



# Minutes

Legal Services Committee Meeting  
October 23, 2009; 9:30 a.m.  
ELC Executive Conference Room

**Committee Attendees:** Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.; Alan Eckstein, Esq.

**Committee Absentees:** Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq.

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Nadira Ali; Tabatha Cullen; Angelo Parrino

**Other Attendees:** Alfredo L. Gonzalez, Adorno & Yoss; Alexander L. Palenzuela-Mauri, Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske, P.L.; Denise M. Heekin, Bryant Miller Olive; JoLinda L. Herring, Bryant Miller Olive

- A. Eckstein welcomed A. Gonzalez from Adorno & Yoss.
- A. Eckstein asked about A. Gonzalez's interest in the ELC and how he feels he can serve the ELC.
- A. Gonzalez stated he finds this an opportunity to give back to the community in some way. His firm volunteered to help Dunbar Elementary and has also done work for Family Central.
- A. Gonzalez stated he has worked for government agencies for over 30 years. Adorno & Yoss has the manpower and technology to serve the ELC. He stated they are used to working on tight budgets so financially there wouldn't be a problem.
- A. Gonzalez stated he would be the primary contact for the ELC. He stated that he would handle 80-90% of the work himself. He has experience with bid protests and feels comfortable working with contracts. He handled a case where he represented Shell against Miami-Dade County. He stated he would have to make sure there is no conflict with Miami-Dade County should he be chosen to represent the ELC.
- A. Gonzalez stated he would have to prepare for the ELC, as this would be a learning curve for him. He has the staff that would be ready to deal with legislative issues.
- A. Eckstein welcomed A. Palenzuela from Weiss Serota Helfman.
- A. Palenzuela stated his firm represents many non-governmental agencies. He would be the point-person for the ELC. He previously worked with Legal Services of Miami.



- A. Palenzuela stated he currently represents Homestead Code Enforcement, Bal Harbour, Aventura, and Miami Lakes. He used to work on the governmental side.
- A. Palenzuela stated he cannot represent Miami-Dade County since they are adverse to the County.
- A. Palenzuela has done policy work for cities. He also has experience in reviewing contracts and bid protests. He has worked with lobbyists and legislators through the firm.
- A. Palenzuela stated Weiss Serota Helfman will provide a blended rate for all the attorneys in the firm. This also includes assistants that do work for the attorneys. He stated he can negotiate a cap if the ELC requires one.
- A. Palenzuela stated that since the firm is located next door, the ELC would always have immediate access to them. He stated he is also fluent in English, Spanish and French.
- A. Eckstein welcomed J. Herring and D. Heekin from Bryant Miller Olive.
- J. Herring stated the firm has been in business since 1970. They've offered an expanded range of services in the past 10-15 years. The firm focuses on labor law in Miami. They work mostly with local government agencies and public entities.
- J. Herring stated that the firm does not litigate against governments unless necessary. She stated the firm has experience with labor matters, but since they are spread out in the State they can offer any other service besides labor.
- J. Herring stated that typically Mr. Crossland would be the primary contact for the ELC. However, the ELC is free to choose the primary contact they feel most comfortable with.
- J. Herring stated that the firm has 40 lawyers throughout the State of Florida.
- J. Herring stated that the best person to attend meetings would be David Miller. He has general knowledge that would be required for the ELC Board.
- J. Herring stated that the firm is very familiar with working in matters with Miami-Dade County. The firm has specialty in procurement and legislative issues.
- J. Herring stated that the rates could possibly be negotiated. The firm has also been able to come up with a flat fee for other entities. They are also willing to work with a cap of \$125,000.
- A. Eckstein and G. Schwartz agreed they liked Adorno & Yoss.
- A. Eckstein stated a decision would not be made for the next Board meeting.