

The Florida Bar Board of Governors
January 17, 2025
Tallahassee

1. Roll Call

Roland Sanchez-Medina, Jr., President
Rosalyn Sia Baker-Barnes, President-elect
Jeremy C. Branning, 1st Circuit
David W. Grimes, 2nd Circuit
Melissa N. VanSickle, 2nd Circuit
Michael Fox Orr, 4th Circuit
W. Braxton Gillam, IV, 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
Frank M. Bedell, 9th Circuit
Diego “Woody” Rodriguez, 9th Circuit
Tad A. Yates, 9th Circuit
Victor R. Smith, 10th Circuit
Karl N. Klein, 11th Circuit
Nikki L. Simon, 11th Circuit
Jorge L. Piedra, 11th Circuit
Jeffrey Rynor, 11th Circuit
Leslie B. Rothenberg, 11th Circuit
Alice Sum, 11th Circuit
Jesse R. Butler, 12th Circuit
John A. Schifino, 13th Circuit
Amy Stuart Farris, 13th Circuit
J. Carter Andersen, 13th Circuit
Paige A. Greenlee, 13th Circuit
Theodore R. Howell, 14th Circuit
Grasford W. Smith, Jr., 15th Circuit
Manuel “Manny” Farach, 15th Circuit
Michael J. Gelfand, 15th Circuit
Wayne LaRue Smith, 16th Circuit
Alison F. Smith, 17th Circuit
Brian H. Koch, 17th Circuit
Lorna E. Brown-Burton, 17th Circuit
Adam G. Rabinowitz, 17th Circuit
James G. Vickaryous, 18th Circuit
John D. Agnew, 20th Circuit

Donald A. Workman, Out of State
Eric L. Meeks, Out of State
Brian D. Burgoon, Out of State
Ashlea Edwards, YLD President
Arti H. Hirani, YLD President-elect
Melanie Shore, Public Member
Orlando Rolón, Public Member

Members Absent

Kris B. Robinson, 3rd Circuit
Jordan A. Dresnick, 11th Circuit
Sabrina Vora-Puglisi, 11th Circuit
Robin I. Bresky, 15th Circuit
Gregory S. Weiss, 19th Circuit
E. Duffy Myrtetus, Out of State

2. Staff in Attendance

Joshua Doyle, Executive Director
Allison Carden Sackett, Director, Executive Division
Elizabeth Clark Tarbert, Director, Lawyer Regulation Division
Gypsy Bailey, General Counsel & Director, Division of Ethics & Consumer Protection
Terry Hill, Director, Programs Division
Cynthia Jackson, Chief Financial Officer & Director, Division of Administration
Tracie Harley, Controller
Jonathan Grabb, Ethics Counsel
Patricia A. Savitz, Staff Counsel
Christine Bilbrey, Director, Practice Resource Center
Jaime Moore, Practice Management Advisor, Practice Resource Center
Josie Follick, Social Media Coordinator, Communications Division
Rob Saravia, Marketing Manager, Programs Division
Brandee Blake, Assistant to the Executive Director
Samadhi Jones, Senior Editor, *Florida Bar News*
Jim Ash, Senior Editor, *Florida Bar News*

3. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Board member David Grimes delivered the invocation and board member Melissa Van Sickle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Remarks, Former Florida Bar President Gary Lesser

A commemorative scrap book presented by the Board of Governors is a welcome reminder of enduring friendships and the rewards of Bar service.

5. Citizens Advisory Committee

President Roland Sanchez-Medina Jr. introduced the following Citizens Advisory Committee members: Michelle “Mish” Pelaez, Miami; Joey Arellano, Tallahassee; Giorgina Pinedo-Rolón, Orlando; and Linda Goldstein, Tampa.

6. Remarks, Florida Supreme Court Justice Jorge Labarga

The Supreme Court enjoys close friendships and remains highly collegial. Maintaining professionalism is more challenging in an informal society. A lawyer would be wise to pause before sending an angry email.

7. Liaisons, Representatives and Guests

President Roland Sanchez-Medina Jr. introduced the following liaisons, representatives and guests:

Michael L. MacNamara, Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Jami Coleman, Tallahassee Bar Association
Maya D. Hendry, Tallahassee Barristers Association
Maria Santoro, American Board of Trial Advocates, North Florida Chapter
Christine R. Davis, Appellate Court Rules Committee
Charbel J. Barakat, regional general counsel, D. R. Horton, Inc., Tampa
Schuyler A. Smith, Hamilton Miller & Birthisel, Miami
Adam JTW White, Emmanuel Sheppard & Condon, Pensacola
Adisley “Adi” Cortez Rodriguez, U.S. Department of Justice, Tallahassee
Monica Vignes-Pitan, Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.

