



## LOCAL PROFESSIONALISM PANEL REPORT FORM

<b>Chief Judge of Circuit:</b>	Carol Lisa Phillips
<b>Name of Submitter:</b>	Miles A. McGrane, IV, Chairperson
<b>Date:</b>	06/03/2025

**\*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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

The 17th Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel Referral Form is available on the Circuit's website. Judges, attorneys, and members of the public are advised to complete the Referral and return it to the Chair. The Chair reviews the completed form and assigns it to one of the five Teams comprised of three or four members. There are 18 members of the Panel, three of whom are judges. The assigned Team notifies the Chair of any conflicts they may have and if necessary an alternate from a different Team is assigned the Referral. The Chair notifies the referring party and the respondent attorney of the Referral and the process for resolution of the Referral, including explaining the confidential nature of the proceedings. If either of the parties has questions about the process, the Chair will respond to their questions. The assigned Team will complete the investigation and provide written notification regarding the outcome of the investigation to the Chair. The Chair will provide written notice of the resolution to the referring party and the respondent attorney.

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

The majority of the Referrals from attorneys and members of the public involve allegations of abusive, rude or unprofessional conduct by attorneys. The judicial referrals typically involve unprofessional conduct, lack of preparation, failure to appear at hearings, or lack of candor to the court.

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

There have been ongoing debates in the Circuit among professional groups, practice area sections, the Broward County Bar Association and its Professionalism Committee, Judges, and the voluntary bars on this issue. It has been suggested that remote appearances have eroded the collegiality that in the past was possible because attorneys met and conferred in person and often resolved legal and other matters during their in-person meetings. In addition, in-person hearings allowed new attorneys to observe more senior attorneys in court, which facilitated more professionalism. It has also been suggested that the increase in electronic communication instead of in person communication has resulted in a lack of civility in verbal and written communications. Inappropriate and unprofessional communication is on the rise, but the attorneys who are guilty of such behavior are rarely reported to The Florida Bar. As was previously reported, the inability to schedule hearings, discovery violations, and unnecessary delays in litigation have contributed to increased stress among attorneys which results in unprofessional conduct.

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

The five teams meet when there is a Referral assigned to them. The Panel also meets at least once every six months. If there are questions or issues that arise, the teams communicate by email as well. The entire Panel last met in January of 2025 to review the forms, and processes with the change in Chairpersons.

**5. Please describe any training provided to committee members.**

The Panel is provided by the Chair with any updated Orders issued by the Florida Supreme Court, information from The Florida Bar and the recent update to The Code for Resolving Professionalism Referrals.

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

The Chair and members of the Panel make presentations at various Bar functions. The LPP also works with the Broward County Bar Association's Professionalism Committee in planning CLE programming. As the Chair is also the President Elect of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of ABOTA, we are planning a joint professionalism in the court room CLE.

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

1.

<b>Date of Referral:</b> January 2025	<b>Circuit in which issue arose:</b> 17th
<b>Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral</b>	
The referral alleged that the respondent was involved in conduct which is inconsistent with the Standards of Professionalism by which all attorneys are bound, i.e. allegations that he was disorganized or unprepared; that he failed to engage in fair play, and employ dilatory tactics; and that you fail to display honesty, integrity, and candor. It is also alleged that he was unable to manage your caseload and comply with the Rules of Professional Conduct.	
<b>The relationship of the respondent to the person submitting the referral.</b>	
The Referral was made by a member of the judiciary.	
<b>Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.</b>	
Yes, he voluntarily participated.	
<b>The resolution, if any, of the referral;*</b>	
The Panel noted that respondent had taken these allegations seriously and he had learned and grown from this experience. Same was echoed by his direct supervisor. The Panel made the determination to take no further action as respondent has learned from this experience and do not believe that the alleged conduct will occur in the future.	
<b>Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent</b>	
There were no previous referrals to the Professionalism Panel for the Respondent Attorney.	

2.

<b>Date of Referral:</b> 04/22/2025	<b>Circuit in which issue arose:</b> 17th
<b>Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral</b>	
<p>The referral alleged that the Respondent was involved in conduct which is inconsistent with the Standards of Professionalism by which all attorneys are bound, i.e. a pattern of unprofessional conduct that has undermined the integrity of various judicial proceedings, causing unnecessary and prejudicial delays, improperly recording court proceedings as well as using gamesmanship when it comes to scheduling.</p>	
<b>The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process</b>	
<p>The Referral was made by a member of the judiciary.</p>	
<b>Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.</b>	
<p>The Respondent Attorney did not voluntarily participated in the process.</p>	
<b>The resolution, if any, of the referral;*</b>	
<p>The Panel recommends that the Respondent review the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar Chapter 4 – Rules of Professional Conduct. The Panel also recommends that the Respondent avail himself of the materials provided through the Florida Bar's Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism for additional resources in professionalism and professional conduct.</p>	
<b>Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent</b>	
<p>There were no previous referrals against the Respondent Attorney.</p>	

3.

<b>Date of Referral:</b> 05/15/2025	<b>Circuit in which issue arose:</b> 17th
<b>Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral</b>	
The referral arose from allegations that Respondent Attorney displayed offensive personality, rude, discourteous, disruptive, disrespectful, and unprofessional in open Court.	
<b>The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process</b>	
The referring party was a member of the judiciary.	
<b>Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.</b>	
The Panel is still in the process of setting the initial meeting with the respondent.	
<b>The resolution, if any, of the referral;*</b>	
Not applicable at this time.	
<b>Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent</b>	
There were no previous referrals against the Respondent Attorney	