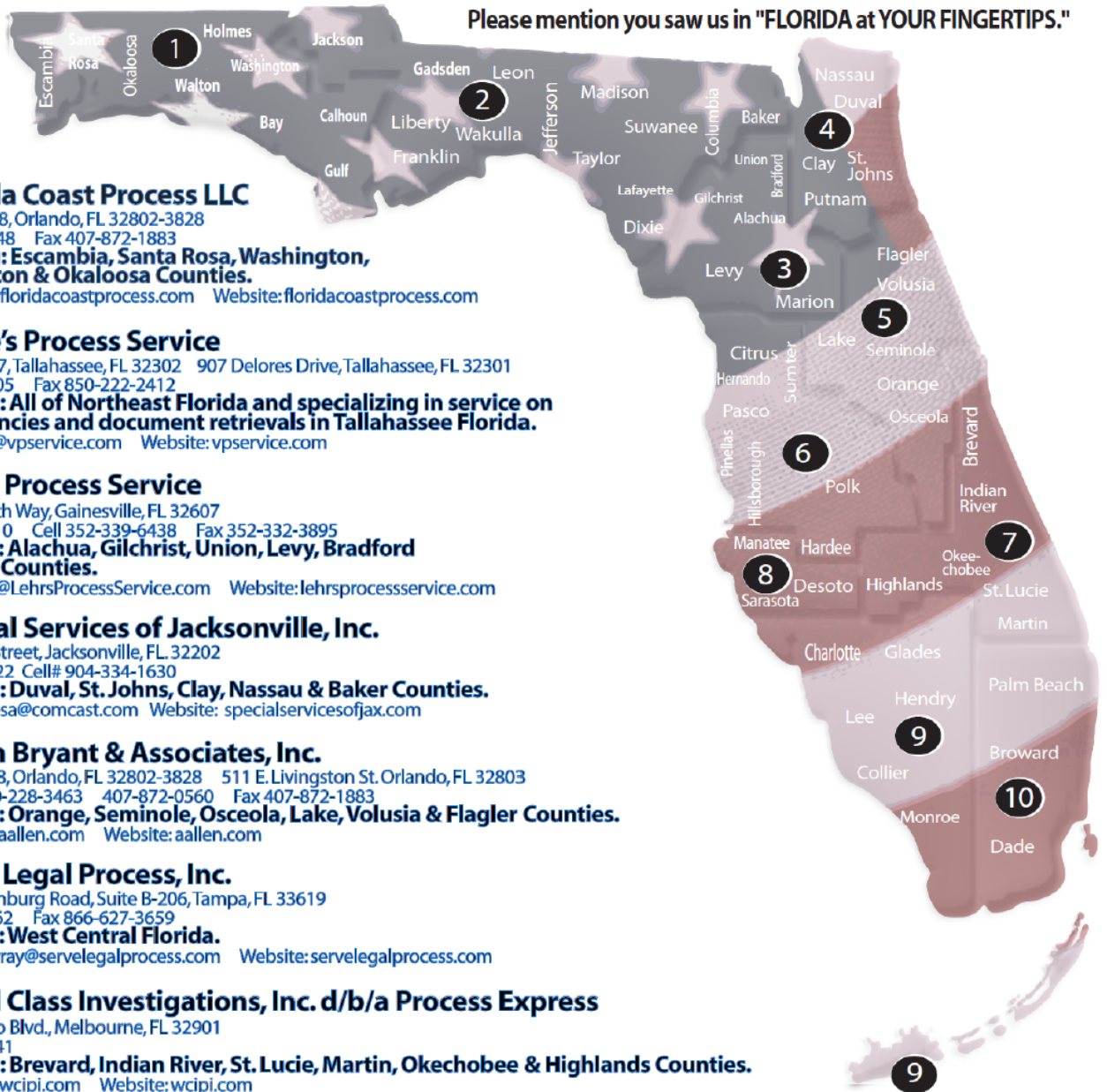
RSVP for link: www.fapps.org

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Email: ssteresa@comcast.com Website: specialservicesofjax.com

5 Aallen Bryant & Associates, Inc.

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Toll Free 800-228-3463 407-872-0560 Fax 407-872-1883
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Email: info@aallen.com Website: aallen.com

6 Serve Legal Process, Inc.

333 N. Falkenburg Road, Suite B-206, Tampa, FL 33619
813-254-8762 Fax 866-627-3659
Servicing: West Central Florida.
Email: wmurray@servelegalprocess.com Website: servelegalprocess.com

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Email: info@southfloridalegalservices.com Website: southfloridalegalservices.com

10 Process Services, Inc.

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2023-2024 Association Guide

Board of Directors

Bob Musser AFPS, President

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email: BobM@dbsinfo.com

Chris Yeoman AFPS, Vice President

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Michelle Howard AFPS, Director

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Sean Segel, Director

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email: Tampaempire@gmail.com

Tammy White, AFPS Director

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Administration & Membership: Diana Wardwell, AFPS

Email: administrator@fapps.org
P.O. Box 72
Melbourne, FL 32902 -0072
(321) 952-0820 (877) 38-FAPPS Tollfree

Committees

Annual Conference Activities

Chair: Amy Boyd, AFPS, boydsprostatus@gmail.com

Arbitration & Grievance (A&G)

Chair: Sean Segel, tampaempire@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Jennafer Segel
Members: Janet Deal, Diana Wardwell, Don Seward

Elections

Chair: Bob Musser AFPS, BobM@dbsinfo.com
Vice Chair: Diana Wardwell, AFPS

FAPPS Distinguished Service Award (FDSA)

Chair: Bob Musser AFPS, BobM@dbsinfo.com
Members: Lance Randall, AFPS, Diana Wardwell, AFPS, Margie Zawacki, AFPS, Dr. Denny Howley

Formal Education (AFPS)

Chair: Michelle Howard, AFPS, Michelle@trgtlegal.com
Members: Diana Wardwell, AFPS, Joshua Kes, AFPS

Liaison

Chair: Tammy White, AFPS ParalegalLiaison@fapps.org
Vice Chair: Chris Yeoman, AFPS

Legislation

Chair: Chris Yeoman, AFPS chris.yeoman@aol.com
Vice Chair: Diana Wardwell, AFPS
Members: Brennan Fogarty, Michelle Howard, AFPS, Bob Musser, Michael Nolan, Susan Pineiro, AFPS, Lance Randall, AFPS, Rick Wendling

Process Server Appointment (PSAC)

