

Florida Bar Board of Governors
February 23, 2021
By Videoconference

1. Roll Call

Dori Foster-Morales, President
Michael G. Tanner, President-Elect
Jeremy C. Branning, 1st Circuit
Melissa VanSickle, 2nd Circuit
Kris B. Robinson, 3rd Circuit
Michael Fox Orr, 4th Circuit
W. Braxton Gillam, IV, 4th Circuit
Renée E. Thompson, 5th Circuit
Joshua T. Chilson, 6th Circuit
Sandra Fascell Diamond, 6th Circuit
Thomas P. Wert, 9th Circuit
Julia L. Frey, 9th Circuit
Tad A. Yates, 10th Circuit
Roland Sanchez-Medina, Jr., 11th Circuit
Nikki L. Simon, 11th Circuit
Jordan A. Dresnick, 11th Circuit
Jeffrey Rynor, 11th Circuit
Steven W. Davis, 11th Circuit
Alice Sum, 11th Circuit
F. Scott Westheimer, 12th Circuit
Kenneth G. Turkel, 13th Circuit
Amy S. Farrior, 13th Circuit
J. Carter Andersen, 13th Circuit
Paige A. Greenlee, 13th Circuit
Clifford C. Higby, 14th Circuit
R. Sia Baker-Barnes, 15th Circuit
Robin I. Bresky, 15th Circuit
Gary S. Lesser, 15th Circuit
Jay Kim, 17th Circuit
Diana Santa Maria, 17th Circuit
Lorna E. Brown-Burton, 17th Circuit
Hilary Creary, 17th Circuit
Adam G. Rabinowitz, 17th Circuit
James G. Vickaryous, 18th Circuit
Gregory S. Weiss, 19th Circuit

Laird A. Lile, 20th Circuit
John D. Agnew, 20th Circuit
E. Duffy Myrtetus, Out of State
Ian M. Comisky, Out of State
Eric L. Meeks, Out of State
Brian D. Burgoon, Out of State
Adam White, YLD President
Todd L. Baker, YLD President-Elect
Joseph “Jody” D. Hudgins, Public Member
Linda Goldstein, Public Member

Members Absent

Lawrence E. Sellers, Jr., 2nd Circuit
Philip J. Bonamo, 7th Circuit
Stephanie M. Marchman, 8th Circuit
C. Richard Nail, 10th Circuit
Jorge L. Piedra, 11th Circuit
Ronald P. Ponzoli, Jr., 15th Circuit
Wayne LaRue Smith, 16th Circuit

2. Staff in Attendance

Joshua Doyle, Executive Director
Allison Sackett, Director, Legal Division
Gypsy Bailey, General Counsel
Terry Hill, Director, Program Division
Cynthia Jackson, CFO & Director, Administrative Division
Rick Courtemanche, Deputy General Counsel
Elizabeth Clark Tarbert, Ethics Counsel
Patricia A. Savitz, Staff Counsel
Francine Walker, Director, Public Information and Bar Services
Mike Garcia, Director, Research, Planning and Evaluation
Mikalla Davis, Attorney Liaison, Rules
Rosalyn Scott, Assistant to the President
Leslie Reithmiller, Assistant to the President
Gary Blankenship, Senior Editor, Florida Bar News
Jim Ash, Senior Editor, Florida Bar News

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Board member Sandra Diamond delivered the invocation and board member Jeremy Branning led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Guests

President Dori Foster-Morales recognized the following guests:

Andrew Blaise Sasso, Parliamentarian

A. Dax Bello, Cuban American Bar Association

Kimberly E. Hosley, Florida Association for Women Lawyers

Karen Ladis, Legal Aid Representative

Altanese P. Phenelus, Government Lawyer Representative

5. Special Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services Report

Chair John Stewart presented.

At a February 16 meeting, the committee voted “in concept” to simplify lawyer advertising rules and eliminate mandatory filing, and to further explore proposed changes to Rule 4-5.4 Independence of a Lawyer that would permit fee splitting in certain circumstances and active nonlawyer ownership of law firms. The committee’s final report will be forwarded to the Supreme Court and the board by June 30, 2021.

6. Florida Commission on Access to Civil Justice Report

Executive Committee Chair Gregory Coleman presented.

Legal aid in Florida generates \$600 million annually, including \$264.3 million in direct benefits to clients, \$60.4 million in cost savings for such things as eviction and domestic violence prevention, and \$274.8 million in economic multipliers.

Family law cases make up 80 percent to 90 percent of the unmet legal need. The commission is working with business partners. The commission will seek board approval before forwarding proposals to the Supreme Court.

7. Discussion Regarding Access to Justice and Board Structure

President Dori Foster-Morales led the discussion.

The board discussed whether structural changes are necessary to respond to access-to-justice and other proposals, including the Special Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services’ final recommendations. The board voted without objection to appoint a liaison who will attend Special Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services Committee meetings and report back to the board.

8. Time and Place of Next Meeting

There being no further business before the board, President Dori Foster-Morales adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m. The next regular board meeting will convene March 5 via videoconference.

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