

# FLNB Board of Advisors Meeting Summary

July 23, 2013 – 1:30pm Eastern/12:30 pm Central

Tallahassee Division Bankruptcy Courthouse 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

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## Attendees

Traci Abrams (Summary), Melissa McClure, Tracy Strom, Steve Jurnovoy, Jeffrey Dollinger, Kathryn Hathaway, Philip Bates, Bill Miller, and Mary Beth Colón

## Updates re Old Business

### Newsletter Articles by Board Members

- Philip Bates will submit an article later in the year. Board members are encouraged to submit articles to Traci Abrams if they discover a topic of interest to the Bar.

### Chapter 13 Streamlining Effort

- The *ad hoc* committee led by Kathryn Hathaway includes Allen Turnage, Sharon Sperling and Martin Lewis. The work of the committee remains on hold at least until the new Mortgage Modification Mediation program has had time to become established and the Local Rules Committee completes its work.

### Local Rules Committee

- The committee includes the following personnel: Bill Miller, Brian Rich, Rick Savage, Michael Moody, Jeff Childers, Karin Garvin, Roland Kiehn, and Sharon Sperling.
- The committee met with Judge Specie, Law Clerk Courtney McCormick, Melissa McClure and Traci Abrams on July 10, 2013 to review the first draft compiled by Michael Moody, Esq. based on committee contributions and responses. Subsequent drafts have been created, and the latest copy is under review by two subcommittees. A public review period was advertised in the Bar news publication on July 15, 2013 and will be readvertised on August 1, 2013. The court will update the draft located on its [website](#) as updates are submitted by the committee.

### FY2014 Budget Outlook

- We are expecting at minimum a 15-16% Judiciary-imposed budget cut for FY14. The court will be in a position to absorb the cut through a reduction in force by two individuals and through a general reduction in spending where possible. An additional across the board budget cut could be imposed if the Judiciary as a whole is not fully funded again.

## New Business

### Clerk of Court in Place

- Traci Abrams assumed the role of Clerk on June 26, 2013 and intends to backfill the Chief Deputy position. That announcement closed on July 17, 2013.

### FY2015 Budget Outlook

- FY2015 will bring further authorized work unit (AWU) reductions based on projected filings and budget cuts related to the Judiciary's Shared Administrative Services (SAS) initiative. It is also anticipated that Bankruptcy Courts will experience further "across the board" budget cuts. These eventualities will be planned for during early FY14.

### The Bankruptcy Advisor Newsletter

- The newsletter contains important new information and reminders for those practicing within the FLNB. For example, an article on service requirements for motions will appear again in the next newsletter due to the numbers of errant filings in this area.
- Chief Judge Specie has asked Board members to please remind their constituents to faithfully review the newsletter. Reminder articles will normally precede the Court's intent to be less lenient when documents and pleadings are misfiled or are filed with common errors.

### Brown Bag Luncheons

- Chief Judge Specie has asked the Board to inquire with constituents to see if they are interested in reviving "brown bag" lunches. The lunches could be held at local restaurants or in a location that permits participants to bring their own lunch in various divisions on an occasional basis.

### Paralegal Seminar for 2013

- A decision was made to refrain from holding a Paralegal and Legal Assistants Seminar in 2013 due to current staffing stresses and ongoing/upcoming procedural and Local Rule changes. The intent is to hold a seminar during 2014.
- The committee appeared to favor combining this event with the Bar Seminar instead of the court hosting a free-standing paralegal/legal assistant event. Remote attendance via the courts National Video Teleconference System (NVTCS) would facilitate attendance by staff unable to travel.

### Florida Northern Bankruptcy Bar Seminar for 2013

- The seminar will be held in Tallahassee at the Hotel Duval on September 20<sup>th</sup> with a reception planned for September 19<sup>th</sup>. Contact the [Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar Association](#) for details.

### **Court Internet Site “RSS Feed” Availability**

- The *Court Announcement and News* section of the court’s Internet site located at [www.flnb.uscourts.gov](http://www.flnb.uscourts.gov) features an RSS feed which allows users to be notified whenever the court posts something new or makes a change to that particular section of the website.
- Traditionally, all new postings to the website are referenced through a summary announcement posted to *Court Announcement and News*.
- RSS stands for *Rich Site Summary* or more commonly as *Really Simple Syndication*. RSS feeds can be read using software known as *RSS Readers, feed readers, or an aggregator*. The software is available free through a variety of sources.

### **Board Member Feedback and Open Forum**

- No additional comments.