

Business Law Section of the Florida Bar  
Executive Council Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2024  
3:00-5:00pm  
Renaissance Hotel Seaworld– Orlando, Florida

**I. Call to Order**

Mark Stein, Chair of The Business Law Section of The Florida Bar, duly called the January 18, 2024 Executive Council Meeting to Order at approximately 3:00pm.

The attendance list for the meeting is attached as **Exhibit 1**.

Chair Stein introduced our new Section Administrator, Carly Hopkins, and she was warmly welcomed.

**II. Commitment to Pro Bono Service**

The Section reaffirms its goal to achieve 100% participation in pro bono service by Business Law Section members and attorneys in their firms.

**III. Florida Bar Foundation Endowment Trust**

Chair Stein explained that the Section proudly acknowledges the following Executive Council members who have pledged at least \$1000 to The Florida Bar Foundation Endowment Trust to become Fellows of The Florida Bar Foundation.

Douglas Bates  
Will Blair  
Leyza Blanco  
Giacomo Bossa  
Hon. Jay Brown  
Michael Chesal  
Robert Charbonneau  
Christopher DeCort  
Hon. Caryl Delano  
Kacy Donlon  
Jodi Dubose  
Manuel Farach  
Hon. Darrin Gayles  
Hon. Gill Freeman (Ret.)  
Paige Greenlee  
Merrick Gross  
Hon. Paul Hyman

Hon. Laurel Isicoff  
 Stephanie Lieb  
 Allison Leonard  
 Maxine Long  
 John Macdonald  
 Eli Mattern  
 James Matulis  
 Kathleen McLeroy  
 Hon. Catherine McEwen  
 James Moon  
 Hon. Mindy A. Mora  
 Jennifer Morando  
 Woodrow “Woody” Pollack  
 Adina Pollan  
 Carlos Sardi  
 Philip Schwartz  
 Detra Shaw-Wilder  
 Lynn Walter Sherman  
 Mark Stein  
 Michelle Suarez  
 Gary Teblum  
 Dineen Wasylik  
 Donald Workman  
 Greg Yadley

#### IV. Recognition of Sponsors

The Chair recognized and acknowledged the generous contribution of all its sponsors, including the following Legacy (\$15,000), Diamond (\$10,250), Sapphire (\$7,750) and Emerald (\$5,250) sponsors:

LEGACY SPONSOR	DIAMOND SPONSORS	SAHPIRE SPONSORS	EMERALD SPONSORS
<i>Michael Moecker &amp; Associates</i>	<i>Berger Singerman Real Advice</i>	<i>Berkowitz Pollack Brant Buchanan Ingersoll &amp; Rooney PC Eisner Amper Florida Appeals Nelson Mullins</i>	<i>Agentis Barakat &amp; Bossa CRA Clark Partington Dal Lago Law Edelboim Lieberman Revah Gray Robinson John Webb Legal Group Johnson Newlon &amp; DeCort Kaufman Rossin Meland Budwick Rasi</i>

			<i>Sequor Law Shuker &amp; Dorris Shutts Taylor English Truist Underwood Murray YIP Associates</i>
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Todd Jones, CRE, principal, RealAdvice, Tampa, Fla., was recognized by the Chair and he briefly addressed the Executive Council.

**V. Approval of Minutes from September 4, 2023, Executive Council Meeting**

The Minutes of the September 4, 2023 meeting were attached as **Exhibit 2** to the Agenda. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Luis Rivera, and seconded by Greg Yadley. There was no discussion, and motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

**VI. Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Stephanie Lieb provided her Report (including reference to the Recent Financials and Reimbursement Policy which were attached to the agenda). She gave highlights of the reasons for the increased losses and the plan to reduce expenses and increase revenue. A motion to increase dues was made by Stephanie Lieb and seconded by Avery Chapman. Following a short discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion carried. A motion to approve the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget was made Stephanie Lieb and was seconded by Luis Rivera. Following a brief discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Treasurer Lieb also announced that consistency of financial planning and budgeting is needed, and as such she has requested that Jon Polenberg will take on the role of long range budgeting and planning member of the Budget Committee.

**VII. Triple Motions**

No triple motions were made during the meeting.

**VIII. Reports of Substantive Law Committees**

Chair Stein requested that a how-to playbook be prepared by each committee and that each committee designate a liaison to IMF, CLE, and Pro Bono committees.

