



MESSAGE FROM



## THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA BAR

Fellow Florida Bar Members:

I want to clarify any concerns you may have on the issue of admission by motion/reciprocity. There has been no action taken by the Board of Governors on this issue.


While media coverage may have suggested otherwise, the topic of admission by motion/reciprocity has only been one part of a broader analysis. Our goal to date has been simple: to study the many issues impacting the practice of law in Florida and throughout the country. That analysis is a result of a process called Vision 2016 begun two years ago by then-Bar President Eugene Pettis who established a commission to identify challenges facing the legal profession, analyze issues and make recommendations.

Vision 2016 is currently studying a number of issues that concern all lawyers, including legal education, technology, bar admissions and access to legal services. These are all very significant topics that deserve both our attention and careful consideration. Not only are these essential to our practice, they are topics that we are obligated to consider [as dictated by our strategic plan](#).

At the July 24 meeting of The Florida Bar Board of Governors, a Vision 2016 subgroup presented the Board with a preliminary report and recommendations. No action or vote was taken by the Board on the report. I encourage you all to review the report at <http://www.floridabar.org/vision2016> and provide any comments, feedback or concerns you may have using the contact email addresses provided.

I encourage you to express your opinions on any issue, report or recommendation coming out of Vision 2016. I assure you that your input will be taken into consideration before the Board takes any action.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ramón". The letter "R" is large and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke that extends to the right and loops back under the "m". The "A" is also stylized, and the "n" and "o" are written in a cursive, connected style.

Ramón A. Abadin



## **THE FLORIDA BAR**

### **The 2015-18 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. Develop a multi-year, long-term plan for permanent judicial system funding from an independent and stable source. Explore the possibility of including judicial funding in a constitutional amendment.
2. Determine what The Florida Bar can do, within the rules as a mandatory bar, to become an even more active and effective advocate for maintaining a fair and impartial judiciary that is open and accessible to all.
3. Use all available resources, including a coalition of political leaders and business groups, to educate the public, Florida Bar members and legislators on the role of the judiciary and what it takes to ensure that the judicial system is adequately funded.
4. Increase efforts to educate the public and Florida Legislators about the role of the judicial system and the need to maintain a fair and independent judiciary.
5. Increase education initiatives by studying and identifying what The Florida Bar does most effectively, institutionalizing and replicating those efforts, and including civics education within Florida high schools.
6. Work more closely with the Voluntary Bars to promote educational initiatives.
7. Continue to enhance outreach efforts to the Governor, as well as to the Executive and Legislative branches of government to build a better relationship between the other branches of government and The Florida Bar.
8. Thoroughly analyze the political environment and prepare for the upcoming establishment of a Constitutional Revision Commission.

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

**Actions**

1. Develop and implement a coordinated and cohesive plan to promote key issues of professionalism to Florida Bar members.
2. Work to change the ethics rules so that they contain a professionalism component and encourage the Florida Supreme Court to adopt a rule similar to Federal Rule 11 to reduce misbehavior and strengthen the Bar's professionalism commitment.
3. Use positive print and electronic media placement to achieve favorable media coverage for attorneys, judges and the judicial system.
4. Capitalize on innovative technology to communicate The Florida Bar's message to its diverse membership and the general public.
5. Increase outreach and promotion, focus, participation and implementation for the Justice Teaching, Benchmarks, and Speakers Bureau programs.
6. Develop creative and dynamic social media messaging by The Florida Bar and its leadership to provide more positive recognition of member achievements on an individual basis.
7. Pursue more public announcements about the Judicial Qualifications Commission enforcement efforts in order to enhance public confidence in the judicial system.

