

Chair's Message



Dear Business Law Section Members,

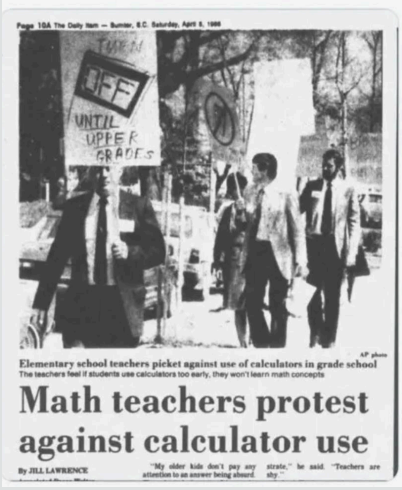
We have had a great couple of weeks of programming, and I would like to thank our organizers, speakers, everyone who participated in the Business Law Section's recent events.

Our 2026 Virtual Legislative Update brought together an excellent lineup of speakers to discuss the latest legislative, judicial, and regulatory developments affecting Florida business law. From a keynote address by Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Couriel to discussions on the 2026 legislative session, AI governance, Florida business courts, and more, the program offered valuable insights across a range of important topics. A special thank-you to our program sponsor, Esquire Deposition Solutions, for their support. If you missed the program, you can visit the **BLS website** to access the recording.

We also had a tremendous turnout for View From The Bench! I am so glad that our members came together, and that the late Judge Michael J. Williamson was honored during a lovely ceremony.

As we look ahead, I encourage everyone to stay engaged with the Section, take advantage of our upcoming events and educational programs, and continue connecting with fellow members. Your participation is what makes the Business Law Section such a valuable community.

Finally, in AI news, I came across an interesting read in Fortune exploring the potential risks of artificial intelligence through the lens of philosopher Paul Virilio, including how the speed of technological advancement may outpace our ability to anticipate and manage its consequences. It is a perspective worth reading. **Click here to read**.



Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming programs.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Valori
Damian | Valori | Culmo

Upcoming Programs

Franchising Basics: Not Just For Beginners



This course will go over everything experienced and non-experienced attorneys need to know and understand about franchising on a federal level and on a state level; about how the two intersect; and about the importance of knowing what you know and what you don't know when it comes to franchising so that you don't unintentionally step into a malpractice landmine.

Register **here**

Off The Record Lunch Series



Join us on December 15, 2026 for lunch and a candid conversation with The Honorable Detra Shaw-Wilder, Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida.

Space is limited and RSVP is required, so register soon!

Non BLS members are welcomed and encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to bring a coworker to meet other section members and learn more about the Business Law Section.

Register **here**

43rd Annual Federal Securities Institute and M&A Conference

February 25-26, 2027 in Tampa

Register **here**



CLE On Demand

Florida's Modernized Nonprofit Statute: Key Changes

On July 1, 2026, the Florida Nonprofit Corporation Act (Chapter 617) was comprehensively updated to align with the recently updated Florida Business Corporation Act and current corporate governance standards and to incorporate certain key concepts from the Model

Nonprofit Corporation Act. This CLE provides a practical overview of key changes, including those affecting governance, member rights, meetings, voting procedures, mergers and nonprofit organizational documents.

Order **here**



2026 Legislative Update

If you missed the **2026 Legislative Update**, you can view it on demand. Featuring an in-depth look at the latest legislative, judicial, and regulatory developments affecting Florida business law.

Featured sessions include a keynote address by Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice John D. Couriel, along with timely updates on the 2026 legislative session, voluntary trial resolution, nonprofit corporations, trademarks, recent case law, AI governance, and Florida's business courts.

Order **here**



Winter Meetings, Save the Date

The Winter Meetings will be held February 3-4, 2027 at the beautiful Ritz Carlton Amelia Island property. We are meeting along with RPPTL again so we will have a joint reception on Thursday. Hotel link and registration information is coming soon.

Additional Updates

Make sure we've got it right!
With the new bar year, please take a moment to:

- Make sure that the BLS box is checked when you renew your bar dues!
- Update your profile on the BLS website **here**.
- Verify you are on the committee lists that you want **here**.



CLE on Demand

Need CLE? Miss a program? Many of our past programs are available **on demand**.

Planning a CLE

Do you have an idea for a great CLE? **Learn more here**.

Why Sponsor the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar?

Florida isn't just a state—it's a global economic powerhouse. If it were an independent nation, Florida would rank among the top 15 largest economies in the world, boasting a GDP that rivals many major countries. The Business Law Section of The Florida Bar plays a critical role in shaping the commercial legal landscape of this economic titan. Our members are not only top-tier business lawyers—they're the very individuals Florida legislators turn to when drafting or revising key commercial statutes. Sponsoring Business Law Section events like the Labor Day Retreat puts your organization directly in front of the thought leaders, power brokers, and policy shapers who influence business law and practice statewide—and often nationally.

This is more than a networking opportunity. It's your chance to engage with the legal professionals guiding Florida's economic future. In addition to the Labor Day Retreat, there are plenty of other sponsorship opportunities that provide year-round exposure through our Section's ongoing programming, communications, and events. If your brand wants to be seen, respected, and remembered by the attorneys who help write the laws that govern business in one of the world's most dynamic markets, this is where you need to be.

Please reach out to **Will Blair** and **Bob Charbonneau** for sponsorship opportunities.



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