Application: 3471

Page: Submitter's Information

Chapter Name

ACC Central Florida

Page: Achievement Award

Category

Innovative Programming Effort

Chapter Name

ACC Central Florida

Chapter Size

Small (fewer than 300 members)

Entry Title

ACC CFL Corporate Counsel on Campus: Lessons for Developing Your In-House Career

Entry Description

ACC Central FL is heading back to class! Join us at Rollins College for an afternoon of learning customized to the needs of Corporate Counsel. Academics and experts will guide us through the career skills needed to succeed, above and beyond legal acumen. It's a seminar on Managing the Lifecycle of your In-House Legal Career - from the first day through a 401(k)."

The Florida Bar recognized the value of the program we built, and awarded Florida Bar CLE of 2.5 General, with 2.5 Business Litigation credits. This was an additional draw for member participation.

In addition to the session content, we built in professional services available onsite including:

- Professional Headshot Photography
- Resume Review with a Legal Recruiter

The program culminated in a professional networking happy hour, with participants and presenters mingling and discussing the topics of the day in an informal social setting.

When was the program initiated?

4/15/2024

What was the project objective? Describe the steps you took to achieve this objective, including key strategies, activities, or milestones.

Chapter Leaders identified active member Jason Watson to serve as project Chair for this event and Bill Vanos stepped into the role of Board Liaison for the project. Jason, Bill, President Steven Lockhart and Exec. Dir Liza Jennings met weekly to build a program framework of topics that could build participants' business skills at various points in their In-House Career. We initially reached out to existing chapter law firm sponsors to explore a sponsor partnership for this program, but the wide range professional development goals we were after didn't quite fit with firm resources and expertise. We began exploring academic resources in Orlando and, leveraging Liza's relationships with Rollins Crummer Graduate School of Business, forged an excellent partnership with Crummer / Rollins Center for Management & Executive Education. With Dr. Keenan Yoho as our keynote speaker, we partnered with subject matter experts in our professional networks to lead us in four sessions during the half-day program.

Session topics included:

- Corporate Documents 101, presented by Jason Rimes of Lowndes
- \bullet In-House Career Development & Recruitment, presented by Lauren Tatro of Consilio
- Financial Planning for Corporate Counsel Retirement, presented by Jeremy Udell of Udell Associates
- Business School Hour: Lessons on navigating the corporate environment for the in-house J.D., from a B-school Ph.D., presented by Dr. Keenan Yoho, Rollins Crummer

How was the objective achieved? How did you measure success, and to what extent do you believe the objective was met?

This program aligned with the ACC objective of programs focused on new managers, new to in-house, and general counsel issues. Our initial Grant proposal asked for \$6,000 to fund this program. While grant funds awarded were \$4,000, we were able to add chapter funds and a sponsor for the photography to bring the final program costs within \$200 of the projected budget. Working with subject-matter experts and academic speakers brought a fresh set of voices to this half day CLE. Participants were challenged to engage with topics outside of typical legal education programming, and engagement was robust in each session.

Program planners and ACC CFL Board believe there could be an opportunity to build upon this success for an MBA in a Day program in the future. We were pleasantly surprised to receive 2.5 CLE hours for this ½ day program, which was a good reminder that there is value in non-traditional topics.

Please describe the total budget allocated for your program or initiative. Include a brief breakdown of how the funds were distributed across key areas. In addition, explain how the budget was used effectively or creatively to maximize impact.

Crummer / Rollins Center for Management & Executive Education: \$7,000 / Discounted to \$4,000 for ACC CFL. Deposit paid \$1,000 and final payment of \$3,000. Total program costs paid: \$4.000.

Rollins Catering for food, beverage and service: paid from Chapter funds: \$2,187.95 Headshot Café by Grad Images: paid by sponsor Consilio: \$700.

Total Program Costs: \$6,887.95

What significant obstacles or challenges did you encounter during the planning or implementation of your program or initiative? How did you address or overcome them? If you did not face major challenges, please explain why that may have been the case and what factors contributed to the smooth execution of your work.

The original timing of September embraced the idea of "back to school", and while Hurricane Helene disrupted that timing, we Floridians know this is just part of the fall season for us! The team was nimble and pivoted to a makeup date in October when all original presenters were able to reschedule.

What do you anticipate will be the long-term impact of your project or initiative? Describe how the outcomes will extend beyond the immediate results, including any lasting benefits to the local/global ACC community. If applicable, explain how the initiative might be sustained, scaled, or replicated in the future.

We are thrilled to share that we are building upon this program's success. We are currently working with Rollins faculty to create a mini-MBA program for September 2025 that will expand the professional development of our members beyond their legal acumen.

This half-day professional development program focused on the challenges and growth opportunities facing in-house counsel in various stages in their legal careers. We set out to share resources and professional learning to meet members where they currently are in their in-house legal career and help them prepare for their next level. The unique mix of professional partner presenters we were able to build helped us meet this goal with excellence.

This program aligned with the ACC objective of programs focused on new managers, new to in-house, and general counsel issues.

Please share what you are most proud to report about execution of this program. Please explain what this accomplishment means to you and how it reflects the values or goals of your work.

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Please share how your project or initiative is innovative. Describe any original approaches, strategies, or tools you used to address a problem or achieve your goals. What makes your work stand out from more traditional methods.

The program was well received by all who attended, with many asking for future programming in this vein. Program planners and ACC CFL Board believe there could be an opportunity to build upon this success for an MBA in a Day program in the future. We were pleasantly surprised to receive 2.5 CLE hours for this ½ day program, which was a good reminder that there is value in non-traditional topics.

The collaboration between our Chapter leaders, business school academics, law firm and legal services sponsors and local business professionals made for a unique event. The back-to-campus theming of campus sessions along with professional services of a head shot cafe and resume clinic made for a dynamic event!

Photo upload #1

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