

FLNB Board of Advisors

January 10, 2012 – 1:30pm Eastern/12:30 pm Central
Tallahassee Division Bankruptcy Courthouse 2nd Floor Conference Room

Attendees: William Blevins (*Clerk of Court*)*, Traci Abrams (*Chief Deputy/Minutes*), Steven Jurnovoy, Esq.*, Tracy Strom, Esq.*, William Miller, Esq.*, Philip Bates, Esq.*, Karen Specie, Esq.* and Kathryn Hathaway, Esq.

*indicates attendees via teleconference

Summary

Introduction of 2012 Membership and Thanks

- The 2012 membership list has been published to the FLNB Internet site under **Court Resources**. The link is called **Board of Advisors**, and the page contains links to the current roster and past meeting summaries.
- 2012 Board members include William “Bill” Blevins, Traci Abrams, William “Bill” Miller, Robert “Bob” Bruner, Karen Specie, Kathryn Hathaway, Tracy Strom, Philip Bates, Steven Jurnovoy and Sherry Chancellor.
- Traci Abrams updated the Board re Kevin Davis’ status.
- The Clerk’s Office sincerely thanks everyone for serving on the Board this year and for your past years of service.

2012 Meeting Agenda-building Plan

- Topic Submission
 - The focus during 2012 will be on ensuring that meeting topics reflect the issues of interest to Board members and their colleagues.
 - Members are invited to email discussion topics to Bill Blevins and Traci Abrams as they come to mind so that each topic may be set for discussion on a future agenda.
 - Philip Bates proposed two topical suggestions including *new judge transition time* and a *farewell celebration for The Honorable Chief Judge Lewis M. Killian*.
 - Regarding the first topic, Bill Blevins noted that the official date of retirement is the end of July but that the date is contingent on the timing of the new judge’s appointment and the possible need for Judge Killian to serve as a recall judge in order to complete certain cases that may still be pending by that time.
 - Regarding the second topic, Bill Miller noted that the Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar Association is addressing planning for a celebration dinner and the creation of a portrait. Bill Blevins noted that the potential plan is to organize a

public and formal retirement celebration to be held at the courthouse, and hold a more informal dinner on another date.

- Traci Abrams suggested that a form be added to the court's Internet site for the collection of topic ideas from Board members and other members of the Bar. Form submissions would be received via email by Traci and Bill Blevins and would not be made public except as part of meeting summaries posted to the site. Committee members were in agreement.

Updates re Old Business

- Upgrade to ECF v4 (results)
 - The upgrade went very well considering the scope of the changes that were made to the software and to our local programmatic modifications. There were only a few hitches which Julie Gibson, Bruce Justham and the IT team were able to quickly resolve.
 - Board members were asked for user feedback.
 - Kathryn Hathaway noted that the ECF Calendar Report has formatting issues. It was determined by Karen Specie that the problem could be overcome by using the **Court Calendar (Public Calendar)** program available through the FLNB Internet site instead since it offers adjustable font and a print view option.
 - Kathryn and Tracy Strom noted that the text formatting on the final Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF) receipt screen appears normally when viewed on-screen but overlaps when printed especially when printing the initial petition NEF. Multi-page NEF screens appear to print on one page; one screen on top of the other. The problem appears when using either Microsoft Internet Explorer or Mozilla FireFox. The issue has been referred to the Information Technology (IT) department for review, and a status update will be provided to the Board.
- Universal Login Project
 - A success; most users have been from the Middle and Southern districts. The process *may* be opened up in the future to Filing Agent accounts.
- Local Rules Booklet Distribution
 - A form for requesting a bound copy is available through the **Announcements** section of the Internet site. Copies are limited to one per firm and are still available in the Tallahassee division.
- Use of Filing Agent Accounts (re Testing Results and Publication)
 - Testing has gone well so far, and full publication beyond the test group (Lewis & Jurnovoy, Jodi Cooke & Leigh Hart) is planned for February. Steven Jurnovoy noted that he and his staff love the feature.

