The Florida Bar Board of Governors  
November 8, 2021  
By Videoconference  
10:00 a.m.

I. Roll Call
Michael G. Tanner, President  
Gary S. Lesser, President-Elect  
Jeremy C. Branning, 1st Circuit  
Lawrence E. Sellers, Jr., 2nd Circuit  
Melissa VanSickle, 2nd Circuit  
Kris B. Robinson, 3rd Circuit  
W. Braxton Gillam IV, 4th Circuit  
Michael Fox Orr, 4th Circuit  
Gordon J. Glover, 5th Circuit  
Joshua T. Chilson, 6th Circuit  
Sandra Fascell Diamond, 6th Circuit  
Philip J. Bonamo, 7th Circuit  
Stephanie M. Marchman, 8th Circuit  
Thomas P. Wert, 9th Circuit  
Julia L. Frey, 9th Circuit  
Tad A. Yates, 9th Circuit  
C. Richard Nail, 10th Circuit  
Roland Sanchez-Medina, Jr., 11th Circuit  
Nikki L. Simon, 11th Circuit  
Jordan A. Dresnick, 11th Circuit  
Jorge L. Piedra, 11th Circuit  
Judge Leslie B. Rothenberg, 11th Circuit  
Alice Sum, 11th Circuit  
Jeffrey Rynor, 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  
Ronald P. Ponzoli, Jr., 15th Circuit  
Robin I. Bresky, 15th Circuit  
Michael J. Gelfand, 15th Circuit  
Wayne LaRue Smith, 16th Circuit  
Jay Kim, 17th Circuit  
Diana Santa Maria, 17th Circuit  
Lorna E. Brown-Burton, 17th Circuit
Members Absent
Adam G. Rabinowitz, 17th Circuit

2. Staff in Attendance
Joshua Doyle, Executive Director
Gypsy Bailey, General Counsel
Elizabeth Tarbert, Director, Legal Division
Terry Hill, Director, Program Division
Leslie Reithmiller, Assistant to the President
Gary Blankenship, Senior Editor, Florida Bar News

3. Guests
President Tanner recognized the following guests:
Michael Davis, President, Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter, National Bar Association
Karen Ladis, Legal Aid Representative
Miriam Ramos, President-Elect, Cuban American Bar Association
Jenny Scavino Sieg, President, Florida Association for Women Lawyers
Andrew Sasso, Parliamentarian
Nicholas Shannin, Chair, Council of Sections

4. Report of the Special Committee to Improve the Delivery of Legal Services
The board took several votes on items in the special committee’s final report, as follows:
  • The board voted 34-10 to accept the special committee’s recommendation that The Florida Bar promote a better understanding of Rule 4-1.2(c) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.
  • The board voted 46-0 to reject the special committee’s recommendation to amend The Rules Regulating The Florida Bar within the proposed Legal Practice Innovation Laboratory Program (the “Lab”) and potentially thereafter, to permit nonlawyers to have a non-controlling equity interest in law firms with restrictions, as described in Appendix B to the special committee’s report.
• The board voted 45-0 to reject the special committee’s recommendation to amend the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, within the proposed Lab and potentially thereafter, to eliminate the restriction on fee sharing with nonlawyers.
  • The board voted 40-4 to postpone consideration of the special committee’s recommendations to amend Bar Rules to allow not-for-profit legal service providers to organize as corporations and to allow non-lawyers to serve on the boards of directors of non-for-profit legal service providers.
  • The board voted 43-0 to reject the special committee’s recommendation to amend The Florida Bar’s advertising rules and the comments to the rules, as proposed in Appendix C to the special committee’s report.
  • The board considered the recommendation of the special committee to allow qualified Florida Registered Paralegals to provide certain limited legal services, within the proposed Lab and within a law office or legal aid organization, as described in Appendix D to the special committee’s report. A motion was made to reject that recommendation. A motion was then made to amend the motion to reject. The amendment would limit the pilot program to legal aid organizations only and not require it be tested in the Lab; limit the authorized areas of law in the pilot program to residential landlord/tenant law on behalf of the tenant and debt collection defense; and remove “assistance with court proceedings” from the list of permissible activities. The board then voted 24-15 in favor of the motion to amend. Following further discussion, the board voted 30-8 to postpone further discussion and action on the amended motion.

5. Time and Place of Next Meeting
Noting the board had run over its scheduled meeting time, President Tanner announced another meeting would be scheduled to finish consideration and voting on the recommendations of the special committee. President Tanner adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m.