

Business Litigation Committee Meeting

Winter Meeting Agenda

January 29, 2026, 9:00am-11:00am

Utibe Ikpe, Chair

Peter Maskow, First Vice Chair

Katherine Van de Bogart, Second Vice Chair

Hon. Catherine McEwen, Judicial Chair

Hon. Darrin Gayles, Federal Judicial Chair

Hon. Edward LaRose, State Judicial Chair

1. Call to Order
2. 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. Introduction of Judicial Chairs
4. Committee Member Introductions
5. Housekeeping Matters
 - a. Attendance Sheet
 - b. General committee listserv sign up
 - i. Link: <http://lists.flabizlists.org/listinfo.cgi/bizlit-flabizlists.org>
 - c. Legislation subcommittee sign up
 - i. Link: <http://lists.flabizlists.org/listinfo.cgi/bizlitlegislation-flabizlists.org>
6. Action Items
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes (*Materials attached as exhibit A*)
7. Updates
 - a. Study Groups

- i. Offer of Settlement/Judgment Study Group
 - ii. Cannabis Businesses
- b. Task Forces
 - i. Direct vs. Derivative Task Force
 - ii. Fla. Stat. §44.104 Task Force - voluntary trial resolution
 - 1. Last update: statute has been rewritten and moved to legislation to be passed.
 - iii. Chapter 48 Task Force- Service of Process
 - 1. Last update: the glitch bill was passed by legislature and signed by Governor DeSantis on April 29, 2025. The glitch bill became effective October 1, 2025.
 - 2. Discussion of proposed changes to chapter 48: The Florida Association of Professional Process Servers (FAPPS) intends to present a bill allowing business entities to be served through their registered agents by email or via an online document portal, provided the service is made by a sheriff or special process server. *(A copy of the bill is attached as Exhibit B)*
 - iv. Restrictive Covenant Task Force
 - 1. Last update: the choice act passed in July 2025 and it substantially changes the restrictive covenant statute in Florida.
 - 2. Are there any other items the task force is working on?
- c. Standing Committees
 - i. Amicus
 - ii. Rules of Court
 - iii. CLE
 - iv. Communications
 - v. Electronic Discovery & Digital Evidence

- vi. IMF
- vii. Pro bono
- viii. Legislation

d. Substantive Committees

- i. Bankruptcy
- ii. Blockchain & Digital Asset
- iii. Computer Law & Technology
- iv. Corporations
- v. Intellectual Property

8. New Business

a. Business Litigation CLEs

i. Topics

1. Using AI to manage litigation practice
2. Proposals for settlement
3. Alternative Dispute Resolution: Mediation and Arbitration-
Benefits to legal practice
4. Proving damages in commercial litigation cases
 - a. Need speakers

b. Legislative update

c. Other new Business

9. Adjournment