



PRO BONO COMMITTEE AGENDA

Monday, June 2, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Hon. Laurel Isicoff, Judicial Chair
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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

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

Attendees: Judge Isicoff, Francis Morency, Raina Shipman, Carlos Sardi, Lotoya Brown, Kathleen McLeroy, Luis Rivera, John Macdonald, Deedee Bittan, Marshall Korbin, and Tara Trevorrow

- I. **Introductions and Welcome** – (Tara Trevorrow)
- II. **Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting(s)** – (Tara Trevorrow)
- 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, but analysis is difficult.

1. TT to send spreadsheet to Kathleen McElroy and Carlos Sardi (done)
 2. Kathy McLeroy said her IT folks can try to help and Carlos volunteered as well.
 3. Perhaps there's an AI solution?
- ii. Continue to promote FloridaFreeLegalAnswers sign up
 1. Ask Section Chair to issue a challenge?
 2. Get liaisons?
 3. Mention pro bono in section meetings?
 4. Have a committee member tag along with Exec Bd Leadership when they circulate at annual meetings?
 - a. TT and LMI to ask for this year
 5. Electronic and flyers with different links
 - a. If approval, then people can split up who goes where
 - i. Francis, Carlos, Kathy, Judge Isicoff, Raina
 - ii. Create link to challenge? Launch at Retreat?
 - b. Compile info with links to existing opportunities
 - i. Francis will work with TT and RS (plus LMI)

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

- a. **Outreach** – Tara Trevorow and Raina Shipman, chairs
 - i. Tara has had recent conversations with Matt Bayard (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)
 - iii. Use Adobe Acrobat Pro instead?
 - iv. Chair pro bono challenge – check with Manny and Stephanie
 - v. Get substantive committees to recommit to presence – Raina and LMI emails to chairs
 - vi. Promote the Florida free legal answers and the bankruptcy court websites
 - vii. Retreat
 1. Kick off chair challenge
 2. Get buttons from Carlos to give out to pro bono folks at the Retreat
 3. Make sure pro bono week is on the agenda
- b. **Publications** – Judge Isicoff, chair
 - i. Articles are always welcome
 - ii. Have a Fellow interview the Pro Bono Award winner?
 1. Marshall Korbin will interview Carlos about this year's award
 - iii. Luis will submit an article
- c. **Small Business Clinics** – Judge Isicoff, chair

- i. Any updates?
 - ii. Marshall is seeing if he can get more info about transactional opportunities
 - iii. Lotoya and Marshall will work on getting the statewide group to help create access to their opportunities statewide.
- d. Pro Bono Award – Kathy McLeroy and John McDonald, co-chairs
 - i. Carlos Sardi is this year's recipient. Notification and announcement done, award to be presented at dinner during Boca Raton sessions
- 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. Any updates?
 - ii. We have been waiting on comments from Diana – Kathleen and Judge Isicoff to follow up
 - 1. Kathy McLeroy will be circulating guide to Big Bar Committee for comments
 - iii. Will have something finalized by the end of this month (June 2025)
- 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 next year (2025-2026)? ->"Big Bar" initiative. Continuing to be promoted.

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
 - a. Luis Rivera reported info for Middle District.
 - i. MDFL pro se assistance clinic is up and running. Website: bankruptcyproseclinic.com. Well attended. Could use more volunteers. Register and then insert availability.
 - ii. All courthouses have programs.
 - b. Northern District got funding for a similar program. Still working on that.
- b. Open to suggestions for new initiatives or ways to improve existing efforts

VIII. Adjourn