

The Florida Bar Board of Governors  
March 27, 2015  
Don CeSar Hotel  
St. Pete Beach, Florida

**1. Roll Call**

Gregory W. Coleman, President  
Ramon A. Abadin, President-elect  
Stephen H. Echsner, 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit  
Lawrence E. Sellers, Jr., 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit  
William H. Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit  
Bruce W. Robinson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit  
Fred D. Franklin, Jr., 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Michael G. Tanner, 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Renée Elise Thompson, 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Andrew B. Sasso, 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Sandra Fascell Diamond, 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Carl B. Schwait, 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Mary Ann Morgan, 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Paul Louis SanGiovanni, 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Wayne L. Helsby, 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
C. Richard Nail, 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Dori Foster-Morales, 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Leslie J. Lott, 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Michael J. Higer, 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Dennis G. Kainen, 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Steven W. Davis, 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
John H. (Jack) Hickey, 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
F. Scott Westheimer, 12<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
William J. Schifino, Jr., 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Margaret Diane Mathews, 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Michael S. Hooker, 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
John W. Manuel, 14<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
David C. Prather, 15<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Ronald Peter Ponzoli, Jr., 15<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Michelle R. Suskauer, 15<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Gary Shepard Lesser, 15<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Timothy J. Koenig, 16<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Walter G. Campbell, Jr., 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Lorna E. Brown-Burton, 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
O. John Alpizar, 18<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
John M. Stewart, 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Laird A. Lile, 20<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Marcy L. Shaw, 20<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Richard A. Tanner, Out of State  
Ian M. Comisky, Out of State

Eric L. Meeks, Out of State  
Brian D. Burgoon, Out of State  
Michael F. Orr, YLD President  
Gordon J. Glover, YLD President-elect  
Winston W. Gardner, Jr., Public Member  
Anthony Holloway, Public Member

Members Absent

Sandra C. Upchurch, 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Roland Sanchez-Medina, Jr., 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Lansing C. Scriven, 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Diana Santa Maria, 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Jay Cohen, 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
Adam Glenn Rabinowitz, 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit

**2. Staff in Attendance**

John F. Harkness, Jr., Executive Director  
John Berry, Director, Legal Division  
Adria Quintela, Director, Lawyer Regulation  
Marcy Jackson, Director of Administration and Chief Financial Officer  
Mary Ellen Bateman, Director, Ethics and Advertising, UPL, and Special Projects  
Lori Holcomb, Director, Client Protection  
Sheila Tuma, Chief Branch Discipline Counsel, Tampa Branch  
Elizabeth Clark Tarbert, Ethics and Advertising Counsel  
Francine Walker, Director, Public Information and Bar Services  
Rosalyn A. Scott, Assistant to the President  
Gary Blankenship, Senior Editor, Florida Bar News

**3. Guests**

Manuel Crespo, President, Cuban American Bar Association  
Robin Bresky, President, Florida Association for Women Lawyers  
Hans Ottinot, Sr., City, County, and Local Government Section

**4. Welcome by Dean Chris Pietruszkiewicz**

Dean Pietruszkiewicz of the Stetson University College of Law, welcomed the board to St. Pete Beach. He praised the Bar for its involvement in the Supreme Court's access to justice initiative, noting that of the 23 high-income countries, the U.S. rates 20<sup>th</sup> in terms of access to legal services.

**5. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Haley Brew, a student at the Stetson University College of Law, delivered the invocation and Stetson law student Scott Tolliver led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**6. Minutes Approval**

The board approved the minutes from its January 30, 2015, meeting. The approval included ratifying the following Executive Committee actions taken since that meeting:

- On February 27, 2015, the committee voted 12-0 to endorse an amendment to rule of Judicial Administration 2.520, which will allow clerks of court to continue to accept paper filings in cases where they are required. That ability had inadvertently been left out when the Supreme Court approved changes to the rule in case no. SC 14-721.

- On March 9, 2015, the committee approved or agreed not to oppose new legislative positions sought by the Legal Needs of Children Committee, the Family Law Section, the Business Law Section, and the Public Interest Law Section, as follows:

- Consistent with the 2002 Final Report of The Florida Bar's Commission on the Legal Needs of Children, the Legal Needs of Children Committee opposes the direct filing of children to adult court in Florida and supports the use of the judiciary as being solely responsible for making the decision as to whether a child should be prosecuted as an adult.