8. Minutes Approval

The board approved the regular minutes from the December 13, 2024, meeting and the grievance minutes from the December 13, 2024, meeting. That approval included the following:

- The confidential minutes of an executive session that President Roland Sanchez-Medina announced in open session at the December 13, 2024, meeting.

9. Consent Calendar

The board approved the consent agenda, which included the following items:

- UPL Circuit Committee Nominations: Committee 6A, Lyndsey E. Siara, attorney member; Committee 11B, Joseph F. Rich, attorney member; Committee 11B, Lisa T. Roberts, attorney member.
- Acceptance of the annual audit for The Florida Bar for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024, and 2023.

10. Disciplinary Procedure Committee Report

Chair Brian Burgoon presented.

Items on Final Approval: The board voted without objection to approve proposed amendments to Rule 3-7.4 (Grievance Committee Procedures).

Items on First Reading: Proposed amendments to Rule 3-3.2 (The Board of Governors of the Florida Bar), Rule 3-5.1 (Generally), Rule 3-7.6 (Procedures Before a Referee), Rule 3-7.1 (Incapacity), and Standing Board Policy 15.55 (Deferral of Disciplinary Investigation During Civil, Criminal and Administrative Proceedings).

11. Appellate Court Rules Committee Report

Chair Christine Davis presented.

Items on Final Action: The board voted 45-0-0 to accept proposed amendments to Rule 9.100 (Original Proceedings), Rule 9.210 (Briefs), Rule 9.310, (Stay Pending Review), Rule 9.800 (Uniform Citation System), and Rule 9.900 (Forms).

12. Probate Rules Committee Report

Liaison Sandra Diamond presented.

Items on Final Action: The board voted 43-0-0 to accept proposed amendments to Rule 5.405 (Proceedings to Determine Protected Homestead Real Property).

13. Rules Committee Report

Chair Stephanie Marchman presented.

The committee reviewed 61 rules in the first half of the Bar year.

Items on Final Action: The board voted without objection to approve proposed amendments to Rule 1-3.7 (Reinstatement to Membership), Rule 2-3.11 (Electronic Meetings), and Standing Board Policy 1.20 (Board Meetings).

Items on First Reading: Proposed amendments to Rule 4-1.6 (Confidentiality), as requested by the Supreme Court.

14. Program Evaluation Committee Report

Chair Michael Fox Orr presented.

Board members should note a January 6, 2025, Supreme Court order revised the process for noticing and approving procedural rules of court, effective April 1, 2025.

Items on Final Approval: The board voted without objection to approve proposed amendments to Rule 6-12.4 (Deferment and Exemption).

The board voted without objection to approve proposed amendments to BLSE Policy 2.09 (Professional Ethics and Competence).

The board voted without objection to approve proposed amendments to a series of Civil Procedure Rules Committee internal operating procedures.

Items on First Reading: Proposed amendments to Rule 6-25.2 (Definitions), Rule 6-25.3 (Minimum Standards), Rule 6-25.4 (Recertification), Rule 6-25.5 (Manner of Listing Area of Certification), BLSE Policy 2.13 (Grading, Review, and Petition Process), and BLSE Policy 2.14 (Applicant Review Process for Certification or Recertification).

15. Board Review Committee on Professional Ethics

Vice-chair Jesse R. Butler presented.

Items on Final Action: Review of amendments to Rule 4-8.6(c) of the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, which update the titles and functions that a nonlawyer or out-of-state lawyer may hold in a law firm. The committee considered comments and approved the proposed amendments on December 12, 2025. The board voted without objection to approve the proposed amendments.

16. Remarks, Board of Governors Representative Adam JTW White

Board members are asked to note the April 15 deadline to submit nominations for the Alan B. Bookman Service in Leadership Award. The award honors the memory of the former Florida Bar president from Pensacola who died in 2021 at age 74.

17. Remarks, Sixth Judicial Circuit Representative Joshua T. Chilson

Board members are urged to recruit candidates and encourage participation in The Florida Bar Wm. Reece Smith, Jr., Leadership Academy.

18. Legislation Committee Report

Chair Gordon Glover presented.

The annual Florida Bar Legislative Reception at the Capitol was a success.

