

## **Joint Resolution of South Florida Voluntary Bar Associations Regarding Lawyer Civility**

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2011, the Florida Supreme Court amended the oath of admission to the Florida Bar to include a pledge of “fairness, integrity, and civility” to the court and opponents “in all written and oral communications” (the “Oath of Civility”);

WHEREAS, voluntary bar associations throughout South Florida, including those listed in the attached Addendum<sup>1</sup> (the “South Florida VBAs”), recognize that many attorneys maintain inter-county practices where they appear before state and federal courts, government agencies, arbitrators, and other quasi-judicial forums throughout South Florida;

WHEREAS, the South Florida VBAs acknowledge that a joint effort to promote the Oath of Civility on a regional level will help promote a more uniform standard of civility and consistent application of standards of professional courtesy across the South Florida counties;

WHEREAS, the South Florida VBAs recognize that their effort to promote the Oath of Civility within their respective counties should attempt to reach members and non-members of the South Florida VBAs to ensure that the message of civility is disseminated to all attorneys practicing within the VBA's counties and not just to active members of the VBAs;

WHEREAS, the successful promotion of the Oath of Civility requires the active participation of, and communication from, the South Florida VBAs to the attorneys in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, the South Florida VBAs recognize that it is important to have the South Florida courts, through their respective Chief Judges, affirm and agree to support this resolution together with the South Florida VBAs.

### **IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

The South Florida VBAs jointly resolve that they shall work together to actively promote the Oath of Civility and adherence to accepted standards of professional courtesy across the South Florida VBAs’ respective counties;

The South Florida VBAs hereby resolve to jointly promote the above through a series of articles, seminars, membership lunches, press releases, and correspondence directed to members and non-members of the South Florida VBAs’ respective counties; and

The South Florida VBAs, through their respective Officers, Boards of Directors, and Professionalism Committees, shall work with the Chief Judges of South Florida’s courts to promote the above in a manner most likely to improve civility awareness and adherence to

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<sup>1</sup>The Addendum shall be a living document that will be intermittently updated as additional bar associations pledge their approval of this Joint Resolution.

accepted standards of professional courtesy.

The South Florida VBAs resolve to promote the Oath of Civility and adherence to accepted standards of professional courtesy to attorneys appearing before the state and federal courts, government agencies, arbitrators and other quasi-judicial forums throughout South Florida.

Accepted and approved:

/s Federico A. Moreno  
Hon. Federico A. Moreno  
Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for the  
Southern District of Florida

/s Paul G. Hyman  
Hon. Paul G. Hyman  
Chief Judge, U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the  
Southern District of Florida

/s Peter D. Blanc  
Hon. Peter D. Blanc  
Chief Judge, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

/s Joel H. Brown  
Hon. Joel H. Brown  
Chief Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit

/s Peter M. Weinstein  
Hon. Peter M. Weinstein  
Chief Judge, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

/s Steven J. Levin  
Hon. Steven J. Levin  
Chief Judge, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

## **Addendum**

The following South Florida Voluntary Bar Associations, through their respective Officers and Boards of Directors, have accepted and approved the foregoing Joint Resolution.

/s Adam Rabin  
Adam Rabin, President  
Palm Beach County Association

/s Garrett Biondo  
Garrett Biondo, President  
Dade County Bar Association

/s Greg Weiss  
Greg Weiss, President  
Martin County Bar Association

/s Larry Corman  
Larry Corman, President  
South Palm Beach County Bar Association

/s Deborah Poore Fitzgerald  
Deborah Poore Fitzgerald, President  
Broward County Bar Association

/s Vivian de la Cuevas-Diaz  
Vivian de la Cuevas-Diaz, President  
Cuban American Bar Association

/s Daniel Zuniga  
Daniel Zuniga, President  
Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association

/s Lynn Solomon  
Lynn Solomon, President  
F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr. Bar Association

/s Leora Freire  
Leora Freire, President  
Florida Association for Women Lawyers  
Palm Beach County Chapter

/s Brett Barfield

Brett Barfield, President  
Federal Bar Association  
South Florida Chapter

/s Jessica Callow Mason

Jessica Callow Mason, President  
Craig S. Barnard American Inn of Court  
Palm Beach County Chapter

/s Jason Jones

Jason Jones, President  
Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern  
District of Florida

/s Saman Movassaghi

Saman Movassaghi, President  
Florida Muslim Bar Association

/s Noel Johnson

Noel Johnson, President  
Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association

/s Peter Spillis

Peter K. Spillis, President  
American Board of Trial Advocates  
Miami-Dade Chapter

/s Stephanie Moot

Stephanie N. Moot, President  
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of  
South Florida

/s Richard Robles

Richard R. Robles, President  
Puerto Rican Bar Association of Florida

/s Haydee Sera

Haydee Sera, President  
Miami Lakes Bar Association

/s Carol Green

Carol N. Green, President  
Caribbean Bar Association

/s Michael Pike

Michael Pike, President  
Palm Beach County Justice Association

/s Angelina Namia

Angelina Namia, President  
Florida Association for Women Lawyers  
South Palm Beach Chapter

/s Bruce Ramsey

Bruce Ramsey, President  
American Board of Trial Advocates  
Palm Beach Chapter

/s Laura Mall

Laura Mall, President  
Christian Legal Society  
Palm Beach County Chapter

/s Kimberly Gilmour

Kimberly Gilmour, President  
Federal Bar Association  
Broward County Chapter

/s Sumeet Chugani

Sumeet Chugani, President  
South Asian Bar Association of Florida

/s Kelly Reagan

Kelly Reagan, President  
Federal Bar Association  
Palm Beach County Chapter

/s Scott Golden

E. Scott Golden, President  
Broward County Christian Lawyers Association

/s Marisol Gomez-Decena  
Marisol Gomez-Decena, President  
Florida Association for Women Lawyers  
Miami-Dade Chapter

/s Jude Faccidomo  
Jude M. Faccidomo, President  
Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
Miami Chapter

/s Olanike Adebayo  
Olanike Adebayo, President  
Gwen S. Cherry Black Lawyers Association

/s Stephanie Ducheine-Welsh  
Stephanie Ducheine-Welsh, President  
Haitian Lawyers Association

/s Diana Santa Maria  
Diana Santa Maria, President  
American Board of Trial Advocates  
Fort Lauderdale Chapter

/s Laura Wendell  
Laura Wendell, President  
Florida Association for Women Lawyers

/s Rebecca Emmons  
Rebecca Emmons, President  
Indian River County Bar Association

/s Hon. Martin Bidwill  
Hon. Martin Bidwill, President  
Stephen R. Booher American Inn of Court  
Broward County Chapter