

**MINUTES PRO BONO COMMITTEE
BUSINESS LAW SECTION OF THE FLORIDA BAR
July 19, 2012
Orlando, FL**

Attending the meeting: Judge Van Nortwick, Judge McEwen, Mark Stein, Jeffrey Hirsch, Jennifer Morando, Russell Landy, John Macdonald, Paul Singerman, Douglas Bates, Kris Aungst, Susan Sharp, Sam Lewis, Brad Saxton, and Tara Trevorrow.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

- I. Approval of Minutes - Maxine Long moved to approve the minutes of the December 2011 meeting. Judge Van Nortwick seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.
- II. Recitation of Pro Bono Mission Statement
- III. Update on Current Pro Bono Projects
 - A. Jacksonville non-profit clinic (John Macdonald) - The last clinic was held in September 2011. Based upon the success of this event, a second clinic will be held later this year. The planning phase for this event has begun.
 - B. Tampa (Susan Sharp) - Tampa's state of affairs with respect to a pro bono clinic for nonprofit agencies is similar to Jacksonville; the key idea at this point is simply getting the word out that the clinic exists.
 - C. Miami (Mark Stein) - Miami had a respectable turn-out for its event, but also needs to focus on getting the word out to nonprofit agencies. The last event had an attorney-to-nonprofit ratio of 2 attorneys per nonprofit.
 - D. Question: Should we repeat the event next year?
 - i. Jacksonville - yes
 - ii. Tampa - yes, but Judge McEwen noted that the need for a nonprofit clinic may not be as great in Tampa because of existing efforts led by other organizations
 - iii. Miami - yes
 1. Maxine noted that smaller arts organizations in Miami could use some help.
 2. Mark and others discussed using the United Way as a source of referrals to get the word out. General consensus

is that although it is a good idea in theory, the United Way has not been terribly helpful to date.

E. Further discussion: Expand the program next year (new locations, new goals)?

i. Not sure, but definitely want to do a repeat (another clinic)

ii. Suggestions from the Committee included:

1. Try using CPA organizations as a source of referral information
2. Reaching out to other Bar Sections (like Tax) too coordinate efforts
3. Consider contacting churches for information
4. Possibly reach out to Catholic Charities for information
5. Expansion into Orlando (Brad Saxton to contact the Orange County Pro Bono group).

IV. Financial Literacy in Schools

A. General consensus: This is a good program, but not really within the purview of the Pro Bono Committee. We should let it go.

V. Raffle During Retreat (Russell Landy)

A. Discussion regarding specific goal

B. Something realistic, targetable, etc.

C. Committee decided not to proceed with this idea.

VI. Issue of Letter from Southern District BBA (request for funds)

A. Giving money to bar foundation so that funding can go to everyone in Florida. Generally supported but not voted on specifically.

VII. General discussion of what BLS pro bono committee can we do to increase pro bono activity amongst members?

A. Gather list of all programs and be a clearinghouse of information

B. Website: What does the Pro Bono page say?

i. Where/what sites should we link to?

- ii. Discussion of how to improve website
- iii. Generate list of attorneys interested in taking cases

VIII. Pro Bono Policies - Develop best practices

- A. Roll out campaign
- B. Judge Isicoff to create a model policy.

IX. Specific Ideas to Increase Pro Bono Activity

- A. Susan Sharp - have each member write a Pro Bono story
 - i. Generally agreed to by the Committee. Susan Sharp will circulate a list of people.
- B. Sam Lewis - beef up the website
- C. Miami Pro Bono Summit
 - i. Discussion led by Judge Van Nortwick

Meeting Adjourned