



Pro Bono Committee Report

Date: January 16, 2014

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Event: Inaugural Tallahassee area Nonprofit Pro Bono Legal Clinic
Wednesday, May 14, 2014 @ Tallahassee Community College Center for Workforce Development
in conjunction with the 15th Annual United Partners for Human Services Conference for Excellence
in Nonprofit Management

Sponsors:

- Confirmed co-sponsors:
 - [Florida Government Bar Association](#) (FGBA)
 - I submitted a proposal on behalf of FGBA
 - [Legal Services of North Florida](#) (LSNF)
 - Volunteer recruitment and training, malpractice insurance coverage; on-site and ongoing support
 - [United Partners for Human Services](#) (UPHS)
 - UPHS, in cooperation with Leadership Tallahassee, hosts a very popular and well-attended conference at the local community college that draws nearly 200 nonprofit executives and directors from throughout the multi-county area each year. Attendees register for a selection of concurrent workshops/seminars covering financial management, procurement, branding, HR, social media, ethics, etc. Click here to view [last year's schedule](#). They have agreed incorporate the Legal Clinic as one of the on-site offerings for attendees.
 - [FSU College of Law](#)
 - law student volunteers, research assistance for the training manual
- Prospective Sponsors:
 - [United Way for the Big Bend](#)

Activities to Report:

- I submitted a proposal for The Florida Bar's 2013-2014 Diversity Leadership Grants on behalf of FGBA and in support of the Pro Bono Clinic. This collaboration derives from a desire to offer more non-litigation pro bono opportunities for government attorneys and to raise awareness of pro bono programs supported by the Business Law Section. The parameters of the grant (which has been approved) will require that the non-profits served through the Clinic have the primary purpose to serve low-income and disadvantaged populations and for whom paid legal services would be a hardship. This will ensure that LSNF's malpractice insurance coverage can apply to those who need it and that the volunteer attorneys can report their hours as pro bono. Also, the nonprofits will be advised on the legal aspects of maintaining an equal opportunity workplace to further fulfill the requirement of the grant. Ideally, we wish to use a portion of the grant funds (\$1500) to research and write a reference manual for the volunteer attorneys based on the skeleton "Checklist for Attorney

Consultation with Nonprofit Organizations” I developed. It will take the form of the [reference manual currently used by volunteers of LSNF’s Telephone Legal Advice Helpline](#) and can be utilized by other Clinics throughout the state.

- In an effort to “raise the consciousness” of area nonprofit executives in preparation for the event, I began a monthly “Lunch and Learn” series through UPHS that focuses on general legal issues facing nonprofits. The first one, titled “Nonprofit Legal Check-up: An Overview,” drew 15 attendees. This month’s lunch will cover financial reporting matters, followed by a “Bylaws check-up” in February.
- On a related note, Tallahassee Community College is in the process of starting a Nonprofit Resource Center. I’ve met with many of the spearheads for this initiative (including TCC President Jim Murdaugh and Vice President for Workforce Development Kim Moore), and they love the concept of the Clinic and are interested in pursuing ways to incorporate legal assistance into the new Resource Center.

Request for Support:

- Announcement from the Business Law Section in late March/early April to members notifying them of the event and soliciting volunteers, including links for the information letter and online registration (similar to the one recently sent for Broward clinic)