1. Roll Call

Gwynne A. Young, President
Eugene K. Pettis, President-elect
Stephen H. Echsner, 1st Circuit
Lawrence E. Sellers, Jr., 2nd Circuit
William H. Davis, 2nd Circuit
Clay A. Schnitker, 3rd Circuit
S. Grier Wells, 4th Circuit
Michael G. Tanner, 4th Circuit
Lawrence Scott Kibler, 5th Circuit
Andrew B. Sasso, 6th Circuit
Sandra Fasell Diamond, 6th Circuit
Sandra C. Upchurch, 7th Circuit
Carl B. Schwait, 8th Circuit
Mary Ann Morgan, 9th Circuit
Scott R. McMillen, 9th Circuit
Ramon A. Abadin, 11th Circuit
Leslie J. Lott, 11th Circuit
Michael J. Higer, 11th Circuit
Dennis G. Kainen, 11th Circuit
Juliet M. Roulhac, 11th Circuit
John H. Hickey, 11th Circuit
William J. Schifino, Jr., 13th Circuit
Lansing C. Scriven, 13th Circuit
Margaret Diane Mathews, 13th Circuit
Michael S. Hooker, 13th Circuit
John W. Manuel, 14th Circuit
David C. Prather, 15th Circuit
Gregory W. Coleman, 15th Circuit
Michelle R. Suskauer, 15th Circuit
Gary Shepard Lesser, 15th Circuit
Edwin A. Scales, III, 16th Circuit
Adele I. Stone, 17th Circuit
Lorna E. Brown-Burton, 17th Circuit
Jay Cohen, 17th Circuit
O. John Alpizar, 18th Circuit
John M. Stewart, 19th Circuit
Richard A. Tanner, Out of State
Members Absent:
Paul Louis SanGiovanni, 9th Circuit
C. Richard Nail, 10th Circuit
Dori Foster-Morales, 11th Circuit
L. Norman Vaughan-Birch, 12th Circuit
Walter G. Campbell, Jr., 17th Circuit
Timothy L. Bailey, 17th Circuit
Laird A. Lile, 20th Circuit
Marcy L. Shaw, 20th Circuit

2. Staff in Attendance
John F. Harkness, Jr., Executive Director
Paul Hill, General Counsel
Dan Bennett, Director of Administration
Beth Brenneis, Director, Finance and Accounting
Ken Marvin, Director, Lawyer Regulation
Mike Garcia, Director, Bar Research, Planning, and Evaluation
Mary Ellen Bateman, Director, Ethics and Advertising, UPL, and Special Projects
Elizabeth Clark Tarbert, Ethics and Advertising Counsel
Lori Holcomb, Unlicensed Practice of Law Counsel,
Kathy Bible, Disciplinary Procedure Counsel Liaison and Advertising Counsel
Arne Vanstrum, Associate Director, Lawyer Regulation
Francine Walker, Director, Public Information and Bar Services
Linda Calvert Hansen, Director, Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism
Rosalyn A. Scott, Assistant to the President
Gary Blankenship, Senior Editor, Florida Bar News

3. Guests
Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz, Cuban American Bar Association
Aramis Ayala, Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter, National Bar Association
Ward Griffin, Government Lawyer Section

4. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
Board member Bill Davis delivered the invocation and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Appearance by James Messer, Jr., President, Tallahassee Bar Association
Messer welcomed the board to Tallahassee and thanked it for its efforts to include more lawyers in Bar activities and for the Bar’s The Vote’s In Your Court voter education program.

6. Introduction of Citizens Forum Members
President Young recognized the presence of Citizens Forum members, who introduced themselves: Lauren Anzaldo, Kimberly Bald, Martha Bogdan, Bill Conrad, Susanna Grady, Linda Goldstein, Paulita Kundid, Ron Lebio, and Paulette Hatchett Simms.

7. Minutes Approval
The board approved the minutes from its December 7, 2012, meeting in Amelia Island. That approval included approval of actions taken by the Executive Committee on January 15, 2013. At that meeting, the committee voted 9-0 to approve refunding the appropriate portion of escrowed membership fees for three Bar members who objected to the Bar’s official legislative position opposing Amendment 5 on the November 2012 general election ballot. The committee voted 8-1 to give the Workers’ Compensation Section permission to file a motion to appear and an amicus curiae brief in Castellanos v. Next Door Company (Docket No. 1D12-3639) at the First District Court of Appeal.