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

#### **Actions**

1. Use technology, self-help videos, and online delivery to increase access for members of the public and for pro se litigants to have easier access to the Florida Courts system.
2. Identify where unmet needs exist and thoroughly explore the development of other types of service delivery initiatives, such as residency programs and mandatory pro bono for third year law students.
3. Devise innovative models to match unmet legal needs with underutilized attorneys. Create a mid-level panel to connect law school graduates and new lawyers with the unmet need of consumers of legal services.
4. Examine the possibility of revising the rules to allow for limited appearances and the unbundling of legal services, as is currently done in family law.
5. Create a coalition of business and community leaders to address equal access and availability of legal service issues.
6. Continue to encourage and support The Florida Bar Foundation's "One" campaign.
7. Identify pro bono and access to justice programs that are successful, ensure that they are adequately funded, and replicate them in other areas.

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

### **Actions**

1. Aggressively pursue new services/benefits for the membership.
2. Accelerate the Bar's use of technology and allocate resources on an annual and continual basis to improve Florida Bar communications and education processes.
3. Be supportive in the adoption of new technology by Florida Bar divisions, sections and committees.
4. Thoroughly study the concept of adding a technology CLE requirement.
5. Expand the LOMAS program and enhance member benefits through the use of teaching videos on the Bar's website or via a YouTube type format. Encourage members to both access this platform to educate themselves and create new videos to teach other lawyers.
6. Thoroughly study the concept of a mentoring "buddy system" between technology savvy lawyers and those lawyers who are seeking technology assistance.
7. Continue to monitor the evolving continuing legal education needs of Florida lawyers and develop new educational programs and resources to address those needs.
8. Support and work to implement the recommendations of the Vision 2016 Commission.

## **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. Continue the Bar’s “Get Involved” Campaign.
2. Encourage members to provide self-identity data to The Florida Bar and develop baseline data.
3. Promote diversity and inclusion from both within and through the Judicial Nominating Commissions.
4. Initiate a conference of Judicial Nominating Commissions and invite Bar leadership and the Governor’s office.
5. Request that the Board of Governors become more active in their outreach to members and the public by increasing the number of speeches they provide and participating in an ambassador outreach program.
6. Task recent graduates of the Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy to develop ideas for increased outreach.
7. Continue to enhance the diversity grant program.



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**Vision 2016 Commission: Comprehensive Study of the Future Practice of Law**

# VISION 2016

The Vision 2016 Commission is performing an in-depth review of four general areas that will impact the future practice of law in Florida: Legal Education; Technology; Bar Admissions; and Access to Legal Services.

The Commission will look at the current impact, as well as the long-term challenges that the legal profession will face. This comprehensive study will provide the foundation to "prepare today's lawyer for tomorrow's practice."

## Vision 2016 Commission

**Jay Cohen, Fort Lauderdale, Overall Administrator**

**Martha Barnett, Tallahassee, Special Counsel**

[Full Membership Listing](#)

Florida Bar President Ramón A. Abadin [clarifies concerns on the issue of admission by motion/reciprocity.](#)

### Committee Areas of Study

#### Access to Legal Services Committee

Contact: [VisionLegalServices@flabar.org](mailto:VisionLegalServices@flabar.org)

#### Bar Admissions Committee

*Preliminary Report - July 24, 2015*  (including admission by motion/reciprocity)

Contact: [VisionBarAdmissions@flabar.org](mailto:VisionBarAdmissions@flabar.org)

#### Legal Education Committee

Contact: [VisionLegalEducation@flabar.org](mailto:VisionLegalEducation@flabar.org)

#### Technology Committee

Contact: [VisionTechnology@flabar.org](mailto:VisionTechnology@flabar.org)

General Comments: [VisionGeneral@flabar.org](mailto:VisionGeneral@flabar.org)

### Materials

[Results of the Vision 2016 Commission Survey on Legal Education and Bar Admissions](#)  (November 2014).

