

Circuit Professionalism Report Summaries

First Circuit

The First Judicial Circuit Bench and Bar Professionalism Committee sponsored a CLE cruise from New Orleans to Cozumel, on February 11-15, 2016. This year's cruise included CLE sessions on Ethics for Attorneys with Paralegals and "A View from the Bench," presented by Judge Terry Terrell. The Committee also adopted the Joint Lawyer Civility Resolution in partnership with the Northwest Florida Voluntary Bar Associations and Inns of Court to raise awareness about Professionalism Expectations and Local Professionalism Panels (LPPs). A series of socials and lunches hosted by the Committee brought attorneys and judges together, providing the opportunity to discuss professionalism issues in an informal setting. The Committee has also partnered with the University of West Florida and Studer Higher Education to organize focus groups in order to develop future goals and programs. Each focus group aims to identify and address professionalism issues affecting members of the First Circuit. In the coming year, the Committee plans to reenergize efforts to solicit nominations for its "Random Acts of Professionalism" recognition award.

Second Circuit

The Second Circuit Professionalism Panel hosted a "Professionalism Summit" at the Florida Supreme Court on September 25, 2015. The event was well-attended and provided CLE credits to participants. The Panel works in conjunction with the Tallahassee Bar Association and other voluntary bar associations to provide information about professionalism to the legal community. The Panel plans to implement its Professionalism Power Lunch Series with local judges in the year ahead.



Figure 1 Left to Right: Shanell Schuyler, Director of ACAP, and Attorney Sean Desmond at the Second Judicial Circuit Professionalism Conference

Third Circuit

The Third Judicial Circuit Professionalism and Panel Committee continued to work in conjunction with the Third Circuit Bar Association and Young Lawyer's Division to organize events promoting professionalism and comradery among attorneys and judges. The Committee additionally focused on making members of the Bar and judiciary aware of the purpose and goals of the LPP, requesting input to ensure the Committee reaches its full potential. The Committee will continue to further its culture of informal mentorship in the coming year.

Fourth Circuit

The Fourth Circuit is home to the Jacksonville Bar Professionalism Committee. In the last year, the Committee has hosted several judicial receptions and training seminars focusing on professionalism issues. The Committee also presented the Jacksonville Bar Association Professionalism Award to Courtney Grimm at its Annual Law Day Luncheon in May 2016. The Committee encourages members to become part of the mentoring program it offers in conjunction with the Fourth Judicial Circuit, aiming to heighten the degree of civility, professionalism and

competence in the circuit. In the months ahead, the Committee will prepare for its professionalism conference at the Players Championship, to be held on May 10, 2017.



Figure 2 Fourth Judicial Circuit

Fifth Circuit

The Fifth Circuit Professionalism Committee has hosted numerous professionalism seminars during the reporting period, including a professionalism conference attended by approximately 200 lawyers and judges throughout the state. The Committee Chair, Judge S. Sue Robbins, spoke to the Marion County Bar Association on the topic of mentoring, and Judge Rick Howard also gave a presentation to local bar associations on stress management in the practice of law. The Committee has established two active mentoring programs: one involves a traditional mentoring relationship, while the other is a reverse mentoring program where a younger lawyer helps an older lawyer with issues relating to technology. The Committee is currently in the planning stages for the 2018 professionalism conference and is also developing a 2017 diversity education program for judges and other court staff. An educational program based on the reverse mentoring program is also slated for summer 2017. The Fifth Circuit Professionalism Committee presented its 2016 Professionalism Award to the Honorable Thomas D. Sawaya of the Fifth District Court of Appeal.

Sixth Circuit

The Sixth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee participated in several professionalism programs hosted by local bars, including the Clearwater Bar Association's 2016 Professionalism

Symposium, the “Wild Wild West Bench and Barbeque” presented by the Clearwater Bar Association and the St. Petersburg Bar Association, and a program titled “Black & White? Or Many Shades of Gray?” held by the West Pasco Bar Association. The Committee additionally helped draft the Professionalism Expectations and Professionalism Implementation Procedures of the Sixth Judicial Circuit. The Committee is currently working with local bar associations to produce more professional programs within the circuit.