**A. Bankruptcy/UCC – Kenneth Murena, Chair; Adina Pollan, Vice Chair; Matt Hale, Second Vice Chair; Honorable Mindy Mora, Judicial Chair; Prof. Jeffrey Davis, Academic Chair**

Ken Murena reported the following:

The Bankruptcy/UCC Committee met at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2024, with approximately 50 members in attendance in person and on Zoom. The meeting began with introductions by Chair Murena, approval of the minutes from the prior meeting at the Labor Day Retreat, and reaffirmation of the Section's goal of 100% participation in pro bono service.

Section Leadership and the Legislative Committee Chair provided updates regarding legislation making its way through the current Legislative session, including legislation from the Bankruptcy/UCC Committee. Vice Chair Pollan then updated the Committee on the legislative review subcommittee's work and important role in the Committee and the Section, and invited members to join.

Members of the Committee discussed the status of the Committee's legislation, including the Warehouse Lien Amendment and Judgment Lien Amendments, legislation in which the Committee has an interest, including the motor vehicle exemption bill, and future legislation for which the Committee has Study Groups.

The Committee received an update from the Article 12 Task Force and the Committee's Study Group and engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the need for and benefits of the proposed legislation and practical implications. An updated White Paper and revised legislation and summary were circulated to all members. And, the Committee discussed the effect of the legislation on other sections of the UCC and judgment liens.

For the proposed FDUTPA amendment (*Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act*) Fla. Stat. § 501.207(3)), we still need a sponsor and a vehicle to present it to the Legislature.

For the Foreclosure Notice bill, the AG's office does not want to push it until the foreclosure rates were up.

The Committee has the following active Study Groups: The Article 12 Study Group; the Article 9 Study Group analyzing avenues to fix Florida's Secured Transactions Registry in response to a recent Eleventh Circuit case; the Motor Vehicle Exemption Study Group, the Study Group reviewing a recently passed Commercial Financing Disclosure law to decide if a glitch bill may be needed; the Foreclosure Notice Study Group; and the ABC study group to consider the forthcoming uniform ABC Act.

The Committee is also monitoring various State and Federal legislation that touch on issues relevant to the Committee, including the federal Bankruptcy Venue Reform Act.

The Committee heard reports from liaisons to other BLS Committees, the local bankruptcy bar associations across the State, and liaisons to other organizations.

Finally, the Committee promoted upcoming CLE programs of interest to the Committee and other Committees of the Section and spent considerable time brainstorming regarding possible CLE programs that Committee members will produce in the future.

**B. Blockchain & Digital Assets Committee – Daniel Maland, Chair; Robert Kain, Vice Chair; Terry Sanks, Second Vice Chair; Honorable Lisa Munyon, Judicial Chair; Prof. Zachary Catanzaro, Academic Chair**

Daniel Maland reported the following:

We had a meeting today attended by approximately 25 attorneys, all of whom had experience with either crypto or blockchain, and the majority have handled some work in this space. We solicited and had volunteers sign up to form study groups to analyze House Bill 0989 regarding Unclaimed Virtual Currency and Senate Bill 882 regarding Decentralized Autonomous Organizations. Finally, we had an informative presentation from crypto and blockchain tax expert, Chris Kotarba of Alvarez and Marsal on critical tax issues to be considered in the crypto and blockchain space.

**C. Business Litigation – Brian Barakat, Chair; Joe Van de Bogart, Vice Chair; Utibe Ikpe, Second Vice Chair; Honorable Edward LaRose, Judicial Chair (State); Honorable Darrin Gayles, Judicial Chair (Federal)**

Brian Barakat reported the following:

The Business Litigation Committee meeting was well attended. The Committee made a plan to transition the 404 study group to a task force. There was also a discussion of the private judging proposed statute.

There was a motion to convert the 404 study group to a task force by Brian. Barakat. Jim Murphy seconded the motion. The motion passed without discussion.

**D. Computer Law & Technology – Talia Boiangin, Chair; Michael Bittner, Vice Chair; Andrica Jasmine Alexander, Second Vice Chair; Honorable Julie Sneed, Judicial Chair; Prof. Vincenc Feliu, Academic Chair**

Talia Boiangin reported the following activities of the committee:

Call to Order: At 9:02 a.m. by Talia Boiangin

Roll Call: Introduction of each participant

Approve minutes from 9/1/23 CLTC meeting: Moved by Darren Spielman, seconded by Woody Pollack. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Update on the legislative session: Talia Boiangin presented and provided an update on the status of the current legislative session. There are several bills related to AI, protection of minors on social media, and cybersecurity incident liability that the CLTC is reviewing for technical issues. Committee members were asked to review HB 1459 (Artificial Intelligence Transparency), HB 1 (Social Media Use for Minors), HB 3 (Online Access to Materials Harmful to Minors), and HB 473/SB 658 (Cybersecurity Incident Liability) and provide any comments on technical issues. Committee members were also asked to provide any proposed technical fixes to the Florida Digital Bill of Rights enacted during the 2023 legislative session. 2025's legislative session will begin in March.

