

**Minutes of Inclusion, Mentoring and Fellowships Committee at the
Florida Bar Business Law Section Mid-Year Meeting, on January 22, 2014**

Attendees:

Leyza Blanco, **Chair**

Paul Orshan, **Vice Chair**

Amir Isaiah

Hon. Gil S. Freeman, **Judicial Chair**

Hon. Cathy McEwen

Carlos Sardi

Sara Paris

Chris Broussard

Hon. John Olson, **Judicial Chair**

Paul Pakidis

Adam Benbassat

Xinning Shirley Liu

Arnell Bryant-Willis

Leanne Prendergast

Committees Represented:

BKC/UCC

Bankruptcy Judicial Liaison

IP

Business Litigation

Membership

Antitrust/Franchise

Computer/Tech

Corporation/Securities

Long Range Planning

Meeting Called to Order at 8:35 a.m.

The minutes from the August 31, 2013 meeting were approved.

Update on Fall Events:

Chair Blanco reported on the status of upcoming events.

9/5/13 - Alan Howard made a presentation at the GW Perkins Bar Assn. at Jacksonville Lunch Meeting regarding the benefits of BLS membership. Follow-up is needed with the members.

9/21/13 – FAMU Law School Diversity Mentoring Picnic in Orlando. This event is just starting off. Several members attended along with Professor Bullock and thanks to those who attended..

10/17/13 – Joint Program with CABA – Business Court Judicial Roundtable with Judge Bailey and Judge Thornton. The roundtable discussed the new administrative order and was well attended. Leyza Blanco will follow-up with Judge McEwen about scheduling a similar event with the Hillsborough County Bar Assn.

10/23 – 10/24/13 – Trial Skills Workshop for Minority Business Lawyers. The BLS co-sponsored this event with CABA and the Caribbean Bar Assn. Judge Freeman reported that the workshop had an outstanding faculty and great feedback was received. The facilitators and the participants enjoyed the workshop.

There was discussion about looking into doing a similar workshop in another location around the state and Judge Freeman said she would contact the Orlando business court judges and Judge Blackwell and would report back at the June meeting.

11/9/13 – Kozyak Minority Mentoring Picnic – The Picnic was well-attended and a number of people showed up to help at the booth and meet students. Paul Orshan presented the BLS check to the Kozyak Foundation. Also noted were great efforts for BLS attendance at the pre-picnic events.

Upcoming Events

2/22/14 – Chester Ferguson Law Center Event – similar to the minority events. Volunteers are needed to attend and speak with students. A raffle award has already been approved.

Judge Freeman moved that the remainder of the allocated sponsorship be used for the raffle. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Committee Name Change and Mentoring Process

There was discussion about the change of the committee name and how to move forward with fellowship and mentoring programs. There was discussion to speak with Alan Howard and assign mentees to various members of the BLS and look at different kinds of mentoring for students as opposed to new members.

There was an introduction of Shirley Liu, Asst Gen Counsel at FIU who is one of the BLS Fellows. The Committee discussed ways to reach out to others. It was suggested that a list of volunteer mentors be started so that mentees can obtain both substantive and social mentoring.

This Committee is getting great support from the BLS. The budget has increased from \$2,000 to \$20,000 which shows the BLS commitment to the committee's areas.

Detra Shaw-Wilder recommended that there is a great pool of people available and suggested that the BLS leadership be asked to require all Chairs and Vice Chairs to serve as mentors to help new members understand how to move through the section leadership process. We need to be more welcoming to new minority members.

Leyza Blanco said that when she gives her report at Executive Council she will raise these ideas and ask that all Chairs and Vice Chairs serve as mentors. She also reported that each committee of the BLS used to be required to have a designee to the IMF Committee and that should be continued. The discussion was that the Section should require it and that there should be a discussion with Judge van Nortwick. Perhaps ambassadors could be used to help show the way. It was also discussed that some members may not know how to be mentors and may need some guidance

Detra Shaw-Wilder moved to request that the EC require each Chair and Vice Chair of a committee to serve as a mentor. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

A subcommittee was formed to decide who the mentors should be:

Leyza Blanco
Carlos Sardi
Amir Isaiah
Detra Shaw-Wilder
Sara Paris

It was suggested that the subcommittee look at how other organizations mentor new members and that this subcommittee should look at needs and structure.

Fellows Program

It was discussed that perhaps the Committee should look into have a Law Student Fellows program to try to encourage student attendance at BLS meetings.

New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.