- The Legal Needs of Children Committee supports legislation that recognizes children sentenced in adult court for more than 10 years have a meaningful opportunity for early release based on demonstrated maturity and rehabilitation.

- The Business Law Section supports revised Article 4A of the Uniform Commercial Code as developed by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

- The Family Law Section supports legislation that promotes the active and equal involvement of both parents in parenting issues with no presumption for or against any timesharing schedule.

- The Family Law Section opposes any presumption regarding timesharing as each family is unique and a timesharing schedule should be considered on a case by case basis.

- The Public Interest Law Section supports a foreclosure process that adequately protects homeowners' and tenants' rights and ensures access to due process. [*New position language underlined*]

- On March 12, 2015, the committee voted 9-0 to allow the Vision 2016 Technology Committee to submit comments to the Long Range Strategic Workgroup of the Office of the State Courts Administrator, which was soliciting comments by March 16, 2015, on important issues facing state courts.

## **7. Consent Agenda**

The board unanimously approved the consent agenda, including:

- Appointing Kevin Anthony McNeill as an attorney member and Dr. Joyce Taylor as a public member for Unlicensed Practice of Law Committee 3 and Paul Dewey Turner as an attorney member to UPL Committee 17A.

- Amending Rule 2-9.8 Law Office Management Assistance Service (Bylaw – Name Change): Changes the name of law office management assistance service to practice resource institute.

- Amending Rule 4-5.8, Procedures for Lawyers Leaving Law Firms and Dissolution of Law Firms (Name Change): Within the comment, changes the name of law office management assistance service to practice resource institute.

- Amending Rule 4-8.3 Reporting Professional Misconduct (Name Change): Changes the name of law office management assistance service to practice resource institute and the functions of the practice resource institute to reflect current practice.

- Amending Standing Board Policy 5.10, Standing Committees: Replaces the list of standing committees with a statement that the bar will maintain a list of current standing committees and will post the list on the bar's website.
- Amending the bylaws of the Workers' Compensation Section: Adds "honorary" members in Article II, Section 1. Within article II, section 1, adds new subdivision (c) to permit active judges of compensations claims to become honorary members of the section without payment of dues. Non-substantive edits conform to the Supreme Court of Florida style guide.
- Amending the bylaws of the Government Lawyer Section: The Government Lawyer Section bylaws were amended throughout for clarity and consistency with current practice.
- Agreeing not to oppose the legislative position of the Elder Law Section: Supports legislation which provides for expanded access to health insurance for all of Florida's citizens.
- Approved a refund of the portion of Bar dues used for legislative activities (\$6.48) to one Bar member who opposed the first two of the Bar's legislative positions.

### **8. Public Reprimands**

President Coleman administered four public reprimands.

### **9. Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Section Report**

Chair Michael Dribin reported the section has around 11,000 members and 55 committees and is continuing its active legislative program. The section also maintains an extensive CLE program and regularly contributes articles to the *Bar Journal* as well as having its *Action Line*, the section's quarterly publication. The section also averages four to five amicus briefs per year, many times at the invitation of an appellate court which wants to know the section's position on a pending case. He praised the Bar's revamping of its financial operations relating to sections to both give them more timely information about their finances and more accurately account for Bar overhead related to section administration and CLE operations.

### **10. Budget Committee Report**

Chair Michael Higer presented four amendments for the Bar's 2014-15 budget which were recommended by the Budget Committee: \$130,207 for the Access to Justice Commission, \$53,681 for additional scholarships for the Leadership Academy, \$28,000 for a consultant for the Practice Resource Institute, and \$224,800 for contract attorney services for the Ft. Lauderdale Lawyer Regulations office. The board unanimously approved the four amendments. Higer said the committee's five-year projections do not show any need to increase the Bar's annual membership fees. He also said the committee is setting up a subcommittee to review the Bar's Annual Convention operations from top to bottom. Another subcommittee is reviewing the Bar's Standing Board Policies relating to budget and financial issues, and reporting to the Program Evaluation Committee, which is reviewing all Standing Board Policies. Budget Committee Chair-elect Dori Foster-Morales presented the Bar's proposed 2015-16 budget, which has \$44.2 million in expenditures, including increased spending for IT and revamps financial accounting and procedures for sections. The budget does not change annual membership fees for active and inactive members. The board unanimously approved the budget, which will be advertised in the *Bar News* and then come back to the board at its May meeting. Bar Chief Financial Officer Marcy Jackson explained to the board the new method of accounting for section-related expenses and giving sections quicker and more accurate access to their financial information. She reported that overall, the new method will save sections about \$148,000 annually.

