



Miami-Dade County Bar Association

To: Miami-Dade County Bar Association Executive Committee and Board of Directors

From: Suzette L. Russomanno, Esq., Secretary

RE: Meeting Minutes For August 19, 2020 Board Meeting

Date: September 13, 2020

Present:

Jane Muir
Eric Hockman
Suzette Russomanno
Charise Morgan-Joseph
Melissa Jordon
Eric Kay
Stuart Weissman
Jaime Rich Vining
Jeremy Korch
Stephanie Grosman
Jacqueline Ledon
Jeff Cynamon
Richard Leslie
Stanford Blake
David Rogero
Karen Parker
Leonard Elias
Lori Sochin
Michael Davis
Adriana Collado Hudak
Patricia Redmond
Flora Seff
Tammi Calarco
Irene Oria
Amber Kornreich
Allyn Ginns Ayers (APABA)
Brian Kirlew (FACDL)
Steven Davis (Florida Bar BOG)
Kadisha Phelps (Gwen Cherry)
Kristen Corpion, YLS President

Tiffany Disney, YLS Treasurer
Steven Charles (HLA)
Rachel Kipnis Curtis (FAWL)
Karen Ladis, Executive Director (Legal Aid)
Kamilah Fuller, Director of Finance and Building Operations
Shaniela Garcia, Director of Operations
Cristina Mas, CIM Consulting

Absent:

Alice Sum
Brittany Bonner
Evelina Lihen
Jacqueline Arango
Belinda Bacon
Roger Slade
Barbara Reisberg
Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. Bar Association Representative
Caribbean Bar Association Representative

Meeting called to order at 5:01 p.m., once it was established that a quorum was present.

Director Cynamon moved to approve consent agenda which is the board meeting minutes for July 15, 2020 and New Member Report; Treasurer Russomanno seconds the motion. Opportunity for discussion was provided, but no members raised any issues or concerns. Motion carried.

Membership Report:

CIM reports membership renewals are at 45% for this month. Vice President Hockman made some good suggestions to CIM to help follow up on calls they have been making to members with expired membership.

Legal Aid Report:

See attached report provided by Executive Director Ladis.

Affiliated Bar Reports:

CABA-CABA will be hosting a happyhour next week to discuss British invasion of Cuba. They will also be hosting a CABA Webinar titled "Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Our Criminal Justice System."

APABA-September 3 event Zoom event and will be working with other Asian American organizations throughout state of Florida.

Gwen Cherry--no upcoming event at this time.

FAWL-Part III of Deposition 360 will be held on August 27, 2020 lunch hour being co-sponsored with DCBA.

FACDL-80% discount for Zoom Protest Pro Bono Program providing protestors with lawyers where PD has been discharged if no lawyer available. FACDL also held Judicial Candidate Forum and State Attorney Candidate Form.

HLA-No report.

ABA Report-No report as ABA representative, Stephanie Carman, was not present.

1) Legal Services Board Seats of Greater Miami Appointment of Board Members.

DCBA authorized to elect three (3) board members to the Legal Services of Greater Miami Board. LSGMI Executive Director, Monica Vignes, advised she would request that the 3 board members seeking re-election be re-elected. They are:

Karen Lapekas

Porpoise Evans

Arya Attari Li

Director Rogero moved to approve reappointment. Vice President Hockman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2) Florida Bar Elections:

Steven Davis, former DCBA president, announced he is running for Florida Bar President-Elect.

He further advised 40-50% of Florida lawyers have childcare issue while practicing law who have to do virtual home schooling. Bar will continue to do everything they can to help member.

President Muir advised we had 1,000 people sign up as members for Justice Breyer General Membership. Luncheon under Mr. Davis' presidency and hoped we can replicate those efforts in the future.

Treasurer's Report:

\$128,122.00 after expenses; 2 years ago \$187,251. 65,000 difference. Current bank account numbers:

120,137-Iberia Operating Account

LRS-\$11,236

Total: \$131,373

MMA-10,948

Wells Fargo-\$255, 497

Total of these two: \$266,455

\$134,148-YLS

Total sum of all accounts: 531,966.

Secretary's Report:

No report; Secretary Russomanno would like to start Wednesday words of wisdom and shared a quote with the board from Danielle Laporte.

Vice President Report:

No report

President-Elect Report:

President-Elect Puglisi reminded members to please send their emails and make the calls necessary to remind members to renew their membership.

