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Miami Dade Bar

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TELEPHONE (305) 371-2220

10/19/2021

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

**5:00 P.M. – In person**

**MIAMI DADE BAR**

**OFFICERS/DIRECTORS PRESENT**:

Sabrina Puglisi, President

Roger Slade, President-Elect

Stuart Weissman, Treasurer

Katie Phang

Anthony Perez

Sarah Zabel

Karen Parker

Chris Lomax

Augusto Perera

Lori Sochin

Marva Wiley

Vincent Chen

Albert Li

Bruce Lehr

Eveline Libhen

Jeremy Rosner

Jessica Saiontz

Stan Blake

Michael Davis

Brittany Bonner

Flora Seff

Scott Merl

Jane Muir

Suzette Russomanno, Vice President

Charise Morgan-Joseph, Secretary

Mark Pugliese

Tammi Calarco

**ALSO PRESENT**:

Bret Berlin, MDB Executive Director

Scot Merl, YLS President

**AFFILIATED BAR REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT**:

APABA -- Vincent Chen

MDFAWL -- Jessica Saiontz

**AGENDA:**

1. Welcome Remarks, Ms. Puglisi
   1. President Puglisi began the meeting, welcomed everyone, and called the meeting to order.
2. Consent Agenda Items
   1. Michael Motion to approve Consent Agenda; Katie Phang 2nd; Passed Unanimously
   2. [Board Meeting Minutes for September 2021](https://www.dropbox.com/s/l33a7j6kfgm1h9i/2021-07-24%20%20Board%20Meeting%20Minutes.pdf?dl=0)
   3. [September New Member Report](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/wp0z4l4r7wql47oz1m84y/2021-09-21-Membership-Report.docx?dl=0&rlkey=4k87ysxcdfiovpfw5qkg0si5t)
      1. Bret displayed the new member report as of 2,110.
      2. Eveline Libhen Motion to Approve the New Member Report; Katie Phang 2nd; Passed Unanimously
3. President’s Report, *Ms. Puglisi*
   1. Special election item: Will the board meetings be only in-person only in various locations with excused absences to be granted to those who require with advanced written notice.
   2. Roger Slade made the motion; Mark Pugliese 2nd the motion
      1. Lengthy discussion was held by the board as to whether MDB general body meetings should be held in-person only, virtual only, or a hybrid of the two. The following people were heard on the issue: Lenny Elias (by letter), Roger Slade, Karen Parker, Bruce Lehr, Evelina Libhen, Suzette Russomanno, Stan Blake, Michael Davis, Scott Merl, Marva Wiley, Jessie Saointz, Augusto Perera, Chris Lomax, Bret Berlin, Jane Muir, Katie Phang, Sarah Zabel.
      2. Concerns raised by board members opposed to in person meetings were: high risk of COVID exposure and transmission, especially amond unvaccinated members; inconvenience and tardiness of commuting to board members; and separation of those board members who could not/would not attend in person
      3. Board members in support of in person meetings cited increased participation and camaraderie, tradition and effectiveness of in-person meetings, and the fact that most venues had resumed hosting in person events.
      4. The board voted 16 in favor of in person meetings – 7 against – 1 abstention. Motion passed.
4. Young Lawyers Section Report, Mr. Merl
   1. Scott provided an oral report for the Young Lawyers’ Halloween costume collection for Lotus House
   2. YLS is also planning a November event to coordinate with an organization to help purchase dinners for families in need. Scott asked for recommendations for businesses that would assist with food delivery.
5. Legal Aid & Office of Public Service Report, Ms. Ladis
   1. [Dade Legal Aid Report](https://www.dropbox.com/s/gnzn8mjr2zs7wh5/Dade%20Legal%20Aid%20SEPT%20REPORT.pdf?dl=0)
      1. Ms. Ladis presented on the success of the luncheon last Friday
   2. Put Something Back
6. Affiliated Bar Reports
   1. [APABA](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/nljpz1cohz1coshvqi2l2/APABA-Report.docx?dl=0&rlkey=pdyyiv35ht1d9hjkzhbw6sc6n) – Vincent Chen – No meeting was held last month.
   2. [MDFAWL](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/x4fsshisrb2f344o6y80u/MDFAWL-Report-9-2021.docx?dl=0&rlkey=xfwhzgalvvqboxv2tux6f9lnt) – Jessica Saiontz announced future events for the organization including the judicial reception on December 16. Tammi Calarco added that board members interested in participating in the MDFAWL Good Guys reception could reach out to her directly.