Chair: Margie Zawacki AFPS margiez@hctjudge.com
Vice Chair: Tammy White AFPS
Member: Joe Osborne, Jr., AFPS

Promotion & Growth (P&G) and Member Benefits

Chair: Kevin Fedotov, AFPS Promotioncommittee@fapps.org
Members: Desy Garcia, Joshua Kes, AFPS, Tammy White, AFPS

Secure Data Exchange and eSOP

Chair: Bob Musser AFPS, BobM@dbsinfo.com

Technology

Chair: Desy Garcia, DesyGarcia22@gmail.com

Violence Against Process Servers (VAPS)

Chair: Michelle Howard AFPS, Michelle@trgtlegal.com
Vice Chair: Chris Yeoman, AFPS
Member: Bonnie Moore AFPS, Becky Gaston, Lance Randall AFPS, Frank Carreras, AFPS, Tammy White, AFPS, Amy Boyd, AFPS

Website

Chair: Diana Wardwell AFPS, administrator@fapps.org
Webmaster: Bob Musser AFPS, bobm@dbsinfo.com
Member: Desy Garcia

Newsletter Submissions: Submissions to the Paper Chase are highly encouraged. The preferred method of submission is electronic via email to administrator@fapps.org in Microsoft Word—though plain text format is fine. Articles will be edited for style, grammar, and length, if necessary. Spelling will be checked but it would be a good idea if the author checked this prior to submission. Advertisements must be camera ready. Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged. All of the relevant information regarding advertisement submissions—including sizes available, ad rates, and deadlines are on the advertising form.

The Fine Print: The Paper Chase is published quarterly by the Florida Association of Professional Process Servers, Inc. (FAPPS) a not-for-profit Florida corporation, for the benefit of the members. FAPPS assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of any article printed herein, nor do the articles necessary reflect the policies or opinions of FAPPS unless specifically noted. The articles are not to be construed as legal or accounting advice—those with such needs should consult the appropriate professionals. The editor reserves the right to edit any article for content, grammar, length, and style.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BOB MUSSER AFPS, PRESIDENT

Members:

In my opinion, and I believe this is shared by the entire board, our primary project this year is educating everyone else in the legal system on what constitutes good Electronic Service. As detailed in our white paper, it has to include a disinterested third party as mandated by Chapter 48.021. It has to be on a secure platform, not Email. We have to spread that message far and wide. We have to improve Chapter 48.021 to clarify with words something like "All original process, regardless of method served, must be served by...". We need to enlist the help of friends at the FL Bar, representatives that share our view, judges, whomever we know and can talk with. And we need to attempt to alter parts of Chapter 48 that mention service by anyone else, such as the reference in the new Secretary of State section that says "or an attorney".

Because of this, and as always, the Association could really use your help. Every single one of you has competitors, allies, independent contractors, office staff, or others that should be members of FAPPS, but are not. You have the relationships with these people to steer them in the right direction. A personal conversation or even a text or email from you would do so much more than a "sales letter" from one of us.

We have membership levels starting so inexpensive that money is not a valid objection. Your office staff and contractors can be supporting members for only \$30 a year! Show them the Member Benefits summary at <https://fapps.org/MemberBenefits> but also stress that the main benefit is supporting the only state organization working to keep private process servers in FL in business!

Bob Musser, AFPS
President
BobM@dbsinfo.com
(321) 679-1539

TPC



it's time to
**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**

Renewal payment options are available on Page 9

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CHRIS YEOMAN AFPS, VICE PRESIDENT

Happy Fall to everyone,

Congrats to both our education committees and promotion and growth who have continued to bring our membership numbers to higher levels. These past few quarters have shown enormous growth and interest in FAPPS my process server new and experienced throughout Florida and other states as well. We had a great turnout of interested servers in Boca Raton recently to learn about FAPPS and process serving in general. We were excited to see some new faces and I am pretty sure they will be back for future meeting based on their experience.

One important aspect of being involved with FAPPS is the mentorship. There is an immense amount of experience and knowledge amongst not only our board and committee members, but also with our general membership. When you attend a meeting, convention, or educational course, you are pretty much guaranteed to walk away with something new. Over the years we have mixed up our presentations with guest speakers, educational seminars and roundtable discussions. These have all been big hits amongst the attendees. But sometimes the simple conversations and "shop talk" at a lunch table or hanging around the pool with others who have the same interests, obstacles, and goals creates interesting conversation that leads to everyone leaving the event feeling they learned something that is going help them in their business in some way.

Members make business connections and build lasting friendships. Process servers exchange tricks of the trade, while business owners share marketing ideas. Software and bookkeeping discussions take place, all with the amazing concept of networking and making everyone involved more successful by sharing knowledge and experience.

Our board members are committed mentors. We love to share ideas and help all those trying to be successful process servers, so I encourage everyone to do the same. Join a committee and make a difference. Share your knowledge and always promote integrity and professionalism throughout our industry.

Have a happy and safe final quarter of 2023.

Sincerely,

Chris Yeoman AFPS
Vice President
Legislative Chair
(954) 270-4597 cell

TPC

Florida Judicial Circuit Assessment Committee

On Aug. 23 I received an email from the OCBA in regards to a Zoom meeting taking place on August 25, 2023. At the request of the President I began following the meetings to determine if there may be any potential impact to process serving programs in Florida if changes were made.

Chief Justice Carlos Muñiz created the Judicial Circuit Assessment Committee. His administrative order directs it to consider whether consolidation of circuits, within existing district court of appeal boundaries, is warranted.

The order was prompted by a letter from House Speaker Paul Renner, a Palm Coast attorney. Renner suggested consolidation, through “economies of scale in back-office operations,” could generate “substantial cost savings.”

The Florida Supreme Court commissioned a Judicial Circuit Assessment Committee on June 30, whose mission is to evaluate whether there is a need to reduce the number of Florida’s judicial circuits. There are currently 20 judicial circuits in this state, five of which are single-county circuits. The attendees included input from judges, attorneys, DA’s, court staff and contractors. Overall the commentary was not favorable towards consolidation and main arguments included concerns about geography, logistics and loss of representation. There was a survey conducted asking participants “would effectiveness be improved through consolidations” and the overwhelming results 93.5% stated no.

