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Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference

2015

Dealing

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July 10-11 • Eau Palm Beach Resort & Spa
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Florida Bar Foundation Fellows are lawyers and members of the general public who have taken a pledge – a promise to provide greater access to justice by helping to build The Florida Bar Foundation Endowment Trust and fulfill the Foundation's mission.
**A great chance to shape the future of the legal profession.**

Florida Bar President Ray Abadin will describe the revolution taking place in the delivery of legal services, how resulting changes can be opportunities for lawyers, and how The Florida Bar and voluntary bars can inform and assist members in navigating the new professional landscape. Saturday morning, Bar leaders will have a chance to dialogue in a town hall meeting with the Bar president.

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**Fun and fast-paced sessions.**

You’re the leader. Now what?! How are you going to get it all done? The practice of law is challenging enough on its own. Deadlines. Staffing. Marketing. Demanding clients always wanting to speak with you. And now you’re expected to lead a bar association. If everyone would just leave you alone, maybe you could get something done.

Have no fear! There are simple changes you can make to your daily routine that will help you increase productivity, decrease stress, and get more done in less time. Find out how in this fun and fast-paced session designed to help you shed your unproductive ways.

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**A sure bet for a good time!**

We’re bringing in blackjack, roulette, craps, poker and Texas Hold ’Em table games for a night of Caribbean casino fun! Certified dealers and croupiers will entertain and teach so everyone will have a chance to win! Topped off with a dinner buffet of South Florida favorites that are fit for a queen or king, Friday night’s Island Casino scene will be a time to don your favorite tropical attire and rub shoulders with other high roller bar leaders!
Friday, July 10

8:00 a.m. – noon  Registration and Sponsor Tables – Flagler Hall

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  Early Bird Roundtable Discussion – Ocean II
Sarah Cortvriend, 2015-16 Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee Chair, Voluntary Bar Conference Chair
Ileana Cruz, 2014-15 Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee Chair

11:40 a.m. – noon  Buffet Lunch - Ocean I-II

Noon – 12:15 p.m.  OPENING SESSION – Salon I
Joint Session with The Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy
Welcome and Introductory Remarks
Ileana Cruz, 2014-15 Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee Chair
Sarah Cortvriend, 2015-16 Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee Chair, Voluntary Bar Conference Chair
Greetings from Palm Beach County Bar Association President
James G. “Grier” Pressly III

12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.  The Legal Profession: Challenges and Opportunities for Voluntary Bar Leaders in the Future
Ramón A. Abadin, President, The Florida Bar

12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  GENERAL SESSION – Salon I
55 Ways to Increase Your Productivity, Decrease Your Stress, and Get More Done in Less Time
Nora Riva Bergman, J.D. Practice Advisor, Atticus, Inc.

1:40 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.  The Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy Meets – Exchanges Rooms I-II

1:45 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.  BREAKOUT SESSION 1
Session A – Voluntary Bars and Their Foundations: Working Together for Good – Salon III
Does your bar association have a foundation? If not, would you like to learn why some do and how they work? This panel will discuss the relationships between bar associations and their foundations, what each organization does and how the leaders of both work together to benefit their communities and members.
Moderator: Bruce B. Blackwell, CEO/Executive Director of The Florida Bar Foundation, past member The Florida Bar Board of Governors, Past President Orange County Bar Association
David Robert Ellis, President, Clearwater Bar Association and Past President of the CBA Foundation
JoAnn Gore, Executive Director, Tallahassee Bar Association
William J. Schifino, Jr., 2015-16 President Elect, The Florida Bar, President Hillsborough County Bar Foundation, Past President Hillsborough County Bar

Session B – How to Pass the Torch: Effective Continuity and Long Term Planning for Bar Associations – Salon I
Moderator: E. Ashley Hardee, President, Florida Council of Bar Association Presidents
Robert J. Nader, Past President, and Chair of Military & Veterans Affairs Committee, Hillsborough County Bar Association

Session C – Non-Dues Revenue and Sponsorships – How to Raise Revenue Without Raising Dues – Plaza I-II
Karen Fast, Strategic Marketing and Membership Manager, Orange County Bar Association
Matthew J. Ridgely, Executive Director, Dade County Bar Association
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>2:45 p.m.– 3:35 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>BREAKOUT SESSION 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Session A – Mentoring Programs: How to Make Them Work for Your Bar – Salon III</strong>&lt;br&gt;A discussion of mentoring programs offered by various bar associations: what works, what doesn’t work, and suggestions for a successful model for your bar&lt;br&gt;Moderator: Leora B. Freire, Development Director, FAWL, Past President, Palm Beach County FAWL&lt;br&gt;Nicole Hessen, Past President, Palm Beach County FAWL&lt;br&gt;Victoria N. McCloskey, Hillsborough County Bar Association, YLD Board of Directors, HAWL</td>
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<td>3:45 p.m. – 4:35 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>BREAKOUT SESSION 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Session A – Effective CLE Programming – Salon III</strong>&lt;br&gt;Moderator: John F. Kynes, Executive Director, Hillsborough County Bar Association&lt;br&gt;Michelle Francis, CLE Education Compliance and Accreditation Manager, The Florida Bar&lt;br&gt;Karline L. Lee, Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>ISLAND CASINO &amp; SOUTH FLORIDA DINNER – Ocean Ballroom &amp; Terrace</strong>&lt;br&gt;Buffet dinner of South Florida favorites and casino fun with Voluntary Bar Leader Conference attendees, their guests, and the Leadership Academy</td>
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<td>7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Continental Breakfast and Networking With the Leadership Academy and Round Tables – Ocean I-II</strong>&lt;br&gt;Optional round table - staffed bars with 500+ members with discussion leaders:&lt;br&gt;Kimberly A. Homer, Executive Director, Orange County Bar Association&lt;br&gt;Matthew J. Ridgely, Executive Director, Dade County Bar Association</td>
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<td>7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Optional round table - staffed bars with 500- members with discussion leaders:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Nicole Hessen, Past President, Palm Beach County FAWL&lt;br&gt;Susan Sowards, Executive Director, Jacksonville Bar Association&lt;br&gt;Optional round table – non-staffed bars with discussion leaders:&lt;br&gt;Lillian B. Ewen, St. Lucie County Bar Association&lt;br&gt;Colin L. McMichen, Bay County Bar Association</td>
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<td>1:40 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>The Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy Meets – Salon III</strong></td>
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9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  GENERAL SESSION
Town Hall Meeting led by Ramón A. Abadin, President, The Florida Bar – Salon I
An open discussion on partnerships between The Florida Bar and your voluntary bar: how your bar can help The Florida Bar and how The Florida Bar can help your bar

