

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2013 -09

IN RE: SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PROFESSIONALISM PANEL

WHEREAS, the bench and bar of the Second Judicial Circuit have historically endeavored to encourage, promote and maintain a high standard of professionalism in the Circuit; and

WHEREAS, the “Tallahassee Bar Association - Code of Professional Courtesy” was endorsed by the judiciary of the Second Judicial Circuit by Administrative Order 90-26; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the directive of former Chief Justice Gerald Kogan of The Supreme Court of Florida, the Second Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee was established by Administrative order 2003-12 to assess the status and conditions of professionalism and to encourage and promote professionalism and ethics within the Second Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to address professionalism complaints on an informal basis, and to enhance communication, constructive problem solving, respect and courtesy between judges and lawyers of the Second Judicial Circuit, and pursuant to Amended Administrative Order of The Supreme Court of Florida, the Second Judicial Circuit Bench/Bar Committee was formally established by Administrative Order 2003-09 to replace the informal bench/bar committee that had been productively functioning for many years prior to such formal order; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of Florida has issued its opinion entitled “In Re: Code for Resolving Professionalism Complaints” [116 So.3d 280 (Fla. June 6, 2013)] in which the Chief Judge of every Circuit was ordered “to create a Local Professionalism Panel to receive and resolve professionalism complaints informally, if possible.”

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the order of The Supreme Court of Florida, the Chief Judge’s authority under Article V, § 2, Florida Constitution, 2.215, Fla. R. Jud. Admin., and § 43.26, Florida Statutes, it is hereby

ORDERED as follows:

1. The Second Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee is hereby re-constituted as the Second Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel (“Panel”).
2. The purpose of the Panel is to receive, screen, evaluate and act upon complaints of conduct inconsistent with the “Standards of Professionalism” as defined in The Supreme Court’s opinion, and resolve those complaints informally, if possible, or refer them to The Florida Bar if



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appropriate or necessary, and to perform all duties and responsibilities required by The Supreme Court of Florida in its opinion “In Re: Code for Resolving Professionalism Complaints”. In the performance of its duties and responsibilities, the Panel shall not have the authority to discipline attorneys, and shall not have the authority to compel any attorney to appear before it.

3. The Panel shall consist of not less than twenty (20), nor more than forty (40) members selected and appointed from time to time by the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge shall strive to select members who represent a cross-section of the Circuit, with due consideration to such matters as, but not limited to, geographic location, diversity, professional reputation and bar activities. Representatives of bar organizations within the Circuit are encouraged to suggest names of appropriate representatives for future Panel membership. The Chief Judge shall appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Panel.

4. The Chief Judge shall not be a member of the Panel, but may preside over the Panel when deemed by the Chief Judge to be necessary or appropriate.

5. Meetings of the Panel may be called by the Chair, a majority of the Panel members or the Chief Judge. Notice of any Panel meeting shall be given to each Panel member in such a manner as deemed appropriate by the Chair. E-mail or telephonic notice is expressly approved. The notice requirement that notice be given to each member of the Panel shall not be applicable to any meeting of a sub-committee or sub-panel established by the Chair. Notice to the members of the sub-committee or sub-panel shall be sufficient.

6. Those persons listed in Exhibit A attached shall constitute the initial Panel and shall serve at the discretion of the Chief Judge. The membership of the Panel, as it may change from time to time, shall be posted on the Second Judicial Circuit webpage.

7. The Panel shall develop and prepare a written procedure for the receipt, screening and resolution of professionalism complaints, and shall have the authority to amend the same from time to time, consistent with the order of The Supreme Court, including requirements for confidentiality. The written procedures shall be provided to the Chief Judge within sixty (60) days from the date of this order and shall be posted on the Second Judicial Circuit website. Amendments to such procedures as adopted from time to time, and such other matters as the Panel deems appropriate, shall also be posted on the website. Any such procedures shall specifically provide for the use by the Panel of the Individual Reporting Form For Local Circuit Professionalism Panel, attached as Exhibit B, and preparation of the Local Circuit Professionalism Panel Quarterly Summary Report To The Florida Supreme Court, attached as Exhibit C.

8. The Panel shall also assess the status and conditions of professionalism in the Second Judicial Circuit and encourage and develop educational programs and activities to promote the Code of Professionalism in the Circuit. The Panel shall report the results of its assessment, educational and program development and activities in writing to the Chief Judge annually on or before December 1 of each calendar year.



9. The Chair of the Panel shall have the authority to establish such sub-committees and sub-panels of the Panel as deemed necessary or appropriate to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Panel, including, but not limited to, a complaint resolution sub-panel(s) and an education and assessment sub-panel(s).

10. The Panel shall meet as is necessary to fulfill its responsibilities, but in no event less than twice annually.

11. Administrative Order 2003-12, as amended is hereby vacated and superceded by this order.

12. This order shall be effective immediately.

Done and Ordered this 30th day of December, 2013.