### **11. Investment Committee Report**

Chair Ian Comisky said despite a “choppy” market the Bar’s long-term investment portfolio has continued to do well, rising 2.2 percent for the year to \$50.173 million. He noted almost \$21 million of that long-term fund is reserved for specific categories, including the Clients’ Security Fund, for certification, and for sections. Acting on the recommendations of its advisor, Comisky said the committee has approved increasing the Bar’s investments in international funds by 2.5 percent, while decreasing its investment in Pimco All Asset Fund by 0.5 percent, the Pimco Commodity plus Fund by 0.3 percent, and Lazard Emerging Markets by 1.7 percent. All are within the investment ranges established by the Bar’s investment policy, and board action was not necessary.

### **12. Out of State Division Report**

Chair Tim Chinaris said the division has switched its newsletter from paper to digital, allowing it to publish more articles and circulate it to all out-of-state members, not just those who belong to the division. The division is offering a free one-year membership to all newly admitted out-of-state members and has an extensive program of CLE courses, including a free online two-hour course on ethics. The division is working to offer more webinars and actively works with the Vision 2016 effort, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and the Leadership Academy. Chinaris said the division actively supports pro bono activities and provides a high number of both services and pro bono hours from its members.

### **13. Entertainment, Arts, and Sports Law Section Report**

Chair Emily Graham has begun doing online CLE programs, including a course on counseling the provocative client. The section will have its second fashion law writing contest, she said, and is working to support incentives for movie and other entertaining productions to locate to Florida. The section is also following copyright law, which is rapidly changing, Graham said. The section will shortly have a retreat, which will include a talent show for members.

### **14. Vision 2016 Access to Legal Services Report**

Kathy McLeroy, representing the Vision 2016 Access to Legal Services Committee, presented a series of proposed procedural rule amendments to allow providing unbundled legal services in civil cases, similar to the way it is done in family law cases. The amendments affect Civil Procedure Rule 12.040, Rule of Judicial Administration 2.505, Rule of Judicial Administration 2.515, and Rule of Judicial Administration 2.516. The board unanimously endorsed the amendments, which will now be referred to the affected procedural rules committees. Board member Andy Sasso asked why probate rules, which also allows unbundled services, was not included. McLeroy said the committee was told that was not necessary but they will be added if needed.

### **15. Audit Committee Report**

Chair Paul SanGiovanni noted the final audit for the Bar’s 2013-14 budget year has been accepted and the committee is now preparing for the upcoming audit of the 2014-15 year. He said the Bar will be reviewing its auditor prior to the 2015-16 audit. The committee has approved a new charter for its activities, which will come to the board at its May meeting. SanGiovanni

said the committee is continuing its work on an IT disaster recovery program and expects to present that to the board by the end of the year.

### **16. Board Review Committee on Professional Ethics Report**

Chair Carl Schwait noted that the committee had been asked earlier this year to consider whether any changes to the lawyer advertising review program would be appropriate. He reported that the following issues were fully discussed and considered by the BRCPE at its January 29, 2015, and March 26, 2015, meetings:

1. The BRCPE reached a consensus that mandatory filing of lawyer ads should be retained at this time. Following the January 2013 approval of ad rule revisions by the Supreme Court, there has been a period of uncertainty about the rules, but the committee now feels that is passing and lawyers have adjusted to the new rules. The BRCPE feels the past 18 months has been anomalous. The program mainly pays for itself, outside of litigation costs, and there has been little litigation over the decades of the program (with the exception of the three cases filed within months of each other last year) and the committee believes that mandatory review acts as a control on compliance with the lawyer advertising rules to the benefit of the membership and the public.

