

Business Law Section of the Florida Bar
Rules of Court Committee
Florida Bar Annual Convention Meeting Wednesday, June 25, 2025
3:00 – 4:00 pm
The Boca Raton, Grand Ballroom C

MEETING MINUTES

Chair: Chris DeCort - Johnson, Newlon & DeCort, P.A., Tampa
First Vice-Chair: Jodi Dubose - Stichter, Riedel, Blain & Postler P.A., Tampa
Second Vice-Chair: Allison Leonard - Damian | Valori | Culmo, Miami
State Court Judicial Chair: Judge Darren Farfante - Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Tampa Federal
Court Judicial Chair: Judge Melissa Damian - Southern District, Fort Lauderdale

Attendees are set forth on the attached sign in sheet.

1. Call to Order – *Chair DeCort called meeting to order.*
2. Pro Bono Pledge – *Chair DeCort read the Section pro bono pledge. The mission of the Pro Bono Committee is to achieve 100% participation in Pro Bono Service by Business Law Section members and attorneys in their firms.*
3. Introductions – Judicial Chairs & Committee Members
4. Business
 1. Amendments to Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration (**Effective July 1, 2025**): Overhaul of provisions governing electronic filing, service, authentication of signatures, and the operation of the e-Portal – *Ralph Artigliere gave summary on rule changes.*
 - i. New Rule 2.345
 1. *Establishes a presumption of authenticity for signatures on documents placed in the court file.*
 - ii. New Rule 2.511
 1. *Formalizes e-filing portal role as default filing and outlines registration and security obligations. E-service has to be through the portal – all documents.*
 - iii. Amendments to Rules 2.514, 2.515 (*signature obligations and certification obligations tied to filing and service*), 2.516 (*most changes: outlines procedures and exceptions for unrepresented parties etc. and additional requirements for pro hac vice lawyers*), 2.520 (*updates formatting requirements for electronic documents and how exhibits need to be formatted for filings*), 2.525 (*mandates portal use by attorneys and clarifies filing requirements for unrepresented parties*).
 - iv. Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration Committee’s proposed

revisions to amended Rule 2.516 (Service)
(*See meeting materials for S.Ct. Opinion and proposed amendment to Rule 2.516)

2. ESI Protocol Workgroup – Avery Chapman, Valeri David, Judge Artigliere
 - i. Brief update – *Avery gave update and history concerning guidelines. Group will be giving a seminar on Friday concerning ediscovery. Members are encouraged to attend.*
(*See meeting materials for final EDDEC and Rules of Court-approved Proposed Civil Case Guidelines re ESI Discovery)

3. Ch. 48 Glitch bill on service of process – Jim Murphy
 - i. *Jim Murphy and Zane Katz wrote a blog post outlining the amendments that is published on the Business Law Section website.*
(*See meeting materials for article on Ch. 48 Glitch Bill authored by Jim Murphy and Zane Katz)

d. Discussion: Experiences with new Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.202 (Conferral Prior to Filing Motions) – Avery Chapman. *Discussion was had concerning practical experience with the conferral rule and how various circuits have or are working to address enforcement of the rule.*
(*See meeting materials for article recently published in the Palm Beach County Bar Bulletin)

5. Discussion: Experiences with implementation of Jan. 1, 2025 Amendments to the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure – Chris DeCort

6. CLE
 - i. Recent CLE presentations

1. Legislative Update: Civil Rules Amendments – Russell Landy

2. A Whole New World: What Business Litigators Should Know About Bankruptcy – Chris DeCort

- ii. Ideas for future programming?
Discussion was had concerning ideas for CLEs

1. *Conferrals under Rule 1.202.*
2. *Service of Process*
3. *1.350 and 1.340 proportionality including a mock hearing.*

5. New Business – *No new business.*

6. Other matters:
 1. *Leadership presented, encouraged CLEs from the committee, and encouraged continued participation at events.*
 2. *Jeff Rynor gave presentation on his candidacy for President-elect of the Florida Bar*

7. Passing of the Torch

8. Adjournment