

# classnotes

## 1980s

1986

**Mort Benjamin** (M.P.A., M.B.A., 1972) died June 7, 2013. He was past president of the UNF Alumni Association in 1982.

## 1990s

1995

**James (Joby) O. Birr III** (B.A.) was made a partner in the law firm of Jimerson & Cobb, P.A. Birr's practice will focus on construction law and business litigation.



1996

**Gene Costlow** (B.A., 1982, M.P.A.) recently retired after almost 40 years as a psychiatric social worker and has accepted a position as vice president in Mrs. Costlow's Free Day Care Center for Grand Children. Evidently, the boss (Judy Costlow, M.A.Ed., 1974) likes him, and the intrinsic benefits are immeasurable. Based upon his sustained job performance, the customers have designated him, "World's Best Grandpa."



1997

**Christopher Cobb** (B.A.) was named a 2013 Rising Star, a peer-nominated award in Florida Super Lawyers Magazine recognizing the top attorneys in the state younger than 40. Less than 2.5 percent of attorneys in Florida receive this recognition.

Cobb is recognized as an expert in construction law by The Florida Bar as a board-certified construction attorney. He has been recognized by Florida Super Lawyer Magazine as a Rising Star in Construction Law for the past four years. Cobb was named to the Jacksonville Business Journal's "40 Under 40" in 2010. In 2012, he was appointed to the Construction Industry Licensing Board by Gov. Rick Scott. He is a graduate of Florida Coastal School of Law. During law school, he was signed to the Montreal Expos baseball organization and took a leave of absence to play professional baseball.



1999

**Tien V. Le** (B.S.) recently completed his residency in neurosurgery at the University of South Florida. He is currently a Fellow in minimally invasive and complex spine surgery at the University of Tennessee-Memphis and will likely return to Florida to practice next summer.

## 2000s

2000

**Tracie M. McKee** (B.B.A.) was selected for inclusion in the 2013 Florida Super Lawyers Rising Stars list appearing in the June Florida Super Lawyers magazine. While only 5 percent of lawyers in the entire state are named to Florida Super Lawyers, no more than 2.5 percent are named to the Rising Stars List.

McKee concentrates her litigation practice in the areas of personal injury and professional liability defense in Florida state and federal courts. In addition to her trial practice, McKee regularly represents the firms' clients in appeals, primarily related to torts and insurance litigation. She is admitted to practice in Florida, the Middle District of Florida and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Prior to joining the firm, McKee served as a federal judicial intern for The Honorable John E. Steele, United States District Court Judge for the Middle District of Florida. She also spent two summers as a summer associate prior to joining the firm as an associate. McKee also gained invaluable experience working as a claims specialist for State Farm Insurance Company prior to attending law school.

McKee serves as chair of the editorial board of Trial Advocate Quarterly, the flagship publication of the Florida Defense Lawyer's Association.

Before graduating valedictorian of Stetson University College of Law in 2007, McKee served as the executive editor of the Stetson

Law Review. She was also a member of Stetson's Moot Court Board, traveling to Vienna, Austria, to compete in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

In 2010 and 2011, McKee was honored with the James A. Dixon Young Lawyer of the Year Award from the Florida Defense Lawyers Association. The award is given annually to a young lawyer who exceeds the standards of excellence, dedication and commitment to the FDLA and its goals. For four consecutive years (2010-2013), she was also recognized by Florida Super Lawyers magazine as a "Rising Star" in the field of civil litigation defense.

McKee is originally from Kissimmee and presently resides in Fort Myers with her husband, Rusty, and two boys, Brett and Braden. She is a member of the Florida Defense Lawyers Association and serves on its Board of Directors.



2005

**Jennifer (Cooper) Baker** (B.A.) and her husband, Corey, welcomed their second child, Alaina Blair, Feb. 23, 2013. She weighed in at 6 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 inches long. She lives with her