Update from the Digital Currency Taskforce/Committee: Zac Catanzare provided an update that working groups have been formed to look at technical aspects of several bills related to digital currency.

Update from Florida Bar Cybersecurity and Privacy Law Committee Meeting: Talia Boiangin provided an update. The Committee is developing guidance on lawyers' use of AI, focusing on safeguards from a technical and client privacy standpoint.

Hot Topics: Presented by Mike Bittner per document distributed to the Committee. Florida Bar Proposed Advisory Opinion 24-1 Regarding Lawyers' Use of Generative AI, Data Privacy, Cybersecurity, and Artificial Intelligence Updates.

Leadership: Mark Stein, Stephanie Lieb, and Peter Valori. Mark Stein encouraged promotion of the upcoming Federal Securities Institute and the Executive Committee Retreat in Scotland. Peter Valori asked that all committees provide a short report of their committee meetings to him as soon as possible. Robert Barron (Chair of the Legislative Committee) provided a Legislative Committee update and noted that AI and Social Media are hot topics for the CLTC. Luis Rivera (Continuing Education Committee) noted that the CLE Committee is here to support three to four paid CLEs from each substantive committee and that the 2024-2025 BLS budget assumes at least two paid CLEs per year from each substantive committee.

Comments:

Tim M. discussed the Florida constitutional right to privacy per *Weaver v. Myers* (Fla. 2017) and that it is being undermined by trial court judges and suggested an appellate court rule to address the procedural limitations encountered when attempting to protect privacy rights in the trial court setting.

Zac C. raised the issue of whether White Papers regarding pending legislation are desired by the Legislation Committee and leadership.

Judge Sneed asked if the CLTC has been involved in the AI Advisory Opinion drafting process.

Darren S. discussed the new Federal Courthouse being built in Ft. Lauderdale.

Liaisons: Judge Sneed in attendance. No liaison updates.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Talia Boiangin proposed a name change for the Committee from “Computer Law and Technology Committee” to “Technology Law Committee.” The attendees discussed various proposed alternative names and were in general agreement that the term “Computer Law” is outdated. Mark Stein recommended consulting with the Blockchain and Digital Assets Committee, IP Committee, and the Electronic Discovery & Digital Evidence Committee prior to bringing a name change proposal to the Executive Committee.

CLEs: Mike Bittner discussed the need for CLTC to provide 2-4 paid Zoom CLEs per year and that the CLE Committee was available to assist with the logistics of CLEs.

Adjournment: Moved by Talia Boiangin, seconded by Darren Spellman at 10:22 a.m.

**E. Corporations, Securities & Financial Services – Toni Tsvetanova, Chair; Vice Chair; Valeria Angelucci; Kelly Roberts, Second Vice-Chair; Prof. Stuart Cohn, Academic Chair**

Valeria Angelucci reported the following:

The Corporations, Securities & Financial Services Committee ("CSFS") had an engaged and productive meeting attended by a little over 20 CSFS members. The following matters took place:

1. CSFS approved the Labor Day Retreat CSFS minutes.
2. Toni Tsvetanova provided an update on **Chapter 617 Task Force**, which continues to make good progress with regularly scheduled meetings to discuss proposed revisions to Chapter 617. The Task Force is hopeful to have proposed legislation for the 2025 legislative session, but will assess progress as the year continues.
3. Prof. Cohn provided an update on **Chapter 517 Task Force**. The proposed legislation by the task force has successfully passed House and Senate committees and successfully continues to move forward through the next steps in the legislative process.
4. Gary Teblum provided an update on **Chapter 607 Task Force**. The proposed legislation by the task force is making good progress through the legislative process. There are certain additional provisions that the task force has been asked to incorporate around the ability of registered agents for multiple entities that have been inactive for some time to be able to resign in bulk, with a single filing, rather than using a separate resignation filing for each entity. The task force has proposed language incorporating related provisions, which is pending input. Separately, proper language for distinguishing direct actions from derivative actions in both Chapter 605 and 607 is currently on the agenda of a special subcommittee of the Business Litigation committee to review.

