

**American Bar Association  
Law Student Division**

**Liaison Reports  
March 2010**

**Divisions**

General Practice, Solo and Small Firm

**Justin Silverman**

Suffolk University School of Law

Government and Public Sector Lawyers

**Michael Osborne Young Jr.**

University of North Carolina School of Law

Judicial

**Lisa Marie Gomes**

University of the District of Columbia

Senior Lawyers

**Kyle Gaffney**

Loyola University School of Law - Chicago

**Sections**

Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice

**Lyn Stewart-Hunter**

University of Arizona James E Rogers College of Law

Antitrust Law Membership/Equal Opportunity Committee

**Megan O'Neill**

Stetson University College of Law

Business Law

**Osayi Osar-Emokpae**

Drexel University School of Law

Criminal Justice Section Council

**Caitlin Fitzgerald**

Loyola Law School - Chicago

Corrections Committee

**Tommy Preston**

University of South Carolina School of Law

Defense Functions and Services Committee

**Kevin J. Grande**

University of Dayton School of Law

Evidence and Police Practices Committee

**Nina Javan**

Pepperdine University School of Law

International Crime Law Committee  
**Jennifer L. White**  
University of Florida Levin College of Law

Juvenile Justice Committee  
**Jessica Chiappone**  
Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center

#### **ENTITY MEETINGS:**

- The Juvenile Justice Committee had their midyear this past November in Washington, DC. Although I was not physically present, I was able to attend via conference call. The main topics discussed were the Bob Sheppard Youth Justice Debate, a discussion on the JLWOP Oral Arguments, updates on the Collateral Consequences Policy and new policy ideas including the privatization of punishment. The Collateral Consequences Policy was subsequently adopted by the ABA at the 2010 Midyear meeting in Orlando!!!!
- Attended the ABA Midyear in Orlando in which I attended all the Youth at Risk Panels and Discussions including: ALONE WITHOUT AN ATTORNEY: Why Doesn't Florida (and Some Other States) Provide Lawyers to All Foster Children, NOT ILLEGAL TO BE YOUNG: Using the Law to Protect, Not Punish, At Risk and Homeless Youth and BLACKBOARD TO BENCH TO BLUEPRINT: Defining a National Strategy for Courts and Schools to Engage At-Risk Truant Youth that Builds Capacity and Competency.

**ISSUES:** The only issue is the same issue we are all facing and that is the state of the economy. I think the entity trusts that I will do my part to stress the importance of public interest work in order to get more people on board.

**PROJECTS:** I am still working on the Collateral Consequences Project. The policy work for this year will focus on the privatization of punishment addressing issues including but not limited to: whether for profit detention centers are appropriate under our system of justice, whether it is appropriate for private detention centers to have the ability to garnish wages from parents for their child's stay at a facility, whether private ankle bracelet companies should be able to charge the parents/children for use of the ankle bracelet, and whether judges or legislatures should be allowed to issue blanket orders giving all of the ankle bracelet business to one company in their jurisdiction and not allowing for any competition.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:** I created a volunteer based Pre-Release Program with the Broward County Sheriff's Office. The program will take the successful services and programs already in place in the BSO Re-Entry Division and begin providing them to inmates prior to release. My hope is that by helping these individuals reduce their chances of recidivism it will ultimately lower the statistically proven likelihood that their children will end up in the criminal justice system. I plan on incorporating into the life skills aspect of the program all such statistics including the collateral consequences of juvenile adjudications and/or convictions and the repercussions of habitual truancy. I also spoke with the professor of my school's Street Law Program and we are working on incorporating a lesson plan into the program which will teach children and young adults about the collateral consequences of convictions and the statistical outcomes of habitual truancy.