New Business

- Clerk's Register Website Changes re 5003(e)
 - Rule 5003(e) REGISTER OF MAILING ADDRESSES OF FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AND CERTAIN TAXING AUTHORITIES requires the Clerk to maintain registers containing submitted mailing addresses of the United States, the state or territory in which the court is located, or

local entities and submitted mailing addresses of taxing authorities designated for the service of requests under §505(b) of the Code.

- A new page will be added to the Internet site explaining the submission process and providing access to these registers. This new page will replace the existing link to the Taxing Authority Register currently maintained as a PDF file on the site.
- Kathryn Hathaway asked if there was a similar public register for access to creditor mailing addresses. Traci Abrams responded that the national database was designated for the use of the courts by statute. Bill Blevins added that there have been requests since 2005 for this database to be open to the public but that the issue has been reviewed and there is no way to do so at this time. Bill further noted that the creditor matrix available through ECF is updated by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC) to reflect the creditor addresses found in the national database. Updated addresses are marked with a particular symbol on the list. A creditor matrix report is available to ECF users.
- Kathryn Hathaway asked if other Board members have encountered “payday loan” creditors who are located outside the United States and do not provide street addresses for service. These entities provide only email addresses claiming that regular mail will take too long to arrive. She suggested that this issue be addressed so that there could be a way to provide electronic addresses when opening a case. Bill Blevins indicated that this topic will be brought up during the next Bankruptcy Sharing Call scheduled for tomorrow in order to gain feedback from other courts. He also noted that the Bankruptcy Court Administration Division will need to be apprised of this problem.
- 3002.1 and Payment Changes (treatment when no Claim on register)
 - If no Claim exists on the Register, then the filing will appear on the docket instead.
- FY2013 Budget Outlook
 - Bill Blevins noted that the FY13 budget outlook is bleak and case filings are down by 20%. These issues will necessitate a reduction in staff by at least two people and a reduction or a change in the way the Clerk’s Office offers services. For example, the court may no longer be able to serve the initial Chapter 13 plan.
- Future ECF Attorney/Staff Training Efforts
 - Due to reduced funding and staff, we will be unable to offer one-to-one “in office/firm” training. Instead, trainees may travel to the Tallahassee division. For those who cannot travel, training exercises are available for use in the CM/ECF Train database. The Internet site will be updated accordingly to reflect this change. As a replacement for in-firm training, we are working to obtain a WebEx usage license and training from the AO to allow Julie Gibson to provide more personalized, distance-learning-style training.
- RSS Feed Available re Opinions Index
 - The **Opinions** link on the Internet site under **Court Resources** will take you to a revised Opinions Index home page which now contains links located in the upper right corner to RSS feeds per judge.
 - RSS stands for “Really Simple Syndication”, and an RSS Reader can congregate all RSS feeds to which you have subscribed into one location for quick access to a summary report of

activity. Reader programs are usually free and are often built into your existing email software programs.

- An announcement advertising the feeds appears on the Internet site's Home page.
- New Judge
 - Bill Blevins noted that it would be a good idea for the Board to develop a list of items or topical areas for future presentation to the new judge in order to determine what processes will remain the same and what might change as well as to address any new issues that may come up during the transition time. He plans to send out a more formal plan for this review to the Board prior to the April meeting.
- Bar Survey
 - Julie Gibson is planning on developing a new Bar survey to be released during this quarter via Survey Monkey.
- Board Member Articles for Newsletter
 - Bill Blevins suggested that a new feature be added to the FLNB newsletter for announcing Board activities such as meeting dates and information about issues that have been discussed and resolved or are still outstanding and feedback is required. Board members agreed and indicated that they would submit information to contribute to the section.
- Selection of Board Chairperson
 - Bill Blevins asked if Board members were interested in selecting a chairperson who would coordinate and possibly run future meetings. Board members felt that Bill and Traci Abrams were doing a good job and that there was no need to change the way the Board is organized in that regard.

Next Meeting

- April 10, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. E.T.
 - Sherry Chancellor noted to Traci Abrams via email that she will be unable to attend the April meeting due to a conflict. She suggested possibly replacing her with a new member as opposed to having Board members work around her schedule.
 - Sherry has dedicated her time by serving on the Board since 2008.
 - Board members were solicited for possible replacement candidates, and a wider announcement will be made through the Clerk's Office for volunteers.