5. **Series LLC Task Force** - the task force has been working with Bill Drafting and RPPTL's title insurance lawyers to address several open issues. Lou Conti can provide an update on current status.
6. **Opinion Standards Committee** - continues to monitor ABA perspectives on certain diligence issues and evaluate relevant issues for Florida lawyers (including how to deal with CTA in legal opinions).
7. **CLEs** - Kelly Roberts and Valeria Angelucci discussed the idea of Business Law Section Writing Workshop Series by each substantive committee and potential topics. Additionally, CSFS would consider CLEs for any of the pending legislation proposed by CSFS. Several CSFS members are already working with Valeria on additional topics as well.
8. **UCC Article 12 Task Force** stopped by to provide an overview of the proposed legislation supported by the task force. The task force will be seeking CSFS' approval for the proposed legislation. Relevant materials were shared with CSFS members for review and input.
9. Formation of a joint **study group** with the Blockchain committee around proposed bill SB 882, **Decentralized Autonomous Organizations** was discussed. Lou Conti and Zach Evangelista expressed interest in joining the study group.
10. The **Legal Tech Challenge** organized by FSU students will take place on February 2, 2024 ([tec-fsu.com/legal-tech](http://tec-fsu.com/legal-tech)). For those who would like to sponsor, judge or otherwise support the event, please contact Paul DeCoste at [pd21d@fsu.edu](mailto:pd21d@fsu.edu).
11. Greg Yadley reminded us that the 40th Annual **Federal Securities Institute** will take place on February 15-16, 2024 at the Waterside Marriott in Tampa. Keynote speakers will feature Sebastian Niles (President and CLO of Salesforce) and the Hon. J. Travis Laster (Vice Chancellor Delaware Court of Chancery), among many other excellent presenters, guests and moderators. It is a stellar event for anyone interested in M&A, Corporate Governance, Securities Regulation, Private Equity and Litigation. Everyone was encouraged to attend.

After the meeting was adjourned, a **CLE** on the very current topic of the **Corporate Transparency Act** was presented by Zach Evangelista, Katie Pence from Rasi and Valeria Angelucci.

**F. E-Discovery & Digital Evidence Committee- Avery Chapman, Chair; Jude Cooper, Vice Chair; Chad Roberts, Second Vice Chair; Honorable William Matthewman, Judicial Chair; Prof. Zachary Catanzaro, Academic Chair**

Avery Chapman reported the following:

The Winter meeting of the EDDEC was held today in Orlando. The following was discussed:

1. Planning for the June 21, 2024 ESI Seminar, to be presented during The Florida Bar Annual Convention in Orlando. The time slot has been reserved. The consensus was to keep the same 4-module format, as follows: #1: case law update (Valerie David and maybe a Fellow); #2: 101-level presentation on how to work with your client to collect and preserve ESI (Harry Dorcy); #3: Mock Hearing, as to what can go wrong if the initial collection and preservation did not



occur (Avery / others, TBD); and #4: judicial roundtable (Judge Matthewman and others).

2. Section Leadership requested two 1-hour CLEs this calendar year. Bart and Valerie agreed to conduct one, and Avery will contact Jacinda to do the other.

3. Membership drive for the EDDEC was then discussed, as raised by Zach. There was agreement to draft a talking points memo for EDDEC members to circulate addressing the advantages of EDDEC membership (i.e.: hot topics in litigation, judicial contact, leadership opportunities, article publishing opportunities, etc.). Bart agreed to bring membership drive up at the Mentoring Committee meeting, and Avery will bring it up at Bus Lit and EC as well. Also, we will contact the Membership Committee to harmonize efforts.

4. Drafting an article was then discussed. Proportionality in ESI and other discovery under state practice and federal practice was a chosen topic.

5. Continuing Judicial Education lunch and learn seminar. The idea is to present a 101 level class to judges as to the nuts and bolts and issues of ESI preservation, collection, and production, with an eye towards what remedies may appropriate. We may generate a take-away sheet with a decision tree for use as a bench book reference. The CJs would be held at the 9th Judicial Circuit (Jacinda) and the 15th Judicial Circuit (Avery or other).

6. Next meeting will be during The Florida Bar Annual Convention in June, 2024. Emails and zoom conferences will ensue in the meanwhile.

**G. Intellectual Property Law – Darren Spielman, Chair; Meredith Mendez, Vice Chair; Sean Combs, Second Vice Chair; Honorable Mary Scriven, Judicial Chair; Prof. Jake Linford, Academic Chair**

Darren Spielman reported the following:

The committee is finalizing its planning for the IP Symposium scheduled for April 11-12, 2024 in the Orlando at the JW Bonnett Creek area. There are currently 132 IP Board Certified Attorneys and 19 are due for recertification this year. The committee also review the current Florida Trademark Statute Task Force update which remains in process. The Committee also discussed the USPTO's expansion of a South East regional satellite office which was selected as Atlanta. The committee reviewed and discussed recent law. The committee had a CLE presented by Sean Combs on the new Trademark Search system.

