



BUSINESS LAW SECTION

OF THE FLORIDA BAR

June 6, 2020

To: Council of Sections

Re: Report of Business Law Section

From: Katherine C. “Kacy” Donlon, Chair-Elect

I am pleased to offer this report which provides a summary of some of the Business Law Section’s (“BLS”) ongoing projects and upcoming events:

SECTION CLE DIVERSITY POLICY

On April 15th, the Florida Supreme Court, on its own motion, amended the Rules Regulative the Florida Bar 6-10.3(d), prohibiting approval of CLE sponsored by any organization that used quotas in the composition of the faculty for such CLE, directly referencing the BLS’ recently enacted CLE Diversity Policy. In order to provide CLEs to its members, the Executive Committee voted to retract the CLE Diversity Policy. The Section will be reviewing and voting on a revised policy at its Annual Meeting.

BLS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

The Section supported one bill during the 2021 Legislative Session that was approved by the Legislature and ultimately signed into law by the Governor. **Business Entities Bill (CS/SB 602)** was signed by Governor on May 7 with the changes effective immediately.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

This Committee has been very busy. In addition to very informative weekly e-newsletters, it launched a new website in February. In its newsletters, the Committee highlighted Black History Month with profiles of Judge Mary Scriven and Judge Stephan Mickle as well as publishing profiles of women judicial members - Judges Vaughan, Isicoff, Specie, Mora, and Walsh – in recognition of Women’s History Month. Finally, in April, the Section, through this Committee, instituted the Florida Bar Business Law Section Newsstand in conjunction with Lexology.

CORPORATIONS, SECURITIES & FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Corporations, Securities & Financial Services Committee conducted a sectionwide survey regarding the choice of jurisdiction for the formation of for profit corporations. Also, at the request of this Committee, the Executive Council voted at its April 9th meeting to create a Task Force related to Series LLCs.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE

This Committee held its annual IP Symposium virtually April 22-23, 2021. Also in April, the IP Committee began its monthly Attorney Roundtable via Zoom. The Committee plans to hold these meetings the second Wednesday of each month.

SECTION CLE OFFERINGS

The Section has been very busy in the last several months offering the following CLE programs:

February 24 – Racism in the Workplace

February 25 – Leadership in the Bar

April 15 – How Focus Groups Can Win Your Case

April 22-23 – IP Symposium

April 28 – Sponsor of Combating Hate, Racism, and Xenophobia Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

May 4 – eDiscovery Keyword Search Basics: How to Assure the Opposition is Playing Fair

May 12 – Florida Rule 1.510: Florida Supreme Court’s Adoption of the Federal Summary Judgment Standard – Changes that May Affect Your Cases

May 25/June 1 – Legal Writing: Striving for Clarity – Hon. Robert E. Bacharach, 10th Cir. Ct Appeals

May 27 – Antiquated or Adequate? An Overview and Examination of Florida’s Bankruptcy Exemptions

June 9 – Judicial Roundtable

June 11 – Searching for Truth: The Use (and Abuse) of AI & Search Term Managed eDiscovery

June 22 – Mediation Perspectives: From Business Litigation to Bankruptcy

June 24 – Machine Learning & Your Legal Practice

June 30 – Nuts and Bolts of the Legislative Process

NEW BLS FELLOWS

The Inclusion, Mentoring & Fellowship Committee have chosen a class of eight BLS Fellows for the new bar year:

- Alejandra Iglesia – Bast Amron, Miami
- Raina Shipman - -Carlton Fields, Miami
- Chemere Ellis – Guerra King, Tampa
- Raychelle Tasher – US Attorney’s Office, Miami
- Michael Dunn
- Katherine Van de Bogart – Van de Bogart Law, Ft. Lauderdale
- Negin Kordbacheh
- Romy Jurado – Jurado & Farshchian, N. Miami

OTHER BLS NEWS

- The BLS Membership Committee hosted Zoom Networking Events with Cooley Law, FAMU, FSU and Florida Coastal law schools.

SECTION MEETINGS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RETREAT

Approximately forty lawyers and spouses came together (safely) in Savannah for the Section's Executive Council Retreat April 7-11. Chair Leyza Blanco assembled an amazing trip for the first in-person meeting of her tenure as Chair. Highlights of the trip included a legal trolley tour of Savannah, a boat trip to Page Island and Defuskie Island, capped with a closing dinner at the Armstrong-Kessler Mansion. Those in attendance would highly recommend the J.W. Marriott Savannah Plant Riverside District. Also, thanks to Florida Bar President Dori Foster-Morales for joining us on the trip.

LABOR DAY RETREAT

After missing this event for the past two years due to hurricanes and COVID, the Section is excited to have its first in-person meeting at our Labor Day Retreat 2021. We are looking forward to returning to the Ritz Carlton in Naples.