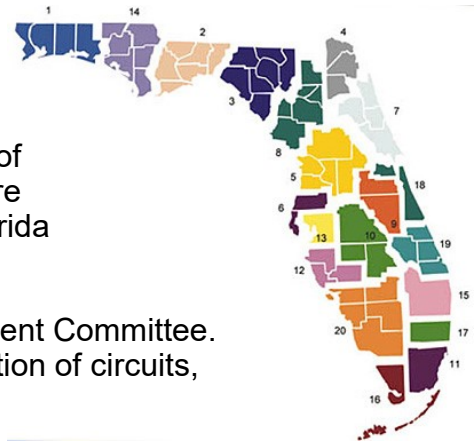
The last meeting took place Oct 16, and unlike the Aug 25th meeting, this time there were a few pro consolidation.

At the November 3rd meeting of the Judicial Circuit Assessment Committee, the committee members voted unanimously to recommend against consolidating any of Florida’s current judicial circuits.

The committee was given a December 1st deadline to make final recommendations.

You can read the article published by the Florida Courts at <https://www.flcourts.gov/Resources-Services/Education-Outreach/Court-News/Court-News-Archive/Court-News-2023/Judicial-Circuit-Assessment-Committee-Findings>

Kevin Fedotov, AFPS
Director
(407) 627-8222
FedotovK@yahoo.com



Updates to your member listing? Email: Administrator@fapps.org

FAPPS MEETINGS AND EVENTS

You are invited

February 10, 2024 10:00 a.m.
1st Quarter Board Meeting

Meeting via Zoom
RSVP to receive meeting [LINK](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84451234567)
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84451234567>
[g/register/tZlqfu2qrzggHt38wJ](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84451234567)
[WGmtF2-T4ctQ2QXHW](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84451234567)

April 13-14, 2024
33rd Annual Conference
Safety Harbor Resort and Spa
105 N. Bayshore Dr.
Safety Harbor, FL

Register at www.fapps.org
[Hotel Reservation Information](#)

August 16-19, 2024
Professional Beach Getaway
3rd Quarter Board Meeting

The Shores Resort & Spa
2637 S. Atlantic Ave.
Daytona Beach Shores, FL

Meeting information available at
www.fapps.org

EDUCATION (Online and In Person)



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SECRETARY'S REPORT

JOE OSBORNE , JR.

Dear Fellow FAPPS Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying a safe and happy Holiday Season. As the new year arrives and hopefully another great year in FAPPS remember that if you are interested in submitting a proposed by-law amendment the process is as follows:

Article X - BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Section 1 Proposed Bylaw amendments may be submitted by active members and must be submitted to the secretary sixty days prior to the date of the annual meeting and published to the membership not less than thirty days prior to the annual meeting. (Amended March 23, 2013).

Therefore, proposed by-law amendments must be submitted to Joe Osborne, Jr., FAPPS Secretary at **joe@360legal.net** no later than **February 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. EST**

The final list of all submissions that will be voted on at the annual conference April 14, 2023 at 3:20 p.m. will be published under the 33rd Annual Conference Meeting links at <http://www.fapps.org/meetings.aspx>. This information will also be forwarded in a separate member email by March 13, 2023.

As required by Article VIII Section 7 of our by-laws below you will find: (a). a description of the Motion or amendment, (b). the result of the vote and (c). the final wording of the order or amendment if passed that were made at the 4th quarter board meeting held October 21, 2023:

- Tammy White made a motion to accept the agenda. Seconded by Joe Osborne. The motion passed unanimously.
- Michelle Howard made a motion to adopt the new addition as presented. Second by Tammy White. The motion carried.
- Joe Osborne made a motion to move up to \$30,000.00 from regular checking to open a money market account. Seconded by Michelle Howard. The motion carried.
- Joe Osborne made a Motion to Adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Michelle Howard. The Motion carried.

As always it is a pleasure to serve this association and if you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free contact me at (888) 360-5345 or by email at joe@360legal.net

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free let me know

Respectfully,

Joe Osborne, Jr., AFPS

TPC

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Diana Wardwell, AFPS

administrator@fapps.org

Members,

We are so excited to see the growth of the association and the involvement of new members. We are close to setting a new membership record. Join us in this effort by bringing new members to FAPPS.

Association Updates in Brief:

Inquiries and Engagement:

- Our administrative office has witnessed a notable surge in inquiries encompassing various aspects of the association, membership, process server certification, education classes, and event particulars.
- The membership base has expanded, and our outreach efforts continue towards individuals who have participated in our courses and other process servers across the state and the U.S., inviting them to join FAPPS.
- As the primary point of contact, I have continued to fortify and cultivate our relationships with court administrators and sheriff licensing jurisdictions.

Newsletter Highlights:

- The cutoff for submitting articles and ads for the upcoming 1st Quarter Edition is January 15, 2024.
- Interested in advertising? Take advantage of a 10% discount by featuring your ad in all four editions of *The Paper Chase*.

Looking Ahead to Meeting Locations:

Collaborating with our President, I am actively engaged in the process of selecting event venues for the year 2024 and beyond.

We encourage members to share their suggestions and insights about potential locations that resonate with the association's objectives and member preferences.

Conventions for 2025/2026:

- Serving as the Chair of the Convention Selection Committee, we have begun the process to designate a venue for the 2025/2026 Conventions.
- Committee members will review proposals to present a final recommendation to the board for consideration.

Dues Renewal/2024 Membership

FAPPS Membership runs from January to December annually. Look for your 2024 Membership renewal reminder in your mailbox the first week of November.

We have added new options for you to pay.

PayPal: You can renew your membership by submitting payment on our website at https://www.fapps.org/memberapp_OnlinePayment.asp
If you have any changes to your listing, email them to administrator@fapps.org

Zelle: Payments can be sent to (321) 987-1041. Please make sure you list the member's name in the subject line.

ECheck: EChecks can be sent to administrator@fapps.org

Mail: Mail your renewal by USPS.

If you have any questions about any of the services or programs FAPPS has to offer, do not hesitate to reach out anytime.

Thank you for your support of our professional association.

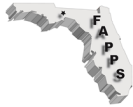
Sincerely,

Diana Wardwell, AFPS

2023 Status Update

Membership Numbers

2023 December Membership	
Active	263
Associate	79
Supporting	55
Pending Applicants	5
Total	402



A&G (Arbitration & Grievance)

Sean Segel, Chair

Tampaempire@gmail.com (813) 251-9197

Dear Members,

The A&G Committee has continued to serve FAPPS by upholding the professional standards and ethics held by the association. This quarter one verbal complaint was received regarding non-payment for services between two active members. Before a formal complaint could be submitted the parties were able to resolve their issue, waiving any further action from the committee.