Seventh Circuit

The Seventh Circuit Professionalism Committee is presently planning a May 2017 professionalism symposium in conjunction with the Volusia County Bar Association. The symposium will feature a guest speaker and two breakout sessions focusing on professionalism in specific areas of law. Two professionalism awards will also be presented at the symposium: one will be given to a local attorney practicing for less than five years, while another will recognize an attorney with five or more years of experience in the profession. The Committee will also continue to encourage its members to participate in the mentoring programs offered by the Volusia County Young Lawyers Section and the Dunn-Blount Inn of Court.

Eighth Circuit

The Eighth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee hosts the Judicial Mentoring Program, which pairs new judges with mentor judges to help them transition from practicing law to serving on the bench. The Committee has received positive feedback from mentors and new judges alike and frequently finds judges volunteering for mentor training because they found the process to be rewarding. The Committee also hosted its annual professionalism seminar, which was attended by 100 - 125 local judges, lawyers, and law students. The seminar included a keynote speech on professionalism issues and breakout small group discussions. At its annual dinner, the Committee presented its James L. Tomlinson Professionalism Award to a local attorney exemplifying the highest ideals of professionalism, ethics, and competence. The Committee will continue to work closely with the Eighth Judicial Circuit Law School Association to implement a mentoring program in the coming year.

Ninth Circuit

The Ninth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee hosted four professionalism events during the reporting period, including a “Fireside Chat” with John Berry and Paul Lipton, and seminars focusing on civility, professionalism in a diverse world and professionalism in everyday legal practice. The Committee also gave presentations on professionalism at two local law schools, Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law and Florida A&M University College of Law. These presentations were offered as part of a “Pizza and Professionalism” series. The Committee also presented its three professionalism awards: Honorable David A. Baker received the James G. Glazebrook Memorial Bar Service Award, Emery H. Rosenbluth, Jr. received the William Trickel, Jr. Professionalism Award and Kristopher J. Kest received the Lawrence G. Matthews, Jr. Young Lawyer Professionalism Award. In the year ahead, the Committee plans to expand its “Pizza and Professionalism” program and will continue to contribute monthly articles to the Orange County Bar Association’s newsletter.

Tenth Circuit:

The Tenth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee hosted its annual Professionalism Dinner, where it presented the Professionalism Award to Don Wilson. The Committee also honored Anne Weeks as the recipient of its Justice Achievement Award, which is presented to a non-lawyer working in the court system who has a significant impact on the improvement of the administration of justice in the circuit. Chief Judge Donald Jacobsen of the Committee also developed a series of six seminars focusing on various aspects of professionalism and trial skills. The Committee is currently preparing to host its New Lawyer Orientation event in conjunction with the American Inn of Court, and several members are working to develop presentations on issues in professionalism.

Eleventh Circuit:

The Professionalism Committee in the Eleventh Circuit is comprised of four sub-committee: Summit, New Attorney Breakfast, Local Professionalism Panel, and Mentorship Program. The Committee created the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee Excellence in Professionalism Award which recognizes an individual for his or her service either on the Professionalism Committee or the Local Professionalism Panels. The inaugural award was presented this year. The Committee held its Third Annual Professionalism and Civility Summit in October 2015. The event focused on the judiciary and the role it plays in the professionalism effort, explaining appropriate methods for handling instances of unprofessionalism inside and outside of the courtroom. The Committee also sponsored the Third Annual New Attorney Breakfast in October 2015, which featured speakers discussing professionalism and civility. LPPs have been in place and running smoothly within the circuit. Additionally, members of the Committee are actively promoting professionalism and civility by participating in many projects in the circuit, including mentoring programs, panel discussions, meetings of the Joint Civility Task Force and the Third District Court of Appeals Bar Induction Ceremony. The Committee plans to continue to work on its mentoring program and develop a series of lunch seminars throughout the court system.

