

## Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Section of Administrative Law & Regulatory Practice! Our slogan – “Administrative Law – Everybody Does It” – stands for two facts:

- Administrative lawyers do, in fact, have a sense of humor; and
- Almost all lawyers deal with regulatory agencies or legislatures to some extent, and to that extent they are administrative practitioners – whether they know it or not.

That’s right: whether your practice involves financial institutions, the environment, transportation, tax, telecommunications, food & drug, securities – you name it, administrative law governs the agencies involved and how they can deal with regulated entities and the public – and so you need to be conversant in it to really serve your client or clients effectively.

Didn’t take Ad Law? Or just finished editing a leading casebook? Either way, the Section has much to offer you. Per our bylaws, we are “the home for lawyers who work for, interact with, or study government entities,” and as such we “seek[] to enhance their professional development, and further the vital public interest in effective, efficient, and fair administration at all levels of government . . . through education, dialogue, publications, and proposals for reform.”

*Let’s start with professional development:*

- **[Publications](#)**. The Section publishes a host of literally must-have books on all aspects of the regulatory and legislative processes. These include our annual *Developments* book that captures succinctly the highlights of the previous year. We also publish the quarterly *Administrative & Regulatory Law News* and co-publish the *Administrative Law Review* with American University’s Washington College of Law. Section members receive *Developments* and the two periodicals for free, and get a discount on all the other books.
- **[Conferences](#)**. Our annual [Fall Conference](#) is the nation’s leading administrative law event, attracting more than 600 people over two days, and including plenary presentations on annual developments. Our Homeland Security Law Institute is a similar category-killer. Our Spring Institute focuses on narrower topics, typically rulemaking, and includes a half-day Rulemaking 101 class. We also present a variety of timely webinars and other stand-alone programs.
- **[Networking](#)**. The great strength of the Section is the way that its membership draws from government, private practice and academia. Membership in the Section provides lawyers from each community with an unparalleled opportunity to get to know and learn from their counterparts from the other two – to expand their perspectives and their address books (or Rolodexes, if you still use one). The Section is an exceptionally congenial and nonpartisan forum for interacting with folks that share interests in administrative law, from agency general counsels and federal judges to law students.

*But let’s not forget [proposals for reform](#)*. The Section has long prided itself on making recommendations for improving federal (and state) administration, informed by both the highest levels of scholarship and careful attention to practicality. Many of these recommendations have become ABA policy. And many of those have come to pass by virtue of the Section’s advocacy – most notably, in recent years, the reestablishment of the Administrative Conference of the United States after a decade and a half of desuetude.

The key is to [join](#) the section. When you do, you should also join one or more [committees](#). Committees are the way that programs and proposals for reform are developed – and the best way to get to know other members in your field(s). And don’t hesitate to contact any of us in the Section’s leadership with your ideas about what the Section can do make you a better administrative practitioner or to make our Nation’s administrative processes work better.

Jamie Conrad



Section Chair 2012-2013