## Florida Bar News Articles

Agenda set for Board of Governors July meeting, July 15, 2015  
Coleman: The Bar is making great strides forward, July 15, 2015  
The future is now, July 15, 2015  
Unbundled services for civil cases proposed, July 15, 2015  
Board considers enhanced technology CLE component, June 15, 2015  
Board creates tech committees, June 15, 2015  
Budget, technology, legal marketing are on the board's agenda, May 15, 2015  
Abadin gears up for the challenges ahead, April 15, 2015  
Recommendations emphasize technological competence, April 15, 2015  
Unbundled legal services considered for civil cases, April 15, 2015  
Board of Governors readies for St. Petersburg meeting, March 15, 2015  
Lawmakers talk access, March 1, 2015  
RJAC works on substitute attorney rules, March 1, 2015  
Both exciting and scary, the Bar and the court look to the future, February 15, 2015  
Board approves the Bar's long-range strategic plan, February 1, 2015  
Bar board readies for Tallahassee meeting, January 15, 2015  
Technology rapidly transforms the legal services marketplace, January 15, 2015  
Work continues on rules addressing temporary appearances, December 1, 2014  
Florida lawyers call for change, November 15, 2014  
Florida lawyers weigh in on profession's future, November 15, 2014  
Video added to Vision 2016 story, September 1, 2014  
'In 10 years, UPL will be a dead letter', August 15, 2014  
Legal profession must change with the times or be left behind, July 15, 2014  
Summing up a year of inclusion, July 15, 2014  
What makes lawyers happy?, July 1, 2014  
Program to examine the profession's challenges, June 1, 2014  
E-etiquette guide being studied, May 1, 2014  
'Legal freegans' are looking to 'eat your lunch', February 15, 2014  
Groups begin zeroing in on specific areas of study, February 15, 2014  
Website upgrade, Vision 2016 funding approved, January 15, 2014  
Abadin to lead the Bar, January 1, 2014  
Bar board creates new Technology Committee, January 1, 2014  
Board to examine referral services, ad rules, and technology, December 1, 2013  
Pettis: Leaders must help shape the profession's future, November 1, 2013  
Should house counsel serve on Bar panels?, November 1, 2013  
Comprehensive study of the future practice of law underway, October 15, 2013  
Vision 2016 commission, October 15, 2013  
Pettis' goals: Leadership, civics, vision, July 15, 2013

## Videos: July 2014 Board of Governors meeting -- Vision 2016 Commission Report

The Florida Bar Board of Governors in July 2014 participated in a presentation on Vision 2016 and heard reports from the four panels, which deal with technology, legal education, bar admissions, and access to services. [Read The Florida Bar News' in-depth report of that meeting.](#)

- [Full video -- Technology, Admission, Education & Access](#)
- [Report from Technology Committee](#)
- [Report from Bar Admissions Committee](#)
- [Report from Access to Legal Services Committee](#)
- [Report from Legal Education Committee](#)

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## The President of The Florida Bar

Leading The Florida Bar is the Florida Bar President and our Board of Governors.

President's Page: The President's page contains information about the Bar's current President including a schedule and biography.



**President**  
**Ramón A. Abadin**  
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Welcome to The Florida Bar website, designed for Bar members to access virtually all Florida Bar information and services while also serving as an excellent source of information to the general public.

### On This Page

- [A Message from Your Florida Bar President](#)
- [Introduction](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Schedule](#)
- [Social Media Channels](#)
- [President's Pages \(Journal\)](#)
- [The President's Contact Information](#)
- [Officers of The Florida Bar](#)
- [Past Presidents of The Florida Bar](#)

## A Message from Your Florida Bar President



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**THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE FLORIDA BAR**

July 28, 2015

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I encourage you to express your opinions on any issue, report or recommendation coming out of Vision 2016. I assure you that your input will be taken into consideration before the Board takes any action.

Thank you,



Ramón A. Abadin

[Back to Top](#)

## Introduction to the President

### Ramon A. Abadin, President of The Florida Bar, 2015-2016

Ramón A. Abadin is a partner in the Miami office of Sedgwick LLP, where he focuses on complex commercial, insurance and corporate litigation.