If anyone feels a member may be in violation of the FAPPS Code of Ethics or Bylaws, please contact me.

Sean Segel
Committee Chair

Chair: Sean Segel
Vice Chair: Jennafer Segel
Committee Members: Janet Deal, Diana Wardwell, Don Seward

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Charles Goldberg -561-317-1708 or 561-627-5377**



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Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308
Phone: (954) 378-8011

Collin Katz

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Carlos Pardo

Courtesy Florida Process Servers
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Adam Prins

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Rachael Schultz

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Elizabeth Tanner

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Scott VanOchten

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Rich Delucia

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Bruce Piekarsky

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Phone: (201) 679-4932

Roy Bates

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Bob Caldwell

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Phone: (260) 615-7092

Doreen Campbell

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Monica Sharp

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Frank Curcio

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Derek A. Kronschnabl

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Lakisha Ringo

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Russ Schwalbe

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Samuel Thompson

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Jay Titen

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Hector Ventura

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Homestead, FL 33033
Phone: (844) 912-1212

Steven Wilson

Abeyta Street Accurate Process
Services, Inc.
5303 E Evans, Suite 302
Denver, CO 80222
Phone: (303) 719-2727

Supporting Members:

Christy Ramlogan

Charles Cane

Jaermal Walls

Tammy Gilliam

Lisa Grassmuck

Michael Grigorian

Daniel Riemer

Jason Turner

Applicants are published the first day of each month at www.fapps.org and through email notification.

Applicants automatically become a member the first day of the following month, pending no objection.

Welcome and Thank You for your support of FAPPS!



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FAPPS 33RD ANNUAL CONVENTION

April 12-14, 2024

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The hotel sold out before our event in 2023. Book your room ASAP!

www.safetyharborspa.com

Enter the Group Code first and then select your dates - Group Code: 39Q7GP



FAPPS Member Badge

Email administrator@fapps.org to set up your login to download the FAPPS Member Badge for use on your website.



Annual Conference Activities Amy Boyd AFPS, Chair

Boydspstatus@gmail.com (772) 460-6679

2024 is the 33rd Anniversary of the Florida Association of Professional Process Servers annual convention. We are planning what is to be quite exhilarating and an educational weekend at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa again this year. In honor of this beautiful location and the 100th Anniversary of the resort we are planning a 1920's Gangster/Gals Speakeasy & a Murder Mystery dinner for our Saturday night Banquet & Awards.

Friday morning, we will have the traditional FAPPS Golf Tournament. Friday evening, we will have our reception dinner and immediately following we will have our Annual Bingo game and Poker tournament. All events are open to all attendees. You can always register at the time of check-in but to ensure your spot to any event it is always best to Pre-Register!

There are many sponsorship opportunities for this fun-filled weekend to promote your business and services. Please check the website for updates soon regarding sponsorship opportunities.

Make your room reservations as soon as possible! This resort fills up fast and there are a limited number of rooms available at the FAPPS discounted rate.

I assure you do not want to miss out!

Always, Amy Boyd & Justin Petrae

We are always open to new ideas and educational opportunities. If you have recommendations, please email them to Diana at administrator@fapps.org.

Amy Boyd, AFPS
Chair, Annual Conference Activities



TPC

2024 Convention Sponsors & Exhibitors

- **Interested in Advertising or Sponsoring?**
 - **Interested in attending as a Vendor?**
- **Do you know of a Vendor or Service Provider that would be interested in our Convention?**

**Email administrator@fapps.org
or call (321) 952-0820**



Elections

Bob Musser, Chair

BobM@dbsinfo.com

(407) 679-1539

Members,

At our Annual Meeting this coming spring, both Officers and Directors will be up for Election. I'm term limited as President; you'll have to elect a new one. I personally hope Chris Yeoman, our current Vice President, takes on that challenge. I hope to work with him on the Board in any capacity needed to help him keep FAPPS, and private process servers everywhere, relevant as we navigate the changes that he and I are certain. Thank you to all who have served on this Board and I hope you will consider serving again. We have important things to do this year for the benefit of all private process servers. If you need a reminder of who's who on the FAPPS Board, or an Email address to reach one of us, go to the FAPPS Website and choose Association, Board. The direct link is <https://www.fapps.org/board.aspx>

Bob Musser, AFPS
FAPPS President
Elections Chair
BobM@dbsinfo.com
www.fapps.org

TPC



FDSA (FAPPS Distinguished Service Award)

Bob Musser, Chair

BobM@dbsinfo.com

(407) 679-1539

Dear Members,

We are now in another cycle for this prestigious and important award. If you, as members of FAPPS, have suggestions for the committee to consider, please send me an email with the name, and a brief summary of their experience or their attributes that would make them a fitting recipient this year or at some time in the future. I will forward your email to the committee prior to our next meeting. I am happy to report that for the first time since I've been asking for those suggestions (about two years now), I received a nomination from a member at the Daytona Beach Board Meeting. Thank you! The committee has completed its work for this cycle. You'll find out at the Annual Meeting if we have a recipient.

Bob Musser
FDSA Chair
BobM@dbsinfo.com
www.fapps.org

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Formal Education

Michelle Howard AFPS, Chair
Michelle@TRGTLegal.com (813) 492-2500

As we wrap up our "Education Season," we are excited to update you on the latest developments, initiatives, and collaborations that have been keeping us busy over the past few months. To date we have educated over 600 servers.

1. Course Material Updates:

Our dedicated team has been hard at work revamping our course materials based on the invaluable feedback we've received from our participants. These updates aim to enhance the educational experience, ensuring our content remains fresh, relevant, and aligned with the evolving needs for our profession.

2. Membership Growth:

We've been collaborating closely with the Promotions and Growth Committee to boost our membership. This partnership has allowed us to engage in targeted outreach to our class participants, and ultimately, expand our membership.

3. Legislative Committee Cooperation:

As we approach the 2024 legislative session, we will be working closely with the Legislative Committee to assist with monitoring and communicating relevant legislative that may impact our profession.

As we look forward to the next year, we are excited about the opportunities ahead. Our commitment to providing high-quality education and support to our members remains steadfast, and we are eager to build on the momentum we've gained during "Education Season."

We extend our gratitude to all Education Committee members for their tireless efforts in improving the educational experience and promoting our mission. Your dedication, hard work, and collaboration have been instrumental in our success.

Do not forget to register for Educational Classes early to ensure you meet the deadlines for renewing your license, keep your AFPS current and invest in yourselves and businesses to be able to provide guidance to your staff, servers, and clients.

