

From Chattel to Justice

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Tampa shareholder [Sylvia Walbolt](#) (Appellate Practice and Trial Support) and Andro Manko published "From Chattel To Justice" as part of the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society's African-American Experience Project. The article was presented at the annual Florida Bar Convention in Boca Raton. It traces the history of the Florida Supreme Court's treatment of African-Americans. When the Court was created, several of its justices were slave owners, and its decisions reflected that African-Americans were treated as chattel. Throughout the last century, the Court's decisions evolved on numerous issues, including voting and civil rights, and the struggle to allow African-Americans entry into the Florida Bar. Today, several African-American justices sit on the Court. The Court's ongoing evolution tells a remarkable story, and remains an important civil rights marker in the state.

[Click here](#) to read the entire article.



Sylvia Walbolt pictured in front of the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society African-American Experience Project display during The Florida Bar Convention in June 2010.

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