



LOCAL PROFESSIONALISM PANEL REPORT FORM

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| Chief Judge of Circuit: | 15th |
| Name of Submitter: | Alexcia Cox |
| Date: | June 15, 2024 |

***Reports must be filed by June 15 and December 15 each year.**

SC 2023-0884 - Appendix A

Code for Resolving Professionalism Referrals

3.7 Reporting

- a) Each LPP must file a written report with the chief judge of its circuit, the Florida Supreme Court, and The Florida Bar identifying all professionalism referrals received against a member of The Florida Bar in June and December of each calendar year.
- b) The biannual reports must include the following information for each referral for the six (6) calendar months preceding the month in which the report is due:
 1. The date of the referral;
 2. The circuit in which the issue arose;
 3. A short summary detailing the substance of the referral;
 4. The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process;
 5. Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process;
 6. The resolution, if any, of the referral; and
 7. Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent.
- c) The reports must not include identifying information for the respondent or the party who submitted the referral.

INFORMATION FOR SUBMITTERS

1. **Purpose and Use:** This form collects information about your Circuit's Local Professionalism Panel and its activity for the last six (6) months. This form also asks for updates to the contact information for your Local Professionalism Panel. The information about your Circuit's Local Professionalism Panel will be used to update the Center's Local Professionalism Panel contact list, as well as to gauge how each Circuit is carrying out panel activities.
2. **Reporting Period:** Reports must be filed by June 15th and December 15th and include information for the six (6) calendar months preceding the month in which the report is due.
3. **Where to Submit:** Submit this form and any attachments by email to cfp@floridabar.org or by regular mail to:

The Florida Bar
Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism
651 E. Jefferson Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

4. **Questions:** Direct all questions about this form to cfp@floridabar.org.

June Reports should include information from January 1 to June 15.
December Reports should include information from June 16 to December 15.

LOCAL PROFESSIONALISM PANEL QUESTIONS

Please complete the information below regarding any activity within your Local Professionalism Panel. Additional pages may be attached as needed.

- 1. Please describe the process by which complaints are addressed.** You may attach a link to the complaint form or link to where information is located on your website that advises the consumers, attorneys, and judges how to file a complaint.

<https://www.15thcircuit.com/sites/default/files/administrative-orders/2.105.pdf>

<https://www.palmbeachbar.org/professionalism-committee/>

- 2. Please describe what types of professionalism issues are seen most often in this Circuit?**

Out of the referrals received (and 1 inquiry), the professionalism issues most complained of are lack of decorum and rudeness/bullying/abusive conduct.

3. What are believed to be the causes of professionalism issues within your Circuit?

Our circuit encourages civility and professionalism amongst lawyers. The Professionalism Committee of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, which is made up of paralegals, lawyers, and judges, actively promotes the Oath of Civility; addresses ways to instill a sense of professionalism in Bar members; and regularly conducts CLE programs on ethics and professionalism throughout the year. The Professionalism Committee encourages attorneys of all levels and practice areas to frequently review the Florida Bar Professionalism Expectations and provides a list of helpful links and resources for attorneys in Palm Beach County practicing in both state and federal court.

4. How often does your Circuit's Local Professionalism Panel meet?

The 15th Judicial Circuit LPP meets each month. Additional meetings will be scheduled as needed at the direction of the Chair and Chief Judge.

5. Please describe any training provided to committee members.

Members of the 15th Judicial Circuit LPP have all received the mandatory training course offered by the Florida Bar and ACAP.

6. How is your Circuit's Local Professionalism Panel promoted?

The LPP is promoted on our circuit's website as well as the Palm Beach County Bar Association's website. An email announcing the LPP was also sent to members of the Palm Beach County Bar Association and many other local voluntary bar associations. In addition, our circuit held 2 panel discussion sessions related to professionalism and the role of our LPP during our recent Bench Bar Conference.

7. Please provide information regarding all complaint intake for the appropriate dates. If filing in June, the information should be from January 1st – June 15th. If filing in December, the information should be from June 16th – December 15th.

1.

| | |
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| Date of Referral: 12/12/2023 | Circuit in which issue arose: 15 |
| Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral | |
| The referral arose from a family dispute. The respondent filed a petition for an injunction for protection against stalking on behalf of his client(s). The referral asserts that the petition was filed in bad faith and that respondent also acted in bad faith during attempts to mediate the matter. | |
| The relationship of the respondent to the person submitting the referral. | |
| The respondent was the opposing counsel. | |
| Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process. | |
| N/A. | |
| The resolution, if any, of the referral;* | |
| The LPP reviewed the referral and determined the respondent's conduct did not merit any further action by the panel. | |
| Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent | |
| I am unaware of any prior referrals. | |

2.