CHARLES A. FRANCIS
Chief Judge

cc: All Circuit and County Judges, Second Judicial Circuit
All Clerks of Court, Second Judicial Circuit
All Second Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel Members
Council of Bar presidents



SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PROFESSIONALISM PANEL		
Larry Simpson, Chair	(850) 222-6040	lsimpson@readyfortrial.com
Sean Desmond, Vice Chair	(850) 727-7850	sean@lawdesmond.com
E. C. Deeno Kitchen		Deeno22@aol.com
Hon. George S. Reynolds III		georger@leoncountyfl.gov
Hon. Robert R. Wheeler		Wheeler@leoncountyfl.gov
Karen Walker		Karen.Walker@hkclaw.com
Michael "Mike" Glazer		mglazer@ausley.com
Laura Beth Faragasso		lbfaragasso@henryblaw.com
Dawn Whitehurst		dawn@knowlesandrandolph.com
Michael Ruff		ruffm@leoncountyfl.gov
Garvin Bowden		garvin@gbwlegal.com
Elizabeth "Bib" Willis		bibwillis@comcast.net
Paula Sparkman		psparkman@nettally.com
Neibra Collins Williams		Nwcollins33@aol.com
Kimberly Driggers		kdriggers@tallahasseeattorneys.com
Ian Nesbeth		ian@nesbethlaw.com
Theresa Sawyer		Theresa_Sawyer@comcast.net
Donna Duncan		ddduncan@fairpoint.net
David Kemp		david@davidkemplaw.com
Theresa Bixler Proctor		cissyproctor@yahoo.com
Colin M. Roopnarine		Colin.roopnarine@dbpr.state.fl.us
Linda Bond Edwards		ledwards@rumberger.com
Mutagee Akbar		M.Akbar@AkbarlawFirm.com
Ethan A. Way		eway@gillisway.com
Mary K. Simpson		Kay@guildaylaw.com Beth@guildaylaw.com
Roosevelt Randolph		RooseveltR@Knowlesandrandolph.com tisar@Knowlesandrandolph.com
Tom Powell		Tom@powellforthedefense.com
James E. Joanos		James.joanos@akerman.com
Robert S. (Bob) Cohen		Bob_cohen@doah.state.fl.us
Michael Shuler		mshuler@shulerlawfl.com
Herb Thiele		ThieleH@leoncountyfl.gov
Shalene Grover		Sgrover@centurylink.net
Gary Roberts		garyr@garyrobertslaw.com
C. Sha'Ron James		csjamesesq@gmail.com
Gwendolyn Adkins		gadkins@coppinsmonroe.com
James Messer		jim@wrongfullyinjured.com
Major Harding		mharding@ausley.com
Melissa VanSickle		mvansickle@cphlaw.com
Michael Thomas		mike@penningtonlaw.com

EXHIBIT "A"



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INDIVIDUAL REPORTING FORM FOR LOCAL CIRCUIT PROFESSIONALISM PANEL

Individual Completing Form: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Person Who Filed Complaint: _____

Client ___ Member of public ___ Lawyer ___ Judge ___ TFB# _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Attorney Complaint Filed Against: _____

TFB #: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Date Complaint Filed: _____ Date of Incident: _____

Nature of Incident:

- Appearance of impropriety
- Unprofessional conduct
- Uncivil, unruly
- Rude, discourteous, disruptive, disrespectful
- Offensive personality
- Abusive
- Honesty, integrity, candor
- Unfair play, dilatory tactics
- Used profanity/obscene gestures
- Bullying or badgering
- Disorganized or unprepared
- Other: _____

Names and address of Panel Participants Involved:

Final Resolution: ___ No action ___ Counseled ___ Refer TFB ___ Other _____

Recommended: ___ Counseled ___ Attend CLE ___ Referral (where) _____ ___ Apology issued
___ Mentoring Suggested ___ Other (Please describe) _____

Comments:

Chief Judge Signature: _____ Circuit Number: _____

EXHIBIT "B"



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**FLORIDA BAR ACAP
AND
LOCAL CIRCUIT PROFESSIONALISM PANEL
QUARTERLY SUMMARY REPORT TO THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT**

Reporting Period: July – Sept. 20____ Oct. – Dec. 20____ Jan. – March 20____ April - June 20____

Individual Completing Form: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Total Number of Complaints this Period: _____ **Total Number of Pending Complaints:** _____

Total Number of Closed Complaints: _____ **Total Number of Repeat Lawyers Reported:** _____

Please indicate the number and type of complainants:

Client: ____ **Member of public:** ____ **Lawyer:** ____ **Judge:** ____

Nature of the incident: Please select the most applicable category for each of the closed complaints.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appearance of impropriety | <input type="checkbox"/> Honesty, integrity, candor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unprofessional conduct | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair play, dilatory tactics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Uncivil, unruly | <input type="checkbox"/> Used profanity/obscene gestures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rude, discourteous, disruptive, disrespectful | <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying or badgering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offensive personality | <input type="checkbox"/> Disorganized or unprepared |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abusive | Other: _____ |

Please indicate the number of dispositions in each category:

- Consultation completed
- No show
- Referred to The Florida Bar
- Other: _____

Comments:

Chief Judge Signature: _____ **Circuit Number:** _____

Florida Bar ACAP _____

EXHIBIT "C"

