

**Minutes of Diversity Committee Meeting at Midyear Meeting  
of Florida Bar Business Law Section, on June 27, 2013**

**Attendees :**

Leyza Blanco, <b>Chair</b>	Sarah Paris
Detra Shaw-Wilder, <b>Vice Chair</b>	Jim Moon
Hon. John Olson	John Dumas
Hon. Gill Freeman	Kathy Mitchell
Peter Valori	Marianne Dorris
Carlos Sardi	John Dorris
Woody Pollack	Elizabeth Green
Paul Orshan	Amir Isaiah
Liz Green	

**Sections Represented:**

BKC/UCC	Antitrust/Franchise
Bankruptcy judicial Liaison	Computer/Tech
IP	Corporations/Securities
Business Litigation	

**Meeting called to Order at 1:35p.m.**

Diversity Chair Blanco reported on the Diversity Committee's participation in the **Central Florida Diversity Event**. The Committee gave away a travel stipend for the Labor Day Retreat as a raffle prize and distributed give-way items to the attendees.

Chair Blanco discussed the Committee's co- sponsorship of the **Joint Luncheon Seminar on the Practical Aspects of Bankruptcy Law**. The co-sponsors were the Wilkie D. Ferguson Bar Association, Business Law Section, Florida Bar and the Bankruptcy Bar Association. Vice Chair Shaw-Wilder attended the event and reported that the event had a diverse panel and good attendance.

Chair Blanco reported that the Committee successfully applied for a **Diversity Grant** from the Florida Bar. The grant will be used to underwrite the **Business Litigation Skills Workshop** the Committee will co-sponsor with CABA and CBA in the Fall.

Chair Blanco reported on the Section's **Fellows Program** which will now be spearheaded by the Committee instead of the Long-Range Planning Committee. The Committee will reach out to voluntary bar groups for applicants. Chair Blanco requested approval of the Fellowship Application and Criteria, which were distributed to the Committee. Kathy Mitchell asked whether the age criteria is relevant. Discussion had as to whether there should be an age

restriction for the Fellowship given that there are people who are older who may have left the practice and returned and who now need mentoring. Jim Moon moved that the Committee revise the criteria to years of practice instead of years admitted. Judge Olson seconded. Unanimous approval.

Chair Blanco further discussed the **Business Litigation Committee Workshop** and requested volunteers to coordinate and administer the program. Judge Freeman will be responsible for the program and the schedule. Judge Freeman recommends that the program is open to 24 people. She asked for proposed dates so that she can coordinate with potential faculty. The Committee will be responsible for coordinating the luncheon and reception during the program. Judge Freeman then gave an overview of the program. Chair Blanco discussed the Budget for the program. Sarah Paris, Paul Orshan and Jim Moon volunteered to assist in coordinating the program.

Chair Blanco stressed that this is the type of event that the Committee should support and that it is opening doors for the Section to do joint programming. She requested that others seek opportunities in other parts of the State. Discussion had regarding reaching out to the LGBT community and suggestions were given regarding the organizations throughout the state (GALLA, GCLN, CIBLA, CFGLA).

Ms. Bryant-Willis reported on the Section's participation in the **Florida Bar Leadership Academy** and the funding of the Section's Bar Fellows. Discussion had regarding whether or not the funding for the Section's participants in the Leadership Academy will come from the Committee's Budget. Brian Gart attended briefly and advised that the funding for the Sections' Leadership Academy participants is separate from the Diversity Committee's funding and does not come from the same budget.

Chair Blanco discussed the initiative to allow **Self Reporting of LGBT Status on the Florida Bar Renewal Forms**. Mike Higer reached out to the Florida Bar to inquire about the possibility of requesting this information. Ms. Bryant-Willis reported that the Bar stated that this would not be possible at this time. A discussion had regarding various surveys and reporting initiatives throughout the State.

Paul Orshan recommended that the Committee also reach out to small and solo practitioners because there are a lot of practitioners in that area who may be interested in the Section if someone reached out to them.

Committee meeting adjourned.