

*2025 Palm Beach County Bar Association's Bench Bar Conference  
March 7, 2025*



**Small Claims/County Court Civil Session II**

Time 10:00am -11:15am

This session focuses on how best to navigate small claims court and county civil matters.

Panelists: Judge Ori Silver, Judge Sarah Shullman, and Judge Santo DiGangi

Session Moderators: Christopher Kellam and Keith Hernandez

**AGENDA**

- I. State of County Civil Update**
  - a. Recent Changes to the Rules of Civil Procedure – effective January 1!**
  - b. Case management tracks = Case management orders**
    - i. Case management conferences**
    - ii. Trial date lead times**
    - iii. Judicial discretion on extensions/continuances**
  - c. Discovery – automatic disclosures**
    - i. Handling objections to automatic disclosures**
  - d. Conferral requirement for non-dispositive motions**
  - e. Motions for Summary Judgment – responses due!**
    - i. Rulings on the paper and oral arguments**
- II. Practice Pointers**
  - a. Divisional Instructions**
    - i. Consistency among divisions**
    - ii. Getting hearing time/online scheduling**
    - iii. What Constitutes an Emergency? When to file an Emergency Motion?**
  - b. Non-Jury Trials and pro se parties**
  - c. ZOOM appearance in County Court**
  - d. Use of Technology in Courtrooms**
  - e. Appeals from County Court**
  - f. Mediation Services**
- III. Professionalism still matters**
  - a. Courtroom Expectations of Lawyers**
  - b. Discovery Disputes**
- IV. Judicial Roundtable—Tell us your Preferences**
- V. Questions & Answers**