

FLNB Board of Advisors Meeting Summary

July 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*), Tracy Strom, Esq.*, Steven Jurnovoy, Esq.*, William Miller, Esq.*, Philip Bates, Esq.*, and Mary W. Colón, Esq.*

*indicates attendees via teleconference

Updates re Old Business

2012 Agenda-building Plan

- Topic Request Form on FLNB Internet Site: Advertised in May newsletter. No suggestions received since its inception.

Newsletter Articles by Board Members

- Board agreed that they would individually or collectively write short articles for the FLNB newsletter. Kathryn Hathaway is scheduled to write an article for the newsletter slated for an August/September publication date. Julie Gibson is her contact. Board members were asked to suggest topics for and/or write future newsletter articles.

FY2013 Budget Outlook

- Filings remain down by 20%. Staffing reductions of approximately 20% on onboard staff made to anticipate funding reductions. Clerk's Office hopes to maintain quality customer service but admits that the reduction in resources may result in a reduction in its level of service. Court will be in a position to manage the upcoming funding reductions without further staff reductions. However, if sequestration is allowed to take place, then the whole of the Judiciary will see its budget cut between 20 and 30 percent necessitating furloughs, reductions in force, and routine court closures during the week as a means of counteracting the budgetary deficit. Best case scenario is a hard freeze.

Initial Information and Requests for New Judge (Follow Up)

- New court calendar published. Karen Specie expressed to Bill Blevins that she is open having the Board of Advisors serve as a means of receiving feedback concerning proposed procedural and administrative changes and a way for the bar to suggest changes as well.

- A request was made to the Eleventh Circuit to continue to allow the Alabama Southern judges to assist Mrs. Specie with the FLNB caseload. A second request was made to the Circuit to allow the FLMB Chief Judge to assist Mrs. Specie with her FLNB recusal cases.
- Karen Specie will be sworn in in Jacksonville, Florida on July 23, 2012. Her first day in office will be 7/25/12.
- Prior to start of business on 7/25/12, all cases assigned to Judge Killian will be switched on ECF to Judge Specie along with a paperless docket entry noting the transfer. Cases that are to go back to Judge Killian during the recall period will be manually switched back.

Judge Killian's Retirement

- Judge Killian's last day as a regular presiding judge will be 7/24/12. His recall period will be from 7/25/2012 through 8/31/2012.
- Plans for the 7/20/12 ceremony are on track. Programs will be printed today. Due to the large number of participants, an overflow viewing room will be established within one of the Attorney Conference rooms complete with a video connection to the courtroom. The portrait donated by the Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar will be unveiled during the ceremony in the courtroom and will be displayed within the courtroom.
- A retirement dinner on 7/21/12 has been organized by the Florida Bar.

2012 Assistant Training

- Planning is on track. All of the participating trustees are excited about the opportunity to help educate support staff and attorneys who may participate on best practices.
- Training will be held in Pensacola during the afternoon of 9/19/12 and in Tallahassee on the morning of 9/27/12. Refreshments will be served at both events thanks to funding from the Bench and Bar fund.

2012 Bar Seminar

- Flyers should be distributed within a week to ten days per Bill Miller. Same format as the last seminar.

New Business

Replacement Board Member

- Karen Specie will no longer be serving on the Board of Advisors due to her appointment as the next Florida Northern Bankruptcy Judge. The Internet roster has been updated to exclude Mrs. Specie's name.
- The goal is to find an attorney within the Gainesville area.

Pro Hac Vice Admission Practices Within the Bankruptcy Court

- Philip Bates is serving on the FLND Local Rules Committee and had concerns over the Local Rules (FLND and FLNB) which support the Pro Hac Vice admission of attorneys to the Northern District of Florida Bar who are not also admitted to the Florida Bar. The concern is that Bankruptcy practice is highly related and dependent on Florida Law and that attorneys who have no experience with Florida law and have not taken the Florida bar exam may be providing a disservice to their customers. Background of how the process originated due to ECF was noted and the feeling that any changes to the process for Bankruptcy would first need to be made at the District Court level as their local rule controls admissions.

CM/ECF Attorney Manual

- Kevin Davis, with the assistance of reviewers Melissa McClure, Julie Gibson and Traci Abrams, has updated the attorney manual which will be published to the court's Internet Website very shortly. The manual has been segmented into individual chapter .PDF files for fast access to information and quick viewing.

Next Meeting

10/10/2012 @ 2:00 p.m. ET / 1:00 p.m. CST*

*Meeting time may be changed to accommodate hearing schedules.