



BUSINESS LAW SECTION LABOR DAY MEETING
Wednesday, September 2, 2020 | 3:00 pm – 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting by Zoom
Meeting ID: 839 2250 9584 | Passcode: 385993

Chair: Carlos E. Sardi
Vice-Chair: Amanda Finley

2d Vice-Chair: Kathleen McLeroy
Judicial Chair: Hon. Laurel M. Isicoff

SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

- I. **Introduction and Welcome** - Carlos E. Sardi
- II. **Mission Statement** - Carlos E. Sardi

To Achieve 100% participation in pro bono services by Business Law Section Members and the other attorneys in their firms

- III. **2019 BLS Pro Bono Heros and Superheros:**

Pro Bono Heros (members completing 20+ hours of pro bono per year):

Byran Baracat, Jay Brown, Robert Kane, Shola., John McDonald, Adeenda, Carlos Sardi,

Pro Bono Superheros (members completing 50+ hours of pro bono per year):

A special thanks to BLS Fellow Glaucia Jones, who helped us obtain the BLS Heros information for the meeting today.

- IV. **Executive Counsel Message from Chair Leyza Blanco**

Join the LinkedIn BLS page.

Provide any content possible for the newsletters on the Committee work or updates.

Maybe pro bono challenge the RPTLS to a pro bono competition? Or another Section?

Send Report to Mark Stein.

V. Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes from Meeting of June 17, 2020 - Carlos E. Sardi
- b. Motion to Approve Minutes by John McDonald and Second by Maxine Long
- c. Motion Carries (10 out of 15)

VI. Ongoing Work and Initiatives

- a. The Florida Bar Foundation Matching Program - Lynn Sherman

Matching done. Check went out to Florida Bar Foundation.

- b. Report on New & Improved Pro Bono Best Practices Guide - Carlos Sardi

- i. Published in Website July 2020
- ii. 08/07/20 Florida Bar News Article

- c. Report from BLS IOTA Task Force on The Florida Bar's Task Force on Distribution of IOTA Funds – John MacDonald

- a. Task Force determined that the IOTA Trust Fund Section ruled needed to be revised and drafted a proposed rule. They imposed significant limitations on administration expenses at multiple levels (no more than 5% of IOTA funds) and the funds must be distributed within 6 months. This was designed to compensate legal aid attorneys doing the pro bono work.
- b. That was presented for public comment but received negative comment from the Florida Bar Foundation and other grantee organizations and they opposed the proposed rule.
- c. The Task Force was going to revise the proposed rule further, but draft an alternative rule, but would retain the Florida Bar Foundation would continue to be a potential beneficiary of IOTA funds.
- d. Judge Scales drafted the "hybrid rule" and the vote on the prior revised proposed rule would be deferred. August 16, 2020 the hybrid rule was proposed. The Foundation would be the IOTA fund administrator but limited the amount of use of the funds for administrative expenses (15% at the Foundation level and 10% at the grantee level).
- e. The Foundation agreed to this hybrid rule. The FCLAA did not acquiesce to the hybrid rule at first, but finally did agree. The final proposed hybrid rule is subject to "tweaking," to which there is an opportunity to suggest revisions or comments, but no final vote or further public debate. The final rule will potentially be submitted to the Florida Supreme Court for the proposed hybrid rule.

- d. Pro Bono Pledge Campaign - Carlos Sardi

- i. General Section Statistics
- ii. Participation / Recruitment / Recognition

1. 52-54 members that made the pledge
 2. Successful given that it started last year.
 3. Pro Bono hours 2017-2018 was 2,022 members completing 77,148 hours
 4. Pro Bono hours 2018-2019 was 1,966 members completing 85,145 hours
 5. Pro Bono hours 2019-2020 was 2,014 members completing 81,818 hours
- e. Formation of Standing Subcommittees for Upcoming 2020-2021 Year - Carlos Sardi
- i. Communications and Marketing Subcommittee (merged Communications and Website Subcommittees)
 1. Amanda Finley will chair this Subcommittee.
 - ii. Recruitment and Recognition
 1. Kathleen McElroy will chair this Subcommittee.

VII. New Business

- a. Pro Bono Week 2020 (10/25/20 to 10/31/20) - COVID-19 Challenges & BLS Response - Carlos Sardi
- i. Recognition of BLS Pro Bono Heroes
 - ii. Fundraising
 - iii. Other ideas
- b. "One Promise" Campaign
- i. Report on "One Promise" Campaign - J. McEwen / J. Isicoff
 - ii. Proposed \$2,500 Contribution from Section to Florida Bar Foundation - Carlos Sardi
 - iii. New promotional video in October
 1. Money collected by Foundation, but used to support the "One Promise" Campaign.
 2. Motion by Lynn Sherman and Second by John McDonald
 3. Motion Carries (10 out of 15)

VIII. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Winter Meeting, January 13th-16th, 2021 at Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando, Florida
(Depending on COVID-19)