

**United States Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of Florida
Access and Engagement Committee
Friday, June 26, 2026
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. (via Zoom)**

Members Present:

Hon. Erik P. Kimball (Judicial Co-chair)
Jeffrey Fraser (Non-judicial Co-chair)
Maite Diaz (Secretary)
Tara Trevorrow (Vice-Chair)
Nicole McLemore
Carlos Sardi
Michael Bakst

Members Not Present:

Hon. Laurel M. Isicoff (Judicial Member)
Raychelle Tasher
Joanna Tempone
Julianne Frank
Alexis Garcia

1. Call to Order

Mr. Fraser called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was present with 7 members in attendance.

3. Minutes

a. March 27, 2026 meeting

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

4. Continuing Business

a. Law Student Meeting / Clerkships Outreach Program

- i. Issue Recap: The A&E Committee hosted a clerkship informational discussion (“Curious About Clerking”) at the University of Miami in April of 2025. The program was well received, and the committee would like to host the same program at F.I.U. and Nova potentially.
- ii. Update:
 1. F.I.U. Program – proposed date of **February**
 2. F.I.U. and Nova are both receptive to similar programs. Michelle Miranda/Jasmyne Vadea/Professor Scott Norberg (contacts at F.I.U.) and Ken Lewis (contact at Nova).

3. Mr. Fraser reported he had a phone call with F.I.U.'s Dean Norberg, (thanks to Carlos Sardi for making introductions), and they are excited to have our group host a program. Early spring is the preferred time for an event because students are starting to explore summer opportunities, with preferred scheduling on Thursdays or Fridays. Judge Kimball mentioned that he is open to participating any day with advance scheduling except on Wednesdays, when he is generally unavailable.
4. The committee discussed pairing with student affinity groups at the various colleges and the possibility of adding students to the panel. Trevororrow pointed out that recruiting for clerkships starts earlier in the year now so an earlier spring date might be beneficial to the students. Sardi reported that the FIU Bankruptcy Clinic would be running in the Fall and Spring Semesters.
5. Trevororrow suggested the possibility of setting up law student "field trips" to the Bankruptcy Court. Judge Kimball stated he would be happy to host such an event, but fears transportation issues might hamper attendance. Fraser suggested visits to the Miami or Fort Lauderdale courthouses would make the travel more accessible to the law students.

B. Language and Accessibility Subcommittee:

1. Issue Recap: The committee's goal is to promote awareness of available resources as it relates to translations of documents, and to ensure that accessibility assistance is well advertised (for example, all the judges have hearing assistance devices in the courtrooms).
2. Update: Diaz and Sardi have been working on updating the Bankruptcy Terminology (English to Spanish chart). The committee is still searching for a Haitian Creole speaking volunteer to help with the project. Trevororrow mentioned that we could reach out to the Haitian Bar Association.

5. New Business

a. Potential CLE - Open Discussion

- i. Issue Recap: There has been open discussion regarding different topics that our committee can host via a webinar. As part of the discussion, committee members have discussed reading *Debt's Grip* (Pamela Foohey, Robert Lawless, and Deborah Thorne) and *Unjust Debts* (Melissa B. Jacoby) for our own knowledge and increased awareness of issues that might impact access to justice within our court. All thoughts and suggestions are welcome.
- ii. Update:
 1. Debt's Grip Panel – Fraser has contacted the authors and secured a Webinar date of **September 10, 2026**, at 12:00PM. Prof. Lawless is interested in doing a webinar format as they have a template in place. Judge Kimball mentioned that the court does not have access to a Webinar format, Zoom has been used in the past. McLemore volunteered to inquire with her firm to see if they can host the webinar on their account.
 2. Racial Disparity in Consumer Cases Panel: The professors that hosted the racial disparity webinar for ABI were contacted to inquire about interest in doing the same (or similar) for our committee. With the Debt's Grip webinar scheduled, we'll try and re-engage with professors later in the year (or next year).

b. Potential for Improvement of Court Forms

i. Fraser brought forward the possibility of increasing the font size on the Notice of Commencement form that Tampone suggested confuses Debtors and other parties before the court due to page formatting issues. Judge Kimball stated that the court's forms require uniformity across all courts in the country and that we are not allowed to change them in any way, but suggested we could add clarifications/explanations on the court's website for informational purposes.

6. Next Meeting

Next meeting: August 28, 2026, at noon.

7. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 1:01 p.m.

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