



THE FLORIDA BAR

The 2019-22 Strategic Plan for The Florida Bar

Mission: Inculcate in its members the principles of duty and service to the public, to improve the administration of justice, and to advance the science of jurisprudence.

The Florida Bar Objectives

- I. Ensure the Judicial System, a Coequal Branch of Government, is Fair, Impartial, Adequately Funded and Open to All.
- II. Enhance the Legal Profession and the Public's Trust and Confidence in Attorneys and the Justice System.
- III. Strive for Equal Access to and Availability of Legal Services.
- IV. Enhance and Improve the Value of Florida Bar Membership and the Bar's Relationship with its Members.
- V. Continue to Encourage and Promote Diversity and Inclusion in All Aspects of the Profession and the Justice System.

Objective I: Ensure the Judicial System, a Coequal Branch of Government, is Fair, Impartial, Adequately Funded and Open to All

Actions

1. Continue to support increased state courts system funding.
2. Determine what The Florida Bar can do, within the limitations of the law, to become an even more active and effective advocate for maintaining a fair and impartial judiciary that is open and accessible to all.
3. Simplify and streamline the rulemaking process of The Florida Bar to make it more flexible/less cumbersome.
4. Educate the public and Florida legislators about the role of the courts system and the need to maintain a fair and independent judiciary.
5. Collaborate with the voluntary bars to promote educational initiatives.
6. Continue to strengthen relationships between all branches of government and The Florida Bar; with special emphasis on outreach to the Governor's Office.

Objective II: Enhance the Legal Profession and the Public's Trust and Confidence in Attorneys and the Justice System

Actions

1. Protect the public by educating and assisting lawyers to practice ethically and competently, and by enforcing the Florida Supreme Court's Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.
2. Continue to monitor the evolving continuing legal education needs of Florida lawyers and provide members with high quality educational opportunities and ethics guidance.
3. Continue to promote professionalism among members of The Florida Bar.
4. Effectively communicate The Florida Bar's message to its diverse membership, the general public, and targeted groups.
5. Continue to develop creative and dynamic messaging, and use positive print, electronic and social media placement to achieve favorable media coverage for attorneys, judges and Florida's legal system.

Objective III: Strive for Equal Access to and Availability of Legal Services

Actions

1. Identify resources to allow for improved access to Florida courts for pro se litigants.
2. Evaluate new and innovative potential solutions to address the gap in legal services for under-served Florida citizens.
3. Conduct research on pro bono, low cost legal services, and access to justice programs that are successful and adequately promote them in other areas.
4. Determine best strategies for addressing online and alternative legal service providers.
5. Review The Florida Bar's advertising rules to determine if the current lawyer advertising process needs streamlining or simplification.
6. Continue to support the various recommendations made by the Florida Access to Civil Justice Commission.
7. Encourage and support Florida Bar Foundation initiatives.

Objective IV: Enhance and Improve the Value of Florida Bar Membership and the Bar's Relationship with Its Members

Actions

1. Encourage and support members to participate in Florida Bar divisions, sections and committees and to become more involved with the various programs, services and activities of The Florida Bar. Encourage and support the Florida Registered Paralegal program.
2. Use technology to connect Florida Bar practice management resources and information to Florida Bar members.
3. Accelerate the Bar's use of technology and be supportive in the adoption of new technology by Florida Bar divisions, sections and committees.
4. Continue to develop lawyer proficiency with technology and help lawyers understand and successfully adapt to the everchanging legal environment.
5. Continue to promote The Florida Bar's mental health and wellness awareness initiatives.
6. Continue to pursue and effectively communicate member benefits that are tailored towards solo and small firm attorneys.

Objective V: Continue to Encourage and Promote Diversity and Inclusion in All Aspects of the Profession and the Justice System

The term “diversity” has a dynamic meaning that changes as the demographics of Floridians change. Apart from differences in race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, and geography, to mention a few, the public and our profession will experience changes in thought, culture, and beliefs. These demographics are constantly in flux. Defining “diversity” based on current differences would limit its application to future changes, and likewise restrict or limit The Florida Bar’s consideration of and response to such changes.

The Florida Bar is fully committed to the enhancement of diversity within the Bar, the legal profession, legal education, and in the justice system, and affirms its commitment toward a diverse and inclusive environment with equal access and equal opportunity for all. – The Florida Bar Board of Governors.

Actions

1. Support and promote programs that encourage diversity and inclusiveness in the legal profession.
2. Encourage diversity involvement in divisions, sections, committees and activities within The Florida Bar and in voluntary bar associations.
3. Promote the Wm. Reece. Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy to develop ideas for increased outreach.
4. Acquire diversity data that is necessary to track progress in candidates, nominations and appointments.