**IX. Reports of Standing Committees and Task Forces**

**A. Amicus Brief Guidelines Subcommittee – Dineen Wasyluk, Chair; Honorable Edward LaRose, Judicial Chair**

No report.

**B. Antitrust and Trade Regulation Subcommittee – Ilana Drescher, Chair;**

**Honorable Edward LaRose, Judicial Chair**

No report.

**C. Bankruptcy Judicial Liaison Committee – Marianne Dorris Chair; Honorable Roberta Colton, Judicial Chair**

Marianne Dorris presented the following report:

The Bankruptcy Judicial Liaison meeting and the dinner were well attended. At the meeting, the Southern, Middle and Northern District Bankruptcy Courts each presented their reports regarding filing statistics and court practices. In general, bankruptcy filings are up and courts are returning to in person hearings. We discussed the impact of AI in the legal field, focusing on the impact of clients using AI to review attorney billing practices and attorneys using AI for discovery practices, deposition review, and basic legal drafting. We also had a CLE program on discovery in bankruptcy and discussed how discovery disputes are perceived and handled across all three districts.

**D. Budget Committee – Stephanie Lieb, Chair**

No additional report.

**E. Business Courts Task Force – Jon Polenberg and Honorable Gill Freeman, Co-Chairs; Amir Isaiah, Vice-Chair**

Chris DeCort indicated that there was no report.

**F. Chapter 48 Task Force – Giacomo Bossa and Jim Murphy, Co-Chairs**

Jim Murphy reported that the Task Force is continuing its work on follow up matters following passage of the amendment to Chapter 48.

**G. Chapter 517 task Force – Will Blair, Chair; Roland Chase, Vice Chair; Prof. Stuart Cohn, Academic Chair**

No report.

**H. Chapter 607 Sub-Committee – Philip Schwartz and Gary Teblum, Co-Chairs, Andrew Schwartz, Vice Chair**

Phil Schwartz referened the following activities of the committee:

Ratification of defective acts bill.

Withdraw of entities that have been dissolved for more than 10 years.

**I. CLE Committee- Luis Rivera, Chair; Katheleen DiSanto, Vice Chair; Dan**

**Etlinger, Second Vice Chair; Honorable Caryl Delano, Judicial Chair**

Luis Rivera thanked the substantive committees for their willingness to meet the Section's charge to put on CLEs and offered the resources of his committee to support the effort.

**J. Chapter 617 Task Force - Toni Tsvetanova, Co-Chair; Prof. Stuart Cohn, Co-Chair/Academic Chair**

Toni Tsvetanova reported the following:

Chapter 617 Task Force is moving forward.  
The hope to be ready with new legislation for 2025 session.

**K. Communications Committee- Crystal Potts, Chair; April Stone, Vice Chair; Deedee Bitran, Second Vice Chair; Honorable Paul Hyman, Judicial Chair**

Judge Hyman provided a report that the committee met, set out the planning goals and deadlines and adjourned.

Crystal Potts provided the following additional report:

We had a well-attended Zoom meeting on January 9th. We discussed content for the January through April newsletters. The January publication date was rescheduled from the 15th to after the Winter Meeting. We will publish our special additions in February for Black History Month and in March for Women's History Month. The content for the February edition is due on January 31 and the content for the March addition is due on February 29.

We have a few more "Better Know A Judge" interviews, which we hope to publish in April. Our final "Sponsor Spotlight" for 2023-2024 is Lexology and we hope to publish that in April as well. We are receiving consistent content from the Fellows so thank you to the Fellows and IMF.

We updated the blog submission webpage so now potential articles can be submitted as an attachment instead of copying and pasting the article in the submission box, which caused the article to lose its formatting.

We also hope to spotlight the Executive Council in the upcoming newsletters. Please also continue to send in your brief articles about a recent case that you have concluded (excluding any confidential or privileged information) that you are most proud of. We would love to spotlight the legal work that our members are doing for these big cases.

**L. Financial Literacy Task Force – John Hutton, Chair; Tara Trevorrow, Vice Chair; Honorable Jacob Brown, Judicial Chair**

John Hutton addressed the following in his report:

A review of the progress of the committee during the past year.

