

**United States Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of Florida
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held on April 7, 2023 (via Zoom)**

Members Present

Hon. Erik P. Kimball (co-chair)
Bernice Lee (co-chair)
Hon. Laurel M. Isicoff, Chief Judge
Amy Carrington
Maite Diaz
Monique Hayes
Dana Quick
Nadine White-Boyd

Members Not Present

Michael Bakst
Linda Leali
James Moon
Carlos Sardi

Additional Attendees

Cameron Cradic, Chief Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

Ms. Lee called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was present with 7 members in attendance; an 8th member joined the meeting already in progress.

3. Minutes from February 2, 2023 Meeting

The minutes from the prior meeting were circulated before the meeting. Ms. Quick advised that she received minor comments to the minutes and would circulate a revision for consideration and approval by email.

4. Continuing Business

a. Educational Programming re: Unconscious/Implicit Bias

Ms. Lee advised the program held on March 3, 2023 was well-attended with more than 100 participants. The Committee discussed feedback received by members. Judge Kimball suggested that going forward a post-program survey would be helpful to gauge the effectiveness and utility of programming.

b. Survey Regarding Bias for Bankruptcy Attorneys, Financial Advisors, and other Bankruptcy Professionals

Ms. Lee provided an update on the survey, which was sent out on March 28, 2023. The Clerk's office reported that the survey was successfully sent to 97% of registered ECF users in the District. The deadline to respond to the survey is mid-May, and the Committee will determine how best to use the information collected once all responses are received. The Committee discussed early responses to the survey.

c. Language / Accessibility Subcommittee

Ms. Diaz advised that the subcommittee had to postpone its meeting with the Clerk's office and will provide a substantive update at the Committee's next meeting.

d. Roadways to the Bench

Ms. Lee and Judge Isicoff provided an update on the event, held on April 3, 2023. Judge Isicoff, who was the national co-chair for planning the event, said our district had great support from its judges, with enough participation that two judges were available for each table. Nationwide, the program had over 650 judges participating, with more than 2,500 attendees across 38 locations.

e. Virtual Event for Law Students re: Clerkships

Ms. Lee initiated a discussion of ways the Committee could assist in raising the awareness of federal clerkships as an opportunity for a more diverse group of law students. Judge Isicoff advised that the National Association of Bankruptcy Judges has a pamphlet on 10 reasons to clerk for a bankruptcy judge, which was provided to law schools in the district.

5. New Business

None.

6. Next Meeting

May 5, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.

7. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 12:51 p.m.

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