LOCAL PROFESSIONALISM PANEL
REPORT FORM

Chief Judge of Circuit:	Judge Charles A. Schwab
Name of Submitter:	Kate Bradford
Date:	June 10, 2026

***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.

Complaints are initially reviewed upon receipt to determine whether they fall within the scope of our authority. If so, the matter is assigned for informal resolution or further investigation, depending on the nature and severity of the allegations. Complainants are typically contacted for any additional information needed, and respondents are provided an opportunity to respond. Once reviewed, the matter is either closed with no further action, resolved informally, or referred to the appropriate disciplinary authority if warranted.

The following website is accessible by the public and contains the relevant Administrative Order 2015-34, and instructions on how to file a complaint.

https://www.circuit19.org/about-courts/professionalism-panel

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

The most frequently reported professionalism issue in this Circuit is a lack of professionalism, most often demonstrated through poor or inconsistent communication. This includes failure to respond to emails or phone calls in a timely manner, not keeping clients informed about case developments, and a general lack of courtesy or responsiveness in professional interactions.

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

The most common cause of professionalism issues in our Circuit appears to be a breakdown in communication. This is often driven by increasingly high caseloads, which limit the time attorneys have for meaningful client or colleague interaction. Additionally, a growing reliance on electronic communication—such as email or text messaging—has replaced more personal, verbal exchanges. This shift can lead to misunderstandings, delayed responses, and a diminished sense of professional courtesy.

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

The Local Professionalism Panel meets formally once per year but maintains regular communication and coordination throughout the year to address issues as they arise.

5. Please describe any training provided to committee members.

New members are paired with an experienced panel member when a case is opened for review, allowing them to learn through observation and mentorship. They are also encouraged to review the governing administrative order, relevant rules, and the Florida Supreme Court's Local Professionalism Panel (LLP) webpage to become familiar with the expectations, procedures, and guiding principles. This informal, experience-based approach ensures consistency and continuity in the panel's work. Additionally, members were encouraged to complete the most recent Florida Bar-issued CLE on professionalism.

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

The Local Professionalism Panel is promoted through the 19th Judicial Circuit's website, where information about its purpose and function is made publicly available. Additionally, the local bar associations and Inns of Court were directly contacted during the most recent recruitment cycle to encourage attorneys to volunteer for the review committee, helping to raise awareness of the Local Professionalism Panel and engagement within the legal community.

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.

Date of Referral: 3-26-26	**Circuit in which issue arose:** 19th Circuit
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The complainant alleged that opposing counsel engaged in unprofessional conduct during the course of litigation, including making disparaging statements about the complainant and mischaracterizing communications in a manner that portrayed the complainant negatively. The referral centers on concerns regarding the tone and content of attorney communications and the accuracy of representations made in connection with the underlying case.	
The relationship of the respondent to the person submitting the referral.	
Opposing attorney	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
N/A	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
The committee voted to not refer	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	
No	

2.

Date of Referral: 4-16-26	**Circuit in which issue arose:** 19th
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The referral was submitted by a non-party fact witness in a dissolution of marriage case arising in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit (Indian River County). The complainant asserts that, despite complying with a valid subpoena, she and another witness were required to wait several hours before their depositions began, with shifting and informal communication regarding arrival times	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Non-party fact witness, deponent	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
N/A	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
The committee voted not to refer	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	
No	

3.

Date of Referral:	**Circuit in which issue arose:**
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

4.

Date of Referral:	**Circuit in which issue arose:**
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

5.

Date of Referral:	**Circuit in which issue arose:**
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

6.

Date of Referral:	**Circuit in which issue arose:**
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

7.

Date of Referral:	**Circuit in which issue arose:**
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

8.

Date of Referral:	**Circuit in which issue arose:**
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

9.

Date of Referral:	**Circuit in which issue arose:**
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

10.

Date of Referral:	**Circuit in which issue arose:**
Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral	
The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process	
Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.	
The resolution, if any, of the referral;*	
Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent	

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
Nita Denton	Legal Counsel-Cl	nita9819@comcast.net	100 E. Ocean Blvd. Stua	772-323-8701
Nico Apfelbaum	Apfelbaum Law	napfelbaum@alawfl.co	451 SW Bethany Dr. Ste	772-236-4009
Kate Bradford	General Counsel-	bradfordK@circuit19.o	250 NW Country Club Rc	772-295-9052
Jeffrey Batttista	Grall Law	Jeff.Battista@verolawy	7555 20th Street, Vero, F	772-569-0000
Lainey W. Francisco	Jones Foster	lfrancisco@jonesfoster	505S. Flagler Dr. Ste 100	561-659-3000
Lauren Sweet	Judge	SLCjudge1@circuit19.	250 NW Country Club R	772-462-1462

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.