2. The BRCPE believes that advisory opinions should be issued for every ad filing. If lawyers file advertisements, they should receive an opinion on compliance, which will serve as a guide for lawyers to comply with the lawyer advertising rules.

3. The BRCPE consensus is that the bar should stand by its opinions and a finding of compliance should continue to be a bar to disciplinary proceedings unless the advertisement contains a misrepresentation that is not apparent from the face of the ad, as provided under the existing rules.

4. The BRCPE consensus is that staff opinions should be subject to the review of the Standing Committee on Advertising to correct any possible staff errors and afford filers due process. The BRCPE consensus was to amend Chapter 15 of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar to change the composition of the Standing Committee on Advertising to increase the size of the committee to between 12 and 20 members with between three and five public members to improve the quality of decisions from the committee (which currently has seven members by rule, which means there are times when two committee members make a decision on the ad rules for the entire Bar membership).

5. The Board Review Committee on Professional Ethics consensus is to continue to the status quo working under the assumption that the past 18 months has been anomalous and that time will create perspective involving the new advertising rules. Additionally, with the increase in size of the Standing Committee on Advertising and therefore the improvement in quality of its decisions, that fewer appeals will be made to the Board of Governors.

The BRCPE remains open to revisiting any of these issues at a later date should any need arise. The Board Review Committee on Professional Ethics voted 5-0 to recommend that the Board of Governors approve amendments to Rule 15-2.1 to address the size of the Standing Committee on Advertising, capping the committee at 20 members including three to five nonlawyer members, but leaving flexibility for the current Bar president for appointments below the cap. The Board of Governors approved the amendments in concept on voice vote without objection. The BRCPE voted 5-0 to recommend that the Board of Governors approve amendments to Rule 4-7.18(b)(3) to make clear that communications sent at the request of a prospective client need not comply

with the technical requirements of the direct mail rule (such as the requirement for a statement of qualifications, a disclosure of where the lawyer obtained the information prompting the communication, the required first sentence for targeted direct mail “if you have already retained a lawyer. . .,” and the like). The Board of Governors approved the amendments in concept on voice vote without objection. The BRCPE voted 5-0 to recommend that the Board of Governors approve amendments to Rule 4-7.18(b)(2)(B) that would change the requirement for the “advertisement” mark from each page or panel to each separate enclosure. The Board of Governors approved the amendments in concept on voice vote without objection. Schwait reported that the Standing Committee on Advertising drafted guidelines to interpret Rule 4-7.15(d), which prohibits a lawyer from offering an economic incentive to hire a lawyer or view a lawyer’s advertising, with the exception of discounted legal services. He said BRCPE voted unanimously not to adopt guidelines on economic incentives, feeling they are not needed.

### **17. President’s Report – Discussion of High Profile Disciplinary Case**

President Coleman reviewed by the board a pending grievance case which has received extensive news coverage. Coleman said the case shows the Bar may need better ways to keep Bar leaders informed about potentially high profile cases so they are familiar with the details if they are contacted by reporters. He also said the Bar needs to do a better job of explaining its sanctions, noting that a 91-day suspension is a severe sanction that requires the affected lawyer to prove rehabilitation in a separate hearing plus Supreme Court approval to lift the suspension in a process that can extend the actual suspension up to a year or more.

### **18. Florida Lawyers Assistance, Inc., Report**

FLA Executive Director Michael Cohen gave his annual update to the board, and noted FLA, Inc., will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> year next year and he praised the Bar for recognizing that lawyers and judges facing substance abuse and mental health issues were confronting illnesses that can be treated and not defects that should be punished. He said the organization had a great response to an article it ran in the *Bar News* on lawyer suicide and that FLA, Inc., is working with the Young Lawyers Division in its quality of life initiative to help lawyers suffering from stress, depression, and suicidal thoughts. Cohen said FLA, Inc., received 600 hotline calls last year, resulting in 150 files being opened. He said the organization has over 30 weekly meetings around the state for lawyers, judges, and law students in recovery, and a monthly career counseling online session has also been started. The latter attracts 12 to 20 lawyers to each meeting. Cohen said FLA, Inc., also is starting to focus on issues facing aging lawyers. He thanked the board for its continuing financial support for the program, adding the program “goes directly to saving lives, careers, and families.”

