

March 10, 2021

To: Rawan Bitar, The Florida Bar

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

Katie Young, Assistant Director, The Florida Bar's Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism

From: Brijesh Patel, Chair, Student Education and Admission to the Bar Committee

Re: Chair's Report 2020-2021

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The 2020-2021 Bar year has continued to challenge all of us in more ways than we could have ever imagined. Despite the challenges we have all faced since the start of the pandemic last year, the Student Education and Admission to the Bar Committee (Committee) has continued to be productive and resourceful.

The success of the Committee would not be possible without the tremendous work of all those at The Florida Bar, The Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism, and most importantly, our Committee members.

After moving to a virtual format for Committee meetings since the pandemic, our Committee has seen a significant increase in member engagement, which has directly contributed to the productivity of our working groups. One change that our Committee made this year was to have fewer working groups with more members within each group. This change has allowed more diverse contributions by members in order to accomplish the significant working charges. Thus, our Committee has three working groups, as follows: Law School Handbook, Law School Professionalism Panels, and Social Media.

Our Law School Handbook group is hard at work drafting and updating a digital handbook for prospective students desiring to enter the legal field. The handbook will include all things one would need to consider and evaluate before considering law school. Our Law School Professionalism Panels group plans to set panels with law school students across Florida on various professionalism-related topics. Lastly, our Social Media group has encouraged members of The Florida Bar to contribute to a relatively new campaign launched by The Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism, titled “#ProTipTuesday,” where legal practitioners across Florida submit short video clips on a professionalism topic of their choosing. This video is then edited and promoted across The Florida Bar and The Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism's social media pages in order to promote professionalism across the legal profession.

Our Committee members continue to stay engaged and are willing to contribute to ensure our profession maintains and in some cases, exceeds, the level of professionalism required for a Florida Bar licensed attorney. The Committee will continue to educate prospective law students and Florida Bar licensed attorneys and will continue to inspire the spirit of professionalism in everything we do.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the Chair this year thus far and I look forward to finishing this year stronger than ever. As the saying goes, “the best is yet to come.”

Sincerely,

Brijesh Patel

Chair, Student Education and Admission to the Bar Committee, 2020-2021