



# 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 January 20, 2021 Board Meeting**

**Date: February 17, 2021**

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## **Attendance**

[See Meeting Attendance July 2020-June 2021.xlsx](#)

President Muir called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. after it was established that a quorum was present.

Director Cynamon moved to approve the consent agenda; Director Blake seconded the Motion. Director Jordon abstained. Motion carried.

## **Dade Legal Aid Report**

Director Ladis thanked everyone for supporting the toy drive. Every toy on the wish list was obtained. Excited about "Getting House In Order." Despite most lawyers working remotely, the Dade Legal Aid lawyers have had great success and have helped clients with over 5,000 cases. Put Something Back referred 1200 cases to lawyers. On January 29, 2021, it will host a Pro Bono recruitment event "You Be the Judge" with Probate committee. If anyone interested in taking pro bono cases, please contact Put Something Back.

President Muir thanked Brittany Bonner and Juvenile Court Committee for great toy drive. Ms. Bonner thanks FAWL for their help on the toy drive.

## **YLS Report**

No report.

## **Affiliated Bar Reports**

APABA-Vincent Chen; December pathways to bar leadership and toy drive. Wok Star food demonstration for first quarter and CLE on cellphone forensics for member on February 9, 2021. Mixer/game night; trial enactment of 21 lewd women.

Caribbean Bar Association-Want to Do CLE for collection attorneys to teach lawyers how to collect on a judgment. Proposed date is May 21, 2021 for a lunchtime CLE. Treasurer Morgan-Joseph moved to co-sponsor the event. Director Calarco seconded the motion. Discussion opportunity provided, but none had. Motion carried.

CABA-Lost Osvaldo Soto; founding member of CABA. Memorial for Mr. Soto at Freedom Tower on 1/27/21 Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

FACDL-Continue to monitor the status of jury trials, which have been extended through February 28, 2021.

Gwenn Cherry-Black History Month Event with 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit honoring Gwenn Cherry and will have Meeting on 2/17

Haitian Lawyers Association-No representative- no report

MDFAWL-Rachel Kipnis Curtis; webinar combatting gender pay disparity; 2/17-Learning to transition from Government lawyer to in-house counsel. 2/24/21 CLE with Judge Browyn. Miller, Elisa D'Amico; Litigation skills workshop 2/25-26/2021

South Miami/Kendall Bar-CLE on Cell phone forensic 1/29 at noon. Free to members.

Wilkie D. Ferguson-Will also be participating in Gwen Cherry events. Judge William Thomas is also seeking lawyers to read to children for Black History Month. If interested, reach out to Judge Thomas. His information is on Judge Thomas' website. The reading will be conducted virtually.

### **Membership Committee**

President-Elect Puglisi provided the report.

Membership numbers for this week were published by Ms. Garcia on the Zoom chat.

President-Elect Puglisi asked that we keep working on our list. Now is a great time to reach out to everyone, especially with 50% reduction on membership fee. If you are doing a CLE, please make sure you remind everyone to renew their membership before they introduce the speakers.

February 3, 2021 CLE-"As Nasty As We Want to Be-Hip-Hop, Porn, and The First Amendment." Drew is going to be new chair of the subcommittee for YLS members and law students. Membership Drive/CLE is chaired by President-Elect Puglisi. If anyone has ideas on how to get law students, lawyers, etc. involved, please contact President-Elect Puglisi.

CIM is working on a logo for the MDCBA. President Muir requested that the logo survey be circulated.

Membership Committee is also considering hosting a small, membership events in an outdoor space.

President Muir thanked Ms. Garcia for finding a vendor to re-design our website and to CIM for designing some sample logos. Membership and Communication committees reviewed the logo.

Director Rogero and Vice-President Hockman asked why the proposed logo say Dade County Bar Association although we changed our name to Miami-Dade County Bar Association.

Director Weissman asked if there were three logos or two logos for consideration.

Several questions were asked regarding the samples provided in the survey. Director Jordon asked why one of the logos did not have gold. President Muir advised the Communications committee stated gold does not look good on the website.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Total of all accounts (Operating, LRS, MMA, Wells Fargo, YLS)-\$433,722.

President Muir spoke about PPP. In first round of payroll protection, organizations that were 501(c)6 were not permitted to apply for PPP. Second round was approved December 27, 2020 and mandated that SBA come out with guidance for application. This time, MDCBA does qualify. President Muir asked Ms. Fuller to apply for relief. Based on her calculations, we are entitled to \$72,000. This is a forgivable loan and what makes it forgiven is that you use it for payroll and benefits. We are projecting about \$150,000.00 below are budgeted amount. As for sponsorship budget, we exceeded it by \$15,000, but \$72,000 will help us meet budget.

### **Secretary Report**

Secretary Russomanno discussed the April 9, 2021 Bench & Bar and the proposed keynote speakers for the event.

### **Vice-President Report**

No report.

### **President-Elect Report**

Same report that provided during the Membership Report.

### **President's Report**

President Muir is gathering data for the bank. We are hoping to conclude our loan with Intercredit Bank. They are excited about the loan and they want to see a business plan for the Business Center. Ms. Garcia organized a meeting with the Executive Director of the San Diego Bar. They shared size of their business center. They have 16,000 potential members. DCBA has 17,000. Difference is San Diego has 6,000 members and we have 2,300 members. It is not enough to deliver a narrative to the bank. Also, we need to have proof for a business plan. We have Florida Bar data on all lawyers practicing between Miami-Dade and Orange County, the Circuit Court task force, etc. We are working on business plan and it will be 4-5 pages. Should have business plan finalized by February.

Construction company selected architect and they are satisfied that the architect will be able to meet our requirements. The extra time has given them time to vet other architects, as first choice could not meet our budgetary requirements.

Director Rogero congratulated President Muir on the progress she has made with the building.

### **New Business**

No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.