



---

**BUSINESS LAW SECTION MEETING**  
**January 17, 2023 | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Via Zoom**

**Meeting ID: 851 5677 9698**

**Passcode: 310333**

**Chair:** Kathleen McLeroy

**Second Vice-Chair:** Tara Trevorrow

**Vice-Chair:** Glaucia Jones

**Judicial Chair:** Hon. Laurel M. Isicoff

---

**AGENDA and Meeting Minutes (meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.)**

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

Attendees 1/17/23 (via Zoom)

- Kathleen McLeroy (Chair)
- Giacomo Bossa
- Maxine Long
- Judge Isicoff
- Karen Ladis
- Lorna Brown-Burton
- Jacqueline Ledon
- Zachariah Evangelista
- Glaucia Jones (Vice Chair)
- Angelique Gulia
- Tara Trevorrow (Second Vice Chair)
- Eli Mattern (liaison to Computer Law & Tech Committee)

**I. Introduction and Welcome** - Kathleen McLeroy and Judge Isicoff

**II. Approval of Minutes from Meeting of September 7, 2022** - Kathleen McLeroy

- a. **\*\*Deferred until next meeting\*\*** (minutes could not be located)

### III. BLS Pro Bono Award Planning

- a. Submission Deadline January 31
  - i. **Status report at meeting**
    - 1. As of right now, only have one applicant
    - 2. Will consider whether we should expand the pool
    - 3. Have pulled reporting info from Florida Bar
    - 4. Any suggestions for other candidates?
      - a. Maxine Long - LMI
      - b. John McDonald -KM
      - c. Carlos Sardi -LMI/TT
      - d. Thom Messana -LMI\_TT
      - e. Jaimie Vining (nominated by Dade Legal Aid)
      - f. Vance Salter - KE
      - g. Michael Higer – LMI
      - h. Trish Redmond – LMI/TT
    - 5. Want to consider making a list of possible candidates so that we have more than one applicant
  - ii. **Future ways to bring in more candidates (group discussion)**
    - i. Targeted email to EC?
    - ii. Have already sent a blast email to the full BLS
    - iii. Remember that any and all candidates have to be officially nominated
  - iii. **Existing opportunities for Pro Bono [side discussion]**
    - i. Volunteers can offer assistance to SDFL Bcky Pro Bono Committee (Judge Mora is current judicial chair)
- b. Publicity of Award To Date
  - i. The Bar News
  - ii. Section marketing
  - iii. **Steps going forward (Judge Isicoff requests assistance from Karen Ladis)**
    - 1. Karen Ladis -> will send to Pro Bono Coordinators (she has a list)
- c. Selection of Recipient
  - i. Process – Committee to make recommendation to EC (review of nominees and other qualified candidates)
  - ii. Need to set time to review candidates and make selection
  - iii. Submit to EC for their consideration and approval with sufficient time to order award and make arrangements for presentation

- iv. Discussion
  - 1. Should we limit the members of the selection committee
    - a. Discussion of pros/cons
      - i. Want open involvement, but obviously no one who is nominated should participate in the decision
    - b. No strong feeling other than general consensus to be sure that process is open and fair
- f. Presentation During Annual Convention
- g. Logistics to do –
  - i. Select Award item
  - ii. Select presenter/presenters
  - iii. Draft script for presentation
  - iv. Surprise or Notify Recipient in advance
  - v. Plan Publicity of Recipient
- h. Next steps:
  - i. Divvied up work of who to contact
    - 1. LMI and TT to reach out re Sardi, Messina
    - 2. GJ to reach out re Maxine Long
    - 3. See list above (initials to side)
  - ii. Selection process
    - 1. Consider doing ranking sheet and compiling a spreadsheet of rankings to see commonalities
  - iii. Question from GJ:
    - 1. What does review look like?
      - a. Somewhat subjective, not purely a matter of hours
      - b. Link in chat re: award criteria
        - i. <https://flabizlaw.org/the-florida-bar-business-law-section-pro-bono-award/>
      - c. Want to give weight to what someone has done, not just total quantity of hours
  - iv. Review of selection timeline
    - 1. Angelique Gulia will handle doing the ranking spreadsheet (once we reach that stage)
    - 2. Close noms 1/31
    - 3. Prepare rankings
    - 4. Have meeting about 2 weeks later to discuss
      - a. The week of 3/6, likely M, W, or F (not Tu or Th)

#### **IV. Ongoing Work and Initiatives**

##### Discussion of Ongoing Initiatives and Staffing of Initiatives

- a. Pro Bono Pledge Campaign Update

- b. Pro Bono Week Recognition
- c. Recognition of Pro Bono Heroes in Publications
  - i. Preference for publication over “swag” type gifts (discussion, all agree)
  - ii. Another suggestion: donation to public service organization in honor of one or two people (like for “Pro Bono Hero of the Year”)
  - iii. Suggestion: put name on BLS landing page
    - 1. PB hero
    - 2. Person with highest number of hours
  - iv. Could add award profile or list to photo slideshow on BLS homepage
    - 1. Can use the existing space on the BLS homepage as needed (rotate out info as the year progresses)
  - v. GJ suggestion: Could use previous year’s list of pro bono hours to create recognition
    - 1. Use prior list (based on last year’s data) to select 4-5 people
    - 2. Put up profiles quarterly/semi-annually
    - 3. As part of this, make sure that communications person at the volunteer attorney’s firm is informed (drive traffic to pledge website)
    - 4. People who can help
      - a. GJ will help draft paragraph profiles of top volunteers
      - b. TT to assist as time permits
    - 5. One possibility:
      - a. Template (prepared by TE) that will use a headshot and a quote from the featured volunteer
      - b. Feature becomes part of the slideshow on BLS homepage (rotating basis)
- d. “One Promise” Campaign

**V. New Business**

- A. Suggestion from LMI – can we come up with a program that fosters participation?
- B. KE – perhaps we could use the existing gift budget to set up a pro bono program or donation?
- C. Volunteers to work on projects?
  - a. Profiles of pro bono volunteers
  - b. Pro bono week

- D. We need someone to attend the communications committee meeting on Thursday
  - a. Tracey Eller can attend, LMI will try to attend
- E. Consider setting up passive way of promoting volunteerism, i.e. "Free Legal Answers"
  - a. Questions come in and are answered as people have time

**VI. Adjourn**

**Next Meeting: TBD**