8. Consent Agenda Approval
The board approved the consent agenda without changes. That approval included:
- Appointing Billy C. Giannet as a public member of UPL Circuit Committee 6B, Lauri L. Millward as a public member of UPL Circuit Committee 1A, and Tonya Holman as an attorney member to UPL Circuit Committee 1B.
- Amending Rule 4-5.5 Unlicensed Practice of Law; Multijurisdictional Practice of Law: Adds language to comment to clarify what constitutes a regular presence for the practice of law in Florida.
- Approved allowing the Elder Law Section to take the following legislative position: Supports legislation which would include “The Right to Bear Arms” as one of the enumerated rights, to be addressed by the court, when determining which rights may be removed under Florida Statute §744.3215. The proposed legislation would also include “The Right to Bear Arms” as a right which may be restored under Florida Statute §744.464.
- Approved allowing the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section to take the following two legislative positions: Support adoption of clarifications to chapter 709, the Florida Power of Attorney Act, and support correction of procedural issues relating to trustee foreclosures of timeshares, including amendments to sections 721.82, 721.855, and 721.856 of the Florida Statutes.
- Approved allowing the Public Interest Law Section to take the following legislative position: Supports a clarifying amendment to Florida's garnishment statute, Florida Statute section 222.11 and any related sections, to assure adequate protection to the family's income in the garnishment process, by eliminating ambiguity in definition of terms, including “head of household,” and clarifying time periods.
- Approved allowing the Business Law Section to take the following legislative position: Supports legislation to include social purpose corporations and benefit corporations as business entity choices in Florida.
• Appointing the following persons to the Legal Services of North Florida’s Board of Directors for three-year terms commencing March 1, 2013: Joan Anderson representing the Tallahassee Bar Association and Mark Bednar and Michael Guttman representing the Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association.

9. Appearance by Former ABA President Steve Zack
Zack asked the board to participate in an ABA program tentatively planned for three states including Florida, to participate in a state equivalent of the organization’s annual ABA Day in Washington, D.C. The event could include a state of the judiciary address by the chief justice and other activities to underscore the importance of the third branch of government and legal system. The board approved a motion to refer the idea to the Program Evaluation and Legislation committees for a report at the board’s April meeting in Tampa.

10. Elder Law Section Report
Chair Twyla Sketchley reported the section overcame a budget crisis from two years ago and has developed a long-range strategic plan. The section has upgraded its mentoring program, improved its website, overhauled its committee structure, has monthly email blasts to members, and is actively pursuing a diversity initiative. It will also be presenting a presidential showcase seminar at the Bar’s Annual Convention and is preparing a course directed at the special needs of aging attorneys. A three-day course on elder law issues is being prepared by the section for state attorneys, private practitioners, and law enforcement, and the section is listing a series of free LOMAS CLE seminars on its website.

11. Trial Lawyers Section Report
Chair Wayne Helsby reported on the section’s program to instruct teachers about the law and the legal system. The section continued its annual Chester Bedell Mock Trial Competition at its annual summit. For the second year, the section is donating $75,000 to The Florida Bar Foundation. It also donated $15,000 for The Vote’s In Your Court voter education program, and it also expects to donate $10,000 for scholarships for the Bar’s new Leadership Academy. Helsby said the section is updating its discovery handbook and has a full schedule of CLE programs, including its civil trail certification review program and its trial advocacy seminar, the latter of which is scheduled for May.

12. Audit Committee Report
Chair Clay Schnitker reported that Beth Brenneis has succeeded the late Allen Martin as the Bar’s director of finance and accounting and the committee expects a smooth transition.

13. Investment Committee Report
Chair Ian Comisky reported continued good returns from the Bar’s investment portfolio with the long-term portfolio hitting an all time high. The committee is continuing its comprehensive review of the Bar’s investment policies with its investment advisors. He reported the committee had considered spreading the Bar’s cash deposits among more banks given the expiration of the temporary unlimited federal deposit insurance but decided against making any changes at this time because of the size and stability of the banks currently holding those funds.
14. Legislation Committee Report
Chair-elect Jay Cohen reported the committee was recommending 10 new legislative positions for The Florida Bar, all identical or close to positions taken in past years. The board by unanimous vote found those within the purview of the Bar and the unanimously approved the new positions. They are:

