



ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM!!

**By: Honorable Chief Judge
Caryl E. Delano**

Do you remember that old Mazda commercial, “Zoom, Zoom, Zoom?” I say those words to myself every day now! If anything good has come out of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been that the Court and the Bar have experienced the benefits of embracing new technology. All of our judges are transitioning to at

least some Zoom hearings. And after months of telephonic-only hearings, we judges are so happy to see attorneys’ familiar faces on our video screens! The video hearings are so much easier for everyone involved, including attorneys who don’t need to drive to court and pay for parking. Even when life returns to “normal,” I predict that you will see the integration of video hearings into our regular calendars. And we can only expect videoconferencing capabilities to improve as time goes on.

As we all adjust to video hearings, and even some video trials, communication—among the attorneys and between the attorneys and the Court—becomes even more important. This puts the burden on attorneys, many of whom are used to working out their issues in the courthouse hallways before they walk into the courtroom, to actually TALK (or email or text) to each other before hearings. Please make a point of reaching out to your opposing counsel in advance of your hearings. It’s amazing how many issues can be resolved if the lawyers simply speak with each other. And, if a matter is settled before a hearing, please let the judge’s courtroom deputy know. This saves the judges and law clerks from unnecessarily preparing for hearings and also saves court time.

On a sad note, you all probably know that Rose Paskay passed away on September 23, 2020 (see her son Steve’s lovely tribute in the article below). Those of us in Tampa rarely saw Judge Paskay at a law-related social event without Rose being at his side. Rose devoted herself to caring for him and supporting his judicial career. She typed the manuscripts for each of his books (I’m hoping on an electric typewriter) and travelled across the country with him as he attended judicial conferences and seminars. For years, Rose travelled to Fort Myers twice a month in order to keep Judge Paskay company as he conducted hearings there.

After Judge Paskay passed away in 2012, Rose was delighted that she continued to be invited to the annual dinners of the TBBBA and the SWFBPA and to the keynote luncheon at the annual ABI/Paskay Seminar. Rose loved being the center of attention at the TBBBA's 2019 annual dinner. It was her 90th birthday, and she was thrilled when everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to her and presented her with flowers. It was only in the past year or so that she was no longer able to attend these events. In so many ways, Rose valued her relationships with the attorneys of the Middle District and the ways in which they kept Judge Paskay's memory alive. Her passing truly marks the end of an era.