

**Pro Bono Committee, Business Law Section
Minutes for the August 30, 2014 Meeting**

Attendees: Jennifer Morando, Chair
Judge Laurel Isicoff, Judicial Chair
Greg Coleman, President Florida Bar
David Prather, Board of Governors
Bill Schifino, Board of Governors
Keith Appleby
Maxine Long
John Macdonald
Judge Cathy McEwen
Mark Stein
Amanda Perry
Marisa Rosen
Paul Singerman

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:30 a.m.
2. The minutes of the June 26, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Jennifer Morando read the mission statement of the Pro Bono Committee:

The mission of the Pro Bono Committee is to achieve 100% participation in Pro Bono Service by Business Law Section members and attorneys in their firms.

4. Pro Bono Projects for 2014-2015
 - a. Clinics

The Committee discussed continuing the clinics for 2014-2015. John McDonald reported on the non-profit pro bono clinic scheduled for Jacksonville for October 28, 2014 at Florida Coastal Law School and will be done in connection with the Jacksonville Legal Association. The Committee also discussed possibly expanding the clinics to West Palm Beach and Pensacola. Mark Stein agreed to approach members of the Executive Council practicing in these cities about chairing a clinic for this fiscal year. The Committee agreed it was critical to find two lawyers in each city to act a chair and vice-chair of the clinics so that there is yearly succession planning. Paul Singerman advised that Debi Geller in his firm would agree to act as chair of the Miami clinic for this year. In addition to Jacksonville, clinics will continue in Miami (Debi Geller), Fort Lauderdale (Jeff Hirsch), Orlando (TBD), Tampa (TBD) and Tallahassee (Janeia Ingram Daniels). The Chair will schedule a telephone conference call to further discuss both the schedule of the clinics for this year as well as the succession planning.

b. Best Practices Sub-Committee

Both David Prather and Bill Schifino agreed to bring the Best Practices Guide to the Board of Governors and to help distribute it both to the other sections and possibly on the big bar website. The sub-committee continues to have a goal to create a draft model pro bono policy. However, no date was set to complete this project.

c. Tear Off Sheets

The Committee discussed creating short videos about pro bono services and agreed to continue work on creating “tear off” sheets with contact information of local organizations that provide pro bono services. The videos would be in the style of the ONE Campaign and Gary Yordon, the videographer for the ONE Campaign was recommended. The “tear sheets” would be a single piece of paper on which a potential pro bono client would have the name and contact information for the agencies providing pro bono services in the relevant county. The Chair will follow up with Mindy Mora regarding the status of both projects.

5. Section Update

Section Chair Judge Bill Van Nortwick and Chair Elect, Alan Howard and Secretary-Treasurer Jon Pollenberg gave a brief Section report. Chair Van Nortwick thanked the Committee for its efforts. Alan Howard and Jon Pollenberg encouraged the Committee to find a use for the \$10,000 allotted to it by the Section’s budget.

6. Pro Bono Week

Pro Bono week is October 20-24, 2014. Judge McEwen reported on activities scheduled in Tampa during Pro Bono week. She suggested members of the committee approach the pro bono organizations in each of their counties to find out what activities are scheduled and how the committee and other BLS members can participate.

7. Lawyers in Libraries

Judge Isicoff agreed to explore ways to promote this opportunity to section members. This is a national project in which lawyers assist librarians with legal resources.

8. HELP

This is an ABA program providing legal services to homeless people. Judge McEwen proposed the section participate. There was discussion about how the committee and the section could participate, but no plan was agreed upon.

9. Website Content

The Chair advised that the Communications and Social Media Committees has requested each committee to provide content for the new website. Maxine Long and Mark Stein agreed to work with the other committees to provide content for the Pro Bono Committee sections of the new BLS website.

10. Memorandum of Understanding

This was a document regarding the Institute for Non Profit Innovation circulated by Janeia Ingram Daniels. No one present at the meeting had any information about the project so discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

11. Pro Bono Story of the Month

The group again discussed the pro bono story of the month and agreed that it is worth continuing, and trying to revive this program despite lack of participation. While the entire committee views this project as worthy, no one has volunteered to take the project on and therefore it remains dormant.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.