- Opposes amendment of Article V, Section 2(a) of the Florida Constitution that would restrict the Supreme Court's authority to adopt rules for practice and procedure in all courts; further opposes any amendment of Article V that would change the manner by which rules of the Judicial Qualifications Commission, rules for judicial nominating commissions, or rules for practice and procedure in all courts may be repealed by the legislature.
- Supports legislation consistent with the Supreme Court of Florida's December 20, 2012 certification of need for new judges.
- Supports language in the Legislative Appropriations Act to permit the payment of government attorneys’ Florida Bar membership fees and continuing legal education costs from funds within budget entities.
- Supports legislation to create reasonable financial student loan assistance for all government lawyers and legal aid attorneys who have served in that capacity for more than 3 years.
- Supports adequate funding for civil legal assistance to indigent persons through the Florida Access to Civil Legal Assistance Act.
- Supports the preservation of, and opposes policies and procedures that have the effect of eroding, the attorney-client privilege and work product doctrine, both of which are essential to maintaining the confidential relationship between client and attorney required to encourage clients to discuss their legal matters fully and candidly with their counsel so as to:
  (a) promote compliance with law through effective counseling;
  (b) ensure effective advocacy for the client;
  (c) ensure access to justice; and
  (d) promote the proper and efficient functioning of the American adversary system of justice.
- Supports adequate funding of the Legal Services Corporation by the federal government, and opposes any funding cuts.
- Supports a pay increase for the federal judiciary.
- To provide enhanced protection for attorney work product and attorney-client privilege, supports amendment of F.S. §119.071 revising the exemption from the attorney’s work product of a public agency; and supports amendment of F.S. §286.011 revising the criteria for the attorney-client sessions of a public agency.
- To adequately promote and protect the legal rights and remedies of children, supports the development of a comprehensive system and structure for child representation that includes Guardian ad litem representation, Public Defender representation, and legal representation by both government paid counsel and pro bono attorneys by way of legislation substantially similar to the draft legislation approved by the Standing Committee on the legal Needs of Children on November 16, 2009 which would create a statewide program of legal representation with some or all of the following components:
  (a) no child shall be denied the right to have the representation by an attorney for the child appearing on the child's behalf in a dependency case whether volunteer or state paid;
(b) provides for representation that is paid for by the state of Florida in conjunction with local, foundation or pro bono support in certain critical categories of dependency cases, recognizing that the ability to create such mandatory representation depends on the amount of new and dedicated revenue appropriated by the Florida Legislature and subject to the protection of the funding of the GAL program and funding for the Courts; and/or

(c) permits representation of children in other discretionary categories of children in dependency cases and for other children, recognizing that the ability to create such discretionary representation depends on the amount of new dedicated revenue appropriated by the Florida Legislature and subject to the protection of the current funding of the GAL program and funding for the courts.

Cohen said the committee decided to present as a separate item a request from Mark Schlakman, senior program director of Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, for a review of Florida’s death penalty process. He said the committee opted to recommend the Bar adopt language from the Criminal Law Section’s position on the issue that the Bar supports a comprehensive review of Florida's entire death penalty process by all branches of government. The board unanimously found that position within the purview of the Bar and unanimously approved it as a Bar legislative position.

The board accepted the committee’s recommendation and found the following position within the purview of the Legal Needs of Children Committee, and voted to allow the committee to advocate this position: Supports legislation that recognizes children sentenced in adult court for more than 10 years should have a meaningful opportunity for early release based on demonstrated maturity and rehabilitation.

Cohen reported that the committee recommended corrective action be taken on Criminal Law Section legislative positions from the board’s July meeting and also renew a section position from 2010-12 intended to be reactivated in July. The board unanimously approved. The three positions mistakenly adopted in July were rescinded and the renewed position is that the section continues its support for a comprehensive review of Florida's entire death penalty process by all branches of government.

The committee recommended and the board approved not opposing the Business Law Section advocating on this additional issue: Supports a comprehensive update and modernization of Florida's LLC statutes, F.S. Ch.608.

The committee recommended and the board approved not opposing the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section from supporting amendment of F.S. § 198.13 to strike the last sentence of Subsection 198.13(4) that currently states: “The provisions of this subsection do not apply to estates of decedents dying after December 31, 2012.”

The committee recommended and the board approved the new legislative consulting contract between the Family Law Section and Southern Strategy Group of Miami.

The committee recommended and the board approved authorizing the Executive Committee to review legislative positions of the Trial Lawyers Section which were still being formulated.

