Diversity And Professionalism Educational Seminar in Tampa, Florida

Ita M. Neymotin, Regional Counsel, Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel of the Second District Court of Appeal, with Henry Lee Paul, The Florida Bar Student Education and Admission Committee, and the 13th Judicial Circuit, hosted a *Diversity and Professionalism Educational Seminar* in Tampa, Florida on January 11, 2019, with several wonderful guest speakers. The presentations by the speakers were educational and inspiring. *Special guests in attendance were: Mark Bazalev, Vice President of World Council of Spiritual Diplomacy Foundation, and Sir Michael Markham, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister of Bermuda*.

Honorable Chief Judge Ronald N. Ficarrotta graciously opened the seminar with welcoming remarks.

Frank Abernathy, Esq., gave a personal account on diversity and inclusion, and spoke about his personal connection to Martin Luther King, Junior.

Ita M. Neymotin, Esq., Regional Counsel, spoke about her family's experience in the former Soviet Union, where diversity did not exist, as well as the challenge for gender equality in the United States from 1920s to the present, and the overall struggles people have faced due to lack of diversity worldwide.

Honorable Julianne M. Holt, Esq., Public Defender, talked about diversity and cultural differences in the workplace, and reminded everyone that the reputation of an agency depends on the community believing that they will be treated with fairness and without bias.

Honorable Judge John L. Badalamenti, talked about attorney-client relationships in a diverse society, serving in a diverse society, and the importance of appreciating other people's unique journey.

Dean J. Preston Jones talked about the power of difference in our professional lives, the challenges of diversity, and the importance of competing with integrity and honesty.

Lanse Scriven, Esq., talked about diversity and the law, and the importance of accepting people and not making assumptions.

Honorable Andrew Warren, Esq., State Attorney, talked about conviction integrity, and the newly created special unit in his office that will review and investigate cases to find wrongful convictions.

Adriannette Williams, Esq., had everyone involved in her interactive presentation about diversity and culture through generations, and the importance of connecting on a human level.

Henry Lee Paul, Esq., spoke about the importance of Standards of Professionalism, and how standards for behavior are becoming part of disciplinary proceedings.



Pictured above (left to right): Lanse Scriven, Former Member, Florida Bar Board of Governors; Henry Lee Paul, Member of the Florida Bar Student Education and Admission Committee; Frank Abernathy, Esq.; Ita M. Neymotin, the Regional Counsel of the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, 2nd DCA; Honorable Julianne M. Holt, Public Defender, 13th Judicial Circuit; Adriannette Williams, Assistant Director, Florida Bar Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism; J. Preston Jones, Dean of Nova Southeastern University



Pictured above (left to right): Honorable Julianne M. Holt, Public Defender, 13th Judicial Circuit; Frank Abernathy, Esq.; Honorable Judge John Badalamenti, Second District Court of Appeal of Florida; Honorable Chief Judge Ronald Ficarrotta, 13th Judicial Circuit; Ita M. Neymotin, the Regional Counsel of the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, 2nd DCA; J. Preston Jones, Dean of Nova Southeastern University; Henry Lee Paul, Member of the Florida Bar Student Education and Admission Committee; Sir Michael Markham, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister of Bermuda; Mark Bazalev, Vice President of World Council of Spiritual Diplomacy Foundation