Twelfth Circuit

The Twelfth Circuit Local Professionalism Panel Committee is responsible for reviewing complaints filed in the circuit. The Chair of the LPP screens complaints and refers them to subpanels of three members if further investigation and action are warranted. The Chair also serves as a liaison to the existing LPPs and attends teleconferences of LPP participants. Though the Twelfth Circuit does not have a professionalism committee, it carries out professionalism activities through local bar associations, including the Manatee County Bar Association, the Sarasota County Bar Association (SCBA) and the SCBA's South County Division. Each has engaged in several lunches, seminars, and meetings which actively promote ethics, civility, and professionalism efforts. Each year, the judges of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit award the Jim Slater Award for Professionalism in the Practice of Law, recognizing a criminal law attorney who demonstrates courtesy to opposing counsel, victims, defendants, witnesses, and candor to the court, among other qualities. The Judge John M. Scheb American Inn of Court also presents a

Professionalism Award at its annual gala. This year, the Inn debuted a documentary film entitled, “Legacy of Professionalism: John M. Scheb and our Inn of Court,” chronicling the life and career of Judge Scheb. The April/May 2016 issue of the MCBA’s newsletter, the *Inter Alia*, featured an article entitled “The Tao of Bill and Ted: Going Beyond Professionalism to ‘Be Excellent to Each Other,’” encouraged members to go beyond mere civility and professionalism to offer sincerity, empathy, and kindness to one another.

Thirteenth Circuit

The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee is comprised of five subcommittees. The Promotions Subcommittee aims to promote awareness of the circuit’s LPP, primarily by distributing the brochure explaining the LPP and the process for making a complaint. The CLE & Events Subcommittee aims to educate the circuit about professionalism. Committee Member Thomas Newcombe Hyde created a presentation promoting professionalism which has received ongoing CLE accreditation and has been presented at events throughout the state. The Professionalism Awards Subcommittee honored David Rowland as its recipient of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Award at the Hillsborough County Bar Association Annual Bench Bar Conference Membership Luncheon. The Medical/Legal Subcommittee has engaged in various professionalism activities through its Chair, Circuit Judge Gregory P. Holder, who has spoken at law schools, seminars, and meetings. Finally, the LPP Subcommittee, which is actively receiving complaints, has resolved a total of 11 cases during the reporting period.



Figure 3 Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Award Winner, David Rowland

Fourteenth Circuit

The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Bench-Bar and Professionalism Committee established the Larry G. Smith Professionalism Award, named for a longtime Bay County attorney, circuit judge and judge on the First District Court of Appeals. The attorney selected for the inaugural award was Henry M. Sims, who was honored at an award presentation on May 20, 2016. Additionally, the Committee has focused its efforts on its LPP, which receives, reviews and investigates complaints involving unprofessional conduct. When appropriate, the LPP meets with the subject of the complaint and works to informally resolve the issues giving rise to the complaint. The Committee will continue to solicit nominations for its award in the coming year.

Fifteenth Circuit

The Fifteenth Circuit is home to the Palm Beach County Bar Professionalism Committee. The Committee is split into six subcommittees which work on different projects and programs throughout the year. The New Attorneys subcommittee hosted its Fourth Annual New Attorney Breakfast in October 2015, attended by 98 attorneys along with judges and representatives from other voluntary bar associations. The Committee hosted three CLE presentations geared towards new attorneys and attorneys new to the area. The Professionalism Outreach subcommittee focused its efforts on contacting judges, committee chairs of the Palm Beach County Bar, and other voluntary bars to promote awareness of its LPP referral form. The Professionalism Expectations subcommittee revised a professionalism PowerPoint for a CLE that was previously presented throughout the circuit and is planning to develop new presentations. The Screening Subcommittee assists with reviewing new LPP complaints, while the Liaison to The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism is assisting with the Standing Committee's first ever symposium, *Putting the "Pro" in Professionalism*, to be held April 21, 2017. The Committee recently voted to create a Mentoring subcommittee, which will improve services offered by the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Mentoring Program. The Sidney A. Stubbs, Jr. Professionalism Award was presented this year to Amy S. Borman. The award seeks to recognize an attorney that demonstrates exemplary ethical conduct, character and integrity, respect for the legal system and all of its participants, commitment to maintaining the highest levels of professional competence, courtesy and civility, and commitment to serving clients, the community and the public good.