**15. Board Review Committee on Professional Ethics Report**

Chair Carl Schwait reported that the Supreme Court on the previous day had issued its opinion on the proposed revisions of Bar advertising rules. The court renumbered the Bar’s proposed rule and slightly changed a section governing how former judges can use the honorific title, but
otherwise adopted the rules as proposed by the Bar, Schwait said. The committee is continuing its review of the recommendations from the Special Committee on Lawyer Referral Services and plans to present its recommendations at the board’s April or May meeting.

16. Executive Session
The board went into executive session to discuss grievance and other confidential matters.

17. Appearance by Chief Justice Ricky Polston
Chief Justice Polston thanked the board for its support on court financial issues in recent years and outlined upcoming budget priorities. Those include capital improvements for district courts of appeal building and the Supreme Court, handling an again-rising number of foreclosure filings, and getting a 3.5 percent raise for court employees. Polston noted that judicial branch employees typically make 10 percent less than executive or legislative branch employees. The second major priority is implementing the new e-filing system for the courts using the statewide portal. Polston noted the Supreme Court had begun testing its e-filing process. There are likely to be glitches, Polston said, but the end result will be a more efficiently operating court system and better access to court records for attorneys and the public.

18. Communications Committee Report
Chair Mary Ann Morgan presented five recommendations, based on the final report of the Hawkins Commission, for improving education for lawyers and the public about the Bar’s grievance system. That includes putting information in CLE courses, having speakers and civic and local bar organizations, educating judges about the grievance process, improving information available on the Bar’s website, and recognizing lawyer and public members of local grievance committees. The board approved those recommendations. The committee also recommended and the board approved a priority list for developing Bar-related apps for mobile devices. Those include a simplified Find-a-Lawyer function, access to a member’s CLE information, access to Bar rules, and a master calendar of Bar events that can be incorporated into the device’s main calendar. Morgan also reported that the committee recommended approval of a pamphlet prepared by the Florida Registered Paralegal program about that program. The board approved the pamphlet. The committee is continuing to work with the Citizens Forum on several issues, Morgan said, including the Benchmarks program, the Bar’s website and The Attorney Consumer Assistance Program and the Bar’s discipline system. The committee also is working on several technology matters. Committee member and President-elect Designate Greg Coleman reported a subcommittee is working on overhauling the Bar’s website and he invited input from board members.

19. General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section Report
Chair Linda Calvert Hansen said the section recently completed a membership survey and also determined that of the 1,200 new attorneys who go to work for Florida law firms each year, 50 percent joint a firm of from two to 10 attorneys and 6 percent open their own practices. The section is co-sponsoring with the Young Lawyers Division a law student essay contest and is continuing to sponsor its signature small firm conference at the Bar’s Midyear Meeting. The section is continuing its annual Florida Law Update seminar and an annual half-day ethics seminar.
20. Annual Convention Committee Report
Chair Michelle Suskauer said the committee is working on an app that will allow Bar members to create their own schedules, see biographies of scheduled speakers, and have links to websites related to various convention activities and events. The committee is also working on a technology day for Wednesday of the convention, based on the ABA’s Tech Show. The committee is continuing, Suskauer said, to recruit sponsors for the Judicial Luncheon.

Vice Chair Tom Bateman reported a recommendation to amend Rule 1.442(f)(1) to correct a reference to a rule that no longer exists after an earlier amendment to Rule 2.514(b). The board recommended approval of the change 34-0.

22. Environmental and Land Use Law Section Report
Chair Erin Deady said the section is concentrating on providing high quality services for a low price. It recently updated its strategic plan for the first time in several years and as part of that surveyed its membership. The section has started an electronic newsletter, updated its website, and continues to offer a variety of CLE, including its annual update and legislative update programs. The section is also doing a program on how sea level changes will affect local governments. Deady said the section additionally has an environmental public interest fellowship.

23. Program Evaluation Committee Report
Chair John Stewart reported that the committee was recommending approval of the new Leadership Academy, which had been reviewed by a special subcommittee and have been presented to the Council of Sections and the Young Lawyers Division with favorable feedback. President-elect Eugene Pettis spoke in favor of the plan and relayed plans for recruiting the first academy fellows and for setting the academy curriculum. The board voted unanimously to approve the academy. Stewart reported the committee recommended increasing the size of the Real Estate Certification Committee from nine to 11 members, and the board approved that. He also said the PEC recommended reducing the size of the Antitrust and Trade Regulation Certification Committee from nine to five members and that the certification area be evaluated within two years. The board approved those recommendations. Stewart presented the Alternative Dispute Section’s bylaws on first reading. He also reported that the committee is reviewing the Equal Opportunities Law Section. He said the PEC reviewed the Media and Communications Law Committee because it had fallen below 50 members but found that the committee is active and functioning well. PEC recommended that the committee conduct a membership drive and then decided to end its review with no further action. The committee, in connection with the proposal to create an senior lawyer section or division, is sending out a survey to members, Stewart said.

