



## LOCAL PROFESSIONALISM PANEL REPORT FORM

<b>Chief Judge of Circuit:</b>	MELISSA GATES OLIN
<b>Name of Submitter:</b>	CHRISTINA NIETO SEIFERT
<b>Date:</b>	12/17/2024

**\*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.

<https://thirdcircuitfl.org/wp-content/uploads/Third-Judicial-Circuit-Professionalism-Panel-Referral-Form.pdf>

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

Our referrals deal with many issues and have not just centered on one that could have been seen as "most often" in our Circuit. Referrals include allegations related to dress code; ex parte communications with the Court; professionalism; preparedness; integrity and candor to the Court.

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

Lack of accountability for ones actions. Lack of education.

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

At least qurterly but this past term we have meet on more occasions due to referrals received.

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

The Local Professionalism Panel Training, directed by the Supreme Court of Florida.

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

On the Third Judicial Circuit of Florida Website.

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> 09/19/2024	<b>Circuit in which issue arose:</b> THIRD
<b>Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral</b>	
Allegations regarding conduct of the attorney related to the attorney's honesty, integrity, candor, professionalism, and preparedness.	
<b>The relationship of the respondent to the person submitting the referral.</b>	
Attorney who appeared in front of the person.	
<b>Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.</b>	
No, the Respondent elected not to participate.	
<b>The resolution, if any, of the referral;*</b>	
Parts of the referral were directed to the Florida Bar for further investigation and other parts were discussed by the Panel and unresolved due to the attorney's decision not to participate.	
<b>Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent</b>	
None to the Professionalism Panel for Third Judicial Circuit.	

2.

<b>Date of Referral:</b> 11/12/2024	<b>Circuit in which issue arose:</b> Third
<b>Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral</b>	
Attorney engaging in ExParte Communications with the Court.	
<b>The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process</b>	
Attorney who appeared in front of the person.	
<b>Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.</b>	
Yes the attorney is participating	
<b>The resolution, if any, of the referral;*</b>	
Attorney will be meeting with the Panel and will be counseled by same on the attorney's conduct.	
<b>Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent</b>	
None to the Third Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel	

3.

<b>Date of Referral:</b> 12/04/2024	<b>Circuit in which issue arose:</b> Third
<b>Short Summary detailing the substance of the referral</b>	
unprofessional appearance when in front of the Court.	
<b>The relationship of the respondent voluntarily participated in the process</b>	
Attorney who appeared in front of person.	
<b>Whether or not the respondent voluntarily participated in the process.</b>	
Yes the Respondent voluntarily participated.	
<b>The resolution, if any, of the referral;*</b>	
Counseled by a member of the Professionalism Panel	
<b>Whether there were previous referrals against the respondent</b>	
None to the Third Judicial Circuit Professionalism Panel	



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.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Firm</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Christina Seifert	LPP Chair and General Magistrate	<a href="mailto:Seifert.christina@jud3.flcourts.org">Seifert.christina@jud3.flcourts.org</a>	173 NE Hernando Ave. Room 408 Lake City, Fl. 32055	(386) 758-2163
Hon. Leandra Johnson	Judge	<a href="mailto:Johnson.leandra@jud3.flcourts.org">Johnson.leandra@jud3.flcourts.org</a>	173 NE Hernando Ave. Room 239 Lake City, Fl. 32055	(386) 719-2012
Hon. Jamie Tyndal	Judge	<a href="mailto:Tyndal.jamie@jud3.flcourts.org">Tyndal.jamie@jud3.flcourts.org</a>	207 NE First Street Jasper, Fl. 32052	(386)792-1220
James Roland	Asst. Public Defender	<a href="mailto:jroland@flpd3.com">jroland@flpd3.com</a>	Third Judicial Circuit Public Defender Taylor County Courthouse 108 N. Jefferson St. Suite 301 Perry, Fl. 32347	(850) 838-2830
Garrett Hill	Columbia County Judge	<a href="mailto:Hill.garrett@jud3.flcourts.org">Hill.garrett@jud3.flcourts.org</a>	Third Judicial Circuit 173 NE Hernando Ave. Lake City, Fl. 32055	(386) 243-6368
Guy Norris	Lawyer	<a href="mailto:gnorris@norrissattorneys.com">gnorris@norrissattorneys.com</a>	Norris and Norris, P.A. 253 NW Main Blvd. Lake City, Fl. 32055	(386) 752-7240
David A. Phelps	Lawyer	<a href="mailto:davidphelps@fairpoint.net">davidphelps@fairpoint.net</a>	3547 Slaughter Road Perry, Fl. 32347	(386) 208-2585

**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.**