10:10 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  BREAKOUT SESSION 4
Session A – Crisis Communications for Bar Associations – Salon I
What to do when big legal news develops: how to effectively address the public, your membership and the media when there’s a crisis in your area
Moderator: Francine A. Walker, APR, CPRC, Director of Public Information and Bar Services, The Florida Bar
Sandi Poreda, APR, President, Bulldog Strategy Group

Session B – How to Pass the Torch: Effective Continuity and Long Term Planning for Bar Associations – Plaza I-II
Moderator: E. Ashley Hardee, President, Florida Council of Bar Association Presidents
Robert J. Nader, Past President, Hillsborough Bar Association

Session C – Effectively Involving Law Students in Your Program – Salon II
Moderator: JoAnn Gore, Executive Director, Tallahassee Bar Association
Rosana Catalano, Associate Dean for Placement & Director of the Business Law Certificate Program, Florida State University College of Law
Stephanie N. Greaves, Okaloosa County Bar Association
Nathan Moon, Assistant Director for Placement, Florida State University College of Law

11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  BREAKOUT SESSION 5
Session A – Mentoring Programs: How to Make Them Work for Your Bar – Plaza I-II
A discussion of mentoring programs offered by various bar associations: what works, what doesn’t work, and suggestions for a successful model for your bar
Moderator: Leora B. Freire, Development Director, FAWL, Past President, Palm Beach County FAWL
Nicole Hessen, Past President, Palm Beach County FAWL
Victoria N. McCloskey, Hillsborough County Bar Association, YLD Board of Directors, HAWL

Session B – Technology for Bar Associations: Tips and Programs to Help Run An Effective Association– Salon I
Moderator: Patience Burns, Executive Director, Palm Beach County Bar Association
Adriana Linares, LawTech Partners
Jane Muir, Gersten & Muir, P.A., Dade County Bar Association; Coral Gables Bar Association

Session C – Associations 101 – Salon II
Moderator: Nora Riva Bergman, J.D.

12:10 – 1:00 p.m.  CLOSING SESSION – Salon I
Past Presidents Panel – What I Wished I Had Known Before My Term Began
Moderator: Gregory Coleman, 2014-15 President, The Florida Bar
E. Ashley Hardee, President, Florida Council of Bar Association Presidents
William J. Schifino, Jr., 2015-16 President Elect, The Florida Bar
Michelle R. Suskauer, Florida Bar Board of Governors

Announcement of the Game Winner, Awards, and Door Prizes
Sarah Cortvriend, 2015-16 Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee Chair, Voluntary Bar Conference Chair

CLE Credits: General: 4.0 hours / Ethics: 1.0 hour
Ref. No. 1501636N
FORENSIC AUDITOR

Alcohol and Tobacco State and Federal Regulatory Compliance and Tax Consultant
25 years experience
Trained at Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC - Glynco)
Served terms as Lt. Governor and Governor for the Federation of Tax Administrators-Tobacco Tax Section

William Orozco
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Meet the 2015 Voluntary Bar Leaders Conference Panelists

SARAH CORTVRIEND, conference chair and committee chair, is a shareholder at Carlton Fields Jorden Burt’s West Palm Beach office. Cortvriend’s focus is on real property and commercial litigation, representing national title insurance underwriters in title insurance claims, closing protection letter coverage, title agent defalcations, forgeries, lien priorities, insurer bad faith, quiet title, and equitable subrogation. Her practice also includes representing national lenders in low-income housing tax credit matters, property disputes and commercial foreclosures. Cortvriend also represents institutional clients in contractual and other disputes in federal and state courts. AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell, Cortvriend was recognized as a Super Lawyer in 2013-2014, and as a Rising Star from 2010-2014 by Florida Super Lawyers and has been listed in Florida Trend’s Florida Legal Elite. She is the chair of a Florida Bar Grievance Committee in Palm Beach County; chair of the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee; chair of The Florida Bar annual Voluntary Bar Leaders’ Conference; the Strategic Planning Committee chair of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers and a member of the FAWL Past Presidents’ Advisory Council. Cortvriend is a Guardian Ad Litem for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit and serves on the board of directors of the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County. She is also on the board of directors of the Hanley Center Foundation.

RAMÓN A. ABADIN, a Miami attorney, is president of The Florida Bar. Abadin is a partner in Sedgwick LLP’s Miami office, where he focuses on complex commercial, insurance and corporate litigation matters as well as specialty tort defense litigation and premises liability. First elected to the Bar’s Board of Governors representing the 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida in 2006, Abadin has chaired several board committees and has served on the Executive Committee. In addition he has served on several Florida Bar special committees, such as court funding and diversity and inclusion, and on the Strategic Planning Committee. He is a past president of the Cuban American Bar Association (2004) and is a lifetime fellow of The Florida Bar Foundation. He was the Eleventh U.S. Circuit representative to the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary from 2010 to 2013. The standing committee evaluates prospective nominees to the federal bench. Abadin received his Juris Doctor degree from Loyola University New Orleans School of Law in 1985 and a bachelor of arts degree from Tulane University in 1981. He is admitted to practice in Florida, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition to English, he is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese.

