



# 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 September 16, 2020 Board Meeting**

**Date: October 14, 2020**

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## **Attendance**

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

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

Director Davis moved to approve consent agenda which is the board meeting minutes for August 19, 2020; Director Cynamon seconded the motion. Opportunity for discussion was provided, but no members raised any issues or concerns. Motion carried.

## **Membership Report:**

1,982 prior members were personally emailed and called. A little over 50% of renewals. Early next week members will receive a list of other 50% that has not responded to any of our calls and emails. From the 2019 list, we had 33 renewals. CIM is also working on new member initiatives.

Just secured event with County Mayoral candidates Levine Cava and Bovo. Trying to find different ways of engaging people. The event will be held on October 19, 2020 from 5:00-6:00 pm. Working on other political events. Another avenue they have been pushing are sponsored events. Putting together a special deck we can share when having conversations with people regarding different price points for potential companies to sponsor DCBA events.

Social Media videos-some board members have not been captured. CIM will call them to get that scheduled. If you have any information you believe is relevant, please send to CIM.

## **Legal Aid Report:**

Over 100 new application for clients. Definitely seeing a spike due to COVID 19. Director Grosman was appointed GAL pro bono in federal case. Federal Judge was very happy with Director Grosman's performance. Getting a lot of calls on collection matters, bankruptcy matters, and are prepared to help more people once certain moratoriums are listed. Director Redmond

YLS backpack was a great success. They received 50 backpacks and were loaded with plenty of supplies for Legal Aid client's kids. Recently had a Family Law Clinic and a Venture Law Clinic. Doing a lot of pro bono and partnering with new companies.

Getting involved in some Florida Bar Committees. Have enjoyed participating in virtual events. Speeding Lawfully at the end of October and she hopes everyone will participate.

### **Affiliated Bar Reports:**

APABA- Trial Reenactment of Murder of Vincent Chin. It is a play of a trial that is focused on important moments of Asian American Legal History. It happened in the 1980's, it was driven by hatred towards Japanese Auto Industry at the time. The event will be virtual. October 29, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Details are still being finalized.

CABA- September 22, 2020 Mucho Mucho Mentoring. CABA having an event tomorrow with Broward County Bar Association to recognize Broward Jurist. Florida Bar president will attend CABA meeting on October 13.

Caribbean Bar Association- Joint Body Meeting with HLA and dCBA small firm; solo September 22, 2020 event.

Gwen Cherry-- Sheena Benjamin Wise; October 22 will have an event with Women Who Lead and Broward County Bar Association. Working on an event with MDFAWL on September 29, 2020 and it is an evidence CLE.

FACDL- currently coordinating to do a mayoral candidate form with League of Cities and working with Criminal courts to determine how to reopen the courts during Phase II.

FAWL- No report provided as no representative present to provide a report.

HLA-No report.

Wilkie D. Ferguson- See report provided.

ABA Report- Ms. Carman advised the ABA had its first Annual Meeting on August 3-4. Ranged from Bar exam, to Police Brutality, to making sure children are protected. ABA Membership Drive is ongoing. Will be based on number of years. Plenty of free CLEs; events will be virtual.

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:**

\$110,089.41-Cash Position Report Balance.

Iberia: \$125,794

MMA-\$10,950.00

Wells Fargo-\$266,447.00

YLS account-\$133,926

Total for all accounts: \$538,826.00

### **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:**

Vice President Hockman reported he is trying to get on the AD Hoc committee pertaining to the Court's and the processes that will be implemented when the court re-opens. Joe Serota sent Vice President Hockman documents from the Chief Judge. Trials will begin at the first of the year.

County needs to be under 5% testing. It has been so for the last 3 weeks. 20-C-24-AF01 establishes certification of trial readiness. Overall intent is for cases that are proceeding to trial to be ready for trial. Once certified, all activity will be cut off until Judge says you are going to trial. Information should be provided to our members. Non-binding arbitration, all parties must agree. "Closing statements" will be presented to judges that sit on the Circuit Appellate Panel. The judges will hear what you have to say, can take testimony, but typically don't. In 25 days they render the decision, which is non-binding. If you want to participate, you would have to complete a form.

### **President-Elect Report:**

President-Elect Puglisi thanked everyone for making calls and sending emails. Reminded board We will be sending new lists for everyone to call.

### **Building Report:**

President Muir advised the building contract was finalized. Bank is reviewing our updated documents. Financial report we were providing to the bank was only including DCBA, but was not providing YLS and LRS financial information. In the audited financials from the prior years they were combined. Ariel Hernandez obtained audit schedule from auditors and combined the information and provided it to us so we can provide to the underwriters. We hope to have the design started at end of the month. We are looking at as little as 6 months for ground breaking and as late as a year for ground breaking. Will be working on grant proposals to raise money for the project. We will take into account law student clinics for law students to work on pro bono matters; pilot program with law students. Will make sure grants for which we apply do not jeopardize Legal Aid or other partners' attempts at obtaining grants.

### **YLS Report:**

Committee Open House was virtual; Rachel Curtis will be hosting a Yoga event next week. Next Thursday YLS will host a coffee event. All links to these events are in the DCBA newsletter. Director Jordon who also sits on the YLS board recently lead an event for Chapman Partnership that was very successful.

President Muir thanks Director Kornreich for backpack drive.

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:**

President Muir explained that every year the board has to approve non-standing committees. She then requested the board approval the formation of a Communications Committee. Ms. Jeanmarie

Jeanemarie Ferrara volunteers to be chair of the committee. She is a lawyer that has become a PR professional. Barbara Reisberg moved to form a communications committee for the DCBA. Vice President Hockman seconded the motion. Discussion opportunity provided, but none was had. Motion carried.

Secretary Russomanno next moved for the formation of a Special Advisory Committee that would be made of other professionals (non-lawyers) that can council the DCBA on matters that may arise from time to time, but that are matters of which the board is not necessarily experienced in handling (i.e., banking, construction, finance, etc.). Director Davis seconded the motion. Discussion opportunity provided, but none was had. No opposition, no abstentions. Motion carried.

Re-appointment of Committees:

Motion to re-convene committees that existed last year. Tammi seconded. Motion carried.

### **New Business:**

Upcoming Events:

September 17, 2020-How to Webinar With Judge Demitiris

Jamie Vining-Lemonade Series-5 different webinars; September 23, 2020 event we be with speaker from IBM

Director Weissman-worked really hard on putting together an ABOTA Miami Covid Task Force webinar. 5.5 CLE with technology applied for. 9:00a.m.-3:00 p.m. on October 2, 2020. ABOTA leadership has reached out to us. The panel will include members from Civil and Criminal arena, Chief Judge Soto, Katherine Fernandez, Rundle and Carlos Martinez.

KUDOS:

Alice Sum-just joined the SEC. Congratulations to Director Sum.

Jeanmarie Ferrara introduced herself and thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as the new Communications chair. Welcomed the board to share all ideas.

Director Slade moved to adjourn; Mr. Perera (CABA) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.