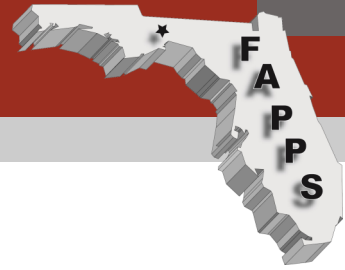
We look forward to sharing our passion and knowledge with you!

Michelle Howard AFPS,
Committee Chair
813-492-2500 (office) 727-542-1975 (cell)
Michelle@TRGTLegal.com

TPC

Member Information

- Member Listings can be updated continuously throughout the year. Email all updates to: administrator@fapps.org
- Email administrator@fapps.org to receive a link to set up your login and password to access the Member Only section of benefits & resources.
- Claim your free listing at fapps.securedocumenttrading.com to send and receive documents securely. This a FREE service for FAPPS Members. Need more information about how it works? Give us a call and we will walk you through the setup.
- Advertise your services with FAPPS (info at www.fapps.org)
- Attend an Education Class to obtain your AFPS Designation. Clerical staff of members are also welcome to attend for a reduced fee.
- Attend meetings to network and build your connections with other members



FAPPS Member Referral Program

Join FAPPS Member Referral Program! As valued members of FAPPS, your support and involvement play a crucial role in our association's growth and success. Now, we invite you to join hands with us and help FAPPS expand even further!

Here's how it works: Refer a new Active or Associate process server to join FAPPS, and as a token of our appreciation, you will receive a fantastic incentive! For every successful referral, you will receive \$25 off your 2024 membership fee,

and with enough referrals, you could even secure a FREE membership for the year!

It's a win-win situation!

Not only do you contribute to our vibrant community by bringing in new members, but you also get rewarded for your efforts. So, spread the word about FAPPS and the fantastic opportunities it offers to process servers in Florida.

Together, let's strengthen our association, foster meaningful

connections, and enhance the support we provide to each other. Join us in making FAPPS the go-to hub for process servers in the region!

For more information on how to participate in the Member Referral Program, reach out to Diana our Administrator at administrator@fapps.org or give us a call at (321) 952-0820. Let's grow together and make 2024 an extraordinary year for FAPPS!

Thank you for being an integral part of our FAPPS family.

Highlights from 2023

Quarterly Board Meetings, Annual Convention, Professional Beach Getaway, Happy Hour Networking, Breakfast before Serving, and our Education Classes all provided members and fellow process servers with the opportunity to network.

Thanks to everyone who attended a meeting or event in 2023. We can't wait to see you all in 2024!





Florida Association of Professional Process Servers

33rd Annual Convention

April 12-14, 2024



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Group Code: 39Q7GP



Legislation

Chris Yeoman AFPS, Chair

Chris.Yeoman@aol.com (954) 274-1337

Greetings Members,

Our legislative efforts never stop, and this session we will again be presenting a bill in the Florida legislature. A bill has been drafted and is currently in review with a bill writer/ editor. We have a sponsor ready for presentation and high hopes for passing some important changes needed to help our industry. We have an early session this year so we are wasting no time to have our voice heard. Our primary goal will be to strengthen our necessity in the legal arena, forcing all legal process to be served by a person licensed in the recipients jurisdiction. Additional goals remain to make changes favorable to the process servers out in the field getting the job done.

We spent some time this past summer at the Florida Bar annual convention attending multiple

meetings including their own legislative committee meeting where we were introduced and exchanged ideas and contact information.

I would like to thank all those who have supported and assisted this committee in all our efforts this past year. Aside from the many ideas, emails, phone calls, and meetings, we owe a great thanks to those who have donated to our legislative fund that will be used as needed to help these efforts. I look forward to working with our committee members throughout the session and the next year.

Sincerely your,

Chris Yeoman
FAPPS Vice President,
Legislative Chair, VAPS Vice Chair
cellphone 954-270-4597

TPC

William Todd Vause

Todd Vause passed away 11/5/2023. He was one of our FAPPS Past Presidents, and a hell of a nice guy. He was a multi-decade member of FAPPS and served on the Board for several years in addition to his years as President. He established the Promotion and Growth committee and the first Professional Beach Getaway. As a contributor to our FAPPS Distinguished Service Award, I talked with him at least once every year. In years past, we shared a lot more than that, he was an opinionated and thoughtful character, the kind of guy you just wanted to talk with and bounce ideas with. The rest of this message is from his office staff:

As you can imagine, we are all heartbroken. Todd was such a unique individual with the largest heart of anyone I have had the pleasure to know.

Todd's unwavering dedication to his clients, his unending devotion to his career and his limitless

passion for life profoundly resonates with each of us.

Under his leadership, Vause's Process Service has a legacy of over 30 years in service to our esteemed clients and the process service community. The VPS Family is committed to continue serving each and every one of you. We wholeheartedly pledge to maintain Vause's Process Service with the same honor, unwavering integrity, and heartfelt dedication that Todd embodied throughout his remarkable journey.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Todd's honor to any of the following charities that Todd supported over the years:

[St. Jude's Children's Hospital](#)
[The Special Olympics](#)
[The Wounded Warrior Project](#)

Bob Musser, FAPPS President

Navigating Electronic Signatures in Accordance with Florida Statute 48.21

The Process Servers Return of Service

Submitted by FAPPS Education Committee

In the digital age, the landscape of legal processes has evolved significantly, with electronic signatures becoming an integral part of document execution. Florida Statute 48.21 addresses the use of electronic signatures, emphasizing the importance of strict compliance. As process servers, it is crucial to understand the implications of electronic signatures and their impact on the validity of legal documents.

Understanding Florida Statute 48.21:

The statute highlights that "the person effecting service" is responsible for the proper execution of electronic signatures. This means that process servers play a pivotal role in ensuring the legality of electronic signatures in the documents they handle.

Responsibility of Process Servers:

As process servers, our duty extends beyond the physical delivery of legal documents. We are entrusted with the responsibility of the contents of our proof of service (Return of Service or Affidavit of Service). This includes the proper application of electronic signatures in compliance with the law. It is important to note that if someone else is applying the electronic signature on behalf of the process server, they may add notes or make changes without the server's awareness. Please note the penalty for perjury is a felony of the third degree.

Challenges and Implications:

The use of electronic signatures introduces potential challenges, especially when someone other than the process server applies the signature. Unauthorized alterations or additions to the document can occur, leading to complications when the service is challenged in court. Process servers may find themselves in the position of having to testify in court regarding the validity and authenticity of not only the "facts" that have been included on the proof of service but also the electronic signature.