The veterans programs Miami and Jacksonville.  
The FICPA joint program.  
The Afghan financial literacy program.  
Plans for more online programs and smaller programs.

**M. Health and Wellness – Kristina Feher, Chair; Kayla Heckman, Vice Chair; Honorable Grace Robson, Judicial Chair**

Kayla Heckman reported the following:

The committee met and discussed ideas for CLE topics for the upcoming year. She asked for volunteers in the mental health field.

**N. Inclusion, Mentoring & Fellowship Committee – Kelly Roberts, Chair; Katherine Van de Bogart Vice-Chair; Nicole McLemore, Second Vice Chair; Honorable Lori Vaughan, Judicial Chair (Federal); Honorable Virginia Norton, Judicial Chair (State)**

Kelly Roberts reported the following:

IMF had a joint meeting with Membership attended by about 30 attendees. During our meeting, we discussed the following:

- i. IMF is collecting information on past and future CLEs of the Section to analyze Section compliance with the Diversity CLE Policy with a report to be circulated and discussed at the June Annual Meeting.
- ii. A draft of the proposed IMF Standing Committee Handbook and revised Section Strategic Diversity Plan was circulated with the agenda for review and comment with the intent for circulating to Executive Leadership in advance of the June Annual Meeting.
- iii. During the meeting, IMF voted to restructure the IMF Diversity Equity and Inclusion Sub-Committee to expand its role to provide guidance, continuity, and long-range planning for the Fellowship Program and IMF.
- iv. We announced that the application period for the 2024-2026 Fellowship Class is open. Fellows who are ending their fellowship term at this year's Annual Meeting were encouraged to reach out to Second Vice Chair April Martindale to provide feedback on the program and their mentors.

She recognized the past and present Fellows.

She indicated that the committee is working on the playbook for the IMF Committee was discussed.

She discussed past and future CLEs with focus on diversity policy.

She addressed restructure of the diversity, equity, and inclusion committee to create more continuity.

She discussed that the 2024-2026 fellowship application period is open.

Judge LaRose raised the question of whether there was any pushback as to the DEI initiatives.

Don Workman indicated that there could be some.

**O. Labor Day Retreat Committee- Robert Charbonneau, Chair; Jennifer Morando, Vice Chair; Andy Layden, Second Vice Chair**

Jen Morando reported the following:

The 2024 Labor Day Retreat will be held at the Ritz-Carlton Naples. The Committee discussed financials for the 2023 Labor Day retreat and implications for the 2024 retreat budget. The Committee discussed that the true cost of the retreat is approximately \$1100 to \$1300 per attendee, which is substantially more than the typical price charged for registration. In an effort to increase revenue generated by the Retreat (and help reduce losses), the Committee will explore increasing registration prices for the 2024 retreat and will also work closely with the Sponsorship Committee to assist with the revamping of sponsor offerings and increase the net to the Section from sponsorships. The Committee also discussed exploring alternative venues in an effort to reduce future costs of the retreat. The Section is already under contract with venues for the 2024 and 2025 retreats; however, the Committee will request proposals from alternative venues for the 2026 retreat. Lastly, the Committee began brainstorming themes and events for the 2024 Retreat.

**P. Legislation Committee – Robert Barron, Chair; Woody Pollack Vice Chair; Dineen Pashoukos Wasylik, Second Vice Chair**

Robert Barron gave an update as to the five legislative positions of the Section and he thanked the lobbyists and thanked the members of the section who travelled to Tallahassee to support the Section's efforts. He also addressed the timing for 2025 legislative items.

**Q. Long Range Planning Committee – Gregory Yadley, Chair; Honorable Mindy Mora, Judicial Chair**

No report.

**R. Marketing, Promotions & Sponsorships Committee- Peter Maskow, Chair; Michele Moss, Vice Chair; Jim Matulis, Second Vice Chair**

Pete Maslow reported that the committee has been working on the 2024-2025 sponsorship packages and he thanked the sponsors.

The Chair thanked the sponsors referenced above.

**S. Membership Committee- Juan Mendoza, Chair; Christina Taylor, Vice Chair; Zach Evangelista, Second Vice Chair; Honorable Karen Specie, Judicial Chair**

Juan Mendoza reported the following:

1. In light of the budget cuts and limits on funding that will prevent the Scholars program from continuing in its prior form for the foreseeable future (i.e. Scholars attend the Labor

Day Retreat, which was generating a substantial loss that the section cannot bear), the Membership Committee discussed a modification to the Scholars Program.

