

Jacksonville reach out to their local United Way organizations as well to boost non-profit participation. The 2013 clinic is already expected to be larger than the 2012 clinic. This year, the organizers decided to reach out to the arts and cultural sector as well. The organizers are working with the University of Miami for both location of the clinic as well as law student volunteers. Judge Isicoff suggested that, as the various organizers develop “liaisons” for communicating with the non-profits, the liaisons should be educated so that they can pair non-profits with pro bono counsel in between clinics. Mark Stein discussed that Miami United Way has quarterly luncheons and suggested that Tampa and Jacksonville check to see whether their local United Ways have similar functions.

c. Tampa

Susan Sharp gave a report on the upcoming Tampa non-profit clinic tentatively scheduled for April 11, 2013 or April 18, 2013. Organizers have been working with Bay Area Legal services to reach out to local non-profits and have also been utilizing Judge McEwen’s contacts with the Tampa Tribune. Based on the success in Miami, Tampa organizers also plan to reach out to the local United Way. The organizers plan to work with Stetson University to incorporate law student volunteers.

d. General Discussion re. Non-Profit Clinics

Maxine Long inquired whether the Committee’s efforts are helping non-profits (or potential non-profits) that need assistance in applying for 501(c)(3) status. Maxine suggested that the committee consider hosting a seminar on formation of a 501(c)(3). There was some discussion that larger firms frequently assist in formation of non-profits and applying for 501(c)(3) and that the Committee could reach out to large firms to ascertain how they vet the startup non-profits. Murray Silverstein suggested that clinic organizers reach out to large firms in their area and request that the firms contact the clients for whom the firm has formed a 501(c)(3) for purposes of advertising the clinics.

John MacDonald and Mark Stein discussed pro bono round tables in Jacksonville and Miami, respectively. There was some discussion on whether these groups should be utilized as a clearing house for Committee projects. The group decided that Committee initiated projects should remain with the Committee. In the event the Committee takes on a project that is too big, the Committee will revisit the idea of utilizing the round tables, if necessary. Susan Sharp and Jennifer Morando will check on whether Tampa and Orlando, respectively, have similar groups.

5. Pro Bono Best Practices Guide

Judge Isicoff gave an update on the Pro Bono Best Practices Sub-Committee. The objective of the sub-committee is to develop a model pro bono policy for the Business

Law Section. The group has met telephonically and is reviewing pro bono policies received from various law firms as well as a model policy by the Oregon Bar Association. When complete, the sub-committee would like the best practices proposal to be published to the Section website. There was some discussion on whether the policy should be adopted by the Committee, the Section, or both. The group decided that the policy should be adopted by the Section and, therefore, will need to be approved by the Executive Council. There was some discussion on the lack of information that the sub-committee has concerning the pro bono practices and policies within small firm policies. There are no relevant materials available on LOMAS for small firms. The group discussed that a pro bono policy is important even in small firms for insurance purposes. Phil Kabler agreed to join the sub-committee to share his perspective as a small firm owner and practitioner.

6. Section Update

Section Chair Brian Gart, Chair Elect Steph Nagin, and Secretary-Treasurer Hon. William Van Nortwick joined the meeting to give a brief update on the Section. Chair Gart discussed that the Section has received a lot of positive feedback concerning the Section's pro bono efforts. The Section has increased the budget for the Pro Bono Committee for fiscal year 2012-2013. Chair Gart expressed that there is an expectation for Section and the Committee to get a return on the increased budget and urged the Committee to think about how we can achieve a return. Chair Gart also encouraged the Committee to incorporate law students when possible in order to further the membership goals of the Section.

7. Pro Bono Story of the Month

The group discussed the lack of participation in the pro bono story of the month. There was some discussion on whether the Committee should continue to pursue this project. The group discussed that the project was worthwhile and required minimal labor and, therefore, decided to keep the project going.

8. New Business

a. iDignity

Mark Stein discussed iDignity, an organization that helps indigent people obtain photo identification. The program hosts clinics to educate and assist people with obtaining the information required in order to obtain a photo ID. The program is soliciting volunteers and finds lawyer volunteers particularly helpful. The group discussed whether the work of iDignity would constitute pro bono and decided that it would not because it does not involve provision of legal service, merely volunteer work.

b. Donation Request from OCBA

Mark Stein discussed a letter received from the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association requesting a donation from the Committee. The group discussed whether it was appropriate for the Committee to make donations. The group decided the Committee's policy should be against donating money as the Committee is intended to encourage attorneys to provide pro bono legal services and not for raising or donating money. If an organization is in need of attorney volunteers, then that is something the Committee would be willing to help with. The group discussed developing a template for a form response as we anticipate more donation requests to be received now that word of the Committee is spreading.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.