NORA RIVA BERGMAN is a law firm coach and certified Atticus Practice Advisor. As a licensed attorney since 1992, Bergman brings a deep understanding of the practice and business of law to her work with lawyers, law firms and bar associations. She has practiced as an employment law attorney and certified mediator and has served as an adjunct professor at both Stetson University College of Law and the University of South Florida, teaching courses in alternative dispute resolution and negotiation. She has also served for eight years as the executive director of a voluntary bar association of more than 1,200 members. Her background as an attorney, law professor and bar executive gives her a unique perspective on the challenges lawyers face. In addition to her broad experience with all aspects of the law firm, she understands the importance of, and is committed to, helping attorneys leverage technology in order to maximize their ultimate success. Bergman hosts a popular blog on her Real Life Practice website, and is a frequent contributor to bar association publications. She is a graduate of the Leadership Development Program (LDP) at Eckerd College, and is certified in the Conflict Dynamics Profile® developed by the LDP to help individuals and organizations learn how to deal with conflict constructively. In 2013, Bergman was selected as a faculty member for The Florida Bar’s Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy.

BRUCE B. BLACKWELL is CEO/executive director of The Florida Bar Foundation, a statewide charitable organization whose mission is to provide greater access to justice. Before joining the Foundation, he was a founding partner with the seven-lawyer Orlando law firm of King, Blackwell, Zehnder & Wermuth P.A., specializing in complicated civil litigation. He retired from the firm in 2014 to become only the second CEO/executive director in the Foundation’s history. Blackwell has received many professional awards and recognitions, including the Orange County Bar Asso-
ARNELL BRYANT-WILLIS is the Diversity Initiatives Manager for The Florida Bar and has a diverse background in leadership roles in both the public and private sector. Bryant-Willis received an associate's degree from Hillsborough Community College, a bachelor of arts in Sociology from Florida State University and a master's in education from Florida A&M University. Prior to coming to The Florida Bar, Bryant-Willis was vice president of operations for EW Bryant Associates, a consulting and training firm, where she developed and conducted training in leadership, team building and diversity in addition to facilitating roundtable discussions and strategic planning sessions for clients. Her prior work includes serving as operations director for the Office of Supplier Diversity at the Florida Department of Management Services, as special project coordinator in the Office of Supplier Diversity at the Florida Department of Management Services, as special project coordinator and chief of the Bureau of Training for the Florida Department of Labor & Employment Security, and in positions with the Volusia County Department of Corrections and the Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. She was division chief for the Department of Employment Services in the District of Columbia from 1980-82.

PATIENCE BURNS has been with the Palm Beach County Bar Association since December 1980, serving as its executive director since 1989. She previously worked for The Florida Bar from 1978 to 1980. She has served on numerous National Association of Bar Executives and Florida Bar committees for the past 30 years. She also serves on the board of directors for the Florida Association of Bar Executives and for the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County. She has served as a consultant for the American Bar Association’s Division of Bar Services by participating in several local bar operational reviews. In 1999, she was awarded a Special Service Award by the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County during its Pro Bono Recognition Evening. In 2005, she earned the designation of Certified Association Executive by the American Society of Association Executives. In 2012, she was awarded the Inaugural Marshall R. Cassedy Sr. Award from The Florida Bar for outstanding support of the legal profession.

THOMAS BURNS is a Certified Public Accountant with more than 30 years’ experience. He has worked in both private and public accounting and currently owns his own public accounting firm in Wellington. His practice includes accounting and tax work for individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations. For more than 20 years, he has had an on-going non-paid position as an accounting consultant for the Palm Beach County Bar Association.

ROSANA CATALANO graduated from the University of Florida College of Law in 1997. She began her legal career as an assistant state attorney in Fort Lauderdale and served as an assistant general counsel for the Florida Department of Health for several years. She then worked as an assistant attorney general in Tallahassee where she represented the Florida Board of Nursing, the Florida Board of Dentistry and the Florida Board of Medicine Credentials Committee in litigation and appeals. Additionally, she has worked for both radio and television news organizations. She joined the administration of the Florida State University law school in January 2005 as the director of the Placement Office, and became assistant dean for administration in 2007. She then served as the executive director of the Florida Elections Commission. Before returning to the law school in 2012 as assistant dean for placement, she served as a part-time J.D. adviser, counseling law students. She has been an active member of The Florida Bar; The District of Columbia Bar; U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida; U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit; the Government Bar Association; and Tallahassee Women Lawyers.

GREGORY W. COLEMAN, partner at the law firm Critton, Luttier & Coleman, and immediate past president of The Florida Bar, has been practicing law in Palm Beach County for more than two decades. He joined the Law Firm of Critton, Luttier & Coleman in 1995, and was named partner in 2000. In 2012, Coleman was awarded the President’s Award of Merit by The Florida Bar for the third time, becoming the first lawyer in the history of The Florida Bar to receive such a distinction. Coleman is profiled in The Best Lawyers in America; is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell; and is included in their Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers. He has also been selected by the South Florida Legal Guide as a Top
Lawyer; is listed as one of Florida Trend magazine's Legal Elite; and has been named a Florida Super Lawyer. He devotes his practice to the areas of complex commercial litigation, insurance bad faith, employment litigation, professional malpractice defense, personal injury and wrongful death. Coleman is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Florida, all circuit and county courts in Florida, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the U.S. District Court for the Southern Districts of Florida. Coleman received his Bachelor of Business Activities in Finance and a minor in Political Science from Stetson University in 1985. He then received his Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law in 1989. Coleman has been a member of the Stetson University College of Law Board of Trustees since 2010.

