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PRO BONO COMMITTEE AGENDA

Friday, January 17, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Hon. Laurel Isicoff, Judicial Chair  
Email: [Laurel\\_M\\_Isicoff@flsb.uscourts.gov](mailto:Laurel_M_Isicoff@flsb.uscourts.gov)

Tara Trevorrow, Chair  
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Raina Shipman, Vice Chair  
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Luis Rivera, Second Vice Chair  
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James Moon, Immediate Past Chair  
Email: [jmoon@melanbudwick.com](mailto:jmoon@melanbudwick.com)

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

Attendees: Luis Rivera, Lotoya Brown, Tara Trevorrow, Marshall Kobrin, Raina Shipman, Judge Cathy McEwen, Kathleen McElroy

- I. **Introductions and Welcome** – (Tara Trevorrow)
- II. **Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting(s)** – (Tara Trevorrow)- Approved
- III. **Executing the Mission Statement** – (Tara Trevorrow/Raina Shipman)
  - a. Tracking participation by members
    - i. Mission is to achieve 100% participation – have the spreadsheet from the Florida Bar, need to determine how best to analyze.
    - ii. Need to identify who will lead analysis – call for volunteers

- a. At last meeting, discussed possible ways to look at metrics (geographic area, judicial circuit), then try to use results to link volunteers local pro bono providers

iii. Continue to promote FloridaFreeLegalAnswers sign up

#### IV. **Committee Membership and Participation** – (Tara Trevorow/Raina Shipman)

- a. Outreach – Tara Trevorow and Raina Shipman, chairs
  - i. Tara has reached out to Daniel Rowinsky (Dade Legal Aid) and Carolyn De Diego (Legal Services of Greater Miami) to collaborate on new ways to spur involvement
  - ii. Stumbling block is connecting vetted clients with volunteers who have immediate availability to handle individual work and the right resources to make it happen (i.e. Best Case software)
- b. Publications – Judge Isicoff, chair
  - i. Articles are always welcome
- c. Small Business Clinics – Judge Isicoff, chair
  - i. Any updates?
- d. Pro Bono Award – Kathy McLeroy and John McDonald, co-chairs
  - i. Nomination process underway. Everything proceeding as it should.
  - ii. Discussion re having all members vote versus a select group -> willing to have all members vote but need to keep process streamlined. Agreement amongst all present that having a smaller group of active members vote is ok.
- e. Pro Bono Week – *Held each year in October*
  - i. Any updates from committee members?
- f. Membership – *Chair needed*

#### V. **Ongoing work and initiatives** – (Tara Trevorow)

- a. Best Practices Guide Update
  - i. Comments solicited, entered. Raina Shipman coordinated input. Judge Isicoff to present our suggestions to Florida Bar Standing Committee.
- b. Pro Bono Pledge Campaign Update
  - i. Ongoing initiative

c. Florida Pro Bono Matters

- i. Florida Bar Foundation is now FUNDING FLORIDA LEGAL AID (FFLA). Our website has a link to their pro bono matters, and interested attorneys can sign up there. There is a search bar that filters cases down by location, matter, type and more.

d. Recognition of Pro Bono Heroes in Publications

- i. Ongoing initiative

e. “One Promise” Campaign

- i. Have not discussed this item recently. Repeat campaign this year (2024-2025) or consider reserving for next year (2025-2026)?

**VI. BLS Pro Bono Award Update** – (Kathleen McElroy and John Macdonald)

- a. (see above)

**VII. New Business**

- a. Report from Middle and Northern District to identify legal services on website
- b. Open to suggestions for new initiatives or ways to improve existing efforts
- c. Emeirtus attorney program?
  - a. Current roster is long – potentially a great resource for legal assistance for pro bono
  - b. Potential issue is that inactive members cannot easily renew BLS membership (technical issue). That means that it’s unlikely that there are very many inactive/retired attorneys who are currently BLS members.

**VIII. Adjourn**