

March 15, 2019

To: Rawan Bitar, The Florida Bar

CC: Rebecca Bandy, Director, The Florida Bar's Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism

From: Jason D. Silver, Chair

Re: Chair's Report for the 2018-2019 bar year

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The 2018-2019 bar year has been a tremendous one for the Student Education and Admissions to the Bar Committee.

There has been an incredible amount of tangibly productive results due to the hard work of the Committee members and Florida Bar staff this year. Overall there has been much increased Committee member engagement as well.

The Committee put on a number of events on law school campuses, which advanced the goals of the committee and impacted law students and law school administrators and faculty.

The Committee also met its goal of working together more with other Divisions and Sections of the Bar to advance goals related to preparing students to pass the bar, professionalism, increasing awareness of The Florida Bar, and making students aware of opportunities for bar involvement both in law school and after law school.

The five sub groups within the Committee all did a great job as well. The Law School Gender Bias, Legal Education & Reform, Mission & Vision, Mentoring Initiatives, and the Student Education Handbook sub groups all hit the ground running, advanced efforts and goals of their respective missions, held conference call meetings to advance to the next step of each goal from last year and are finishing the bar year by holding additional conference call meetings to ensure the Committee is productive to start the next bar year.

As a major goal of the Committee this year was to interact with law students and law school campuses in person, an event focusing on health and wellness on law school campuses was a joint event together with the Young Lawyers Division's Law Student Division at the Levin College of Law at the University of Florida in Gainesville in November, 2018 and it was amazing, informative, and engaging.

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.

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 Governor assigned to the Committee.

Next, an extremely successful CLE event was held at the Florida State University College of Law in March, 2019 where the Committee teamed together with The Henry Latimer Center for

Professionalism to put on a CLE with FSU Law's Professionalism Center called, "How to Become the Law You're Supposed to Be," which included a panel with members of the Committee, Florida Bar staff, and other leaders in the legal community.

Additionally, the Committee then worked together with student leaders from The Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Society at the Shepard Broad College of Law at Nova's College of Law to put to hold a panel titled "A day in the life of a transactional real estate attorney and real estate litigation attorney," with the focus on real estate law in both the transactional and litigation fields. This also took place in March.

The committee also was thankful to be invited to and take part in the Young Lawyers Divisions' 2019 Deans' Summit, which was held in January 2019.

Another goal for this year was to build the electronic infrastructure for the Committee within the Committee Members portal on The Florida Bar's web site for committee members. The committee has thus far been successful with this effort as there has been improved and increased correspondence with the Committee.

There of course is still more work to do and the Committee will be working up to the annual conference in June 2019 to ensure as many goals are met as possible.

A major thank you to the wonderful staff of The Florida Bar who are always available for committee members and greatly assist in the daily efforts of the Committee. Without the assistance of the bar's staff much of the above accomplishments would not have been possible at all.

It has been an honor and privilege to work with Committee members and bar staff this year and for the previous six years as a member of the Committee. The biggest gifts from this past year have been the impact we have hopefully had on law students across the State of Florida and the inspiration I have drawn from the amazing work of so many Committee members and bar staff who really are the ones who made this past year a success.

- Jason D. Silver, Esq.

Chair, Student Education and Admissions to the Bar Committee, 2018-2019