Best Practices for Process Servers:

To mitigate risks and ensure strict compliance with Florida Statute 48.21, process servers should adopt the following best practices:

Personal Application: Process servers should personally apply electronic signatures to ensure control over the process and minimize the risk of unauthorized changes.

Business Owners and Office Staff: The process server by law is the individual responsible for the proof of service. They cannot authorize anyone to sign or affix their signature to any proof of service. Ensure you have strict standards in your office to ensure the process server is the only person able to sign.

Awareness of Changes: Regularly review documents to ensure that no unauthorized changes or notes have been added after the electronic signature has been applied.

The Process Server is the only person who can electronically sign a proof of service (Return or Affidavit).

Conclusion:

As electronic signatures become increasingly prevalent in legal processes, process servers must remain vigilant in adhering to Florida Statute 48.21. Strict compliance not only upholds the integrity of legal documents but also safeguards process servers from potential legal consequences. By adopting best practices and staying informed about the evolving landscape of electronic signatures, process servers can confidently navigate the digital realm while ensuring the authenticity and legality of their services.



Dear Board and Members:

We hope that this report finds you all well and looking forward to some cooler weather, and a happy holiday season. This committee was created to keep our membership updated on the relationship, responsibilities and opportunities that we have with NAPPS as well as with other associations in our profession and we will do our best to do just that.

NAPPS: As of October 15, 2023, FAPPS is in complete compliance and our rebate check was mailed on September 30, 2023. They have our dates for our Annual Conference on their website and they asked us to make sure all our members are aware of the NAPPS 42nd Annual Conference, April 18 -20, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency in Phoenix, AZ 85004. The link is on the NAPPS website under the events page.

PAF: We continue to build on this relationship and will have an introduction video that will be shown to their entire membership during their Annual Conference on November 3rd, 2023. The video shows them how to go to our website and find professional process servers. A landing page has been created to hopefully show us numbers, if used, of how many new leads we are creating for our membership.

FRP (Florida Registered Paralegals): This group is a part of the Florida Bar and they have been very kind to us, inviting us to their last two, yearly celebrations at the Annual Florida Bar Conference. I believe we have met a few individuals that are supportive of our cause and have even taken a flyer with the landing page, mentioned above, and passed it around to the entire FRP membership. We will continue to look for opportunities to team up with this group.

The Florida Bar: We have attended their annual conference for the last two years, and this committee feels that we should definitely make sure we are there next year. There are so many avenues that benefit all of FAPPS here and we are making FAPPS known to all of the

Florida Bar, we just have to keep going. We are gathering all the details and will bring our plan and budget to the board and members at the next board meeting to attend this event but are also looking for other ways to get involved via their social media pages.

Chris and I will keep pressing and we appreciate your confidence in us to do just that, but we are always looking for people who want to get involved in helping to grow this wonderful association. So, please reach out to me if you think you would like to be part of this committee, have a contact you feel we should meet or ideas that we should hear.

Sincerely,

Tammy L. White, Chair
Chris Yeoman, Vice-Chair
(239) 313-6740
ParalegalLiaison@fapps.org

TPC





Promote your Membership status on your website!

Login to the Member Only section of the website and follow these instructions to add your member badge on your website.

FAPPS Member Badge Setup:

To add the FAPPS logo to your website, simply copy & paste the line of code

If you have not already set up your login, you will need to FIRST email administrator@fapps.org to receive the link to setup your password. You can use this [link](#) to send the email to request your login.

The link will publish the FAPPS logo on your website with a direct link to your membership information.



Member Badge

Get connected! Join a Meeting or Event

FAPPS Meetings are moving around the state to make it easier for members to attend.

Follow our Meetings page at www.fapps.org for upcoming dates and locations.

All members are welcome to attend.

The events are an excellent opportunity to learn more about your profession and network.

The events are posted on our Facebook Page and Facebook Group Page.

Join an event and get to know your fellow members!



Stay Connected - Follow FAPPS on Facebook

Follow our Facebook page for current information and updates regarding meetings and events at www.Facebook.com/FAPPSonFB



- Education Classes
- Meetings
- Special Events
- Current News
- Legislative Updates

Learning from Serving

An Educational Forum

Submitted by Dr. Denny Howley
Visiting the Archives
The Docket Sheet (NAPPS)
May-June 2000



Courtesy & The Process Serving Business

Courtesy is the oil that lubricates the gears of life. It is absolutely essential not only for our own well-being, but for the success of our business. Courtesy is the atmospheric crucible within which service takes place.

Business courtesy involves much more than the “pleases and thankyou’s” we learn as we were growing up. It also involves an awareness of our operating environment and that of our clients. It requires that we have an understanding of the process recipient, as well as the world we live in.

Process Servers are on the front line of the civil side of the American Judicial system – a system that reflects a society that is increasingly more complex as the entire structure is stretched by change. It is an environment that literally throws people against each other as we try to survive financially and emotionally. It is a world, which, in my opinion, has done much to de-individualize and de-humanize us as people and to make us forget that we are all in the same boat.

Remember the Golden Rule? Something like – treat others as you would like to be treated? It is a wonderful guiding principle as long as we remember we have to make the first move. Although we remember the Golden Rule from talks we had with parents and teachers, do we practice this fundamental human relations skill in our business dealings, or are we simply just too busy.

As process server business persons, we deal with people from all walks of life. No matter which rung of the socio-economic ladder they cling to, their world is filled with various pressures. Stress results from the pressures of raising a family, maintaining a relationship, paying bills, earning enough to pay those bills, pressures of the work place, worrying about car repairs, a leaky roof, tensions with the neighbor and so on. The end result is a tendency toward irritability, which is half a step away from anger. Anger always clouds the issue, complicates the problem and disrupts mental balance.

Business courtesy is a fundamental tool of any business professional, but it is particularly important in the fast-pace, hectic world of the process server. Our goal is to make money, but in order to do so consistently, we must offer good service bathed in the light of courtesy. We accept “one-night-stand” business. However, for any substantial long-range growth we should be shooting for “marital” business relationships. Such relationships develop only through dependability, trust and reliable service. They are further strengthened by the courtesy of respecting another “struggling” human being and honoring their “boundaries” as we would like them to honor ours.