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Referral: 1/16/2024 | Circuit in which issue arose: 15 |
| Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral | |
| This referral contains multiple allegations of unprofessional conduct, including sending harassing emails, unilaterally noticing hearings without conferring with opposing counsel, and intentionally misrepresenting facts to the trial court. | |
| The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process | |
| Respondent is the opposing counsel in this action. | |
| Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process. | |
| The referral remains under review by the LPP. | |
| The resolution, if any, of the referral;* | |
| The referral remains under review by the LPP. | |
| Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent | |
| I am not aware of any prior referrals. | |

3.

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Referral: 1/16/2024 | Circuit in which issue arose: 15 |
| Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral | |
| Same referral as above submitted by a different individual. | |
| The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process | |
| The referral was submitted by a witness to the respondent's actions. | |
| Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process. | |
| The referral remains under review by the LPP. | |
| The resolution, if any, of the referral;* | |
| The referral remains under review by the LPP. | |
| Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent | |
| I am not aware of any prior referrals. | |

4.

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Referral: 5/22/2024 | Circuit in which issue arose: 15 |
| Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral | |
| This referral arose from a guardianship case in which the respondent is alleged to have demonstrated unprofessional conduct by failing to appear for hearings and/or cure defects as directed by the court. | |
| The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process | |
| The referral was submitted by a Circuit Court Judge who presided over the case in which the respondent is attorney of record. | |
| Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process. | |
| The referral remains under review by the LPP. | |
| The resolution, if any, of the referral;* | |
| The referral remains under review by the LPP. | |
| Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent | |
| I am not aware of any prior referrals. | |

5.

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| Date of Referral: 5/22/2024 | Circuit in which issue arose: 15 |
| Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral | |
| The referral arose from a trial wherein respondent made improper statements about creating error to secure a new trial for his client. | |
| The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process | |
| The referral was submitted by a non-party, interested attorney. | |
| Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process. | |
| The referral remains under review by the LPP. | |
| The resolution, if any, of the referral;* | |
| The referral remains under review by the LPP. | |
| Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent | |
| I am not aware of any prior referrals. | |

6.

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| Date of Referral: 4/22/2024 | Circuit in which issue arose: 15 |
| Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral | |
| The referral arose from a cease and desist letter sent by the respondent to the person submitting the referral. The referral describes this letter as an improper threat of legal action, a misuse of power, and a misrepresentation of legal authority. | |
| The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process | |
| The respondent is counsel for the business entity which no longer wants contact with the person submitting the referral. | |
| Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process. | |
| The referral remains under review by the LPP. | |
| The resolution, if any, of the referral;* | |
| The referral remains under review by the LPP. | |
| Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent | |
| I am not aware of any prior referrals. | |

8. Please provide the contact information for all current panel members. Please include: name(s), email(s), address(es), and phone number(s), and title if applicable.

| Name | Title/Firm | Email | Address | Phone Number |
|----------------------|------------|-------|---------|--------------|
| Please see attached. | | | | |
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The Florida Bar will publish on its website the LPP biannual reports. The Chief Judge, or the Chief Judge's designee, will publish on the judicial Circuit's website the LPP biannual reports from that Circuit.

Fifteenth Judicial Circuit
Local Professionalism Panel Members
Updated November 8, 2023

1. **Chair:** Alexcia Cox
Office of the State Attorney, 15th Jud. Cir.
401 North Dixie Highway
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 355-7100
acox@sa15.org
Term: 3 years

2. The Honorable Carolyn Bell
205 North Dixie Highway
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 355-1950
CAD-DivisionAF@pbcgov.org
Term: 3 years

3. Sandra M. Powery Moses
Legal Aid of Palm Beach County, Inc.
423 Fern St., Suite 200
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 822-9821
smoses@legalaidthpbcc.org
Term: 3 years

4. The Honorable August Bonavita
205 North Dixie Highway
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 355-2330
CAD-DivisionC@pbcgov.org
Term: 2 years

5. Jodi Colton
Brinkley Morgan
2255 Glades Rd., Suite 414E
Boca Raton, FL 33431
(954) 837-2875
jodi.colton@brinkleymorgan.com
Term: 2 years

6. Joanne O'Connor
Jones Foster
505 S Flagler Dr., Suite 1100
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 650-0498
joconnor@jonesfoster.com
Term: 2 years

7. The Honorable Ashley Zuckerman
205 North Dixie Highway
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 355-6050
CAD-DivisionM@pbcgov.org
Term: 1 year

8. Amelia Jadoo
Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman, P.L.
2255 Glades Rd., Suite 200E
Boca Raton, FL 33431
(561) 835-2111
ajadoo@wsh-law.com
Term: 1 Year

9. David Davidson
Florida Healthcare Law Firm
151 NW 1st Ave
Delray Beach, FL 33444
(561) 455-7700 x118
dave@floridahealthcarelawfirm.com
Term: 1 Year