ILEANA CRUZ serves as assistant county attorney for Miami-Dade County. Her practice involves advising the property appraiser and tax collector in administrative, state and federal litigation matters, including bankruptcy, ad valorem taxes, value adjustment board decisions, and local business tax issues. In addition to her tax and bankruptcy litigation practice, Cruz counsels the Finance Department on legislative items, drafts ordinances and resolutions, and advises the board of county commissioners on tax and finance matters. Cruz serves as president-elect (2014-2015) of the Miami-Dade chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers. She was appointed by The Florida Bar as chair of the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee (2014-2015), and as member of the Social Media and Communications Technology Committee. She is a fellow of The Florida Bar’s Leadership Academy (2014-2015). Before joining the County Attorney’s Office, Cruz practiced with the Financial Restructuring and Insolvency group of the international law firm, White & Case LLP. She also practiced locally with the Business Restructuring group of Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff and Sitterson P.A. in Miami. Throughout her years of practice, Cruz has represented clients in complex corporate restructuring matters, including Chapter 11 cases, cross-border restructurings and out-of-court workouts. She has extensive experience representing creditors and debtors, and has prosecuted and defended preference and fraudulent transfer litigation in New York, Delaware and Florida.

MATTHEW W. DIETZ is a litigation director and president of Disability Independence Group Inc., a non-profit disability rights advocacy center in Miami. He has been practicing civil rights litigation since 1996, and handled more than 400 matters in administrative, trial and appellate courts involving the Americans with Disabilities Act, Fair Housing Act and other civil rights laws regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, and others seeking equal rights under the law. Dietz represents mostly victims of discrimination, and he has represented many local and national fair housing and disability organizations. He attended Boston University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration in 1992. In 1996, he earned his Juris Doctorate with honors from Brooklyn Law School. He is admitted to all Florida and Georgia state and federal courts, and New York state courts. Dietz is an active writer, advocate and speaker on disability rights issues, as well as an adjunct professor at St. Thomas Law School. He founded the Disability Independence Group, whose mission is to expand opportunities for persons with disabilities through litigation, education, legislation and activism.

DAVID ROBERT ELLIS is a sole practitioner in Clearwater focusing on family law and probate and trust and estate planning. Currently president-elect of The Clearwater Bar Association, Ellis has served on the CBA board of directors for three years and is past president of The Clearwater Bar Foundation having served as a CBF trustee for seven years. In addition, Ellis has coordinated the bar’s Law Day Poster contest for 10 years, expanding it from 50 entries to 400 entries annually. He attended Mercer University School of Law. Ellis was admitted to practice in 1992.

LILLIAN EWEN is the senior appellate staff attorney for the 19th Judicial Circuit, overseeing all appeals from county court as well as petitions for writ of certiorari for local administrative cases on behalf of the judiciary. She was Fellow in the inaugural class of the Florida Bar Leadership Academy and currently serves on the Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee. As president of the St. Lucie County Bar Association, Ewen oversaw a rapid expansion of the membership and the events calendar, including the planning and execution of several judicial investitures. She is a founding member of the executive committee of the 19th Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel and is active in the Justice Major B. Harding American Inn of Court. She has been a guest lecturer at Indian River State College and currently serves on the board of directors for the Humane Society of St. Lucie County.

KAREN FAST started at the Orange County Bar Association as Membership Manager in 2010. She was promoted to Strategic Marketing Manager in 2012 and has assisted in the development of the Orange County Bar’s educational programs Leadership Law, New Lawyer Training Program, Paralegal Boot Camp Transform Your Law Practice and Bench Bar Conferences. Fast oversees sponsorship
and advertising, membership and the Events Department. Fast came to the position with more than 25 years of sales and marketing experience within the hospitality industry. She worked for Morton’s Steakhouse for 15 years and assisted with the growth of the concept from seven to 61 restaurants within her tenure. She was a key figure in developing a marketing strategy which brought the New York restaurant private dining sales in excess of $1.5 million per year. Fast was sales and marketing manager for other restaurant groups including The Capital Grille and The Palm. She has a BA in Graphic Design from The American University in Washington, D.C. After leaving the hospitality industry in 2008, Fast attended the Notter School of Pastry Arts in Orlando Florida.

**KAREN FRANCE** has been executive director of The Clearwater Bar Association and Foundation since 1997. Having been at the Indiana State Bar previously, France has 34 years of bar executive experience and is a Certified Association Executive (CAE). In 2014, France was the recipient of The Florida Bar’s Marshall R. Cassedy Sr. Award. She has served on the boards of Florida Society of Association Executives and FSAE Foundation as well as been active in Florida Council of Bar Executives. She has been a member of National Association of Bar Executives since 1989, having served on the Program Committee from 2010 to 2013, and has been a member of The Florida Bar’s Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee since 1998.

**MICHELLE FRANCIS** graduated from Florida State University 2002 and is the Education Compliance and Accreditation Manager in the Legal Specialization and Education Department of The Florida Bar. She has been employed by The Florida Bar since 1998 and has had various positions within the education department. As the education compliance and accreditation manager, Francis ensures timely and accurate processing of education compliance requirements, delinquencies, reinstatements and CLE submissions for credit evaluations as well as proposes and drafts amendments in the CLER and course approval related rules and policies. In addition, she serves as the designated staff custodian managing the records of the department in a manner that complies with all applicable laws, rules and industry standards.