Legislative advocate Jim Daughton reported that the State Courts Administrator is presenting a robust legislative budget request to legislative committees that calls for significant technology enhancements and due process resources for the court system. The Supreme Court certified the need for 50 additional judgeships. The Sixth District Court of Appeal continues to advocate for a court facility.

19. Budget Committee Report

Chair Jeffrey Rynor presented.

The committee conducted a daylong budget workshop in Tallahassee on January 16. Board members Lorna Brown-Burton, Donald Workman, Paige Greenlee, and John Agnew were recognized and appreciated for their time volunteering to assist the committee in that review exercise.

20. Investment Committee Report

Chair Braxton Gillam presented.

The Long-Term Fund contained about \$78 million, and the Short-Term Fund contained about \$21 million as of December 21, 2024.

21. Remarks, Former Florida Bar President Edith Osman (1999)

Fellow American Bar Association delegates consider The Florida Bar a national leader. An ABA collaboration with The Florida Bar YLD is aiding disaster victims. The ABA is weighing resolutions concerning law school certification, judicial security, and other matters. Board members should consider becoming active in ABA sections.

22. Executive Session

The board went into executive session to discuss confidential matters.

23. Certification Plan Appeals Committee Report

Chair Sandra Diamond presented.

The committee met to hear oral arguments from a Bar member seeking reconsideration of the determination of BLSE that she was permanently delinquent in satisfying her CLE requirements. After the hearing, the committee determined that pursuant to Rule 1-3.7(d) she was deemed

delinquent for over five years and therefore ineligible for a hardship waiver and must seek readmission through the Florida Board of Bar Examiners.

24. Board Technology Committee Report

Vice Chair Karl Klein presented.

The committee continues to study the potential of a Kia Audit to be approved for the Member Benefits Program. A practical guide for the ethical use of AI tools in a law practice has been posted to LegalFuel and will be periodically updated. A subcommittee is reviewing the potential for AI to increase access to justice.

25. Communications Committee Report

Chair Paige Greenlee presented.

Updates on Board of Governors initiatives will be available next week for board liaisons to present to their sections. President Roland Sanchez-Medina asked liaisons to update sections as frequently as possible.

26. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Joshua Doyle invited division chiefs to introduce the following Florida Bar staff members: Programs Division Director Terry Hill introduced Margaret O'Neill, Christine Bilbrey, and Jaime Moore. Lawyer Regulation Division Director Elizabeth Tarbert introduced Heather Telfer and Melissa Mera. Communications Division Director Jennifer Krell Davis introduced Samadhi Jones and Melanie Strickland. General Counsel and Ethics and Consumer Protection Division Director Gypsy Bailey introduced Eve Alvarez and Susan Grey. Executive Division Director Allison Sackett introduced Kelly Bliley-Grieisl.

27. Remarks, Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Carlos Muñiz

Justices are willing to make further refinements to the civil justice reforms that took effect January 1, 2025. Florida Bar board members are urged to read the "2024 Year End Report on the Federal Judiciary" by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. Florida Bar leaders can help counter threats to judicial independence identified in the report.

28. Special Appointments

President Roland Sanchez Medina presented.

- The board voted to appoint attorney Lynne Drysdale, Jacksonville, and attorney Miriam S. Ramos, Miami, to the FFLA Board of Directors for three-year terms commencing July 1, 2025.

30. Executive Committee Nominations

President Roland Sanchez Medina presented.

Board member Karl Klein nominated board member Manny Farach. Board member Alice Sum nominated board member John Schifino. The board voted to appoint John Schifino.

31. Young Lawyers Division President's Report

A YLD newsletter emailed to 26,000 members earlier this week generated a 42% open rate. Social media interactions with members have increased significantly since July. Interviews with

past YLD pro bono recipients are circulating on social media. A new pro bono legal services CLE will be completed in May. A legal interpretation CLE requested by Chief Justice Carlos Muñiz is nearly complete. A new “Practicing with Professionalism” course is being planned for May. The Affiliate Outreach Conference is scheduled for May in Orlando.

32. President-Elect’s Report

President Roland Sanchez-Medina Jr. deserves credit for representing The Florida Bar across the state.

33. President’s Report

Bar leaders met recently with the Supreme Court. Board member Brian Burgoon thanked Lawyer Regulation Division Director Elizabeth Tarbert and Staff Counsel Patti Savitz for making an ethics presentation to University of Florida law students.

34. Time and Place of Next Meeting

There being no further business before the board, President Roland Sanchez Medina Jr. adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m. The next board meeting will be held March 28 at the Le Meriden in Tampa.

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