### **19. Special Appointments**

The board nominated to the Supreme Court Judy Doyle of Orlando, Leslie G. Spencer of Tampa, and Dr. Lawrence W. Tyree of Orlando for the upcoming public member vacancy on the board of Governors. The court’s pick will replace Winston W. “Bud” Gardner, Jr., who has served the maximum two terms allowed under Bar rules. The board reappointed Dwight O. Slater of Tallahassee for a two-year term on the Supreme Court’s Bar Admissions Committee. The board selected Frank A. Ashton of Jacksonville Beach, Thomas E. Glick of North Miami, and Maria T. Fabre of Orlando for four-year terms on the Statewide Nominating Commission for Judges of

Compensation Claims. The board chose Craig Ashley Dennis of Tallahassee for a four-year term on the Florida Patient's Compensation Fund Board of Governors.

## **20. Legislation Committee Report**

Chair Michael Tanner noted the board had approved new legislative positions for the Elder Law, Business Law, and Public Interest Law sections and the Legal Needs of Children Committee as part of the consent agenda. He reported that with about half of the annual legislative session over, no bills problematic to core Bar interests had been filed. The proposed budgets from the House and Senate adequately provide funding for the courts system, Tanner said, but do not have pay raises for court employees or judges, both of which are priorities for the Supreme Court and the Bar.

## **21. Disciplinary Procedure Committee Report**

Chair Ron Ponzoli reported that the committee is looking at amending the comment to Rule 5-1.1(f) to include examples on obligations lawyers may hold to third parties on funds held in trust and he invited board members to submit examples. He said the committee is looking at adding clarification language to Rule 3-7.2(e) so there is no question that a lawyer convicted of a criminal offense is required to report that conviction to the Bar. The committee looked at whether there should be standards governing when a designated reviewer reviews a referee's finding, but decided for the moment no change is needed. He presented four items to the board on first reading:

- Rule 3-7.15, Amendments: The rule is amended to comply with the court's style guidelines. There are no substantive changes to the rule.
- Rule 3-7.16, Limitation on time to Bring Complaint: The rule is amended to comply with the court's style guidelines. There are no substantive changes to the rule.
- Rule 3-7.17, Vexatious Conduct and Limitation on Filings: The rule is amended to comply with the court's style guidelines. There are no substantive changes to the rule.
- RULE 5-1.1(g)(4) Trust Accounts: Amends subpart (g)(4) of Rule 5-1.1 to reflect the change in address of the Florida Bar Foundation. The newly proposed rule refers bar members to the Bar's website for the current Florida Bar Foundation address.

## **22. Rules Committee**

Chair Marcy Shaw said the committee, at the request of the Supreme Court clerk, looked at Rule 4-1.7 on conflicts of interest on whether the kinds of relationships listed in the rule needed to be expanded. She reported the committee recommended no changes. The committee also declined to recommend any rule changes stemming from an out-of-state member's criticism of comments made by an attorney at a nightclub on a constitutional amendment supported by that attorney. Shaw presented one item on first reading -- Rule 4-1.5, Fees and Cost for Legal Services: Within subdivision (f)(4)(B)(ii), changes "division" to "approval."

## **23. Labor and Employment Section Report**

Chair Shane Munoz reported the section has around 1,100 members and is giving scholarships for students relating to labor law. The section publishes articles in the Bar *Journal* and in its own newsletter and recently updated its website. Munoz said the section sends members a blast email once a month with critical information and has started a listserv to encourage communications among members. The section averages four CLE courses per year and it's now offering

webinars, and works with the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, the Young Lawyers Division, and local bars on issues of common interest. Munoz said the section is reviewing the labor and employment law certification, which was first offered 15 years ago, because in recent years there has been less emphasis on trials in that practice area. The section is offering a presidential showcase CLE at the Annual Convention on the impact of technology on labor and employment law.

#### **24. Program Evaluation Committee Report**

Chair David Prather presented on first reading the bylaws for the proposed Animal Law Section. He said the committee had completed its review of the Administrative Law Section and will present its finding and recommendations at the board's May meeting. The PEC is continuing its review of the series 16 Standing Board Policies and will report on those at the board's July meeting. PEC, Prather said, is continuing, with help from the Certification Plan Appeals Committee, the review of the Board of Legal Specialization and Education and the certification program. He reported that the PEC approved in concept a recommendation from the Vision 2016 Technology Committee to make the Special Committee on Technology a permanent Bar standing committee and create a board-level committee on technology.

