

**United States Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of Florida
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held on September 29, 2023 (via Zoom)**

Members Present

Hon. Erik P. Kimball (co-chair)
Bernice Lee (co-chair)
Michael Bakst
Amy Carrington
Maite Diaz
Monique Hayes
Linda Leali
James Moon
Dana Quick
Nadine White-Boyd

Members Not Present

Hon. Laurel M. Isicoff, Chief Judge
Carlos Sardi

Additional Attendees

Cameron Cradic, Chief Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

Ms. Lee called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was present with 10 members in attendance.

3. Minutes from August 9, 2023 Meeting

The minutes from the prior meeting were circulated before the meeting. Comments were solicited and none were received. Motion to adopt minutes moved (Carrington) and seconded (Bakst). The motion passed unanimously by show of hands.

4. Continuing Business

a. Courthouse Beacon News – September 25, 2023 issue: DEI: What is it About?

Mr. Cradic reported that an article about the Committee was published in the September 25, 2023 issue of the Courthouse Beacon News.

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

An analysis and summary report was circulated to a subset of the Committee prior to the meeting. The Committee discussed additional information to include in the report and how best

to present the information to the greater bar membership. Ms. Hayes and Ms. Quick volunteered to draft a brief presentation for the upcoming View from the Bench. The Committee also discussed specific concerns raised in survey responses including physical accessibility of court buildings and language barriers for non-English speaking persons. Ms. Diaz agreed to prepare a summary for inclusion in the Courthouse Beacon News.

c. Law Students/Clerkships

Prior to the meeting, an article surveying 50 judges of the federal courts of appeal on law clerk selection and diversity was circulated. The Committee discussed the content of the article, and concerns relating to diversity of law clerk applicants in this District. The Committee discussed a potential event directed at law students to inform them about clerkships.

5. New Business

Language / Accessibility Subcommittee

An update from the subcommittee was tabled to the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting

October 27, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.

7. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 1:08 p.m.

* * *