Abadin's focus as Bar president is on technology and challenging the Bar's membership and leadership to recognize the transformation revolutionizing the legal services marketplace and to embrace that change. He joined the Bar's Board of Governors in 2006. He has chaired the Legal Education Committee of the Vision 2016 Commission, an in-depth study of the future practice of law.

Abadin, who received his J.D. degree from Loyola University New Orleans School of Law in 1985 and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tulane University in 1981, is fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

His family immigrated to the United States from Cuba in 1961, when he was 2 years old. His father, who was a lawyer in Cuba, worked odd jobs in this country to support his family. Abadin worked his way through college with jobs that included laboring on a dredge boat in the Mississippi River. As an adult, he has had a taste for adventure, trying anything from rafting to cave diving.

He is married to Kimberly Cook, who is managing partner in the same Miami office of Sedgwick LLP, and they have three children.

Abadin was recently inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is a member of the Florida Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates, the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel, and the International Association of Defense Counsel. He is a past president of the Cuban American Bar Association (2004) and is a lifetime fellow of The Florida Bar Foundation. He was a member and chair of the 3rd District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission (2004-2008). He was the 11th U.S. Circuit representative to the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary (2010-2013).


Abadin is certified "AV" by the Martindale-Hubbell peer review rating system and has received numerous awards, including the prestigious G. Kirk Haas Humanitarian Award from the Florida Bar. He also has been recognized by the Haitian Lawyers Association, with that group's Significant Contribution Award, and has received the Passing on Leadership Award from the Cuban American Bar Association.

[President's Bar Journal Profile](#)

[Biography](#) 

[Back to Top](#)

## Messages from the President

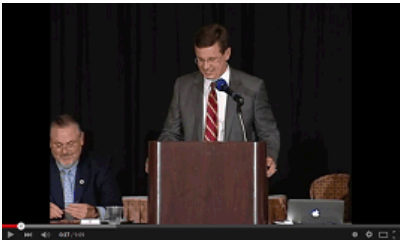
[Message from Florida Bar President Ramón A. Abadin regarding Inquiries on Admission by Motion/Reciprocity, July 16, 2015](#) 



[President Ramon Abadin's July 2015 Video Message](#) (1:33 min. YouTube)



[June 26, 2015 - Installation Speech Of President Ramon A. Abadin](#) (19:11 min. YouTube)



[June 26, 2015 - Installation Speech of Young Lawyers Division President, Gordon J. Glover](#) (9:09 min. YouTube)

[Back to Top](#)

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[Current Schedule](#)

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[President's Pages](#)

[Back to Top](#)

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## The President's Contact Information


[Ramón A. Abadin](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

### Officers of The Florida Bar

#### President-elect 2015-16

William J. Schifino, Jr.  
Burr & Forman, LLP  
201 N. Franklin St., Ste. 3200  
Tampa, FL 33602  
**Phone:** (813) 221-2626  
**Fax:** (813) 221-7335  
[wschifino@burr.com](mailto:wschifino@burr.com)  
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#### Executive Director

[John F. Harkness, Jr.](#)  
651 E. Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2300  
**Phone:** (850) 561-5758  
**Fax:** (850) 561-5826

### Past Presidents of The Florida Bar

[Revised: 07-28-2015]



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[Leadership Academy](#)

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[Calendars](#)  
[Meetings](#)  
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[Reporter's Handbook](#)  
[Issue Papers](#)  
[Publications](#)

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[Practice Resource Institute](#)  
[Pro Bono Information](#)  
[Legislative Activity](#)  
[Lawyer Referral Service](#)  
[Voluntary Bar Center](#)

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[Legal Groups and Law Schools](#)  
[Judicial Nominating Commission](#)

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# VISION 2016 COMMISSION COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE FUTURE PRACTICE OF LAW

The Vision 2016 Commission will perform an in-depth review of four general areas that will impact the future practice of law in Florida: Legal Education; Technology; Bar Admissions; and Delivery of Legal Services/Pro Bono.