7. Committee Reports – Sabrina explained that although we would not go through each committee report individually every month, the agenda would provide the reports for all board members to have and review, and to attend or coordinate events.
   1. [Ad Hoc Champlain Towers](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/tby64h2jrpz2j5t6xx3j0/Ad-Hoc-Champlain-Towers-September.doc?dl=0&rlkey=euqbe6o6ijtyx2q7krqabknaa), *Marc Pugliese*
   2. [ADR/Arbitration Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/qgi08qpb6l5wrgfmatpfk/ADR-Committee-Report-September.docx?dl=0&rlkey=xudp2kw2dvtfv4lhzzx0tn00f), *David Friedland*
   3. [Bankruptcy Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/bklm70u5gk2e4lj20m2tu/Bankruptcy-Committee-Report.docx?dl=0&rlkey=ymzf0jk5elg37jvkz8tyxy1ae), *Barry Turner, Jonathan Feldman, Patricia Redmond*
   4. Building Committee, *Jane Muir*
   5. [Civil Litigation Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/wsalyfqkrn9k9l4jcx5ms/Civil-Litigation-Committee-Report-September.docx?dl=0&rlkey=sml1f34onq7rxelmem3k77j89), *Aaron Resnick, Joshua Spector*
   6. [Communication Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/qdhbh7rcnoep67scu2pe0/Communications-Committee.docx?dl=0&rlkey=to6t1m0urst54piuuswrerwwh), *Jeanmarie Ferrara*
   7. [Community Service Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/rz5gb13q61cw9umskojyy/COMMUNITY-SERVICE-COMMITTEE-REPORT.DOCX?dl=0&rlkey=j4cwfuxkvid6ao5z1cbehwym6), *Jackie Arango, Belinda Bacon*
   8. [County Courts Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/xibxmlqg7umxw9i2o6iue/County-Courts-report-September.docx?dl=0&rlkey=7uu28avx4fcpljylwqs51nr4s), *Leonard Elias*
   9. [Criminal Courts Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/36lsbzn1xf6fzxk766cf7/Criminal-Courts-September-2021-Committee-Report.docx?dl=0&rlkey=p6ud72jdck2b9zjcvhdtta0qu), *Dianne Caramas*
   10. [Diversity and Inclusion Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/7xds8wss45uasoil3inss/Diversity-and-Inclusion-Report-September.docx?dl=0&rlkey=ogdkqbrdmml7tx4vnyvwt51zm), *Julian Jackson Fannin & Jordanna Ishmael*
   11. [Environmental Law and Land Use Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/s/d8azqifl53ui6x8/ELUL%20Committee%20Report%20-%20Sept%202021.pdf?dl=0), *GaruyHeld & Laura Wendell*
   12. [Family Courts Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/6d69zjvtqo4zkg0um6bqj/Family-Courts-Committee.docx?dl=0&rlkey=xm58b719r0ipj8ud5jc5iphth), *Marck Joseph & Amber Kornreich & Brittany Bonner*
   13. [Federal Courts Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/3a8jeoaj1qrb5gudgqa58/Federal-Courts-Committee-September-2021.docx?dl=0&rlkey=1424nfp03ebiw1a1q62jdgcmi), *Katie Phang*
   14. [Foreclosure Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/wjh1zrlygpfb1milk4yg7/Foreclosure-Committee-Report-September.docx?dl=0&rlkey=ni68sn4zoeuawp2ca98glgxal), *Bruce Jacobs*
   15. [Government Relations Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/94id19phb1q3u2bf16pev/Government-Relations-Report-September.docx?dl=0&rlkey=47ptipszlnj08iop6wsauc2l4), *Vicky Mendez*
   16. [Intellectual Property Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/2n6747ujuv0rq6kbr2scw/IP-Committee-Report-September.docx?dl=0&rlkey=i34v6wxlqxrz1ra38zdgzodi8), *John Eagan & Jaimie Vining*
   17. [Juvenile Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/bb8afjlsvjtet3y5vwn48/Juvenile-Committee-Report-September.docx?dl=0&rlkey=5zdafr4c1ajo47z3qxl9phrz4), *Aaron Fuerer*
   18. [Law and Technology Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/pozjq2cpx79t8iyjq5k6m/Law-and-Tech-Cmte-September-2021-Status-Report.docx?dl=0&rlkey=20u9izu0o5brpll1s81abtnrm), *Eric Boos & Kelly Melchiondo*
   19. Membership- *Suzette Russomanno/Cristina Mas*
       1. Suzette announced doing the membership event in December and making the event a toy drive as well. The reward for the greatest number of new members invited were Miami Heat game tickets with premium seating.
       2. Promotion of “Netflix” membership for state attorneys and public defenders.
       3. Group exclusive parties – Where members from the specific group have exclusive events for their own group.
   20. Marketing/Rebranding- Logo/website, *Cristina Mas*
