

Business Law Section Pro Bono Committee
Meeting Minutes
Business Law Section Winter Meeting
Hyatt Regency, Orlando, Florida
February 6, 2020 – 8:30-9:30 a.m.

I. Introduction and Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Lynn Sherman, Committee Chair, at 8:35 a.m. The Chair welcomed everyone and introduced herself, the Vice Chair, and the Judicial Chair. The Chair reminded everyone to identify themselves before speaking so the minutes would be accurate. Subsequently, attendees introduced themselves, and the meeting commenced.

II. Reading of the Mission Statement

Chair read the Pro Bono Committee's Mission Statement: "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. Approval of Minutes from Meeting of June 27, 2019

Carlos Sardi moved to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Lynn Sherman seconded, and the minutes were approved by acclamation

b. Report on Florida Bar Foundation Annual Dinner

Chair provided report and advised that the table is not working well for lack of interest within our membership.

To make up for it, the Chair proposed to pitch the Executive Council to make a matching contribution to the Florida Bar Foundation of \$10,000 upon having ten (10) attorneys from the Section signing up as fellows of the Florida Bar Foundation.

A lively discussion ensued among members about the idea and its implementation, including sending blast emails to the Section's membership to maximize donation to the Florida Bar Foundation. Also, it would be good to pitch judges to become fellows.

Chair made motion to approve the pitch to the Executive Council as proposed, Carlos Sardi seconded, and the same was then approved by acclamation.

IV. New Business

- a. Update on “Pro Bono Pledge” campaign
 - i. Chair reported that there were 50 participants in 2019
 - ii. Chair wants to improve the number of participants for 2020
 - iii. Recognition – Brainstorming
 - 1. Use Pins to identify participants
 - 2. Poster with names of participants
 - 3. Use banners
 - 4. Have Substantive Committee Chairs and Executive Council recognize participants
 - 5. Have a “Special Swag” for Labor Day Retreat
 - 6. Feature top participants in Florida Bar News article
- b. Update on “Pro Bono Stories” video
 - i. Co-Chair provided an update
 - ii. Judges video is the next project to be worked on, and possibly featured at the Labor Day Retreat
- c. Pro Bono Opportunities for Transactional Lawyers
 - i. Discussion ensued on how to best promote pro bono work for transactional lawyers. These included the following: promoting not for profit work, staffing clinics, promoting mentorships and phone a friend, moderating a CLE
 - ii. Transactional lawyers and all lawyers have as additional resource for pro bono service the ABA’s Florida Free Legal Answers which can be found at <https://florida.freelegalanswers.org>. Attorneys can register to provide on the spot pro bono services on specific legal questions. Chair made a request to make sure that the link to the ABA’s Florida Free Legal Answers be promoted and posted in the Committee’s webpage.

V. Update from the Subcommittees

- a. Best Practices Guide
 - i. John MacDonald reported that the update to the Best Practices Guide is complete and presented a copy of it to the Committee members for its discussion and approval.
 - ii. A lively discussion ensued among members about the revisions to the Best Practices Guide, particularly as it related to “emeritus lawyers.”
 - iii. Chair made motion to approve the revised Best Practices Guide as proposed by Mr. MacDonald, Carlos Sardi seconded, and the same was then approved by acclamation. John MacDonald agreed to circulate a clean version of the new Best Practices Guide to be published in the Committee’s webpage.
- b. Communications/Recognition
 - i. Working on new ways to communicate pro bono opportunities
 - ii. Pro Bono Stories Series was a success and will continue delivery of the same
 - iii. Subcommittee chair to provide an update at the next meeting
- c. Website

- i. Discussion ensued about the need to post additional information on webpage to update old information and links
- ii. Subcommittee chair to provide an update at the next meeting

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Lynn Sherman moved to adjourn, and Carlos Sardi seconded, and the same approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.