#### **25. Young Lawyers Division Report**

YLD President Michael Orr said the division is emphasizing its health and wellness and quality of life efforts and has made May a year to emphasize the well being of lawyers. He said he and other division officials have discussed the issue with Chief Justice Jorge Labarga. Orr said the YLD conducted its third technology webinar the day before the board meeting and those courses have reached more than 5,000 lawyers in 25 countries. He said the division will be seeking an ABA award for those webinars.

#### **26. Communications Committee Report**

Chair John Stewart said the committee is completed work on the electronic communications etiquette handbook, which will come to the board in May. He also said the committee has stopped preparing the BoG clipboard because there was little interest in it. He invited board members to make nominations for upcoming vacancies on the Citizens Advisory Committee.

#### **27. Vision 2016 Technology Committee Report**

Chair Stewart said the committee decided there were several issues that could not wait until the final Vision 2016 report in June 2016 and needed board attention now. He said the committee was seeking conceptual approval of making the Special Committee on Technology a permanent standing board committee and creating a board-level committee on technology. Those proposals, Stewart said, had been approved in concept by the Program Evaluation Committee. The board unanimously approved that recommendation. Stewart said the committee would be making additional recommendations to the board in upcoming meetings, including:

- Adding a comment to the Bar rule on professional competence to say that lawyers should have technical competence in technology relevant to their practice areas.
- Increasing the amount of required CLE from 30 to 36 hours every three years, with the extra hours being devoted to technology matters. Stewart said the necessary technology training could not be included in the 30-hour requirement without degrading other necessary training.

- Having the Bar vastly expand its lawyer referral service to compete with what online private companies are now offering in referral services. Stewart said that could be done in partnership with a private company.

- Having the Bar get involved in the online provision of legal documents, perhaps in partnership with a private company.

Stewart said the last two recommendations could help Bar members provide services to the 60 percent of the population who don't qualify for legal aid but can't afford traditional legal services.

### **28. President-elect's Report**

President-elect Abadin told the board he was considering beginning board meetings at 8 a.m. instead of 8:30 or 9 a.m., with a firm adjournment time of 3 p.m. He said he wanted also to give the board more time to consider coming issues, including those outlined by board member Stewart in the Vision 2016 Technology Committee report as well as such things as online virtual law firms. Abadin warned the board will have major decisions to make with limited time to consider them if it was going to avoid having the Bar and the practice of law overwhelmed by coming changes in the legal marketplace.

### **29. Certification Plan Appeals Committee Report**

Chair Steve Echsner said the committee is working with the Program Evaluation Committee in its review of the certification program and the Board of Legal Education and Specialization, including a larger role for CPAC other than reviewing certification and recertification appeals. He said one way to expand that role would be for the committee to review BLSE rules and policies, rather than the Program Evaluation Committee.

### **30. Leadership Academy Report**

Board member Renée Thompson, chair of the Leadership Academy Committee said the second academy class was wrapping up its activities and would graduate at the Bar's Annual Convention in June. The committee is now working on reviewing applicants for the academy's third class, and she invited nominations from board members.

### **31. Annual Convention Committee Report**

Chair Thompson said the theme for the convention will be "Charting a Course for the Future" and will feature the CLIO-type technology conference, similar to the event held annually at the ABA annual convention, on June 24. The conference will feature several prominent speakers and present the cutting edge of legal technology.

### **32. Florida Courts Technology Commission Report**

Board member Stewart, who also serves on the FCTC, said the commission is in charge of all technology issues relating to the court system and is currently moving to make court records available online not just to lawyers but to the public. He noted that one of the jobs suggested for the proposed new board level Technology Committee would be to serve as a liaison between the Bar and the FCTC. Stewart said of the 25 FCTC members, only four are lawyers; the rest are judges, court administrators, clerks of courts, court technology officers, and public members.

**33. Time and Place of Next Meeting.**

There being no further business before the board, President Coleman adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m. The next board meeting is May 22 at the Westin Hotel in Key West.

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