



2026 Palm Beach County Bar Association Bench Bar Conference

March 6, 2026

Time: 2:45 PM -3:45 PM

## Federal Courts Coming Off the Bench

This 60-minute session will cover the past, present, and future of practice in federal court. The panel will focus on topics like proposed rule changes, the accelerating use of AI, and emerging threats to our judiciary. The panel will also discuss preliminary relief in civil and criminal cases.

**Panelists:** U.S. Magistrate Judge Panayotta Augustin-Birch, U.S. Magistrate Judge Shaniek Mills Maynard, U.S. Magistrate Judge Ryon McCabe, U.S. Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart

**Session Moderator:** Hanna Rubin

### **1. Where We Are: A Look at Current Federal Practice**

- a. State vs. Federal - Judge Artau discusses how the federal bench differs from the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit and Fourth DCA
- b. Criminal Law - Judge Maynard compares her time as an AUSA to current federal criminal practice
- c. Civil Law - Judge Reinhart looks at how complex civil litigation has changed since he took the bench

### **2. Where We're Going: Rule Changes and Proposed Rule Changes**

- a. Civil Rules 16, 26, and new Rule 16.1
- b. Evidence Rule 801
- c. Forecasting the Future – Preliminary Draft Changes to Civil Rules 7.1, 26, 41, 45, and 81; Criminal Rule 17; and Evidence Rule 609 and new Rule 707

### **3. The Future is Now: Seeking Preliminary Relief in Federal Court**

- a. Tips and Tricks for Temporary Restraining Orders
- b. Best Practices for Preliminary Injunctions
- c. A state provisional remedy in federal court - Rule 64 do's and don'ts
- d. Pretrial Asset Freezes in Criminal Cases

### **4. Technology in Federal Courts: Dealing with the AI Explosion**

- a. AI-generated legal documents – the good, the bad, and the ugly
- b. AI in the courtroom – “deepfake” evidence, AI reconstructions, and more
- c. Current and proposed federal court rules on AI

### **5. Ethics & Professionalism: The Rule of Law and Preventing Attacks on Judges**