



Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Meeting begins: 5:04pm

Meeting adjourned: 6:23pm

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

Attendees: James Moon, Kathleen McLeroy, Carlos Sardi, Tara Trevorow, John MacDonald, Angelique Gulla, Maxine Long, Raina Shipman, Judge Laurel Isicoff, Latoya Brown, Tracey Eller

I. Introductions and Welcome – (James Moon)

II. Approval of Minutes from September 1, 2023 Meeting – (James Moon)

- Motion to approve minutes (Tara Trevorow); Motion second (Maxine Long)
- Motion carries

III. Executing the Mission Statement – (James Moon / Tara Trevorow)

a. Tracking participation by members

- i. Mission is to achieve 100% participation – look into ways to track participation.
 - 1. Diana Kellogg is contact that will have the information re participation (spreadsheet)
 - 2. Carlos Sardi suggests fellow can help compiling data
 - a. Recognition
 - i. (Top 50 = pro bono heroes)
 - b. Track how we're doing towards the 100 percent goal
 - c. Incentivize
 - d. Need to have opportunities to publicize
 - i. small business clinics
 - ii. Lotoya Brown will figure out if Dade Legal Aid can assist with links to different pro bono opportunities
 - iii. Can link FloridaFreeLegalAnswers
 - iv. Tracey Eller will fix link to opportunities that isn't working on pro bono committee web page
- ii. Promote FloridaFreeLegalAnswers sign up

1. Online platform that lawyers can sign up and give answers to basic legal questions
 - a. Lawyers browse categories for topics that they can answer

IV. Committee Membership and Participation – (James Moon / Tara Trevorrow)

- a. Outreach – Tara Trevorrow and Raina Shipman, chairs
 - i. No updates at the motion
 - ii. Will continue to consider junior attorneys in adversary proceedings pipeline
 - iii. There is a continuing need for Ch. 13 counsel in bankruptcy court
 - iv. We need to make sure that EC knows that we are supposed to have liaisons to this committee from other BLS committees attending our pro bono meetings.
- b. Publications – Judge Isicoff, chair
 - i. Published first story in October, 2023
 - ii. Judge Isicoff is publishing Carlos Sardi story
 - iii. Looking for more stories
 1. 2-3 paragraphs (email any stories to Judge Isicoff)
 - iv. Pro bono honor roll
 1. Haven't received anything
- c. Small Business Clinics – Judge Isicoff, chair
 - i. Some small business clinics will be highlighted at ABA April meeting (can advertise there)
- d. Pro Bono Award – Kathy McLeroy and John McDonald, co-chairs
 - i. Nominations due January 31, 2024
 1. No nominations but we have hold over nominations from last year
 2. 5 page maximum
 - ii. Review of nominations strategy
 - iii. Up and comers recognition?
 1. Look to liaisons to provide nominations from the other various subcommittees/liaisons can reach out to committee chairs
 - iv. Law Firm recognition? What criteria if we recognize a law firm?
 1. Recognize law firms that support their up and comers that pursue pro bono (i.e. firms that require pro bono hours)

- a. May be an issue of pitting bigger law firms against smaller firms with less resources
 - b. Possible solution: tier the awards based on small, mid, or large firms
 - 2. Send a blast/questionnaire to firms to see what they are doing to promote pro bono
 - 3. Florida supreme court recognizes law firms - (jan 18 award ceremony)
 - a. We can figure out what their criteria is so that we can use it to determine which law firms to recognize
 - 4. Ask EC if they would support the committee looking at up and comer or law firm awards
 - a. Minor budget impact based on what award we would give
- e. Pro Bono Week – *Held in October 2023*
 - i. Mark Stein and Peter Valori sent a video for pro bono week asking attorneys to take a pro bono case
 - 1. Website only shows videos from Judges Williamson, Colton and Isicoff
 - 2. Make sure videos are updated for pro bono week next year
- f. Membership – *Chair needed*
 - i. Purpose: identify different people from different constituencies (i.e. groups outside of the Florida Bar)
 - ii. Could possibly fold this into the Outreach Committee

V. Ongoing work and initiatives – (James Moon)

- a. Pro Bono Pledge Campaign Update
 - i. Form needs to be updated (currently 2022)
- b. Pro Bono Week Recognition
 - i. Already happened for this year
 - ii. Tabling/advertising
 - iii. Possible pro bono week committee
 - 1. Active week: blasting out opportunities
 - iv. If anyone is interested in chairing committee, reach out to James Moon.
- c. Recognition of Pro Bono Heroes in Publications

i. Need to update on website – last is for 2019

1. Can get information from Diana

d. “One Promise” Campaign

i. Florida bar videos pushed out asking attorneys to take one pro bono case (see IV(d) supra)

ii. Remind through blasts to have people to look at these videos

VI. BLS Pro Bono Award Update – (James Moon)

a. Award at Dinner

b. Formation of Subcommittee for 2024 recognition

c. Discussion of additional categories for recognition

i. Up and Coming?

ii. Law firm award?

d. Kathy and John are ready to go and ready to accept new volunteers for selection committee

VII. New Business

- No new business

VIII. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn: Maxine Long

- Second: John MacDonald

- Motion carries