24. Budget Committee Report
Chair Lanse Scriven reported that the Bar had been projected to run a deficit of $289,000 for the 2012-13 fiscal year but now appears headed to run a slight surplus. He presented four amendments to the 2012-13 budget which were recommended by the committee and approved
by the board: $29,150 in start up costs for the Leadership Academy; $10,982 for the ACAP program postage expenses; $1,859 for the Fee Arbitration program mailing expenses; and $2,500 for Meetings. He reported that the 2013-14 budget will be presented at the board’s April meeting and that projections show that no annual membership fee increase is likely to be needed until the Bar’s 2019-20 fiscal year.

25. Rules Committee Report
Chair Margaret Mathews presented three items to the board on first reading:

- Rule 1-13.1, Time: The proposed rule makes the bar's computation of time the same as the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure regarding email service.
- Rule 7-3.1, Membership Fees Allocation: Authorizes $25 from the fee paid to The Florida Bar pursuant to rules 1-3.10 & 1-3.11 to be allocated to the Clients' Security Fund for the payment of claims.
- SBP 3.10, Proposed Budget; Reserve Policies: Authorizes $25 from the fee paid to The Florida Bar pursuant to rules 1-3.10 & 1-3.11 to be allocated to the Clients' Security Fund for the payment of claims.

26. Disciplinary Procedure Committee Report
Chair Dennis Kainen presented two items on first reading:

- Rule 3-5.2, Emergency Suspension and Interim Probation – frozen trust accounts: Proposed rule amendments would provide a mechanism for owners of funds in a lawyer's frozen trust account, to assert claims of ownership on these funds as part of the Bar's referee procedures in suspension and emergency suspension cases through a referee or receiver.
- Rule 3-5.3, Diversion of Disciplinary Cases to Practice and Professionalism Enhancement Programs: The proposed change allows bar members who have received a diversion to be eligible for a diversion of a different rule violation for which a diversion program exists if the subsequent violation occurred one year or more after the first diversion.

27. Strategic Planning Committee Report
President-elect Pettis reported on the strategic planning retreat from November and that the Strategic Planning Committee was recommending keeping the five main goals of the strategic plan. But he said the committee was reducing the number of recommended action items to concentrate the Bar’s focus and also at creating ways to measure the effectiveness of those action items. Pettis said he expects to revisit the plan midway through his presidential year to see how the goals are being met. He said the revised plan lays out a multi-year plan for supporting adequate court funding that could include proposing a constitutional amendment to the Constitution Revision Commission in 2017. It also calls for continued public education efforts about the legal system and the merit selection and retention process. The board unanimously approved the strategic plan for 2013-16.

28. Special Appointments
The board appointed Paige Greenlee of Tampa and Tad A. Yates of Orlando to three year terms, beginning July 1, 2013, on The Florida Bar Foundation Board of Directors.
29. **Young Lawyers Division Report**
YLD President Greenlee reported that the division had a successful Affiliate Outreach Conference in January with more than $40,000 in grants distributed and which included a successful CLE program. The YLD Law Student Division met at the AOC and was working on its February 16 Raising the Bar event. The YLD Board of Governors next meeting was set for Austin, TX, where the division will have a joint reception with the Out of State Division and will also meet with their counterparts in the State Bar of Texas.

30. **Discussion of Judicial Nominating Commission Appointments**
Board member Carl Schwait asked about the rejection by the governor of nominee slates from the Bar for vacancies on judicial nominating commissions, adding that had happened with the Eighth Circuit JNC and that it made it difficult to recruit other lawyers to apply for JNC service. Executive Director John F. Harkness, Jr., and President Young explained under current laws the governor is allowed to reject the lists of nominees the Bar submits for JNC vacancies any number of times and is not required to give a reason, and that the Bar has no choice but to seek fresh applicants.

31. **Time and Place of Next Meeting**
There being no further business before the board, President Young adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m. The next board meeting is April 19 at the Tampa Marriott Waterside.
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