“Courtesy” Continued Next Page

Courtesy & The Process Serving Business Continued

Just remember the Golden Rule and the fact that we must take the initiative in order to make it work. Business courtesy is simply having empathy for whomever we come in contact with, remembering we all share the myriad of pressures of life. Courtesy is the lubricant that keeps the gears of life from grinding us up. By adopting courtesy as a normal business tool, not only can we reduce the stress in our own workday, but we may ease the pressure of those with whom we come in contact, Have a good day ☐

Dr. Denny Howley owns and operates Dr. Denny Howley d/b/a serving process in Key West (ONLY), Capital of the Conch Republic. He has been in the business of serving process since 1997. He has been a NAPPS/FAPPS member since 1998. Denny lives in Key West with his soulmate Beverly and three "critters" Shadow, Pepper, and Will, who is blind.

A Professional NEVER Stops Learning

Share your serving stories! You can share a full article or a synopsis of the service and Dr. Denny will help you create the article. Email: DennyHowley@bellsouth.net



Thank you 360 Legal, Mike Weaver
and Joe Osborne, Jr. for sponsoring
breakfast at the 4th Quarter Board Meeting
October 21, 2023.

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P&G/Member Benefits

Kevin Fedotov AFPS, Chair
fedotovk@yahoo.com (407) 627-8222

Greetings Members!

Here are the updates from the Promotion & Growth Committee:

Beach Getaway/3rd Quarter Board Meeting Recap - The P&G hosted the 2nd Annual Corn Hole Tournament on the beach after the meeting. We had a nice group of 20+ people congregate for a day of fun, sun, and gift card prizes. There were 11 teams that entered the tournament this year, with Tammy & Marty White taking the winning trophy again making this a perfect sweep 2 years in a row.

In-Person/Upcoming Events - The P&G Committee is still working on setting a happy hour style event for process servers in the Volusia/Brevard area, as well as the South Florida region.

The FAPPS 1st Quarter Board Meeting will be February 10, 2024 via Zoom. If you are interested in joining the Zoom Board Meeting, please reach out to the Administrator for a link.

For the complete schedule of FAPPS events please visit - <https://www.facebook.com/FAPPSonFB> and be sure to "Like" and Follow Our Page.

Social Media - As of October 17th 2023, our Facebook Group is up to 305 members (up from 303 members) and the FAPPS page has 1,056 followers with 891 Likes (up from 1,026 followers with 862 Likes). Some analytics for the funds used to promote the association in the past 94 days: We spent \$100 on the upcoming Board Meeting, it reached 348 people and it had 56 clicks and included 110 post engagements.

We are still working on setting up a promotions program of our Florida and out of State members via weekly and monthly social media posts on Facebook. If you have an amazing server or office member who goes above and beyond the call of duty, please send us an email so we can show them off to our membership.

Membership - As of October 17th 2023, the Florida Association of Professional Process Servers 408 (up from 391 in the previous quarter). The renewal notices for next years membership were sent to members the first week of November, with membership dues needing to be collected by the end of December. Our Committee plans on making calls to every member who has not renewed, to ensure we keep our membership numbers at 400+.



Please remember that membership is extremely important to our association, be sure to encourage process servers who are not current members to join the FAPPS family. Remember that we include the cost of a Supporting Membership class simply by taking our Education Class, so all you have to do is fill out the application.

The P&G Committee currently consists of Tammy White, Desy Garcia, Josh Kes, and Kevin Fedotov, and we are constantly seeking individuals who are willing to contribute their time and support for our cause.

Kevin Fedotov, AFPS
Director and Chair

TPC



Dear Members:

We have been monitoring the developments going on in reference to the Duval County situation. I reached out to our contact we have been talking to hoping that the Senate Report that was done some years ago would be enough for him to approach the Sheriff and/or the Chief Judge. He stated that we need something more current and I have to agree with him. The Committee and I agree that we need to get all our ducks in a row so to speak because we are only going to have one chance to present our case to the Chief Judge and/or the Sheriff. The new study is being done and should be completed in 60 days. Once this is completed we will move forward.

We have also reached out again to an Attorney we had recently spoken to in reference to writing a letter to the Chief Judge in the

8th Circuit on our behalf. We are in the process of scheduling another meeting with this attorney to get this done. Stay tuned more to follow.

Please keep in mind we are always looking for help and/or suggestions in how we can get Process Serving Programs in all counties that don't have one. If you would like to join this Committee or have any comments, please email us at PSA@Fapps.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday!

Sincerely,

Margaret L. Zawacki
PSAC Chair

TPC

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- Single edition advertising is also welcome

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Secure Data Exchange

Bob Musser, Chair

BobM@dbsinfo.com (407) 679-1539

The Secure Document Trading Service, which is now 8 years old (First launched in 2015!) is a working platform, has support from 5 vendors. Process Master, Process Server's Toolbox, Paper Tracker, Tristar WinServe, and Loyal Dog all support import of jobs from the web version of SDTS directly into their software. If you have not taken the time to fill out your FAPPS profile (no cost, and gets you additional exposure and work through the FAPPS website), come talk to me, or read more about it at

<https:Fapps.SecureDocumentTrading.com>

The SDTS, or something based on it, is likely to play a major role in the success of process servers in the coming years. We built it in 2015 to fill a need that NAPPS saw. The fear was

that as Electronic Filing became a bigger thing, that many NAPPS members were going to be on the outside looking in with no financially viable way to transfer data and documents in a secure manner. I expected Email to be used less, and a true Secure method of moving data and documents to be used more than it has so far. I see the next few years as an even bigger threat, as Electronic Service finally starts making significant inroads into our world. As leaders in the world of Due Process, we have to continue to evangelize against using Email alone as a method for Service or even transfer of sensitive documents. It can not be overstate how critical selling this message is to our continued existence.

Bob Musser, Chair

TPC



Technology

Desy Garcia AFPS, Chair

DesyGarcia22@gmail.com (407) 687-6179

Hello members,

There is not much to report this last quarter. Things have been quiet so I guess no news is good news. I did update the convention form for next year per Diana's request. Therefore you can start registering early if you wish. I hope everyone has a happy holiday season and until next year!

Respectfully,

Desy Garcia, AFPS
Board Director
Technology Committee Chair

TPC



Members,

As we wind down to close out the end of 2023, I want to encourage everyone who knows of a violent act against a process server anywhere in Florida to please refer them to the FAPPS website to file a report. You do not need to be a member to file a report. The purpose of our committee is to record and track cases to assist us with getting better legislation to protect process servers.