Prosecution Function Committee  
**Douglas Mains**  
University of Mississippi School of Law

Sentencing Committee  
**Thomas Stutsman**  
Yale Law School

Victims Committee  
**Aaron Swift**  
Stetson University College of Law

White Collar Crime Committee  
**Solomon M. Radner**  
Wayne State University School of Law

Dispute Resolution  
**Theresa L. Fallon**  
Marquette University Law School

Environment, Energy and Resources

**Reshard JuQuin Alexander**

West Virginia University of Law

Family Law

**Douglas Curella**

Hamline University School of Law

Health Law

**Marisa Franchini**

Loyola University School of Law

Individual Rights and Responsibilities

**Alexis Lundgren**

University of Minnesota Law School

**ENTITY MEETINGS:** I attended both the Fall Meeting and the Midyear Meeting. I sat in on all Council events, participated actively in discussions, and voted on all resolutions.

**DIVISION MEETINGS:** I attended the 8th Circuit Spring Meeting. I was responsible for planning a large part of the meeting, including making room arrangements with the school, contacting and inviting speakers, ordering food, and other logistics/planning as needed.

**ISSUES:** One of the issues we are struggling with is how to increase attendance at our meetings. They represent a significant expense for the Section and our budget is already tight. This is similar to the problems the Law Student Division has with meeting attendance. We've undertaken a member survey to try to find out what would make our meetings more attractive to Section members, but any tips from the Law Student Division are certainly welcome!

**PROJECTS:** I have sent emails to the ABA Reps at several New Orleans area law schools asking if any of the students at their schools would like to join members from our Section in a volunteer activity during our Spring Meeting in New Orleans in April. I also asked for the invite to be included in the next Division newsletter.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:** At our Fall Meeting in D.C. I joined other Council members from the Section lobbying on Capitol Hill in support of several ABA initiatives including the Civil Rights Tax Relief Act, Needle Exchange Program, and the repeal of Section 2 of the Federal Defense of Marriage Act.

Individual Rights and Responsibilities -AIDS Coordinating Committee

**Elizabeth Farmer**

Northern Illinois University College of Law

Intellectual Property Law

**Angela Morrison**

University of Colorado School of Law

**ENTITY MEETINGS:** I attended the Midyear Meeting in Orlando in February and participated in almost all of the Section meetings and events. Increasing young lawyer participation in the Section was an important issue at the Council Meeting, and I spoke briefly about how the Section could engage students so that they will continue to be (dues-paying) members of the Section after graduation and through the early years of their careers.

**PROJECTS:** Last autumn I invited members of the Section's Young Lawyers Division to write student-focused "advice" articles for posting online and dissemination via the student list serve. The first article - Careers in IP for Non-Technical Students - was recently posted. I have already received three more articles that will be posted at regular intervals, and I expect to receive several more.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:** I will attend the Section's 25th Annual Intellectual Property Law Conference in Arlington, VA in early April. I have been talking with Section administrators about developing a travel scholarship so students can attend Section events, such as the IPL conference, in the future.

International Law

**Ingrid Erica White**

Georgetown University Law Center

Labor and Employment Law

**Justin Cruz**

Washington University St. Louis School of Law

Law Practice Management  
**Bill Gschwind**  
William Mitchell College of Law

Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar  
**Daniel Thies**  
Harvard Law School

Litigation  
**Chris Surmeier**  
University of San Diego School of Law

Public Contract Law  
**Matthew R. Keller**  
The Catholic University of America-Columbus School of Law

Public Utility, Communications and Transportation Law  
**Raiford L. Smith**  
Charlotte School of Law

Real Property, Trust and Estate Law - Real Property Division  
**Willie Hudson**  
West Virginia University College of Law

**DIVISION MEETINGS:** I attended the RPTE Fall Leadership Meeting in Laguna Beach, CA. This was the first time I had face to face conversations with the members of the division. I had the opportunity to speak with numerous members and attended several meetings during my stay in Laguna.

**ISSUES:** The problems facing RPTE were twofold: 1) obtaining diversity and 2) getting non-active members to become active.

**PROJECTS:** I am member of the RPTE Membership Networking Committee. As a member of this committee, I am attempting to bring a networking event to West Virginia University, Fall 2010. I also plan to attend the Spring Symposia in Philadelphia.

