

**Florida Bar Business Law Section**  
**DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 1, 2012**

Meeting called to Order at 9:02a.m.

**Presiding:** Leyza Blanco, Esq., Chair

**Present:** – Members in attendance signed sign-in sheet. See attached.

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-Chair Blanco introduced herself and Vice-Chair, Detra Shaw-Wilder, to the Diversity Committee (“Committee”) and discussed implementing the strategic plan previously adopted by the Committee.

-Minutes from the prior meeting were provided and read. Motion to approve minutes was seconded and approved.

-Committee Members introduced themselves and the substantive committees represented. The following Business Law Section (“Section”) substantive committees were represented:

- Membership
- Intellectual Property
- Computer Technology
- Bankruptcy /LLC
- Securities
- Long Range Planning
- Business Litigation

-Discussion had regarding the importance of each substantive committee sending a representative to the Committee. Motion seconded and approved that the Chair would request the Executive Council to require each substantive committee to designate a specific representative to the Committee so that the Committee can have consistent membership..

-Discussion had regarding implementation of the Strategic Plan. Further, discussion had regarding the need for and the plan for the Committee to develop a Leadership Roundtable of past Section leaders to provide insight and guidance into how to succeed and rise through the leadership ranks of the Section.

-Chair Blanco provided members with a list of minority voluntary bar organizations and discussion had that members should reach out to anyone that they know on the list to solicit participation in the Section. It was noted that the list was not complete and in some cases the contact information was outdated given the change in leadership each year. Arnelle Bryant-Willis, Florida Bar Diversity Director, volunteered to provide an updated list of minority voluntary bar organizations.

-Chair Blanco discussed her plan to send a letter to each minority voluntary bar association inviting their members to participate in the Section. Judge McEwan noted that the Committee should assign a member to attend at least one meeting on the minority bar organizations and make a pitch on behalf of the Section.

-Arnelle Bryant-Willis provided copies and discussed the Florida Bar's demographics data. Ms. Willis explained that the demographics data shows diversity in total. The list is accurate based on reporting but not necessarily an accurate reflection of diversity of the actual membership because reporting is voluntary. Ms. Willis is working with Mike Farina from the Florida Bar to obtain improved and more accurate data. Ms. Willis agreed to obtain additional data that has the Section membership numbers broken out by demographics. Chair Blanco thanked Ms. Willis for attending the meeting.

-Chair Blanco lead a discussion of adopting some of the ideas in the Florida Bar Diversity in the Legal Profession Plan. Motion seconded and approved that the Committee adopt and implement the Florida Bar's Diversity in the Legal Profession Plan. Chair Blanco will make recommendation to the Executive Council.

-Discussion had regarding requesting that LGBT be included as a demographics category on the Florida Bar membership renewal form. Chair Blanco agreed to make a request on behalf of the Committee.

-Discussion had regarding increasing diversity and membership. Judge McEwan recommended that we offer young lawyers and law students free membership in the Section.

-Discussion had regarding the Section's participation in Minority Mentoring Picnic. Chair Blanco will coordinate the Section's tent at the picnic. Discussion had that the Committee will have membership applications and a sign-in sheet that requests the students to provide their area(s) of interests.

Meeting adjourned.

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