

**Business Law Section Pro Bono Committee
Meeting Minutes
Business Law Section Midyear Meeting
DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando, Orlando, Florida
January 17, 2019 – 8:30-9:30 a.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Marisa Dorough, Committee Chair, at 8:30 a.m.

I. Introductions of all attendees and BLS Fellows

II. Reading of the Mission Statement.

- a. Lynn Sherman, Vice Chair, read the Mission Statement of the Pro Bono Committee:
The mission of the Pro Bono Committee is to Achieve 100% participation in pro bono services by Business Law Section Members and the other attorneys in their firms.

III. Old Business

- a. The Minutes from the Meeting held on September 1, 2018 were unanimously approved.

IV. Ongoing Initiatives

- a. Promotion and Recognition of Pro Bono Service among BLS
 - i. “Pro Bono Pledge” campaign. A discussion was had concerning the Pro Bono Pledge campaign that was approved by the Pro Bono Committee by email vote prior to the meeting. Volunteers were solicited to introduce the Pro Bono Pledge campaign at the various meetings of the substantive committees.
 - ii. The “Embrace a Case” Challenge during last year’s Annual Meeting only resulted in 4 participants. A subcommittee will be created to determine whether to continue the Embrace a Case challenge at future meetings.
- b. A discussion was had concerning telephone meetings of the committee in between regularly scheduled in person meetings of the BLS. Upon motion made by John MacDonald and seconded by Mark Stein, the committee unanimously voted to schedule telephonic meetings of the Pro Bono Committee between the scheduled BLS in person meetings.
- c. Claud Nelson, Director of the Pro Bono Program for the Florida Bar Foundation provided the Committee with updates on Pro Bono Programs of the Florida Bar Foundation: Florida Pro Bono Matters, Florida Pro Bono Law School Challenge. The Florida Pro Bono Law School challenge has been a huge success. Mr. Nelson also provided information concerning a new pro bono program through The Florida Bar, “Certified Lawyers on Call” or “CLOC.”

Section Leadership Visits the Committee

The Executive Committee thanked the Pro Bono Committee for the important work of the committee. Mike Chesal, Chair, reminded the committee to keep our webpage current and up to date. Jay Brown, Vice Chair, requested input from the Committee regarding candidates for future section leaders. Each Committee was asked to provide a written report that mirrors the oral report of the Committee provided at Executive Council to assist the secretary of the Section in the preparation of minutes.

V. New Business

- a. A discussion was had regarding the creation of Standing and Temporary Subcommittees (*e.g.*, Website; Communications/Email Blasts; Best Practices Guide; Pro Bono Recognition; Pro Bono Week). A survey monkey survey will be sent to members of the Pro Bono Committee to allow members to volunteer for specific committees.
- b. Doug Bates suggested a brief video at the Section lunch on “real pro bono stories” as a way to encourage members to get involved in pro bono. The goal will be to get on the agenda for the annual BLS luncheon and present a live or video presentation of a real life pro bono case. An additional subcommittee will be created for Pro Bono Stories.
- c. The Committee discussed that the Pro Bono Best Practices Guide needs to be amended to reflect the changes to the Florida Rules impacting Pro Bono Service. A subcommittee will be created for this purpose.
- d. A discussion was had concerning whether the Committee would purchase a table at the Florida Bar Foundation Annual Dinner, June 27, 2019, Boca Raton, with tickets to be offered at full and subsidized prices to members of the section. Upon motion made by Mark Stein and seconded by John MacDonald, a motion unanimously passed to purchase one table (10 seats), with seats to be made available to members of the section at full and subsidized rates.

Announcement of the next meeting at the annual meeting of The Florida Bar in Boca Raton in June, 2019.

Ms. Dorough adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.