

*A publication of The Florida Bar Public Interest Law Section*

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## Message from the Chair



**Anthony Musto**  
2013–2014 Chair  
The Florida Bar Public Interest Law Section

Moe: The leader of The Three Stooges. Mighty Mo: The Missouri River. Big Mo: A sports term for momentum. Guess which of these applies to the first half of the 2013-2014 Bar year for the Public Interest Law Section.

Chances are you guessed correctly. We are not poking anyone in the eye, nor are we enjoying barbecue in Kansas City. But, our momentum has built and we will therefore be rolling full speed ahead with a number of projects in the near future.

For instance, the years of effort dedicated to establishing Children's Law as an area of certification cleared a major hurdle as our proposal was approved by the Board of Legal Specialization and Education in November. We will keep pushing to get the concept included in the Bar's next submission to the Florida Supreme Court.

The writing is done and the first public interest issue of the Florida Coastal Law Review will be published in the next few

months. In addition, section sponsored articles will soon be appearing in The Florida Bar Journal.

The groundwork is nearing completion for our pro bono programs that will provide representation to children aging out of foster care and to human trafficking victims seeking to seal or expunge criminal records.

We have been, and will continue to be, active with regard to legislative matters and CLE programs.

I expect an active and productive day on January 24 at the Bar's Winter Meeting at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista. Our committees will meet, as well as our Executive Council. In addition, we will offer a CLE program (free for our members) dealing with Ethical and Professionalism Concerns in Handling Public Interest Matters.

I hope as many of you as possible will attend and get involved in some of our many projects over the rest of the Bar year. If you do, I promise that I won't poke you in the eye. •

## **Save the Date:**

### ***The Florida Bar 2014 Winter Meeting***

Friday, January 24, 2014

at the  
Hilton Orlando Buena Vista (Disney World Village)

#### **PILS Committee Meeting Schedule:**

**8:30am**—Committee Meetings (Fuschia/Gardenia Room)\*

**9:30am**—Legislative Committee Meeting (Fuschia/Gardenia Room)

**11:30am**—PILS Executive Council Meeting (Gran Ballroom 8)

\* Each committee is expected to designate a representative to serve on the Legislative Committee. Each committee should discuss legislative matters early in their meetings and each chair should select the committee's representative. Committees (minus their legislative representatives) may continue to meet during the Legislative Committee's meeting if they choose.

#### **Free CLE for PILS members:**

**10:15am**—Ethical & Professionalism

Concerns for Public Interest Lawyers (Fuschia/Gardenia Room)

1.5 CLE Ethics hours

## **Save the Date: *Florida Bar Convention***

June 25-28, 2014

Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center



**THE FLORIDA BAR**

*The Public Interest Law Section meets on Friday, June 27, at the Convention.*

*You do not have to be registered for the Bar Convention to attend the PILS meetings.*

*Please join us!*

## *Hot Topics: News from Practice*

### **Children's Law Certification Approved by BLSE**

The Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education (BLSE) approved a joint proposal from PILS and the Legal Needs of Children Committee for a Children's Law Certification at its November 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Sarasota. PILS Chair Tony Musto represented PILS at the meeting, while section member John Copelan represented the Legal Needs of Children Committee. Copelan and Musto co-chair the Children's Law Certification subcommittee for the Legal Needs of Children Committee. This matter had been pending before the BLSE for more than two years. After receiving approval by the BLSE, the proposal moves to the Board of Governors Program Evaluation Committee and, if approved, to the Board of Governors itself. Amendments to the rules regarding certification are submitted by the Bar to the Florida Supreme Court every two years. The next submission will occur in Fall of 2014. The goal is to complete the approval process by the Board of Governors in time to have the proposal included. If this occurs, the Children's Law Certification will finally become a reality in 2015. •

### **PILS Chair Tony Musto appears before the Board of Governors**

On December 13, 2013 PILS Chair Tony Musto appeared before The Florida Bar Board of Governors meeting in Ft. Lauderdale. He presented an overview of current PILS initiatives and urged the Board to remember the public interest perspective in their Vision 2016 activities. Musto encouraged the Board to involve PILS in the efforts to resolve the dichotomy between the unmet legal needs of a large percentage of our population with the many lawyers (particularly recent law school graduates) who cannot find jobs. He suggested that the Bar consider the creation of a type of "Legal Job Corps." After the meeting, a Board member commended PILS Chair for an excellent section report, describing it as "one of the best ever." •

## Up to date: Committee Reports

### Get on board: *Join a Committee*

Our substantive committees are an excellent way to connect to other public interest lawyers and work together on relevant legal issues.

Please contact the Chair of the Committee you wish to join for further information:

#### **Civil Rights Committee**

Chair: Christopher Michael Jones  
Email: christopher@floridalegal.org

#### **Consumer Protection Committee**

Chair: Alice Maria Vickers  
Email: alice.vickers623@gmail.com

#### **Disability Law Committee**

Chair: Sarah Rebecca Sullivan  
Email: ssullivan@fcsl.edu

#### **Homelessness Committee**

Chair: Kirsten Noelle Clanton  
Email: kirsten.clanton@southernlegal.org

#### **Children's Right's Committee**

Chair: Jessica L.C. Rae  
Email: jrae@lawprogram.org

Interested in developing a new committee in an area of law not listed here? Contact Anthony Musto, Chair of the Section. ■

### **The Florida Public Interest Journal: Call for Submissions**

Do you have a topic you want to write about? PILS is seeking interested members willing to write about public interest law issues. Send us tips about cases, issues, or topics we should be covering.

Contact Kirsten Clanton, Esq. if you are interested at [kirsten.clanton@southernlegal.org](mailto:kirsten.clanton@southernlegal.org).



The Florida Bar: Public Interest Law Section

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For more information please visit us at:  
[The Florida Bar Public Interest Law Section](#)