

# *Key Biscayne Bar Association hosts 27 lawyers at first meeting*

**By: CHARLOTTE MILLER**

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When James P.S. Leshaw announced he was leaving Greenberg Traurig in the city to open his own law firm on Key Biscayne, he spent his last days pondering a very important issue.

“Who am I going to have lunch with now?”

When Leshaw, who regularly commuted downtown by bicycle, realized his list of potential Key Biscayne lunchmates was mostly other lawyers, he envisioned getting together for one big lunch.

“I had that thought by the time I got to Harbor Drive; by the time I got to Crandon Park, I came up with the idea of the Key, Biscayne Bar Association,” said Leshaw, who was pedaling to Greenberg Traurig for the last time.

Leshaw ran the idea by a couple of friends and sent out an email to about 30 lawyers who either work or live on the Key and asked if they would be interested.

“Everyone who responded said ‘yes.’ A couple didn’t answer, but nobody said ‘no,’” Leshaw said.

Shortly thereafter, he sent out a second email announcing the first meeting and cocktail reception of the Key Biscayne Bar Association. The meeting, held recently at the Key Biscayne Yacht Club, attracted 27 lawyers.

“Partly social and partly networking is how I envisioned it,” said Leshaw, “but a lot of very good ideas came out of the first meeting.”

Ideas included volunteering to help the Village Council by advising or researching certain issues as a good way to give back to the community, or continuing legal educa-

tion opportunities.

Networking opportunities with the KBBA will be optimal, said Leshaw, who now does general transactional corporate work and mediations.

“There are a lot of lawyers who live and/or work in Key Biscayne. I know who they are, but I don’t know what kind of work they do,” he said. “It will be good to find out.”

While the Key Biscayne Bar Association is in its developing stages, current plans are to meet monthly. Informal elections were

held, putting Sandy Seltzer in charge of membership and Village Council member Michael Davey as head of Continuing Legal Education.

“This new organization is long overdue,” said Leshaw.

The Key Biscayne Bar Association is open to lawyers who live or work on Key Biscayne.

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