

2015-16 Annual Report for the Standing Committee on Professionalism

The mission of the Standing Committee on Professionalism is to assist the Florida Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, The Florida Bar, and The Florida Bar's Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism in implementing programs, events, and activities to promote professionalism throughout the state. This year the Committee was divided into several working groups who took on specific tasks.

Winter CLE Working Group: This year's Winter CLE Working Group focused on offering a professionalism program dedicated to the importance of mindfulness in our profession. Chaired by Timothy Chinaris, the Working Group offered a three-member panel discussion totaling two hours which educated the audience on the importance of practicing mindfulness to sharpen conflict resolution skills and to navigate life's difficulties. Timothy Chinaris spent time in the opening of the discussion to highlight examples of attorneys who ran afoul of the disciplinary system and could have benefited from mindfulness practice. In addition, Fairlie Brinkley, the Director and Treasurer for Florida Lawyers Assistance, Inc. spoke on the neuroscience of the brain and the benefits of mindfulness. Last, Professor Scott Rogers, a pioneer in exposing attorneys to mindfulness, educated the audience on the science behind mindfulness, its benefits, and how to practice mindfulness on a daily basis. This program was taped and is now available for purchase on The Florida Bar's CLE page.

Education and Resources Working Group: This Working Group, with Renee Brant as Chair, has been hard at work supplying the Center with numerous articles and personal submissions for use in *The Professional*, the Center's tri-annual newsletter and on the newly published Henry Latimer Professionalism Library Guide. This year, *The Professional*, added a "Tips from the Pros" section and members of this Working Group provided short professionalism tips for practicing attorneys.

Awards Working Group: Under the leadership of Working Group Chair Henry Lee Paul, this Group oversaw the entire process leading up to the selection of all three major professionalism award recipients, including the William M. Hoeveler Judicial Award, the Law Faculty/Administrator Award, and the Group Professionalism Award. In addition, the Working Group developed a strategy to promote and educate members of the Bar about the awards and deadlines, considered nominations, and made a recommendation to the full Standing Committee regarding selected awardees.

Circuit Professionalism Working Group: Chaired by Judge Frances Perrone, this Working Group is responsible for the important work of collecting and compiling the Circuit Professionalism Reports from each of Florida's twenty judicial circuits which are then provided to Justice R. Fred Lewis, the Chair of the Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism. The Group reviewed the reports from last year and considered changes and additions to the forms. Group members were assigned to circuits and ensured that these reports were collected and then summarized for use by the Center. The information from these reports is invaluable to the Bench and the Bar in measuring the effectiveness of professionalism programs and efforts around the state.

Young Lawyers Working Group: Chaired by Alvin Benton this Working Group promoted "Balancing Law and Life" and "The Winning Edge" seminars at all the law schools in the state. The Group actively engaged in several conference calls

focused on planning the programs and many group members personally volunteered their time to be a part of the panel presentations. In addition, the Group aided in the promotion of the "Law Student Professionalism YouTube Contest." This Contest promotes the Professionalism Expectations through role-playing videos to be used in training by the Center. In addition to promoting the contest, the Group narrowed the 2015-16 YouTube Contest submissions down and recommended one winner to the full Committee for approval.

I would like to personally express my gratitude to all members and the Center for their hard work this year. Professionalism is and continues to be a major concern in Florida and it is due to individuals like you that we are able to make great strides in protecting the profession.

Caroline Johnson Levine, Standing Committee on Professionalism Chair.