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Miami Dade Bar

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|  | 123 Northwest First Avenue  Suite 214  Miami, Florida 33128-1895 Telephone (305) 371-2220 |

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Held at the Lawson Thomas Courthouse, Chief Justice Sayfie’s chambers, 30th floor

**5:00 P.M.**

**MIAMI DADE BAR**

**OFFICERS/DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Roger Slade

Stuart Weissman

Tammi Calarco

Anthony Perez

Jane Muir, IPP

Vincent Chen

Karen Ladis

Bruce Lehr

Augusto Perera

Melissa Jordon

Michael Davis

Scott Merl

Stan Blake

Evelina Libhen

Eric Kay

Chris Lomax

Etta Akoni

Lori Sochin

Amber Kornreich

Marva Wiley

Stuart Weissman, Treasurer

Adam Finkel

Jackie Arango

Barbara Riesberg

Charise Morgan-Joseph, Secretary

Tiffany-Ashley Disney

Sabrina Puglisi

Roger Slade

Belinda Bacon

Richard Leslie

Akivia Bassaragh

Suzette Russomanno

Zachariah Evangelista

**ABSENT**

Emmanuella Petion

Brittany Bonner

Karen Parker

Richard Shane

Emily Balter

Jessica Saiontz

Leonard Elias

Flora Seff

Yisel Villar

Sarah Zabel

Jeremy Rosner

**EXCUSED BOARD MEMBER ABSENCES**

Suzette Russomanno

**ALSO PRESENT**:

Bret Berlin, Executive Director

Bella Puglisi, Honorary MDB staff

**AFFILIATED BAR REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT**:

APABA – represented by Vincent Chin

FAWL – represented by Amber Kornreich

SMKBA – represented by Zachariah Evangelista

WDFJBA – represented by Marva Wiley

CABA – represented by Emily Balter

FACDL – represented by Michael Davis

GSCBWLA – represented by Etta Akoni

HLA – represented by Emmanuela Petion

**MINUTES**

1. Welcome Remarks, *Mrs. Puglisi*

a. Sabrina began by congratulating Michael Davis on being installed as president of FACDL over the weekend.

1. Consent Agenda Items
   1. [Board Meeting Minutes for April, 2022](https://dadecountybar.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/WP51/EZdDbsJT2rdBoTZ93YR3FUoBY4KDEMo8m7ksNXv9sNQBDg?e=JuC4QB)
      1. Melissa moved, Jane seconded. Unanimously passed.
   2. May [New Member Report](https://dadecountybar.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/WP51/EfzL6ZUSEjtLmA4S4ABlhjEB38BUpG67jnEvaxdUyi9vrw?e=ko4UKD) 2405
      1. Tammy moved, Roger seconded. Unanimously passed.
2. President’s Report, *Mrs. Puglisi*
   1. Miam Law Con Recap
      1. Celebration of the platform used,
      2. 507 attendees; $33,140 cost; Revenue received $91,100.
   2. Judicial Reception Recap
   3. Solo Small Firm Seminar Recap
   4. Miami Nights 2022/05/19
   5. Gear up for Summer Event – 2022/06/11
      1. Board members can donate money and/or backpacks for the event via Amazon.
   6. MDB Leadership Retreat 2022/07/09 - 2022/07/10
   7. MDB Installation of Officers 2022/10/01
3. Young Lawyers Section Report, *Tiffany-Ashley Disney*
   1. Miami Nights – Food, drinks, photo booth
   2. Mediation series program with Judge Zabel
   3. FL Bar YLD Beach Clean up initiative
4. Legal Aid & Office of Public Service Report, *Ms. Ladis*
   1. [Dade Legal Aid Report](https://dadecountybar.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/WP51/EUIlVFysbRxEpK6fNKWhoxcBxcMmpY5Kw82kBjZEBe7lZA?e=rXwtYv)
   2. Annual recruitment campaign is in full swing and already has 68 new lawyers signed up to take new cases
   3. 6/3/22 – Annual Bankruptcy Skills Workshop presented by Bankruptcy Bar
   4. 6/8/22 -- 30th Annual Nuts and Bolts Family Seminar
   5. Put Something Back won an award for their Venture Law Project, which began 10 years ago to assist lawyers with new start-up project. $4K award to be awarded at the bar meeting in June at the annual convention.
5. [Affiliated Bar Reports](https://dadecountybar.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/WP51/ES-Xw8LddsNFpV-RMvgJCIUB2Cwj5-EuMY-lRt8FY6kZnA?e=zbemhF)
   1. APABA – represented by Vincent Chin
      1. 5/19 – Film Screening at Greenberg Traurig
      2. 6/1 – Celebration of APAHM at White and Case
   2. FACDL – represented by Michael Davis
      1. 6/9 – DNA Mixtures
      2. 6/16 – DNA Mixtures
   3. CABA – 5/21 – Presented by Agusto
      1. CABA Marlins Night
   4. GSCBWLA – Etta Akoni, Secretary of GSCBWLA
      1. 6/16 Installation
   5. SMKBA – No report
   6. WDFJBA – Wilkie Wellness Week Kick Off
      1. Beach Yoga this Saturday
6. [Committee Reports](https://dadecountybar.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/WP51/EVo-x3ghhxRKpRMaJ9s6vTIB4PD4-3WrhU2NqjujyRMhOA?e=9KawlL)
   1. [Building Report](https://dadecountybar.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/WP51/EfHXsakzEzxDkz3djOPBAAwBNSZaF57c2-068P6iQfqtLA?e=msAFXW), *Ms. Jane Muir*
      1. Jane shared the architect’s floor plans will be submitted by the end of May
      2. There are currently 17 commitments to purchase tiles; our goal was 100 tiles by the end of the fiscal year. Jane encouraged to board to ask their firms and commit to a tile.
      3. Stan Blake and Dick Leslie volunteered a tile from the floor.
7. Treasurer’s Report, *Mr. Weissman*
   1. [Weekly Account Balances](https://dadecountybar.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/WP51/EfXCtXrMmx9CqAF_bQ3blCcBoTm44kchRF__9rDjlGaSdQ?e=kgwCxg)
      1. DCBA First Horizon/Iberia Operating Account: $18,250
      2. DCBA InterCredit Operating Account: $35,487
      3. LRS First Horizon/Iberia Account: $75,610