**LEORA B. FREIRE** is a shareholder in the West Palm Beach office of Richman Greer, P.A. Before joining the firm, Freire practiced in a New Jersey law firm, specializing in defense of personal injury matters and coverage disputes. She has also served as a judicial law clerk for a New Jersey civil trial judge. Since joining the firm, Freire’s practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, complex foreclosure matters, products liability and personal injury litigation. Freire received her J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law, graduating in May 2002. She received her B.S. in Administration of Justice from Rutgers University, where she graduated with high honors in May 1999. Freire is a member of The Florida Bar, the Palm Beach County Bar Association, and the Florida Association of Women Lawyers. In FAWL, Freire is past president of the local chapter. She also serves on state FAWL’s membership committee. Freire has been appointed to serve on the Judicial Nominating Procedures Committee of The Florida Bar. She also served on a local Florida Bar Grievance Committee. She continues to serve on multiple committees of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, including serving as co-chair for the commercial litigation section of the 2014 Bench Bar Committee. On a national level, Freire is an active member of the National Association of Women Lawyers. She was also a member of the 2013-2014 Leadership Institute class of Meritas, an international organization of law firms. Freire is a member of the Women’s Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County, a member of the 2007 Class of Leadership West Palm Beach and a 2011 graduate of the Emerging Leadership Project.

**GORDON J. GLOVER** is the managing partner of Glover Law Firm, with offices in Ocala and The Villages. Glover focuses on plaintiff’s personal injury, commercial litigation and probate litigation. Glover earned his undergraduate and master’s degree from the University of Florida, where he was named Outstanding Male Leader and selected for membership in the University of Florida Hall of Fame and Florida Blue Key. He subsequently earned his law degree from Florida State University’s College of Law. Glover is president of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division as well as a member of The Florida Bar Board of Governors, Vision 2016, Council of Sections, Middle District of Florida Grievance Committee, and the Special Committee on Technology/Office Tools & Resources. He is past Chair of the 5th Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee and a past member of the Code & Rules of Evidence Committee. Glover is certified “AV” by the Martindale-Hubbell peer review rating system and has been recognized as a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers.

**JOANN GORE** is executive director of the Tallahassee Bar Association. She joined the Tallahassee Bar Association in 2003 as part-time assistant executive director and served in that role until 2012, when she was promoted to executive director. Gore graduated with her masters of science degree in Commun...
Nicolai Hessen has begun her career in the communication/public information arena as director of communications for a statewide credit union. She has served as public information officer for Florida Prepaid College Program, marketing director for Killearn Properties and as a consultant for several law firms.

E. Ashley Hardee is a senior trial court staff attorney in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, where she has served for the past 19 years. She has served as president of three different Florida voluntary bar associations: the Florida Council of Past Bar Presidents (2014, 2015), the Florida Trial Court Staff Attorneys Association (2001 and 2014), and the Brevard County Bar Association (2009-2010). In the Brevard County Bar Association, Hardee founded the popular “CLE series” programming and chaired it from 2004 until 2007. In the Florida Trial Court Staff Attorneys Association, Hardee has been very active since its inception in 2000, chairing several committees, including the ethics committee, newsletter committee, and conference and education committee in addition to serving on the board of directors for several terms. Hardee taught several courses as an adjunct legal professor for the University of Central Florida. She has been active in her circuit’s Local Inn of Court. In 2008, the Supreme Court of Florida appointed Hardee to the Florida Court Personnel Committee and she continues to serve on that committee. From 2005 until 2007, she served on the Postconviction Rules Subcommittee for the District Court of Appeal Performance & Accountability Committee. She also was appointed to the Supreme Court of Florida’s workgroup on legal resources. Among her awards, in 2011, Hardee received the Florida Trial Court Staff Attorneys Association Kathy Pugh Leadership Award.

Nicole Hessen is partner/shareholder/founder of Wender, Hedler & Hessen, P.A., a workers’ compensation law firm in West Palm Beach. She has focused her professional life on representing injured workers. She is a passionate advocate for her clients and is known for her compassionate approach to the practice of law. Hessen is a zealous advocate with an aggressive style. A frequent speaker and interview subject, Hessen is involved in the legal community, as well as her local community in various capacities as a volunteer, member and mentor. Hessen is past-president of the Palm Beach County Chapter of FAWL. Additionally, Hessen serves as board of director at large for the Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association. Hessen is a board member for Komen South Florida as well as a member of the board of directors for the Neil Hirsch Boys & Girls Club in Wellington. Hessen is also on the board of directors for the Palm Beach Bulls Youth Travel Basketball Organization. Hessen was appointed to the Florida Bar Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee. She is AV Rated and has handled workers’ compensation claims from 2004 through the present. She was awarded the prestigious Kenny Edwards Award in 2014 as well as Leader in the Law in 2014 by State FAWL and Lifestyle Media Group. Hessen holds a Juris Doctor from St. Thomas University School of Law.

Kimberly A. Homer serves as the executive director of the Orange County Bar Association in Orlando. Previously, she served as the director of the OCBA’s Foreclosure Mediation Program while simultaneously serving as the assistant executive director of the OCBA. She began working for the Orange County Bar in May 2010. Homer has a J.D. from Cumberland Law School in Birmingham, Ala., and has been admitted to practice law in Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Montana. Her legal background includes work as a Georgia Legal Services attorney, serving as an assistant district attorney in the Northern District of Georgia, and working as a sole practitioner in Georgia, Alabama and Montana. In addition to being an active member of the Orange County Bar Association and the Central Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Homer serves as a volunteer Guardian ad Litem for the Legal Aid Society of the OCBA Inc. She was a member of the Orange County Public Schools Leadership Orange Program and enjoys serving on the Valencia College Paralegal Studies Advisory Committee. Homer is also a member of the National Association of Bar Executives.

