

Minutes of Executive Council Meeting

Forum - April 22, 2026

- I. Welcome – Sean McCormack
- II. Introduction of Guests
 - Holley Akers
 - Gina Jacobs – introduction of scholars
 - Jesse Rowe
 - Elaura Hodgetts
 - Natalie Cavallaro
 - Evan Kegler
 - Mark Lee
 - Judge Walker – chair of scholars

Other guests:

Judge Langham
Judge Humphries
Judge Anthony
Judge Jeff Jacobs
Judge Kemmerly Thomas
Judge Case
Judge Hill
Judge Hedler

Audrey Ashburn
Lisa Thomas
Erin Thorne
Ricki Whipple
Billy Wieland
Jake Schickle
Amanda Annunciata
Christopher Mossallati
Howard Scheiner
Richard Thompson

Paolo Longo
Glen Wieland

Guests on Zoom:

Aimee Gartland
Peter Schwedock
Danielle Benjamin
Philip Felman
Giovanna Aristizabal

- III. Approval of Minutes – Neil Ambekar motion for approval, Richard Manno seconded. Approved.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report – Richard Manno – budget in deficient, but under budget for year. Motion to approve by Matt Carrillo, seconded by Ya’Sheaka Campbell-Williams. Approved.
- V. BOG Report – Lorna Brown Burton
 - March BOG meeting – talked about budget going forward and proposed budget to keep membership fees at \$265 for active and \$175 for inactive. Unanimously approved. Will go to Supreme Court for approval. Comment period is open.
 - Listening tour – how to build successful career
 - Florida Bar Job Fair held 3/6 in Ft. Lauderdale
 - 20-6.1 – Florida registered paralegals can get 5 CLE credits for pro bono work.
 - Next BOG meeting in Miami on May 15, 2026.
- VI. Committee Reports
 - a. Section CLE – Rick Morales

Missed April CLE, but on track for May. Looking for volunteers for June – December. Passed around sign-up sheet. Attorney’s Fees and MCC are needed topics. Recognized Jennifer Devine and Angela for helping with committee.
 - b. Trial Advocacy – Judge Jacobs & Glen Wieland

May 15-16 workshop is ready to go. Program sold out. Waiting list with 2 standbys.
 - c. Legislative Committee – Richard Chait

Session ended March 13
Special session starts Monday. There may be several.
Discussed potential future legislation.

Discussed AI committee bill requiring human being issue denial.

d. News & 440 – Matthew Troy & Kenneth Hesser

Winter Issue is out.

Halfway through next issue – 2 or 3 articles needed.

This will be Matt's last issue. Sean McCormack advised that we are looking for a three-year commitment and gave details on requirements.

Ken spoke about podcast. Eight or nine released thus far. Goal is one per month.

e. Membership/Mentorship – Karen Gilmartin, Michael Srebnick & Kim Syfrett

Karen wants subcommittee for membership, asked guests and scholars for involvement. Thanked Lisa Thomas for her mentorship programs.

f. Forum – Rogers Turner, Neil Ambekar & Holley Akers

Neil – talked about DCA cancellation. Filled 4 hours with other programming.

Thanked Howard Scheiner and Lisa Thomas for assisting with that.

Holley – thank you to steering committee and sponsorship committee.

Next year's Forum will be at Rosen Shingle Creek. Year after that TBD. April 7-9, 2027.

g. Rules Committee – Matt Carrillo & Mike Winer

Matt – notice of development of rulemaking – reviewing all of the 60Q rules.

Meeting being scheduled with members of committee to discuss and make recommendations.

Lorna – feedback from Elizabeth Tarbert, Division Director of Lawyer

Regulations regarding problems and issues going forward as to proposed rule attached to agenda – Jan 6 email. Concerns: seems like it is an encroachment on executive branch and cannot approve or recommend to the rule committee. Florida Bar has no control over judges. Standard being set is not enforceable. BOG sets rules for lawyers, not courts.

Mike – new email sent. Mike said it was not the same proposed rule. Asked they remove presumptively reasonable fee and put language that says it is not clearly excessive. Lorna will follow up with Elizabeth Tarbert about that and see if that change addresses her concerns.

h. Judiciary Committee – Illeana Marcos

WCI judicial luncheon ready to go.

i. Board Certification Committee – Tracey Hyde

First year (in at least 31 years) nobody applied to sit for the exam.

