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**THE  
 FLORIDA  
 BAR**

[www.RPPTL.org](http://www.RPPTL.org)

May 9, 2016

Dear Executive Committee Members

Universal Studios, Islands of Adventure and the RPPTL Section's Annual Convention! Excitement and activities abound for your families and guests as we cap the RPPTL Section year with our Annual Convention with a balanced agenda of substance and libations. Do not miss out, complete and send in your Registration Form!

The center of action will be Lowe's Portofino Bay Hotel. Travel, reminiscing Italian Riviera charm and elegance with a friendly, laid back resort experience tuned to delight children and adults. Located at the epicenter of Orlando's attractions and distractions, the Portofino Bay Hotel is lakeside on Universal Park's boat shuttle launch system.

Resort Room guests enjoy exclusive Universal benefits including the "Fast Pass" skipping regular lines with the purchase of a park ticket, early admission to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, as well as complementary Park water taxis and shuttle busses and priority restaurant seating. Members of travel oriented organizations, such as the American Automobile Association, may have access to other significant discounts. Florida residents interested in purchasing a "Power Pass" may check their options on the Universal Park website.

Pulitzer Prize recipient Gil King takes leave of the firm set for his award winning book to captivate us as he recounts the little known events of a town just a few miles away, occurring not long ago. Presenting highlights of *Devil in the Grove*, Mr. King brings alive the circumstances of the time through his experiences researching and interviewing. Gil speaks at our RPPTL Section Annual Luncheon and Election Meeting on Friday June 2nd.

If you have not read the *Devil in the Grove*, a page turner, read it now. Learn about the lawyers who stood up to inconceivable threats, not just professionally, but also to their personal safety. The book is available at most libraries as well as through the book sellers including Amazon and Barnes & Noble. I will post a review of the book at [www.RPPTL.org](http://www.RPPTL.org).

The ubiquitous registration form is attached. Please complete and return the form as soon as possible to The Florida Bar. Delay serves no purpose, but the registration deadline is May 18, 2016. As requested in the past, to avoid confusion, please do not distribute either this letter or the Executive Council registration form. Separately posted and distributed will be a registration form for non-Executive Council members.

The Convention's detailed schedule is posted at [www.RPPTL.org](http://www.RPPTL.org). The RPPTL App is scheduled to be up shortly before the meeting and will include those materials which committees have timely posted. Committee agendas are also to be published on the committee web pages at [www.RPPTL.org](http://www.RPPTL.org). The Convention's summary schedule follows:

***Thursday, June 2nd:*** Arrive early for the packed schedule of committee meetings. Register for the delectable lunch buffet set up in the middle of our area to allow you to easily eat and attend meetings while catching up with your peers.

***Thursday Evening, June 2nd:*** Welcome each other, spouses and significant others, enjoying the heavy hors d'oeuvres reception located conveniently at the hotel. Later in the evening we will retreat to the "Suite" for more food, drink, and talk.

***Friday, June 3rd:*** Start the day with the RPPTL Runners and Mike Bedke. The starting line will be drawn on the lobby floor.

The foreign client, if you do not have them now, then you will shortly, requires different approaches; thus, Friday morning is dedicated for the Annual CLE, this year to assist you in serving the someone who is not an American citizen, but whose needs will be extensive, taxing the intellect. Explore practice nuances so that you can more than adequately provide representation. CLE registrants gather early for coffee and breakfast. Pat Meyer hosts the spouse and guest breakfast allowing them to catch up with each other and greeting newcomers.

Lunchtime commences the Annual Convention Election Meeting. Passing the theatrics of the national stage, the RPPTL Section will bestow annual awards, formally recognizing many hard working contributors to the Section. Gil King's presentation follows.

***Friday Evening, June 3rd:*** An elegant dinner awaits at Emeril's Thcoup Chop restaurant at the nearby Royal Pacific Resort. Named after the renowned chef's first restaurant on New Orleans Thcoupitoulas Street, he crafted a "Pacific Seas" menu presented in a festive atmosphere. Delivered by water taxi launch to the door, registrants, a reception starts the evening with passed treats, followed with a sit down plated dinner. The Suite will be open after dinner.

***Saturday, June 4th:*** It starts early. Take advantage of the opportunity to arrive early and catch up with friends you have not seen since our Tampa, February meeting, over our traditional hearty hot breakfast. Division roundtables follow at 8:00. The Executive Council Meeting starts sharp at 10:00 a.m. Council members please ensure that you attend as is mandatory, and that the agenda is reviewed well in advance.

After the meeting, please take advantage of all of the hotel and Universal has to offer.

***Saturday Evening, June 4th:*** When in Rome, or at least in Portofino, eat hearty and Italian. We have reservations at the Mama Della's, located in Universal's Loews Portofino Bay Hotel. Served family style with flavor, tradition, and gusto, Mama Della's is a favorite for all.

***Sunday June 5th:*** Roll out and slide easily into Trattoria del Porto. The breakfast buffet awaits, offers an extensive brunch. Space is set aside for RPPTL Section members to share their thoughts of the Convention and the year, laugh and plan the summer.

How does all this happen? There are many to whom thanks are due, but the 2016 Convention Committee deserves special recognition and kudos. Planning started literally over a year ago. Many thanks to 2016 Convention Committee Chair Laura Sundberg and Committee Co-Chairs Alex Hamrick and Alex Dobrev for their planning efforts.

The officers and I welcome you to Orlando and Universal Park. To help ensure that you have a place at the table, especially for space limited events, **please return your Registration Form as soon as possible but no later than Wednesday, May 18, 2016.**

Looking forward to welcome you in Orlando!

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Gelfand  
Chair