

OCBA 2017-2018 ELECTION - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CANDIDATES
(3 SEATS AVAILABLE)



DAVID E. CANNELLA

David “Dave” Cannella is a civil trial attorney and shareholder at the law firm of Carlton Fields. He is Board Certified in Business Litigation Law by The Florida Bar. Dave has been recognized by national publications for his proficiency in civil litigation, including *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Florida Trend*, *Super Lawyers* and the *Orlando Business Journal*. Dave serves on his firm’s Pro Bono Committee and has been actively involved in his firm’s efforts to promote diversity.

Dave Cannella serves as the president of the Board of Trustees for the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association. Dave’s personal pro bono work includes his work as a Guardian ad Litem for four children in the past year, voting rights protection for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, and he represented one of the shooting victims in the Pulse Nightclub shooting tragedy. Dave has also been a volunteer with Orange County Teen Court since 1996 and received the 2014 Judge Thomas Kirk Founder’s Award for his commitment to Teen Court.

Dave is seeking election to the Executive Council of the Orange County Bar Association because he believes in access to justice, professionalism, and diversity. If elected, Dave is committed to serve the OCBA, which is the best voluntary bar association in the country, to further these goals.

Thank you for your consideration.



AMBER N. DAVIS

I am a partner at the law firm of Beusse Wolter Sanks & Maire, PLLC, specializing in intellectual property litigation and trademark filing/prosecution. I am Board Certified in IP and rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell. I had the privilege and honor of serving as the YLS president during the 2015-2016 term and on the YLS Board of Directors for the past six years. I am currently the co-chair for the 2017 OCBA Gala, which is one of the OCBA’s largest fundraisers for the OCBA Foundation. Last year, OCBA president Jamie Billotte Moses awarded me the Outstanding Executive Council Member award for my pro bono service to the OCBA. Previously, as an active member of YLS, I chaired the annual Charity Golf Tournament as well as the Relay for Life. I would like to continue my involvement with the OCBA as an Executive Council board member, and I sincerely hope that you will consider me for this position. If you have any questions about my qualifications, please feel free to email me at adavis@bwsmiplaw.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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LAUREN C. HEATWOLE

Practicing for more than 13 years, Lauren Heatwole continually strives to deliver compassionate justice to her clients. Four years ago, she opened her own boutique law firm. As the managing partner of Heatwole Law Firm, P.A., Lauren practices family law and complex business litigation.

Lauren is dedicated to the OCBA, having spent much of her career in leadership positions. Lauren previously served as OCBA Young Lawyers Section (“YLS”) president, YLS treasurer, and YLS secretary. During her tenure as YLS president, Lauren served on the OCBA Executive Council. Lauren is also a past Board of Trustee member of the OCBA Legal Aid Society and is a Florida Bar Foundation Fellow.

Lauren presently serves on the Ninth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel. In addition, she also is a member of the OCBA Professionalism Committee and the Solo/Small Firm Committee. Committed to pro bono service, Lauren handles Guardian ad Litem cases. She was recognized as a Legal Elite Up & Comer in 2009 by *Florida Trend* Magazine and a Florida Rising Star in 2015, 2016, and 2017.



KAREN L. PERSIS

I am a solo practitioner, practicing in the areas of assisted reproductive technology law and adoption. Prior to opening my own firm, I worked at a small firm, and a large, multi-state law firm. I currently serve on the OCBA YLS Board, and as an elected member of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors. With my terms ending on both of these boards this June, I am looking forward to continuing my service to the local legal community. I am co-chairing the OCBA Gala this year, and have previously served as president of the Young Lawyers Section (2014-15), and have chaired numerous YLS committees since 2007. I also had the opportunity to serve on the OCBA Executive Council from 2014-15. I believe my familiarity with the state and local bar practices and procedures, as well as my experience working at different types of law firms in various areas of law, makes me uniquely qualified to serve you, because these experiences help me to better understand your needs. I am a person of action who will listen to my constituents and work hard to support them.

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RAFAEL O. RODRIGUEZ

My name is Rafael Orlando Rodriguez and I have been an attorney in the Central Florida area since 2009, serving my community as an assistant state attorney for nearly five years with the State Attorney's Office here in the Ninth Judicial Circuit, and now as a Guardian ad Litem during my free time as an insurance defense attorney. I am originally from the Orlando area and received my dual bachelor degrees from the University of Florida, and attended Barry University Law School. I am running for the OCBA Executive Council to further dedicate my time and talents to this great association that puts on some of the best events in the entire state. I have been the social chair for the Young lawyers Section of the OCBA for the past two years and have been on multiple committees and helped organize large events throughout my time with the YLS. I believe my background and experience will help make this organization the best it can be over the next three years.

Please vote for me, and thank you for taking the time to inform yourself about the candidates.



ANTHONY F. SOS

I appreciate your consideration of me to continue to serve on the OCBA Executive Council. I have been involved with the OCBA for the past 13 years. I am in my fourth year of service on the Executive Council. I have served on and chaired numerous committees, including the Evening with the Judiciary, Holidays in January, and Relay for Life just to name a few. I served as YLS president in 2012-2103. In this role, I aspired to make a positive difference by growing the membership base, raising the energy level, and increasing overall membership benefits and participation. I had the good fortune of achieving many goals, including but not limited to growing luncheon attendance by more than 300% (reaching a new monthly average attendance of approximately 100 members), reducing the cost of monthly luncheons by initiating a sponsorship program (still in place today), and organizing several networking opportunities. After YLS, I continued service by co-chairing the Law Week Committee for two years. I am in my second year of service on the Legal Aid Society Board of Trustees. Building on my years of bar service experience, my goal is to continue to better serve our members and community.

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RYAN WILLIAMS

Ryan Williams is a lifetime resident of Central Florida. He holds degrees from Rollins College and the University of North Carolina School of Law, where he served as an editor on the *North Carolina Law Review* and graduated with honors. Ryan has been a member of the Orange County League of Women Voters, the Orange County Chapter of the NAACP, and he currently he serves on the board of the Orange County Bar Association's Criminal Law Committee. Ryan has served on the Orange County Bar's Executive Council for the last three years, working on the Mentoring Committee as well as the Lawyer Referral and Information Service Committee. He helped form the Central Florida Community Initiative, a non-profit organization created to enhance the safety of Central Floridians by informing citizens about the role of the State Attorney's Office and the criminal justice system in our community. Ryan has spent most of his legal career as a prosecutor at the Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit. In nine years, he has prosecuted both misdemeanors and felonies, including sex crimes, child abuse, and capital murder cases. Ryan is currently the Director of Strategic Initiatives for State Attorney Aramis Ayala.