

# The Florida Bar Leadership Academy



*Training Today  
Leading Tomorrow*

---

Renee E. Thompson  
Chair

Michael J. Faehner  
Co-Chair  
North Branch

Juliet Murphy Roulhac  
Co-Chair  
South Branch

November 26, 2013

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please allow this correspondence to serve as a request on behalf of The Florida Bar Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy (Academy). As you may know, the Academy is currently in its inaugural year with its first class of 59 Academy Fellows. The time has come for our committee to begin accepting applications for Class II of the Academy, and we need your assistance in recruiting our next class by advertising this letter and the attached flyer to your members and colleagues.

In furtherance of Bar President Eugene K. Pettis' vision, the Academy was designed as a multi-session training program to assist a diverse and inclusive group of lawyers in becoming better leaders within our profession, in their chosen path, while enhancing their leadership skills. The Academy hopes to develop effective leaders at all levels within our profession. During their one year term, Fellows are given a curriculum tailored toward enhancing personal and professional leadership skills which they can utilize in organizations like voluntary Bars, Bar sections or divisions, the judiciary, governing boards or their local community. The curriculum includes attending Bar events, special education programs on topics such as Bar structure, developing and sustaining programs, devotion to public service, strategic planning and execution, and many other related areas. Fellows have the opportunity to establish relationships with Bar leaders, including former Bar Presidents, current Bar leadership, Board of Governors members, members of the Judiciary, as well as the Legislature, to learn more about the inner workings of the Bar and their role within the profession, while enhancing their leadership skills.

Applications for Fellowship in Class II of the Academy for the 2014-2015 Bar year become available online December 2, 2013 at [www.floridabar.org/leadershipacademy](http://www.floridabar.org/leadershipacademy) and are due by January 15, 2014 before 5 pm. Class II of the Academy will be comprised of attorneys sought from different backgrounds, large and small law firms, the private and public sectors, different practice areas, Bar sections and divisions, voluntary and specialty Bars, and different geographical areas of the State.

Please help us spread the word about the Academy, and help guide interested applicants to the Academy website to apply. While nomination to the Academy is not required to apply, applicants may indicate a nomination on their application. If you are nominating an interested applicant for consideration, please have that applicant indicate this nomination on their application.

[www.floridabar.org/leadershipacademy](http://www.floridabar.org/leadershipacademy)

Of course, should you have any questions, please contact me or the Diversity Initiatives Manager, Arnell Bryant-Willis [abryant-willis@flabar.org](mailto:abryant-willis@flabar.org) at Bar Headquarters in Tallahassee. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renee E. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Renee E. Thompson, Chair  
Leadership Academy Committee

cc: Eugene K. Pettis, Florida Bar President  
Gregory W. Coleman, Florida Bar President-Elect  
John F. Harkness, Jr., Florida Bar Executive Director  
Arnell Bryant-Willis, Diversity Initiatives Manager