2. We discussed different ways of increasing the visibility of the section to law schools and of increasing engagement by selected Scholars.
3. Due to this, the Membership Committee voted to modify the Scholars Program as follows:
  - a. Selection of up to 10 law students who can apply to become Scholars.
  - b. Scholars will be able to attend both the Annual meeting in June 2024 and the Winter meeting in January 2025
  - c. The Section will sponsor the Scholars' attendance at the Judicial Liaison Dinner and the luncheon at the respective meetings. We estimate that the total cost will add up to \$5,000 for the year. We have agreed with IMF that these figures will be shared from the IMF budget.
  - d. The Membership Committee will work with IMF in order to prepare a Zoom program for Scholars, which will be developed by the IMF with the Fellows' assistance, to introduce Scholars to the BLS prior to the Annual Meeting in June 2024. To that end, the Membership Committee has discussed with IMF the possibility of creating a subcommittee under the IMF umbrella to coordinate with Membership on the Scholars' program.
4. The Committee also discussed the idea of implementing Zoom video presentations for each Florida law school's business law society or relevant organization and working with Fellows to make these presentations.

#### **T. Opinion Standards Committee- David Peterson and Gary Teblum, Co-Chairs**

No report.

#### **U. Pro Bono Task Force & Pro Bono Committee- Jim Moon, Chair; Tara Trevorror, Vice Chair; Raina Shipman, Second Vice Chair; Honorable Laurel Isicoff, Judicial Chair**

Raina Shipman reported the following:

The committee is looking for pro bono success stories. Pro bono award nominees are due by 1.31.24. The committee chairs need to appoint liaisons to her committee.

The Committee is continuing to work on tracking participation of members with the goal of achieving 100% participation.

#### **W. Restrictive Covenant Task Force – Brian Barakat, Chair; Zachary Evangelista, Vice Chair**

Brian Barakat reported the following:

Committee has not met. Two bills are pending which impact restrictive covenants, and the task force is preparing a report as to such matters.

**X. Rules of Court –Russell Landy, Chair; Chris DeCort, Vice-Chair; Jodi Dubose, Second Vice-Chair; Honorable Darren Farfante, Judicial Chair (State); Honorable Melissa Damian, Judicial Chair (Federal)**

Russell Landy reported the following:

The Rules of Court Committee submitted its report. The suggestions of the committee were rejected by the Florida Bar Rules Committee as were the suggestions of nearly all others.

**Y. Scholar and Fellows Retention Task Force – Zach Hyman, Chair; Chris Broussard, Vice-Chair; Honorable Catherine McEwen, Judicial Chair**

Zach Hyman reported the following:

There is a problem dealing with law students, as they don't have practical issues for Zach to spend time on phone to discuss and strategize. He said that if a law student calls him to have coffee, he does not want to go but if the law student has a real project, Zach will help.

Tabitha Taylor proposed that the current Fellow class be in charge of planning and presenting the programming because it will encourage them to learn about how BLS works.

Zach Hyman also stated that his job is to put out ideas and get the practices thing done but that the program is not ready now.

Michelle Suarez discussed best practices for in person programming.

Meeting adjourned at 2:04 PM

**Z. Series LLC Task Force – Louis Conti, Chair**

Gary Teblum reported:

The white paper and summary were submitted, and the committee is working with bill drafting. Both bills were filed. There was some resistance. He is hopeful that the bill will pass.

**AA. State & Federal Courts Judicial Liaison Committee – Allison Leonard, Chair; Chris DeCort, Vice Chair; Honorable Lisa Walsh, Judicial Chair (State); Honorable Wendy Berger, Judicial Chair (Federal)**

No report.

**BB. UCC Article 12 – Robert Kain, Michael Dunn and Jaime Leggett (Co-Chairs); Zachary Catanzaro, Judicial Chair**

No report.

**CC. Uniform Commercial Real Estate Receivership Act (UCRERA) Task Force – Amanda Fernandez, Chair; Jodi Dubose, Vice Chair**

Amanda Fernandez reported the committee met and discussed the status of the glitch bill and decided to not move forward with a glitch bill.

**DD. Uniform Voidable Transfers Act (UVTA) Task Force – John Hutton, Chair; David Slenn, Vice Chair**

No report.

**X. Reports of Section Liaisons**

A. The Florida Bar Board of Governors – Don Workman – Don reported that the Board is meeting now. BLS has three members on the Board.

B. The Florida Bar Continuing Legal Education – Luis Rivera- No new matters to report. They meet next Friday.

C. The Florida Bar Council of Sections – Manny Farach – No report.

D. The Florida Bar Diversity & Inclusion Committee – Lynn Sherman – Lynn gave and update as to upcoming activities of the Committee.

