



2026 Palm Beach County Bar Association Bench Bar Conference

March 6, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

County Civil/Small Claims Session I

Game Time Pressure: Managing Deadlines, AI, and Expectations in County Civil

This 75-minute session will focus on how judges and practitioners can effectively manage county civil and small claims cases amid increasing caseloads, strict time standards, and evolving technology. Panelists will discuss practical strategies for meeting Florida Supreme Court time goals, ethically leveraging AI tools, maintaining professionalism under pressure, and promoting early resolution through settlement and mediation.

Panelists: Aubin Robinson, Anton Smith, Judge Santo DiGangi, Judge M. Katherine Mullinax, Judge Danielle Sherriff

Session Moderators: Taniquea Reid, Esq. and Jameesha Rock, Esq.

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. The Clock Is Ticking: 12-Month Time Standards and Case Management Orders - Judicial perspectives on Florida Supreme Court time goals and proactive case management.
- III. Smart Plays: Using AI for Efficiency Without Overstepping - Ethical AI use for drafting, discovery, and research; confidentiality and Florida Bar implications.
- IV. Avoiding the Penalty Box: Civility Under Pressure - Maintaining professionalism despite caseloads and AI-driven speed expectations.
- V. Closing the Case Before the Buzzer: Settlement & Mediation Trends - Practical tips for resolving cases early; preparing clients for meaningful negotiations.
- VI. Audience Q&A; & Takeaways - Judges share top “winning plays” for managing dockets efficiently and ethically.