Real Property, Trust and Estate Law - Trust and Estate Division  
**Jason Yoepf**  
University of Florida Levin College of Law

Science and Technology Law  
**R. Michelle Boldon**  
Penn State-Dickinson School of Law

State and Local Government Law  
**Christina Arzillo**  
Florida State University College of Law

Taxation  
**Nicholas M. Furtwengler**  
IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law

#### **ENTITY MEETINGS:**

- 2009 Joint Fall CLE Meeting: I attended the Membership & Marketing meeting where I worked with the other committee members on initiatives for the upcoming year.
- Tax Bridge to Practice: This meeting was for law students and recent graduates who are interested in getting involved in tax law as a career. I helped market the event to Chicago area students and also attended the event. With 42 law students registered and even more in attendance, there was a successful turnout for the event.

**ISSUES:** Law student membership in the Section of Taxation is relatively good strong. The Section is seeing some success in recruiting law students through relationships with law schools established through career development offices,

Teaching Taxation Committee members, and Young Lawyer Forum volunteers. The Section is seeing its membership's average age increase and would like to encourage more young lawyers to join the section after graduation from law school. The Section would like to highlight the fact that membership dues to the Section of Taxation are waived for the first year out of law school.

#### **PROJECTS:**

- I began writing a monthly "Law Student Tax Perspective," which is an editorial focusing on what law students interested in practicing tax law might consider doing throughout their student careers. There have been three installments of the Law Student Tax Perspective.
- I completed a model mentorship program that makes available to law students the opportunity to contact an attorney "mentor" in a specific area of tax law for career advice and informational interviews. The program will be organized by firm, firm size, tax practice type, law school attended, and city location. Progress on the project has been slow because the Section was unable to discuss it at the January meeting. The next opportunity the Section will have to discuss the mentorship program is in May. I have been talking with a representative from the Young Lawyers Division about implementing such a program in the YLD as well.
- The Section of Taxation already has a Job Locator tool that posts tax job opportunities available for attorneys. I am working with the Section to add law student clerkship and internship opportunities to the Job Locator tool.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:** I will be writing a Liaison Notebook Article for Student Lawyer Magazine for publication in the May issue.

Tort Trial and Insurance Practice  
**Christopher Shelton**  
Loyola University School of Law

#### **Forum Committees**

Affordable Housing and Community Development Law  
**Hillary Jaffe**  
Boston College Law School

Air and Space Law  
**Nicholas Welly**  
University of Mississippi School of Law

Communications Law  
**Alicia Wagner Calzada**  
St Mary's University School of Law

Construction Industry  
**Daniel Garcia**  
Santa Clara University School of Law

Entertainment and Sports Industries  
**Ashley Victoria Myers**  
Stetson University College of Law

#### **Standing Committees**

Armed Forces Law  
**Nicholas Mills**  
University of Utah-SJ Quinney College of Law

Delivery of Legal Services  
**Kong-Sun Chan**  
Whittier Law School  
No activity to report at this time

Election Law

**Jeffrey L. Anderson**

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School

Judicial Independence

**Andrew N. Cripps**

St. Thomas University School of Law

Law and National Security

**Christopher T. Heck**

Suffolk University Law School

Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants

**Ashton K. Dennis**

Phoenix School of Law

**ENTITY MEETINGS:** I am scheduled to attend the SCLAID Business Meeting in Knoxville, TN May 21-22 2010. For all meetings I have missed I have reviewed the minutes.

**ISSUES:** One major area in which SCLAID is working on is getting legal representation for indigent individuals in civil matters. As stated in the recommendation to the House of Delegates, SCLAID proposes, "a system... whereby it can be readily ascertained whether a particular case falls within the categories of proceedings for which publicly-funded legal counsel is provided and whether individuals are eligible to receive representation." The Standing Committee has stated that as a society we provide some of the most basic necessities to individuals who cannot afford them; however we are not providing legal aid in civil matters, which can dramatically affect their lives.

