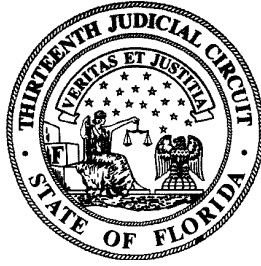


Contacts:

Joan Boles
813-232-1222 x 144
iboles@bals.org

Katelyn Desrosiers
813-272-6843
desroskm@fljud13.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 28, 2014

**THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
Professionalism Committee**

Hon. Manuel Menendez, Jr.
Chair

Hon. Ashley B. Moody
Executive Chair

**THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF FLORIDA
PROFESSIONALISM COMMITTEE
SUBMITS ITS 2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT ON PROFESSIONALISM**

Tampa, Florida – On June 11, 1998, the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court issued an administrative order directing the chief judge of each circuit to issue an annual report on the status of professionalism and professionalism activities within the circuit. On Friday, January 31, 2014, the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court Professionalism Committee submitted its 2013-2014 Annual Report on Professionalism. Over eighteen committees, local bar associations, sections of the Hillsborough Bar Association, and two local law schools all reported professionalism or professional activities within their respective organizations. Below are a few highlights from the report:

- Chief Judge Manuel Menendez Jr. issued Administrative Order S-2013-071 creating our circuit's Local Professionalism Panel to receive, screen, and act upon local complaints of unprofessional conduct.
- The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee joined forces with the Hillsborough County Bar Association Professionalism and Ethics Committee to jointly promote professionalism efforts in our circuit.
- Three committees: the Local Professionalism Panel Committee, Promotions Committees, and the CLE and Events Committee were created to give the Professionalism Committee a voice and to promote professionalism within the circuit.
- Our circuit has five active mentoring programs to assist law students and young attorneys transition into practice.

“Synergy, as it relates to professionalism, is our main goal this year including synergy within our court system, with the Hillsborough County Bar Association, and with our local bar members to promote and encourage professionalism,” said the Honorable Ashley B. Moody, the Executive Chair of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee. “We have been making large strides to promote professionalism by coming together towards a common goal outlined in Administrative Order S-2013-071: to increase the professionalism aspirations of all lawyers in Florida and ensure that the practice of law remains a high calling with lawyers not only in the service of individual clients but also service to the public good as well.”

For a copy of Administrative Order S-2013-071, please visit www.fljud13.org/portals/0/AO/DOCS/S-2013-071.pdf.

For a copy of the 2013-2014 Annual Report on Professionalism, please contact Joan Boles or Katelyn Desrosiers.