Total of these three accounts: $129,347

* + 1. First Horizon/Iberia MMA Account: $10,969
    2. InterCredit MMA Account: $98,268

Total of these two accounts: $109,237

* + 1. YLS Operating Account: $126,769

Total of all accounts: $349,845

* 1. [Cash Position Report](https://dadecountybar.sharepoint.com/:x:/s/WP51/EdBKZLtljy5Esb6SDC7otAsB2h6A0gzCG-ac6su29Y9iTA?e=TpehXL)
  2. [MDB April Monthly Report](https://dadecountybar.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/WP51/ETha1QLUFnxLgRs6cfDr6JUBGY-4E8DeRy746J-RTAw_Qw?e=awbibq)
  3. [LRS Monthly Report](https://dadecountybar.sharepoint.com/:x:/s/WP51/EfirYqb9iIBCqrrm1YpDsZkBOZv6nk4VVVaVDgOqnT83YA?e=crT82O)

1. Text

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2. Vice President’s Report, *Ms. Russomanno*
3. Executive Director’s Report, *Mr. Berlin*
   1. LRS
      1. Membership fees
      2. LRS Client Fees
      3. LRS Percentage Fees
   2. DDA Grant - $95K
      1. Project proposed by Jane Muir to assist with helping the Downtown Development Authority to provide assistance to new and potential business owners on how to apply for business permits
      2. Long term goal is to incorporate law students from local schools into the permit clinic to assist.
   3. New list of Committee Chairs reviewed, and nominations requested for vacancies
      1. Michael Davis accepted the position of chair of the ByLaws Committee from the floor
      2. New Bankrupty Law Committee – Bret accepted names from the floor to put together a bankrupty committee
      3. New construction law committee needs suggestions for committee
      4. Immigration law committee needs suggestions for committee
      5. Labor and employment needs suggestions for committee
      6. Law and technology needs suggestions for committee
      7. Membership committee – historically chaired by vice president, but now encouraging YLS to get involved as chairs
      8. Social Committee – suggestions from the floor included YLS board members
4. Old Business
   1. Elections – Discussed further below
5. New Business
   1. [Committees Fund Raising](https://dadecountybar.sharepoint.com/:x:/s/WP51/EdigSkD7DO5OhIOJrYitXCkBJ5srWwk8MxmCD6bi7ylezg?e=QMlsuS)
      1. Sabrina reminded board members and committee chairs of their responsibilities to raise funds for their groups and committees
      2. #BeLikeTammi – Tammi Calarco brought in a $3K annual sponsor and fundraised for her committee’s half day seminar CLE
      3. Roger added that next year the executive committee would begin meeting with board members to discuss fundraising and accountability to keep MDB funded, including keeping records of which committees are profitable and what members/organizations/vendors of the community are not engaged with the board.
   2. [Board Absences](https://dadecountybar.sharepoint.com/:x:/s/WP51/EbSIrMkvhAJKghTQ-mcFChAB9bX37VDee1UHRNkxp1HcdQ?e=OXQdM2)
      1. Sabrina reviewed the bylaws with the board and explained that going forward, the executive committee would send quarterly reminders to the board of their unexcused absences
   3. Board Vacancies
      1. Based on the nominations received, an election is not needed; there are several vacancies that the board is able to fill.
      2. There are vacancies in each group; Bret emailed the vacancies to the board who responded with their recommendations:
         1. Proposed candidates: Colin Giuseppe Cox for Group 1; Elizabeth Hughes and Monique Pope for Group 2; Lori Sochin and Patrick Russelll for Group 3. No one submitted for group 4 or Group 5.
         2. Adam moved to nominate Mr. Cox, seconded by Bruce. Suzette abstained, everyone approved.
         3. Adam moved to nominate Ms. Hughes, seconded by Lori. The board unanimously voted for Elizabeth Hughes.
         4. Adam moved to nominate Ms. Sochin, seconded by Melissa. The board unanimously voted for Lori Sochin.
         5. Sabrina encouraged board members to encourage candidates for Group 4 to apply.
         6. Bruce accepted the nomination for Group 5 from the floor. The board unanimously voted in Bruce.

iii. Melissa suggested that the exec committee send an email to the full board seeking candidates and nominations for Group 4.

* 1. Proposed 2022-2023 Budget
     1. Bret reviewed the 2022 – 2023 proposed budget with the board in detail and stated that he would be calling each member individually to review the budget and provide time for questions and concerns.

1. Adjournment