John F. Kynes has served as executive director of the Hillsborough County Bar Association since 2011. His background includes more than 19 years of public affairs and administrative experience at the federal, state and local levels. From 2000 to 2006, he served as district director for former U.S. Rep. Jim Davis in Tampa. In this position, he managed two local district offices and coordinated all constituent services and public outreach. Previously, he served as director of intergovernmental relations for the city of Tampa and also as an assistant to Florida Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay in Tallahassee. From 1983 to 1987, he worked as a legislative aide to U.S. Sen. Lawton Chiles in Washington, D.C. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Florida and a master’s degree in journalism and public affairs from American University in Washington, D.C. Active in the community, he serves on the development council of Bay Area Legal Services and the board of the Salvation Army. He also served many years on the foundation board of the Moffitt Cancer Center.
KARLINE LEE is an associate attorney at the firm of Phelan Hallinan Diamond & Jones, PLLC, in Fort Lauderdale. Lee is admitted to the Bar in both New York and Florida. She is a litigation associate and oversees the mediations department. Lee received her J.D. and MBA with a specialization in International Business from St. Thomas University in 2009. She is a member of the Broward County Bar Association as well as a member of the Florida Bar Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee. Her appointment runs through June 30, 2017.

ADRIANA LINARES is a legal technology trainer and consultant with her company, LawTech Partners. She uses her personal and practical approach to technology to help legal professionals maximize their time and investments in hardware, software and systems. Linares currently serves as a technology consultant to The Florida Bar Board of Governors Communications Committee, is a board member of the ABA's Legal Technology Resource Center and serves on the advisory board for the Center for Law Practice Technology at the Florida Coastal School of Law. Linares has recently launched Help Desk for Lawyers – a remote training and support service focused on solo and small firms. She hosts the New Solo podcast on the Legal Talk Network.

CARLOS LLOREDA is from Miami and is a second-year law student at the Florida State University College of Law. He did his undergraduate at Florida State University where he double majored in Communications and English. He has been a member of the Tallahassee Bar Association since fall semester of his first year in law school. During spring semester of his first year in law school he became more involved in the TBA. He served as a volunteer at the 2015 Chili Cook Off and subsequent events which has led to his appointment on the 2015-16 TBA Event Committee. He is working this summer as a law clerk at the Law Office of Ed Green.

VICTORIA McCLOSKEY, an attorney with Bush Ross, concentrates her practice in health care defense litigation and general civil trial matters. She frequently defends clients in litigation involving physicians and nursing medical negligence, premises liability and general liability claims. McCloskey is member of the Hillsborough County Bar Association and serves on the Young Lawyers Division Board of Directors. She is also a member of the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers and is the vice president of programs. She serves on the membership committee for the Florida Association for Women Lawyers and is a member of the American Bar Association. She is the 2012-2013 recipient of the James M. “Red” McEwen Memorial Award for her outstanding service to the Hillsborough County Bar Association. McCloskey also received the Florida Bar Labor and Employment Law Section: Equal Opportunities in the Profession Award, which was presented in 2012. McCloskey was recognized as a “Rising Star” by Florida Super Lawyers magazine in 2013 and 2014.

COLIN McMICHEN is the immediate past president of the Bay County Bar Association, after serving as the secretary, treasurer, vice president, and president. He is also a member of the Florida Bar’s Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee, St. Andrews Bay American Inn of Court and the Kiwanis Club of Panama City. McMichen is an associate with the law firm of Manuel & Thompson, P.A., in Panama City, and he primarily represents plaintiffs in personal injury cases. He graduated from Florida State University College of Law in 2008 and is admitted to practice in Florida and Alabama.

KATHERINE HURST MILLER is a partner at the law firm of Cobb Cole in Daytona Beach, where she practices insurance defense, insurance agent defense and condo/HOA law. Miller is the incoming president-elect of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division (YLD). As a member of the YLD Board of Governors, she chaired the Affiliate Outreach Conference Committee (twice) and the Local Bar Affiliate Committee, among other committee chairmanships. She had an active role in the YLD’s first health and wellness initiative for young lawyers in May 2015. Miller has also been involved with her local voluntary bars, having served as the Young Lawyer representative to the Volusia County Bar Association and as the president of the Volusia Flagler Association for Women Lawyers. She attended Stetson University College of Law and Vanderbilt University. Miller is a volunteer for the Junior League of Daytona Beach and a trustee for the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach.

NATHAN MOON joined the Florida State University College of Law after serving as a senior attorney with Florida’s Office of the State Courts Administrator, the administrative arm of the Florida Supreme Court. In that role, he staffed the Supreme Court Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court, and the Substance Abuse
and Mental Health Task Force. He regularly contributed to judicial bench books on topics including family law, dependency, delinquency, and domestic violence. In the courtroom, Moon served as an assistant state attorney in Florida’s 20th and 6th Judicial Circuits. He also served as an assistant public defender in the 10th Judicial Circuit. While living in Washington, D.C., he helped the District of Columbia Public Schools comply with federal consent decrees related to serving students with special needs, and drafted a manual to promote compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. Moon graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1998 and is an active member of The Florida Bar.

**STEPHANIE MOOT** is a litigation associate in the Miami office of K&L Gates. She focuses her practice on Title III Americans with Disabilities Act public accommodations. With her experience, Moot defends and provides ADA consulting for clients across various industries, such as food, retail, hospitality, healthcare and entertainment. In addition, Moot handles personal injury and products liability matters. She defends business clients in various liability claims and provides risk assessments. Before joining the firm, Moot was a commercial litigation associate at a regional law firm. She also interned with the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Her professional service includes: Miami-Dade Florida Association for Women Lawyers, chair of the Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee (2014); Dade County Bar Association, affiliate Board of Directors seat, Judicial Outreach Committee (2012); Asian Pacific American Bar Association, president (2011-2012), president-elect (2010-2011), treasurer (2009-2010) and Florida Bar Consumer Protection Law Committee (2010-2012). She received her J.D., University of Notre Dame Law School, 2006, and her B.A., from the University of Florida in 2003.