Vice President Hockman stated Google Spreadsheet is very helpful to keep updated because everyone has access to it and we do not have to keep saving or emailing different copies. Tammi Calarco recommended everyone update membership list if they get bounce backs on the email they sent prior members. Secretary Russomanno suggested YLS be included in membership drive.

Building Report:

We are waiting on the fourth revision to the AIA contract. Bank underwriters confused by financials because our events are separated into three categories: YLS, LRS, and Dade County Bar. We cleared that up and hope they will have a response shortly.

The AIA contract will be circulated in the future.

YLS Report:

Upcoming Open House virtual; backpack drive for clients to Dade Legal Aid; filled with school supplies. Amazon wish list. Hope to provide 40 back packs. Plan on doing an essay contest virtually; coffee with judges (virtual calls). Hope to work with Lotus House to host a Halloween event and still plan on hosting Miami Nights next year in some capacity whether virtual or socially distanced. Still planning to a do retreat in January or later next year.

YLS Budget-Ear marked money for this year with the hope that events happen but also anticipating that virtual events will incur expenses. Plan on doing a social media/marketing campaign

Secretary Russomanno moved to ratify the YLS budget; Director Blake seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Director Rogero asked whether the budget was a spending budget. Ms. Disney advised it was. Secretary Russomanno recommended that YLS focus on hosting events that generate a profit or, at least break even so that the YLS does not exceed its budget.

Motion was voted on. Director Rogero opposed the motion. Director Cynamon-abstained. Motion carried and the YLS budget was approved.

President's Report:

Coronavirus and conflict of interest waiver was previously circulated. This is a specific control to make sure that if anyone has a conflict to disclose it. VBAs and charitable organizations are not considered

competing organizations, but President Muir requested that if you hold a board seat in any other organization, that you disclose it.

President Muir is considering hosting the board retreat on March 26-27, 2021. Straw poll was circulated.

Florida Bar Board of Bar Examiners canceled bar exam.

Carlos Martinez, Miami-Dade County Public Defender, is hosting a comprehensive training on August 27, 2020 to represent voting restoration on Amendment 4 on a pro-bono basis.

Lawyer Referral Service Committee, lead by Adrian Acosta, is poised to help law students with supervised practice (similar to CLI). Bar may approve this in lieu of bar exam. LRS for the last six months had already been developing a clinical option. Treasurer Morgan-Joseph has already shared with the president of the Florida Bar YLD that we intend to be the pilot supervised project for the state. President Muir is very excited and thankful for that committee.

New Business:

No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.



DADE LEGAL AID REPORT

AUGUST 19, 2020

Presented by:

Karen J. Ladis, Executive Director

As the realities of social distancing, virtual meetings and business closures continue affecting us, we continue to provide much needed free legal services to our community impacted by the pandemic. Our clients are experiencing increased incidents of domestic violence and divorce cases resulting from stress related to being confined at home, and we are seeing a spike in probate, bankruptcy, eviction, and foreclosure cases.

We are grateful to participate in DCBA and other VBA virtual programs these past few months. I recently participated in the Fla. Bar Virtual Town Hall Meeting discussing how the bar is helping members cope with these circumstances.

On July 30, we held the Tenth Annual Getting a Jump Start on Pro Bono, our signature event for Summer Associates, generously sponsored by Hogan Lovells US LLP. Many firms supported this event with 79 participants. Thanks to Stan Blake, Hogan Lovells and their team for putting together virtual Pro Bono Jeopardy!

Our annual recruitment efforts have been successful, but we still need more volunteers, so please visit our website. Since COVID-19 began, over 1,700 clients have applied to Dade Legal Aid for services:

717 - Family Law

497 - Put Something Back Pro Bono Project

249 - Domestic Violence

162 - Housing and Bankruptcy

77 - Guardianship and Children

Upcoming Events: We are excited that the YLS is holding its Back to School Backpack and School Supply Drive to benefit our clients' children. We have received a lot of great items so far. Please donate an item or two.

August 20 - Juvenile Delinquency Webinar with the Haitian Lawyers Association.

August 21 - Marck Joseph "Virtual Office Hours" for Put Something Back Family clients.

October 25 – Since it isn't possible for us to get together safely anytime soon, this year's Patently Impossible Project is shifting gears and will be a Spinning Challenge. Stay tuned for more information.

Stay Safe!