

November 27, 2018

To: Hillary Thornton – Law Clerk, TFB

From: Jason D. Silver, Chair

Re: Student Education and Admissions to the Bar Committee Chair's Report for Fall into Winter, 2018

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It is exciting to report that the first half of the 2018-2019 Florida Bar year has been very successful, engaging, and tangibly productive for the Student Education and Admissions to the Bar Committee. We are all just getting started.

First, a big thank you to the wonderful staff of The Florida Bar who are always available for committee members and greatly assist in all the daily efforts involved with the committee's work.

There has been significantly more committee member engagement than in years past across the board and that is a testament to the fantastic sub group chairs and members of this committee.

The five sub groups, Law School Gender Bias, Legal Education & Reform, Mission & Vision, Mentoring Initiatives, and the Student Education Handbook sub group have all hit the ground running and have had conference call meetings to advance to the next step of each goal.

At the same time, there is still entire half of the year to go and significant of goals to meet. I really encourage all committee members to maximize their role and experience with this committee. If there is something that spikes interest, please just let me or the Florida Bar staff for the SEABC know.

Next, a major goal for this year is to bring SEABC to students and law school campuses in person. The first event focusing on health and wellness on law school campuses was a joint event held together with the Young Lawyers Division's Law Student Division at the Levin College of Law at the University of Florida in Gainesville on November 8, 2018. It was absolutely amazing, informative, and engaging.

The first half of the event consisted of an interactive panel discussing the causes of mental and overall health issues that law students and bar takers are experiencing, what is going on now to help law students and bar takers, practices that current lawyers use to manage similar issues and stress, and what else could be done in the future to tackle challenges facing law students and bar takers.

SEABC committee members including Ron Kozlowski, SEABC Chair Jason Silver, UF Law Professor Debra Cupples, Adriannette Williams of The Florida Bar's Latimer Center for Professionalism, and Ita Neymotin, a Vice Chair of the Committee on Professionalism were the panelists. SEABC member Jennifer Strouf also volunteered to take part and the SEABC is extremely thankful to all the panelists.

The group then held a roundtable with multiple student leaders and discussed issues facing students on campus such as what is currently working on campuses to help with mental health and wellness, what more can occur, and their concerns related to submitting applications for admissions to the bar. The concerns were forwarded to The Florida Bar's Board of Governor assigned to SEABC.

We have also begun discussions with leaders and deans and leaders at the Shepard Broad College of Law at Nova, University of Miami, FIU, and St. Thomas and leaders of related bar sections such as the Young Lawyers Division to get similar types of panels or speaker events planned on those campuses and continue to work to bring the SEABC to the law schools, students, and administrators in person.

The continued goal to increase joint programming and work with other sections and divisions of the bar continues to go well and the SEABC was invited to and is excited and thankful to be taking part at the Young Lawyers Divisions' 2019 Deans' Summit, which will be held in January, 2019.

If committee members have relationships with law school leaders and can help with the effort to get events planned on campuses that would be fantastic. Please let SEABC Chair Jason Silver and Ms. Rebecca Bandy of The Florida Bar know.

Another goal for this year is to build the electronic infrastructure for the SEABC within the Committee Members portal on The Florida Bar's web site for committee members now and in the future to have records of Agendas and Minutes publications and other documents created by the Committee, and other related materials that the committee uses such as articles about issues the committee interacts with. This effort has gone well and will continue to be a focus.

As a reminder we can always use more articles and materials to upload. We welcome all contributions.

SEABC's next meeting will occur at the 2019 Florida Bar Winter Meeting in January. Our staff will advise the committee of the specific date and time of SEABC's specific meeting as soon as it becomes available.

It has been an honor and privilege to work with everyone so far. We are just beginning and very much look forward to finishing this year strong and reporting the same at the Annual Convention in Boca Raton in June of 2019.

- Jason D. Silver