

'A Supreme Evening 2023' to feature investigating journalists discussing college admissions scandal, legal battles

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TALLAHASSEE (Dec. 12, 2022) — Wall Street Journal journalists and acclaimed authors Melissa Korn and Jennifer Levitz are the featured speakers for "A Supreme Evening 2023" on Thursday, Jan. 26, in Tallahassee.

As the major annual fundraiser for the Florida Supreme Court Historical Society, sponsorships and dinner reservations are now being accepted at [FICourtHistory.org/SupremeEvening2023](http://FICourtHistory.org/SupremeEvening2023).

Korn and Levitz co-authored "Unacceptable: Privilege, Deceit & the Making of the College Admissions Scandal" covering the investigation that exposed malfeasance in the most extensive college admissions scandal ever prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice, "Operation Varsity Blues."

The provoking keynote presentation will include

behind-the-scenes details of the investigation and legal battle that spanned the country and riveting accounts of the high-profile arrests and courtroom proceedings.

With unparalleled access to the families involved, the co-authors will also share exclusive insights into the parents' motivations and the operations of schemer Rick Singer who is to be sentenced in January 2023. They also conducted the only interview with one of the children involved giving his side of the story.

Historical Society Trustee and Past President Hank Coxe, also a Florida Bar past president, arranged the program after meeting the co-authors earlier this year.

"Melissa Korn and Jennifer Levitz, who covered all 51 criminal prosecutions in federal court, will make this rare in-person presentation about their experiences observing the families, prosecutors, defense counsel and the two federal judges. They will also provide insight into their observations of the judicial process," Coxe said.

Additionally, the annual dinner includes a State of the Court presentation by Florida Supreme Court Chief

Justice Carlos G. Muñoz and a special welcome to Justice Renatha Francis who joined the Court in August 2022.

"We expect excellent participation and a record attendance for the 2023 evening to be held at the FSU Dunlap Champions Club at Doak Campbell Stadium. Our justices and judges as well as our distinguished speakers deserve high recognition from our state's entire legal community," Scott R. Rost, Historical Society president, said.

"And we especially appreciate the support of our sponsors who so generously fund this unique opportunity to join the judiciary, colleagues and friends in furthering the Historical Society's mission," Rost added.

This year sponsors will receive additional benefits, including upgraded and premium level memberships in the Historical Society and signed copies of the book as well as reserved seats, on-site, online, and video acknowledgement, and receipts for possible tax deductions as charitable contributions.

For event and table sponsor information at various levels, visit [FICourtHistory.org/SupremeEvening2023](http://FICourtHistory.org/SupremeEvening2023) or call the Historical Society office at (850) 385-3098.

Individual dinner reservations are \$95 before Jan. 15, \$124 after Jan. 15, and \$144 at the door if still available.

"Unacceptable: Privilege, Deceit & the Making of the College Admissions Scandal" is published by Portfolio/Penguin Random House. Copies will be available for purchase at the dinner.

#### ● About the Historical Society

The Florida Supreme Court Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to maintaining records of people and events that shaped the evolution of Florida's court system since the early 1800s and to educating Floridians about the vital role of the Judicial Branch in our system of government. For more information, visit [www.FICourtHistory.org](http://www.FICourtHistory.org).

## Attorney Kepler Funk is selected as expert for the World Justice Project

MELBOURNE (Dec. 8, 2022) — Attorney Kepler Funk, of the Melbourne law firm of Funk, Szachacz & Diamond, was selected as an expert to contribute to the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index report.

Funk is a member of the International Criminal Court Bar and is "listed counsel" for the ICC in The Hague, Netherlands, and for the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. The 2022 report will be published in November.

The World Justice Project is based in Washington, D.C., with chairs that include former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, President Jimmy Carter, and Professor Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misnad.

Funk and partner Alan Diamond recently made national news in their successful defense of former Lake County Deputy Richard Palmer who was federally indicted by the Department of Justice's Washington, D.C.-based Civil Rights Division, with felony Violation of Civil Rights by shooting an unarmed woman as well as felony Obstruction of Justice.

Funk and Diamond presented world-renowned firearms expert Massad Ayoub, who testified that Palmer was justified in the shooting. Before the case going to the Tampa-based jury, Funk successfully argued that the Obstruction of Justice count be dismissed.

The jury then acquitted Palmer of the Civil Rights Violation charge.

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