**JANE MUIR** is a commercial litigator with Gersten & Muir, P.A. in Miami, a firm that serves companies in the areas of media, technology and communications. She has served as treasurer, president-elect, president and immediate past-president of the Coral Gables Bar Association, and has served as a member of the board of directors of the Dade County Bar Association, as well as on the DCBA executive committee from 2010-2013. During her service to the Coral Gables Bar Association, she spearheaded two website re-designs, streamlined the process for maintaining books and records and filing annual reports and taxes, and implemented an automated, collaborative system for informing members of news and events. For the Dade County Bar Association, she implemented a design overhaul of the monthly print publication, corresponding with a website redesign, and permitting collaborative use and storage of documents and photos for the communications efforts of the association while serving as chair of the Bulletin Committee from 2012-2014 and co-chair of the ad hoc Website Committee, 2013-2014.

**ROBERT “BOB” J. NADER** holds his B.A. degree from the University of Florida, his M.A. from the University of South Florida, and his law degree from the University of Houston. As a civil trial lawyer for more than 33 years and a solo practitioner for 27 years, his field of practice is primarily in the areas of commercial litigation, creditors’ rights and bankruptcy. He is licensed in both Florida and Texas. Nader’s current practice is now primarily dedicated to providing a broad focus of mediation and arbitration services. He is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil, Family Law and Appellate Law Mediator and has also received special approval to mediate residential mortgage foreclosure cases for the state and Middle District of Florida bankruptcy courts. He is also trained to negotiate and mediate healthcare disputes. Nader is currently the past president of the Hillsborough County Bar Association, having previously served in many positions in the organization. He is a board member of the Ferguson-White American Inn of Court in Tampa. He was the recipient of the 2009 James “Red” McEwen Memorial Award for outstanding service to the HCBA as the creator and director of its Law Day program, “An Evening with Abraham Lincoln and Friends,” and in 2011, he also produced and directed for the HCBA the Law Day Symposium, “The Life and Times of John Adams.” He is in his third year of serving on the Florida State Bar’s Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee, most recently becoming a vice-chair.

**SANDI POREDA, APR** is president of Bulldog Strategy Group. As one of only a few thousand nationally accredited public relations professionals, Poreda is always looking for better ways to connect with people and help them tell their stories. Poreda likes to work under pressure, which comes in handy when she’s helping a client navigate a crisis. Before her work in the private sector for the past two years, Poreda served the state of Florida in several capacities, including communications director for a state licensing agency and the Florida Attorney General’s Office. During her time in the Attorney General’s Office, Poreda helped define the office as a leader in the war on cybercrimes against children, which earned recognition from Oprah Winfrey. She was also responsible for managing the office’s national exposure on numerous multistate litigation efforts, including a constitutional challenge to the Affordable Care Act. In addi-
tion to her work in the public relations industry. Poreda volunteers with local animal rescue organizations. She earned her bachelor's degree from Florida State University and is currently serving as the immediate past president for the Capital Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association.

MATTHEW RIDGELY is the executive director of the Dade County Bar Association (DCBA), Florida’s largest voluntary bar association with approximately 4,800 members. His responsibilities include managing the day-to-day operations of the DCBA and directing a staff of seven employees. He joined the DCBA in 1985 as membership services coordinator and was promoted to assistant director and DCBA Young Lawyers Section coordinator in 1988. During his tenure as YLS coordinator, he guided the YLS out of a deficit to its current annual budget of $70,000. In 1991, he was appointed building manager of the DCBA's four-story office building in downtown Miami and oversees all aspects of the property. In 2006, he was promoted to executive director. He served a three-year appointment on the Programs Committee of the National Association of Bar Executives, which is responsible for producing the Mid-Year and Annual Conference programs. He is a member of the Florida Bar’s Voluntary Bar Liaison Committee and Lawyer Referral Service Committee and the Florida Council of Bar Executives. He has also provided consulting services to voluntary bar associations on topics include marketing, creating sections and non-dues revenue.

WILLIAM J. SCHIFINO JR. is president-elect of The Florida Bar. Schifino is managing partner of Burr Forman's Tampa office and a board certified specialist in the area of business litigation. His practice focuses on a variety of litigation and trial practice, including securities litigation and arbitration, professional malpractice litigation, employment litigation and intellectual property litigation. In 2015, Schifino was elected president-elect of The Florida Bar and will serve as president of the Bar starting in 2016. He is also on the Board of Trustees for the University of Florida Levin College of Law. He is the past president of the Hillsborough County Bar Association (HCBA) and serves as the current president of the Hillsborough County Bar Foundation. He also served as president of the HCBA's Young Lawyers Division in 1994. In addition to his HCBA leadership, Schifino is currently representing the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit on the Florida Bar's Board of Governors. His involvement on the Board includes serving on the Executive Committee, past-chair of the Budget Committee, vice-chair of the Legislative Committee, and liaison to the Unlicensed Practice of Law Committee.