We have not received any formal notifications of violence. I do hear chatter of violent acts but no formal reports have been filed this quarter. Please share FAPPS website link with all of your process serving friends and contacts.

<https://www.fapps.org/ViolenceReport>

Current case Updates:

**Case 1 – Lee County
PRE-TRIAL SCHEDULED FOR 11/3/2023**

Lee County Case # 23-CF-014163
Charges; Criminal Mischief, Aggravated Assault with a deadly weapon; burglary of a conveyance (all 3rd degree felonies)
Battery (1st degree felony)
Possession of a firearm by a convicted felon (2nd degree felony)
Weapon offense- improper exhibit firearm or dangerous weapon (1st degree felony)
Possession of weapon or ammo viol final injunction DV cyberstalking

This subject was also arrested again in May 2023 for aggravated battery with a weapon (Case 23-015838000ACH) and is currently in jail and his bond has been revoked. you may view the full arrest report online with the Lee County Clerk’s Office

Case 2 – Pinellas County

Recap: Process server was severely beaten after he served documents to the defendant, the defendant has been deemed temporarily incompetent but restorable.

Status check with the judge scheduled for 6/7/2024

Case 3 – Palm Beach County – Case number pending verification from State Attorney

At the door an African American female in her 20's came to the door. She said she needed to put a shirt on and she would a shirt on. A few moments later Mr. Blackmon opened the door the door with what appeared to be a Glock in his right hand. He said, "What you doing here bro?" I told him that I had to keep returning to try to reach the subject. He began coming toward me with the weapon still in hand telling me not to come back in a threatening manner. I left immediately. He followed me downstairs and watched me as I got in my vehicle and called 911. He was saying obscenities at me as I was leaving.

After the incident I called the police and made contact with Deputy Maduri, Badge #9151. He and two other deputies conducted their investigation and provided me PBSO Case Report # 23-063933.

Please remember to report any violent incident at FAPPS.org.

Michelle Howard AFPS, Director
Committee Chair – Violence Against Process Servers
727-542-1975 (cell)



Website/FAPPS Server

Diana Wardwell, Chair
Bob Musser, Webmaster

The FAPPS website is full featured, a complete source of information on all things FAPPS, and a frequently used tool for finding private process servers across Florida and the entire nation. Many thanks to Diana Wardwell for her constant review, and to the committee chairs who send us content for the areas for which they are responsible. The FAPPS server is a private, secure, replicated and backed up place for the Administrator, Secretary, Education, and other committee chairs to store information that belongs to FAPPS. We no longer have to move files and data from person to person after each election. We use an Uptime monitor which shows we are over "4 Nines" available (99.99%). That means that the FAPPS Website and membership database are online and available almost always, and don't miss more than 52 minutes a year. We are trying to achieve 5 Nines this year, which means less than 6 minutes of downtime.

Bob Musser, Webmaster

The website is reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis to ensure our information is current. We are always open to suggestions for content and information to share. If you have a suggestion you are welcome to email administrator@fapps.org.

The Member Only section contains additional resources. In order to access this area of the website you will need to create a login. This can be accomplished by [emailing](#) a request for login information.

Diana Wardwell, Chair

TPC

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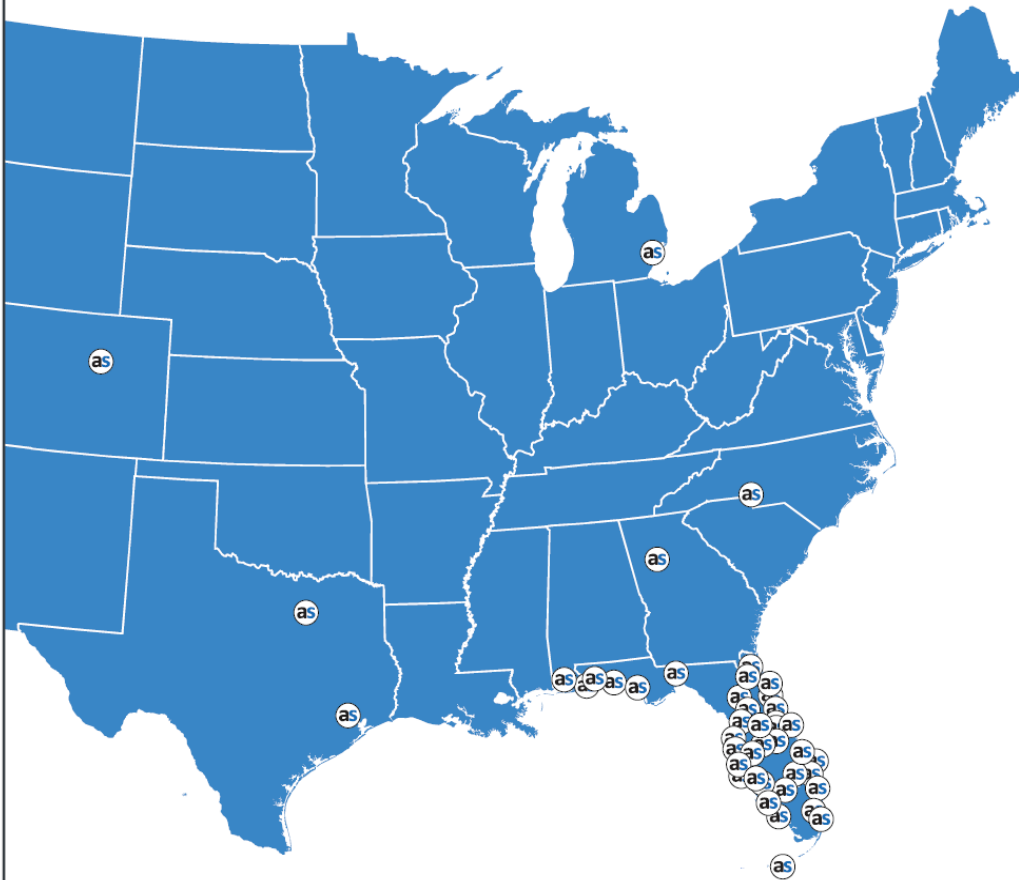
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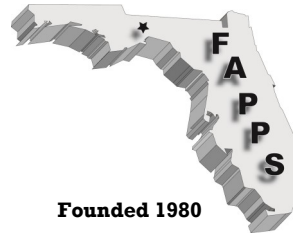
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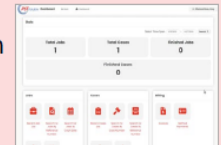
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