Figure 4 Amy S. Borman, Sidney A. Stubbs, Jr., Professionalism Award Recipient

Sixteenth Circuit

The Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Local Professionalism Panel is chaired by County Judge William R. Ptomey, Jr. and includes membership of two additional county judges and six local attorneys appointed by the chief judge. Complaints are routed to the Chair and quarterly meetings are scheduled to discuss complaints with additional meetings held as necessary. Members of the Panel frequently participate in events focused on professionalism: Judge Ptomey discussed the Panel as a guest speaker at the Monroe County Bar Association Luncheon, while County Judge Ruth Becker hosted a luncheon to continue discussion on procedural and ethical e-filing issues. The Panel will continue to participate in events such as CLE seminars, judges' luncheons, and receptions at the Third District Court of Appeal in the year ahead.

Seventeenth Circuit

The Seventeenth Circuit is home to the Broward County Bar Association Professionalism Committee. The Committee assisted with CLEs during the reporting period, including a "Got Civility?" seminar which garnered nearly 200 attendees and included a post-event reception with judges. The Committee also presented a CLE on procedural and substantive issues at the Seventeenth Circuit Professionalism Panel in May 2016. The Committee participates in a mentoring program, in which the Committee pairs a new attorney with a more seasoned attorney to serve as a mentor. The Committee also recognized the recipients of two professionalism awards at the Broward County Bar Association Annual Dinner. John C. Primeau received the Lynn Futch

Professionalism Award and Alison Smith received the Joseph J. Carter Professionalism Award. In the year ahead, the Committee will continue to work with local bar associations to plan additional CLEs.



Figure 5 Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Civility Summit

Eighteenth Circuit

The Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee participated in numerous professionalism events hosted by the Brevard County Bar Association and the Seminole County Bar Association. The Brevard County Bar Association hosted its Professionalism Awards Dinner on March 10, 2016, at the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront. Norman R. Wolfinger was posthumously awarded the Judge Clarence T. Johnson Lifetime Achievement Award, while Amy M. Romaine received the Private Lawyer Award and Greg Konieczka received the Government Award. The Seminole County Bar Association also presented professionalism awards: Judge Donna McInstosh was recognized as Judge of the Year, Delton Chen received the Gray Whigham Professionalism Award and Randolph Kramer received the Lifetime Achievement Award. In March 2016, the Seminole County Bar Association hosted Marvin Rooks, Assistant Professor of Law at Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law; Professor Rooks spoke about professionalism and civility in the practice of law, using his own experiences to demonstrate the importance of ethics within the profession.

Nineteenth Circuit

The Nineteenth Circuit Professionalism Panel held its annual meeting on October 6, 2015. The Panel also met informally throughout the year to discuss matters before it and determined how to promote ideals of professionalism within the circuit. The Panel participated in the Bar Bench Liaison Conference within its circuit, and individual Panel members have also made efforts to promote professionalism within their local bar associations. Panel members also solicited nominations for the William M. Hoeveler Judicial Professionalism Award, presented annually by the Center for Professionalism.



Figure 6 Bar Bench Liaison Conference Attendees from Florida Rural Legal Services



Figure 7 Judge J. Gerber, 4th DCA; LPP Member George W. Bush, Jr.; and Judge R. Belanger, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

Twentieth Circuit

The Twentieth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee is made up of judges, representatives from local bar associations and representatives from the State Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office and the Office of Regional Counsel. On November 20, 2015, the Committee hosted its Annual Professionalism Education Seminar for the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel. Committee members gave presentations on Professionalism Expectations for Florida lawyers and professionalism in Florida courts. The Committee participated in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Mock Trial Competition in February 2016 and hosted the Second District Court of Appeal Oral Arguments, including a question and answer session with the judges, in May 2016. Committee members also participated in seminars, CLEs, and luncheons focused on issues in professionalism through local bar associations. The Circuit reports active substantive legal education programs throughout the jurisdiction, along with mentoring activities offered by the individual county bar associations and the Michael R.N. McDonnell Inn of Court. The bar associations representing each of the counties sponsored specific professionalism-focused educational meetings including annual ethics seminars and presentation of leaders in professionalism activities, such as a session led by former president of The Florida Bar, Ray Abedin.