

**United States Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of Florida
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held on October 27, 2023 (via Zoom)**

Members Present

Hon. Erik P. Kimball, Chief Judge (co-chair)
Hon. Laurel M. Isicoff
Bernice Lee (co-chair)
Michael Bakst
Amy Carrington
Maite Diaz
Monique Hayes
Linda Leali
James Moon
Dana Quick
Carlos Sardi
Nadine White-Boyd

Members Not Present

1. Call to Order

Ms. Lee called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was present with 12 members in attendance.

3. Minutes from September 29, 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 (Moon) and seconded (Bakst). The motion passed unanimously by show of hands.

4. Continuing Business

a. Courthouse Beacon News

A brief article announced that the survey results report is available on the Court's web site. An upcoming edition of the Courthouse Beacon News will include a summary of the work of the language and accessibility subcommittee.

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

Prior to the meeting a draft of a slide deck for presentation of the survey findings was circulated to the Committee. The Committee discussed tailoring the presentation for use at the upcoming View from the Bench. Judge Kimball will present at the Tampa event, and Ms. Hayes and Ms. Quick will present at the Miami event. The Committee also discussed reopening the survey to allow additional responses to be collected.

c. Educational Program

The Committee discussed potential presenters for an education program in first quarter 2024, including potential topics. Committee members agreed to reach out to potential presenters.

d. Law Student / Clerkships Outreach Program

The Committee continued discussion regarding a law student outreach event including format, location, presentations, and potential attendees including former law clerks. Judge Isicoff suggested the Committee obtain and have available the pamphlet created by the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges on the top 10 reasons to clerk for a bankruptcy judge.

e. Language and Accessibility Subcommittee

The Committee discussed concerns relating to the need for translators to assist *pro se* debtors. While the U.S. Trustee program funds the use of a telephone service for 341 meetings, nothing similar exists for court hearings. Judges Kimball and Isicoff advised that there is no funding for interpreter services provided by the Court, and other limitations on the use of such services. The subcommittee determined to address the concern with the Pro Bono Committee.

5. New Business

None.

6. Next Meeting

To be set by email.

7. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 12:59 p.m.

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