

## MINUTES

### **THE BUSINESS LAW SECTION OF THE FLORIDA BAR PRO BONO COMMITTEE**

**September 4, 2010  
Naples, Florida**

Attendance: Judge Bill Van Nortwick, Judge Laurel Isicoff, Susan Sharp, Paul Steven Singerman, Mark Stein, Sam Lewis, Lisa Schiller, Vicky Ryan, and Gwynne Young. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

#### **I. INTRODUCTIONS**

- A. We all introduced ourselves. Judge Van Nortwick told those present how and why the committee was formed.
- B. We then discussed the genesis of the proposed meeting agenda.

#### **II. PRELIMINARY IDEAS –**

- A. We discussed the drop in pro bono levels and what are the causes of the drop. Judge Van Nortwick talked about the One Campaign and how and why it got started.
- B. DISCUSSION OF ABA PROJECT – FOSTER CARE
  - 1. We discussed current Florida programming
  - 2. Maybe we can partner with ABA – be Florida partners
- C. Getting Involvement by Membership
  - 1. Policy Statement –  
Paul Steven Singerman suggested:
    - create a protocol for pro bono work for the Section
    - require each CLE steering committee chair liaise with the pro bono committee –
    - open each CLE program or committee meeting with a brief description of pro bono opportunities and client testimonials, get materials relevant for that particular market and have materials available, and maybe have a lawyer who did the case get up and speak.
    - build all this into our next resolution.
  - 2. RPPTL's have a very committed pro bono committee
    - a. They have circuit reps that pass out sign up sheets to get volunteers involved.
  - 3. Michael Higer and Mindy Mora came in and we presented our thoughts on this to them.
  - 4. Judge Van Nortwick – we need/want Executive Counsel to support the concept that we coordinate with the CLE committee on the CLE pro bono

- concept.
5. Gwynne told us about one bar group that brings a board with descriptions of different cases to each meeting.
  6. We discussed the benefits of pro bono and why and how we can educate law firms on those benefits.
  7. Judge Isicoff discussed how in Miami the local bankruptcy bar has been working with the University of Miami business school on business models for pro se clinics and for law schools with law school clinics.
  8. Judge Van Nortwick will provide examples of different opportunities for Business Law Section members.
- D. We then drafted a proposed resolution based on the suggestion by Paul Singerman. We discussed and developed the resolution to be presented to the Executive Council on Monday.

*Be it resolved, that the Business Law Section, encourages pro bono service by its membership; and*

*Be it further resolved that as part of its efforts to further and support pro bono service, the Business Law Section supports the Pro Bono Committee partnering with the CLE Committee and other committees of the Business Law Section to include a brief (3-5 minutes) presentation re-affirming the Business Law Section's support of and commitment to pro bono service at CLE programming and other appropriate Section events.*

- E. We then discussed a resolution on a law firm pro bono policy.
1. We decided not to do a formal resolution
  2. Judge Van Nortwick said he will announce at the Executive Council meeting that we are taking a survey of what pro bono policies firms have and if a firm has such a policy, please send it to us – we would like to publish some of those policies on our website as samples for those firms that didn't have a pro bono policy.
- F. FASH designee – Susan Sharp has volunteered to be the Business Law Section liaison to FASH.
- G. Judicial Members – Judge Van Nortwick and Judge Isicoff will encourage all state and federal judges to post One campaign materials in or near their courtroom to encourage pro bono policy.  
Judge Isicoff will talk briefly about announcing pro bono at calendars and taking pro bono cases first.
- H. Mission Statement  
- Mark Stein volunteered to draft a mission statement and pass it around for comment.

- I.     What constitutes Pro Bono for Florida bar.
  - must be tied to some service for the poor.
  - we discussed the limitations of that policy.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.