Several people in room indicated they are near certification.

Ken Hesser - encouraged people to reach out and ask any questions they may have.

It's 15 trials (from beginning of practice) and other substitutions to get to the 25 trials.

- j. Technology Committee – Richard Manno & Ya'Sheaka Campbell-Williams
Richard – educated everyone on website, Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook.
- k. Sponsorship & Advertising – Rosemary Eure & Henry Roman
Great sponsorship year. Asks for guidance on what is expected.
Henry – is there another upcoming event to raise money for? Sean says looking for reception sponsor at retreat; dinner sponsor
- l. Emerging Leaders – Lisa Thomas
Mentor Program in Miami, Tallahassee, Orlando and next Jacksonville.
Looking for volunteer to take over position. Will talk with committee members about how her members can assist.
- m. Health & Wellness – Sean McCormack
CLE about dogs in the workplace. Richard Manno's daughter hosted. Good turn out. Will continue to offer health and wellness CLE topics free. Friday speaker on health and wellness at the Forum.
Courtney – encouraged attendance at Friday session.
- n. JCC Roundtable – Phil Augustine & Ryan Knight
Phil – 5 roundtables. 6th is on May 5 in Miami. Thanked moderators. Want to continue next year and do some in person.
Sean – 130 people on the line for Jacksonville one. Thanked judges for taking time.
- o. Women in Work Comp – Dawn Traverso
Thanked judges for monthly in person OJCC luncheons. Jacksonville in May, Ft Myers in June.
May 1 quarterly zoom – judicial insights with Jill Jacobs
Spoke of Forum panel.
Lisa Thomas to chair WIWC mentorship panel
2nd Frances Perkins award will be presented tomorrow at lunch.
- p. Long Range Planning – Sean McCormack, Karen Cullen, Tracey Hyde
Tracey – options to increase membership involvement. Grow participation in the council. Recently got bylaw amendment approved to add 2 mediator seats. Election ends tomorrow at 4:10. Results announced Friday.
Continue Sean's work on mentorship.
Getting young lawyers involved.
Richard – talked about bylaws – how to be creative and allow new members to join. Talked about emeritus issue. Would people in leadership who have been chair consider emeritus? Set up committee to address other options to

allow new members to join/expand council. Not removing people, it's about expanding to allow new members and still allow experienced members to participate.

VII. Chair Remarks – Sean McCormack

- Goal was to empower membership and get more people involved. Was successful with that. Thanked Lisa Thomas for help expanding mentorship and everyone that has served on mentorship.
- Thanked all of the committee chairs. Thanks to Ken Hesser for work with podcast. Thanks to Willie Mae for all of the her hard work. Gift presented.
- Went into executive session to vote on upcoming secretary. Asked non-members to step out. Nominating committee met and would like to recommend Rick Morales. Rick stepped out. Matt Troy made the motion; Mike Winer seconded. Short discussion. Richard Chait makes motion to close nomination. Seconded by Richard Manno. All in favor. No opposed. Back to motion on table – elect Rick – all in favor, no opposed.
- Nominations for executive committee – claimant's attorney – wanted to advance Kim Syfrett. Kim stepped out. Motion by Dawn Traverson, Richard Manno seconded – no discussion, all in favor.
- Executive session closed.
- Announcements – EC and speaker dinner tomorrow night. 4 volunteers now for CLE. Need August – September. W/C section membership reception on 6/18/26 at Florida Bar Conference. Meetings on agenda.

VIII. Chair-Elect Report – Tracey Hyde

Honored to take over on July 1.

August 7 – Zoom meeting.

Charleston – September 23-27, 2026

Only 9 people on the cruise. Ski Trip more popular. Big Sky, February 2027.

January 15, 2027 – Joe's Stone Crab

Looking forward to her year.

IX. New Business

Awards

Officers – Tracey Hyde, Richard Manno, Rogers Turner, Karen Cullen

CLE – Ryan Knight and Rick Morales

Richard Chait

Lisa Thomas

Forum Committee (Holley Akers & Neil Ambekar)

Membership – Karen Gilmartin

Ken Hesser – podcast
News & 440 – Ken Hesser & Matt Troy

Passing of Gavel to Tracey
Chair Elect presented award to Chair

Motion to adjourn by Neil Ambekar seconded by Richard Manno.

EXHIBIT A