SUSAN WALLER SOWARDS has been the executive director of The Jacksonville Bar Association since June 2007. She was the Nashville Bar Association Executive Director for 9 years and the Fayette County (Lexington) Bar Director for 17 years. The JBA was the first bar association in Florida to be selected as a Program Manager of the Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program in March 2010. Susan has J.D. and M.S.L.S. degrees from the University of Kentucky, and a B.A. from Michigan State University. She is a member of the National Association of Bar Executives, the Kentucky Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. She served on the ABA’s Standing Com-

MICHAEL FOX ORR is a civil litigator who tries civil jury and bench trials. He serves as general counsel for local companies and businesses with operations in multiple states. A member of The Florida Bar, he is also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the Middle and Northern Districts of Florida and the Federal 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. Orr graduated from East Carolina University with a bachelor of science in Business Administration and a concentration in financial services. He received his J.D. from Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville. While in law school, Orr served for two years as president of the Student Bar. Orr is currently serving in his second year as president of his law school's alumni association. Orr also teaches various classes and makes presentations related to the practice of law. He presented on the topic of Ethics and Professionalism in Law Office Management to Northeast Florida paralegals and law office managers, and has served as a substitute professor in a legal course for accountants. Elected to The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors as one of the Fourth Circuit representatives in 2006, he was re-elected to that seat for each until 2012, at which time he was unanimously voted by the board to serve as president. Orr is past President of The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division.

JAMES J. ‘GRIER’ PRESSLY III is president of The Palm Beach County Bar Association. Pressly received both his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Florida. He is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been recognized by Florida Super-Lawyers magazine (2009-2014) as a “Rising Star.” He is chairman of the Board of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, where he has been a member since 2006. Pressly is a member of Probate & Trust Litigation, Probate Law & Procedure, and Trust Law committees of The Florida Bar Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section. He has served as president of the Young Lawyers Section of the Palm Beach County Bar Association and was recognized as an “Outstanding Young Alumnus by the University College of Law in 2010.

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MICHICLE R. SUSKAUER is a West Palm Beach Criminal Lawyer, with an AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell. Suskauer began her legal career as an assistant public defender in West Palm Beach. She has been practicing in Palm Beach County since 1991 and specializes in criminal law in both state and federal courts. Suskauer joined The Suskauer Law Firm in 1997 and concentrates her practice in the areas of domestic violence, DUI, juvenile offenses, narcotics offenses, sexual offenses, violent offenses, white collar crimes and federal offenses. She is highly regarded by judges, prosecutors, law enforcement and her peers. She is known for her creative solutions to complicated problems and for her client advocacy. She is passionate about helping her clients receive the needed services to correct their circumstances so that they do not become repeat offenders. Suskauer has been actively involved in the leadership of numerous local and state legal organizations. She is a past president of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, serves as secretary on the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, vice-chairperson for the Bak Middle School of the Arts Foundation, and is a Past-President of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Palm Beach County Chapter. As president of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Palm Beach County Chapter, Suskauer was recognized by the Governor’s Office, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County for her initiation of the “Breakfast and Books” Mentoring Program for juvenile offenders. Suskauer serves on The Florida Bar Board of Governors, 15th Judicial Circuit, and was the 2013 Chairperson for the Florida Bar Annual Convention.

FRANCINE ANDIA WALKER, APR, CPRC, is Director of Public Information and Bar Services for The Florida Bar. She has spent 33 years in communications and public relations. At The Florida Bar, she works closely with leadership on strategic communications and is responsible for media relations, consumer awareness programs, law related education, the voluntary bar liaison program and the website: www.floridabar.org. A native of Jacksonville, she graduated from Episcopal High School in 1977 and received a bachelor of science in Journalism from the University of Florida in 1981. After college she held several positions in hospital and association public relations in Jacksonville. In 1996, she relocated to Tallahassee with the Florida Medical Association as vice president of Communications, Education and Meeting Services. She joined The Florida Bar in February 2000 in her current position. Nationally accredited in public relations (APR), she is also a Certified Public Relations Counselor (CPRC). She has held leadership roles in the Public Relations Society of America/ North Florida Chapter and in the Florida Public Relations Association, and has also been active in Leadership Tallahassee, the Junior League and many non-profit/charitable organizations. She is a former chair of the National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) Communications Section. She currently chairs the NABE Scholarship Committee. In 2013, she received the E. A. “Wally” Richter Leadership Award for outstanding professional achievement in bar communications and extraordinary service to NABE and the section.
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Poker Run Networking Game

1. You will receive 5 playing cards at the registration desk with your name on the back of each card.

2. The object of the “Poker Run Networking Game” is to obtain the best Poker hand.
   *If you don’t know how to play Poker – no big deal, we have a handy sheet on the following page that shows you the various different hands for Poker.

3. You must exchange with a minimum of 3 different people 3 of your 5 playing cards to win prizes. Feel free to exchange your cards more than 3 times if you desire a better hand. If you have a good hand, you may choose not to exchange your cards further after completing the requirement for 3 exchanges.

4. Each card exchange must be with a person you have never met before. You must offer the person to pick 1 card from 3 of your cards. You cannot show or tell the person the 3 cards that he or she is to pick from.

5. When you exchange your playing card, find out:
   (1) the person’s name;
   (2) the voluntary bar association the person represents; and
   (3) one great idea or tip regarding voluntary bars.

♣♥♦ PRIZES AWARDED AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY ♣♥♦
Poker Hand Rankings

Royal Flush
The five highest cards, the 10 through the Ace, all five of the same suit. A royal flush is actually an ace-high straight flush.

Straight Flush
Any five cards of the same suit in consecutive numerical order.

Four of a Kind
Four cards of the same denomination.

Full House
Any three cards of the same denomination, plus any pair of a different denomination. Ties are broken first by the three of a kind, then the pair.

Flush
Any five non-consecutive cards of the same suit.

Straight
Any five consecutive cards of mixed suits. Ace can be high or low.

Three of a Kind
Three cards of the same denomination.

Two Pair
Any two cards of the same denomination, plus any other two cards of the same denomination. If both hands have the same high pair, the second pair wins. If both pairs tie, the high card wins.

One Pair
Any two cards of the same denomination.
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