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**Jay Cohen, Fort Lauderdale, Overall Administrator**  
**Martha Barnett, Tallahassee, Special Counsel**

## ***Legal Education Sub-Group***

***Staff: John Berry***

Debra Moss Curtis, Chair	Fort Lauderdale	2016
Bradford D. Kaufman, Vice Chair	West Palm Beach	2016
Ramón A. Abadin	Miami	2016
R. Alexander Acosta	Miami	2016
Emmett Lamar Battles	Tampa	2016
Raoul G. Cantero III	Miami	2016
Ross Mathew Goodman	Pensacola	2016
Scott G. Hawkins	West Palm Beach	2016
Susan R. Healy	Naples	2016
Janeia Daniels Ingram	Tallahassee	2016
Robert H. Jerry II	Gainesville	2016
Charles B. Morton Jr.	Lauderhill	2016
Chidi Ogene	Jacksonville	2016
Eugene K. Pettis	Fort Lauderdale	2016
Christopher M. Pietruszkiewicz	Gulfport	2016
Carl B. Schwait	Gainesville	2016
Ashley Nona Sybesma	Fort Lauderdale	2016

***Technology Sub-Group******Staff: Terry Hill***

John Mitchell Stewart, Chair	Vero Beach	2016
Thomas Dale Hall, Vice Chair	Tallahassee	2016
Gregory William Coleman	West Palm Beach	2016
Joseph Arnold Corsmeier	Clearwater	2016
Vivian Caridad de las Cuevas	Miami	2016
Sean Timothy Desmond	Tallahassee	2016
Cleveland Ferguson III	Jacksonville	2016
Gordon Johnson Glover	Ocala	2016
Claude Robert Hilliard	Milton	2016
Kevin David Johnson	Tampa	2016
Mac Richard McCoy	Tampa	2016
Lisa Taylor Munyon	Orlando	2016
Leroy Pernell	Orlando	2016
John Jacob Schickel	Jacksonville	2016
Renée Elise Thompson	Ocala	2016

***Bar Admissions******Staff: Mary Ellen Bateman***

Lansing C. Scriven, Chair	Tampa	2016
Gail E. Sasnett, Vice Chair	Gainesville	2016
Patrice Faith Behnstedt	Bartow	2016
Kimberly Kanoff Berman	Fort Lauderdale	2016
Timothy P. Chinaris	Montgomery	2016
Ian M. Comisky	Philadelphia	2016
Susan Smotherman Demers	Clearwater	2016
Franklin Reese Harrison	Panama City	2016
Jennifer Rene Kuyrkendall	Live Oak	2016
Andrew Joshua Markus	Miami	2016
Miles Ambrose McGrane	Fort Lauderdale	2016
Katherine Hurst Miller	Daytona Beach	2016
Edward Maurice Mullins	Miami	2016
David Prather	West Palm Beach	2016
Michelle Marie R. Rehwinkel	Tallahassee	2016
D. Culver Smith III	West Palm Beach	2016
Martin Jay Sperry	Plantation	2016
Gilbert Kirk Squires	Miami Beach	2016



***Access to Legal Services***

***Staff: Frank Digon-Greer***

Adele I. Stone, Chair	Fort Lauderdale	2016
Robert A. Bertisch	West Palm Beach	2016
Bruce Beuford Blackwell	Orlando	2016
Alan B. Bookman	Pensacola	2016
Benjamin Andrew Carpenter	Kissimmee	2016
Marcelyn R. Cox	Coral Gables	2016
Michael M. Fields	Tallahassee	2016
John Dudley Goodlette	Naples	2016
Jay Kim	Fort Lauderdale	2016
Sharon Lynne Langer	Miami	2016
Kathleen Schin McLeroy	Tampa	2016
Nishit Virendra Patel	Sarasota	2016
Theodore Washington Small Jr.	Deland	2016
William A. VanNortwick Jr.	Tallahassee	2016