**PROJECTS:** I plan to keep working with the Standing Committee on creating a web link/site that is specifically designed for law students and young lawyers.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:** SCLAID is also heavily involved in legislative issues that affect law student loan financing and repayment options. SCLAID has helped lead the effort to reduce student loans of those students who enter a career of public service.

Legal Assistance for Military Personnel

**Vacant**

Public Education

**Roderica L. Ross**

South Texas College of Law

Substance Abuse

**Kelly Li**

University of Minnesota School of Law

## **Commissions**

Domestic Violence

**Ann Michelle Grace Hart**

University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law

**ENTITY MEETINGS:** UI attended the Fall meeting in November at the headquarters in Washington, D.C. as well as conference calls in August, September and October. At the conference calls in Aug/Sept/Oct we planned what we would be doing for October DV Awareness Month.

**ISSUES:** The organization just launched a new website for providers of DV services to connect with one another and share ideas. The re-authorization of VAWA - the Violence Against Women Act expires in 2011. The commission is working with several other entities to amend the act and submit it for re-authorization this congressional session. If we can get it submitted this session for review and it doesn't get to the table, we'll have another full session next year to pass it through congress.

**PROJECTS:** I am encouraging all the schools in my Circuit (14th) to hold a cell phone drive for DV victims. At this time, McGeorge was the only participant and has raised 40 phones for victims.

Homelessness and Poverty

**Melissa K. Beehner**

University of Nebraska College of Law

Lawyer Assistance Programs

**Brett Ellen Gallagher**

Northeastern University School of Law

Mental and Physical Disabilities Law

**Ben Kappelman**

Suffolk University Law School

**ENTITY MEETINGS:** I attended the Commission's fall meeting in Washington, D.C. in November. This is the only Commission meeting so far during my term. Because the Commission has less than two-dozen members, I had a great opportunity to represent the Law Student Division's interests. The Commission assigned me to the Mental Disability Issues and the Goal III Report subcommittee. I have interacted with my fellow subcommittee members via e-mail as part of that assignment.

**DIVISION MEETINGS:** I attended the Annual Meeting in August. While at the meeting, I attended several of the Law Student Division's workshops and meetings, including the Liaison training session.

**ISSUES:** The Commission has begun a discussion concerning the impact of LSAT disability accommodations policies on law school admissions. It will likely agree on formal action at the May meeting, at which time it may seek the support of the Law Student Division.

**PROJECTS:** As I did last fall, once the Committee publishes its agenda for its meeting in May, I will review those materials and prepare myself to represent the Law Student Division's interests before the Commission.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:** A Liaison Notes column I authored describing the Commission and the many ways in which law students can connect to its resources appears in the March issue of Student Lawyer. I am very grateful for this opportunity to raise awareness of the Commission's activities.

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

**Alexis Moore**

Golden Gate University School of Law

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

**Victor Gregory Zisman**

The John Marshall Law School-Chgo

Women

**Courtney Petty**

Drake University Law School

Youth at Risk

**Hanifa L. Barnes**

Rutgers University School of Law - Newark

### **Other ABA Organizations**

ALI/ABA Continuing Legal Education

**Lillian Bozonie**

Franklin Pierce Law Center

Children and the Law

**Sunny Stevenson**

University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law

Professional Responsibility

**Deirdre Jurand**

University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Rule of Law Initiative:

**Michelle Heisner**

Georgetown University Law Center

## **National Student Directors**

Arbitration Competition

**Karoline Szadkowska**

Loyola University School of Law

Client Counseling Competition

**Renuka Vishnubhakta**

Marquette University Law School

National Appellate Advocacy Competition

**Alvan Balent**

Florida State University College of Law

Negotiation Competition

**Adam Deutsch**

Seton Hall University School of Law

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

**Min S. Chung**

St Thomas University School of Law

## **Project Directors**

Mental Health Initiative

**Brittany M. Flaherty**

John Marshall Law School

Veterans Advocacy

**John T. Bennett**

Rutgers - The State University of New Jersey - School of Law - Camden