

MINUTES

Student Education and Admission to the Bar Committee (SEABC) Virtual Annual Meeting 2020 Thursday, June 18, 2020 from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jaclyn Behar at 3:30 p.m.

Committee Members in Attendance: Jaclyn Behar, Nancy Benavides, Jason Bent, Laurie Briggs, The Honorable Tanya Brinkley, Joseph Corsmeier, Michele Gavagni, Lacy Hofmeyer, Shahabud Kahn, Rachel Licon, Joe Longfellow, Joshua Magidson, Molli McGuire, Brijesh Patel, Henry Lee Paul, Kristina Puente, Steven Simon, Jennifer Strouf, Heather Thom, Ciara Willis (on behalf of Iris Elijah)

Florida Bar Staff in Attendance: Rebecca Bandy, Director of the Center for Professionalism; Katie Young, Assistant Director of the Center for Professionalism; Beth Kirkland, Program Coordinator for the Center for Professionalism, and Tabitha Guinot, FSU COL extern for the Center for Professionalism.

Guests: Garry Lesser, running for Florida Bar President-Elect

I. Introduction of Guest Speakers: Rebecca Bandy

Gary Lesser, Candidate for President-Elect of The Florida Bar: Mr. Lesser shared his experience of nine years on The Florida Bar Board of Governors and has spent a lot of time on professionalism/ethics issues. He asks for consideration in the upcoming election in March. He is running against Steve Davis, who is also on the BOG.

II. Opening Remarks and Chair's Report: Jaclyn Behar

Ms. Behar updated the committee on the minor amendment to SEABC's Mission statement to make it clearer that the committee's target audience is law students as to not overlap with the YLD. Additionally, the YLD will have its current president-elect serve as a permanent member of the SEABC committee.

III. Reports from Working Group Chairs:

- A. **E-Guide for Electronic Communication:** Mollie McGuire, Chair-- **Ms. McGuire is working to finalize her draft and will circulate for approval once complete.**
- B. **Law School Handbooks:** Ms. Behar shared that she believes there is a draft of the handbook from Ms. Elijah but is not sure on its completion. This is a project that

will need to be continued into the upcoming year.

C. **Engle Panels:** Josh Magidson, Chair

1. Ms. Bandy reported that use of these funds has been put on hold by the Court, and that the Center and YLD may be going in a new direction, pending the Court's approval.
2. Mr. Magidson shared that there were professionalism programs planned at Stetson and Cooley Law that had to be postponed due to the pandemic. He would like to see more interactive scenarios for law students in future programming. However, there is still a lot of uncertainty with holding events on campus.
3. In addition to the panels, the working group had intended to plan an event during Annual. The event would be at lunch, with panel members at round tables immersed within the audience. There would be a guided mediator at the front, with interactive games and discussions about professionalism. Ms. Strouf would like to still carry out this event virtually through Zoom.
4. **The group would like to plan to schedule these panel events in the fall via Zoom and perhaps offer three sessions where students from any of the law schools can attend. Engle funds would not be used; however, costs for these events would be minimal if done online.**

D. **Mentoring Initiatives:** Henry Lee Paul, Chair-- Mr. Paul has shared that his group was not as active due to the pandemic but is encouraged by moving forward using Zoom meetings.

E. **Education and Resources:** Brijesh Patel, Chair-- Mr. Patel shared that Heather Thom and Rachel Licono both reached out to him and provided great suggestions for ways to get law students involved by hosting panels and scheduling court room visits for students. However, those have not yet come to fruition due to the pandemic.

F. **Law School and Lawyer Debt:** Douglas Bates, Chair-- Mr. Bates had a conflict and was not in attendance for this meeting, therefore no update was provided.

IV. **Report from the Center for Professionalism:** Rebecca Bandy

- A. Ms. Bandy was a panelist during a Judicial Roundtable meeting in Miami on Mental Health and Wellness. She also spoke at the Clearwater Bar Association's CLE on Mental Health and Wellness as well as participated in the Escambia County Bar Association's CLE on Mental Health and Wellness. Additionally, she recently virtually presented to the Florida Association of County Attorneys. Katie Young recently presented virtually for Tallahassee Women's Lawyers.
- B. The Center's webpage has undergone some updates. It now has additional tabs for Professionalism Podcasts as well as a tab for the *Engle* grant, which holds information and resources that The Center is putting together in collaboration with the YLD.

- C. Ms. Bandy announced the launching of the [#ProTipTuesday](#) Campaign for social media. These are short videos, a minute or less, by real-life attorneys giving real-life professionalism advice for law students and young lawyers to use. If interested, please email the short videos on professionalism-related topics to Ms. Bandy and The Bar's Communication Department will work to get them edited and ready to post on social media and The Center's webpage.
- D. Ms. Bandy shared that the current edition of the newsletter is being worked on by Katie Young and should be published soon. In the future, *The Professional* will also be available in a "blog" style format with searchable tags that should make it more modern and easier to navigate.
- E. Katie Young will be responsible for developing the committee working groups for the upcoming year.
- V. **Recognition of Termed-off Committee Members:** Rebecca Bandy-- The Center has not received the certificates for the termed-off committee members at this time, but those will be mailed to members as soon as they are received.
- VI. **Recognition of Outstanding Leadership:** Rebecca Bandy--Ms. Bandy recognized the committee's outgoing chair, Jaclyn Behar, and thanked her for her leadership and service to the committee.
- VII. **Vision of Incoming Chair: Brijesh Patel—Mr. Patel shared his vision for the upcoming year which focuses on four main goals: (1) Frequent and open communication; (2) A focus on pushing the committee's content through The Bar's various social media outlets in order to reach the law schools; (3) Each law school should receive attention from the committee; and (4) An emphasis on diversity and inclusion in all areas.**
- VIII. **Closing Remarks:** Rebecca Bandy
 - A. **Ms. Bandy will have Ms. Behar send out the final version of SEABC's Mission and Vision Statements. These are up for BOG approval.**
 - B. **In the coming weeks, the Center will put together a new member handbook. Working groups and charges will be developed and included in the handbook, along with contact information.**
 - C. **Ms. Bandy will touch base with Ms. Gavagni to see if she has any information regarding the upcoming Florida Bar Exam.**
 - D. **Ms. Bandy would like to compose a reading list of books on diversity, inclusion, and the justice system. Please send her your recommendations.**

October 7-9, 2020:

The Florida Bar Fall Meeting of Rules and Other Select Committees, Tampa Airport Marriott (TENTATIVE)