   21. [Personal Injury Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/tt3j82r2ay52rd3349ffn/Personal-Injury-Committee-Report-9-21.docx?dl=0&rlkey=88l1wa6p3oh3k3a2m8m6htmat), *Michael Levine & Adam Finkel*
   22. [Professionalism Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/am8yindw9kawtl323qpaf/Professionalism-Committee-Report-September.docx?dl=0&rlkey=t8jiuzeqiba41ptb59cyw8aqp), *Russel Jacobs*
   23. [Real Property Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ma7tuv5x1pgiwrps6vy3j/Real-Property-Committee-Report-September.docx?dl=0&rlkey=ummdg9sym2pgpya629109lzjc), *Jonathan Newberg*
   24. [Solo & Small Firm Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/j78txm6rbdcvwvh0pxk7o/Solo-Small-Firm-Committee-Report-September.docx?dl=0&rlkey=e5vb86n6sce1nvpdfqpstxhzj), *Paula Black & Tammi Calarco*
       1. 11/10 Happy Hour: $10 for members; $15 for nonmembers. Also planning an April event that focuses on “Around Miami-Dade”
   25. [Worker’s Compensation Committee](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/45g9yqmu05lgwmj4s3cc6/Worker-s-Comp-Report-September.docx?dl=0&rlkey=1exqqwja9euw963tfqt0lhtax), *Mark Edwards*
8. Treasurer’s Report, *Mr. Weissman*
   1. [Weekly Account Balances](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ixn7bmnsllcf7uxy8vu2j/Weekly-account-balance-as-of-2021-0917_From-09-11-thru-9-17-21.docx?dl=0&rlkey=49t6xhc7fby0nazw892ycnjvr)
   2. [Cash Position Report](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/uwc6vl6wuelopqvjqf5mr/Cash-Position-Report-as-of-2021-0919_From-09-11-thru-09-19.xlsx?dl=0&rlkey=txlud0qtz9rm1umvgs7uvrlbl)
      1. Total of all accounts: $569,180
      2. Weekly balances as of 10/15/2021
         1. DCBA Iberia Operating Account: $98,239
         2. LRS Iberia Operating Account: $76,841
         3. Iberia MMA Account: $10,966
         4. Wells Fargo Platinum Savings Account: $255,518
         5. YLS Operating Account: $127,616
   3. [MDB September Monthly Report](https://www.dropbox.com/s/dhqwt5tuzheq4j5/MDB%20August%202021%20Monthly%20Report.pdf?dl=0)
   4. [LRS September Monthly Report](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ncgydrw69nh028wxe1nrh/2021-08_LRS-Financial-Report.xlsx?dl=0&rlkey=nkgnf8fljzra2u2lpx2jbzzlq)
   5. [Retreat Financial Report](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/vklkpn5ggk2xjn05h6i2n/Retreat_-Financial-Report.xlsx?dl=0&rlkey=yae9fa56mory0kblxor4mfdzs)
      1. Pending; will provide finalized totals next month
9. Secretary’s Report, *Ms. Morgan-Joseph*
   1. Charise presented for the Bench & Bar committee:
      1. Date announcement: Friday, April 22, 2022 – Event will be virtual
      2. Committee will began meeting in November to plan session topics, panelists, theme, and potential keynote speakers.
      3. Committee Chairs are asked to provide their proposed panels with speakers by Wednesday, December 1, 2021. We are requesting panels of no more than four (4) speakers and encouraging diverse panelists and judges.
10. Vice President’s Report, *Ms. Russomanno*
    1. Suzette presented under the membership committee
11. President-Elect’s Report, *Mr. Slade*
    1. Roger immediately joined the membership committee and encouraged everyone to actively work to bring in new members.
12. Executive Director’s Report, *Mr. Berlin*
    1. Events Manager
       1. MDB has a new events manager, Zee
    2. Building Condition
       1. Bret explained that the we are waiting for the bank’s appraisal for the closing.
    3. General Membership Luncheon Sponsors
    4. Annual Sponsorships
       1. Bret encouraged board members to introduce him to potential sponsors for the board.
13. New Business
    1. Director Spotlight
       1. Sabrina proposed that the bar would begin recognizing directors, committee chairs, and executive members in the newsletter.
14. Old Business
    1. Celeste Muir Award
       1. Sabrina presented that the executive committee had previously recommended in the January 2021 executive committee meeting that the board should create and fund the award.
       2. Roger moved for approval of the executive committee recommendation; Marc 2nd.
       3. The board voted and approved the award 17:1. Motion passed.
15. Adjournment at 7:23PM
    1. Motion made by Stu; 2nd en masse