E. The Florida Bar Real Property, Probate & Trust Law (RPPTL) Section – James Marx – No report

F. The Florida Bar Young Lawyers (YLD) Division. – No report virtual summit 1-2 months ago- BLS participate in the section showcase. YLD looking to do it again.

G. The Florida Institute of CPAs (FICPA) – Donald Workman – Don Workman reported the following for inclusion in the minutes:

The FICPA/Bar Liaison continues to meet to promote improved relations with the CPA organization. We focus on mutually beneficial legislation. We also work on networking opportunities around the state.

The FICPA recently undertook some personnel changes. Our contact left and the new person continues to work to get up to speed. In the past, the position was our main point of contact and the FICPA is reviewing who will do what. Nevertheless, our part of the Liaison continues to push our Legislative agenda, networking, and education programs. In that regard, we worked with the Financial Literacy Task Force to organize a financial wellness program for young professionals in both the Bar and FICPA worlds. That program went well at Top Golf in Doral. We also continue to coordinate with the FICPA on legislative initiatives.

H. The Out-of-State Division of The Florida Bar – Lawrence Kunin – Two CLE programs – Ethics and AI – There is a new President of the Division. Larry updated the group on articles and publications. He indicated that the group meets online.

I. The Working Group on Legal Opinions (WGLO) – Philip Schwartz – Phil explained the origins and relevance of the committee, funding, meeting schedule, and other details.



## **XI. New Business**

Woody Pollack – Woody described effective use of small regional events.

## **XII. Other Reports**

Chair’s Report – Mark Stein – Mark discussed the Federal Securities Institute, the Scotland meeting, the IP Symposium, details regarding the June meeting of the BLS, and he thanked the attendees, sponsors, Judges, and professors.

B. Chair-Elect’s Report – Manny Farach – No report.

## **XIII. Good and Welfare**

No additional comments.

## **XIV. Future Full Section Meetings**

B. Retreat: April 3-7, 2024 – Edinburgh, Scotland

C. Annual Meeting (Florida Bar): June 19-22, 2024 – Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek

## **XV. Future Section Events**

A. View from the Bench – November 2 (Tampa) and November 3 (Miami)

B. Federal Securities Institute – February 15-16, 2024 (Tampa)

C. IP Symposium – April 11-12, 2024 (Orlando – JW Marriott Bonnet Creek)

## **XV. Adjournment**

### **Exhibit 1 - Attendance**

- Mark Evan Stein, Chair
- Manuel Farach, Chair-Elect
- Peter Francis Valori, Secretary
- Stephanie Crane Lieb, Treasurer
- Gregory Charles Yadley, Long Range Planning Chair
- Douglas Alan Bates, Immediate Past Chair

- Brett Drew Lieberman, At Large
- Mariane Leight Dorris, Liaison
- John Blair Hutton III
- Paul George Hyman, Jr.
- Zachary Paul Hyman
- Russell Marc Landy
- Edward Camille LaRose
- Peter James Maskow
- Mindy Mora
- Jennifer L. Morando
- Kenneth Dante Murena
- James Burton Murphy, Jr.
- Valeria Angelucci
- Michael C. Moss
- April Stuose
- Robert Kain
- Samuel Lewis

- Toni V. Tsvetanova
- Robert Charbonnet
- Michael Chesal
- Roland Chase
- Zachariah Evangelista
- Stuart Cohn
- Paul Steven Singerman
- Rick Gross
- Chris DeCort
- Christina Tager
- Allison Leonard
- Ilana Drescher
- Reinaldo Gomez de la Vega
- Joseph Coleman
- Elizabeth Brusa
- Joseph Van de Bogart
- Katherine Van de Bogart

- Julie Sneed Liaison
- Avery S. Chapman
- Luis E. Rivera
- Kathleen L. Disanto
- Brian Barakat
- Jocelyne Macelloni
- Maxine Long
- Russell M. Blain
- Jon Polenberg
- Woodrow Heath Pollack
- Stefan A. Rubin
- Andrew Evan Schwartz
- Darren J. Spielman
- Dineen Pashoukos Wasylik
- Lori V. Vaughan
- Alan Howard
- James Moon

- Robert W. Barron
- Willard Andrew Blair
- Giacomo Bossa
- Roberta Ann Colton
- Jude Christopher Cooper
- Katherine C. Donlon
- Amanda Lara Fernandez
- Darren Phillip Gayles