

# Behind the Business .....

## Professional, Principled, Passionate Glenn J. Sneider, Attorney at Law

By Tonya Young

**G**lenn J. Sneider has been practicing law for more than 20 years. His faith-based practice has thrived in Okeechobee despite an economic downturn.

Sneider graduated from law school at Florida State University. He has been practicing law in South Florida since 1979 and practicing in Okeechobee since 1998, having moved his practice here from Broward County. Fourteen

years ago Sneider chose to leave the “drama” of big city law for a more “civil” place to practice law. This led him to Okeechobee.

The recent change in the economic climate “sparked serious soul searching regarding my business and personal life, and led me on a path of deeper connection with my Jewish roots,” Sneider said.

Sneider said his first commitment was

to keep Sneider Law in business and ensure employment for his office staff. Even though many were downsizing or drastically cutting employee hours, Sneider pledged to make every payroll, even when that meant he himself went without a paycheck.

Even with a failing economy, Sneider chose to increase his charitable contributions, his *tzedakah*. Sneider Law joined the Florida Rural Legal Services, taking part in its “Ask a Lawyer” program. While most would consider this pro bono work, he saw it as his “moral obligation to give back.” Ask a Lawyer allows those who otherwise couldn’t afford legal counsel to gain information at no cost.

“Now more than ever,” Sneider said, “there is a need to give back to the community, whether we do pro bono work or field questions to the public in conjunction with Florida Rural Legal Service. A lot of people are still hurting and need good legal information.”

In addition to his commitment to the Florida Rural Legal Services, Sneider also sponsors a \$1,000 scholarship for the Okeechobee High School Scholarship Night.

While soul searching, Sneider found a deeper level of connection to his Jewish roots. He is proud to say he is now an observant Jew. “Being an observant Jew is much different from just recognizing that I’m a Jew,” Sneider said. “I keep kosher, and I close for Sabbath and all



Glenn J. Sneider, Esq.

the Jewish holidays, which my employees love me for because there are a lot of holidays.”

Being an observant Jew has not only changed Sneider inwardly but outwardly as well. “I get a lot of questions about my outward appearance, my beard, my *kippah* and the fringes that hang from my shirt,” Sneider said.

A beard, a kippah and fringes all represent Sneider’s belief in something higher than himself, yet he still manages to keep his country flair. “I’m sort of an anomaly because I’m this observant Jew, yet I wear cowboy boots,” Sneider said. “It’s about perspective and interactions. In Okeechobee, people are comfortable asking questions, and I love it. How are we going to find out about each other if we don’t ask?”

Sneider explained that his kippah, a small cap, reminds him constantly that there is someone greater above himself. He also said the fringes hanging from under his jacket are *tzitzit*. “They are kind of forget-me-knots, that remind me of the obligation to our creator,” Sneider said.

In relation to his combination of “church and state” Sneider said, “Religion should be about ethics. For me it’s about consistently applying those ethics in my community, office and home. I strive to give back, to be honest and to give honest service in exchange for a client’s payment and trust.”

Sneider is proud to be a member of the Okeechobee community, both personally and in business. “I love my faith, and I love this community,” he said. “I’m



The Glenn Sneider Team (L-R):  
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proud to be employing a small office staff of locals. I’m grateful to be accepted for who I am. I believe that I was led here to practice this kind of law and be a bridge of understanding between our different faiths. Helping people is just part of my mission. If someone wants to stop me at the courthouse or Walgreens

and ask a question, it’s fine with me.”

Though Sneider’s belief, ethics and appearance code may differ from the norm, he said, “I think you have to give people credit to know what’s important. If you offer a great service, people will seek you out for that and not worry about the rest. Besides, we share the same

core values here centering on hard work, family, community and a belief that there is something bigger than us all.”

Sneider Law is located at 200 SW Ninth St. in Okeechobee. For more information, call (863) 467-6570 or visit [www.sneiderlaw.com](http://www.sneiderlaw.com). 