

**ABA Law Student Division
2010-2011 Liaison Reports**

March 2011

Divisions

General Practice, Solo and Small Firm

Grant A Beardsley
Stetson University College of Law

Meetings: I organized a six-attorney panel of GPSolo members to talk at Georgia State College of Law. Six attorneys from across the US spoke to students from GA State, John Marshall and Emory. I coordinated with GA State's career services office and a few GA State student organizations.

Issues: A large project GPSolo members are undertaking is a member survey to collect data on the types of lawyers are members, age groups, what the Division does well, what the Division needs to improve on, etc.

Projects:

- (1) My project for the ABA Mid-Year was organizing the panel event at GA State. The event was very successful.
- (2) I organized a 2-attorney panel at Stetson, and I was able to have an attorney attend who I met at GPSolo's Fall Meeting in Austin, TX. The attorney was a lecturer at a CLE I attended.
- (3) I assisted in drafting questions for the GPSolo member survey

Government and Public Sector Lawyers

Jessica M. Simmons
Florida Coastal School of Law

Meetings: I attended the Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA. During the meeting I attended the council meeting for GPSLD. I was able to introduce myself to the council and offer some ideas for increasing student membership. I attended the Mid Year Meeting in Atlanta, GA. I attended a few CLEs hosted by the council and also attended the council meeting. At the council meeting I was able to present my report on Division activities and gather support for a new initiative the Division is working on. I was able to vote on resolutions and provide student insight for our law student outreach programs.

Midyear Meeting: I attended the Annual, Midyear, and fall and spring circuit meetings. I attending circuit meetings and met with other leaders in my circuit to discuss some ideas for spreading the benefits of Division membership. I was also able to attend the orientation for liaisons where we were given the tools and expectations to enable us to fulfill our roles efficiently.

Issues: The council is looking for more ways to take our law student roster and make them more active in the council.

Projects: I am working on an article for publication in the student lawyer and our entity newsletter for law students. The student lawyer article will promote the council's Public Interest Career Panels that take place all over the country. The newsletter article will detail my experience in obtaining a government internship and offering advice for other students. I am also gathering more useful resources to add to the council's law student page.

Activities: The council did not express a strong interest in subsidizing the cost of bar prep for those students who have been offered public interest employment upon graduation. Many of the council members stated that their respective employers would not be able afford such a program.

Judicial

Tony Thomas
Stetson University College of Law

Senior Lawyers

Rebecca Ward
University of the Pacific-McGeorge School of Law

Sections

Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice

Richard A Raiders

Temple University Beasley School of Law

Meetings: October and January council – active participant. Fall Conference – moderator of the student career panel. Monthly leadership teleconferences – participant.

Issues: The Section has asked the Division to weigh in on the ABA Oligvy and Mather email problem. The Section has taken a leadership position in countering ABA headquarters plans to remove entity abilities to properly communicate with members and non-member stakeholders (this Section has many CLE customers outside of ABA membership). The Section asked LSD to evaluate how much damage the late 2010 proposal would do to LSD communications, especially among the Circuits.

Projects: With the Standing Committee on Law and National Security, we are conducting a school survey to identify Administrative Law and National Security programs at law schools. The online survey is currently collecting data, and we should know more by the May report. We are planning for student dial in brown-bag lunch discussions re: careers, but due to scheduling issues these may not yet happen till fall. As the Section has asked me back for another year, I would work on this project over the summer and hope to establish the appropriate infrastructure for September.

Antitrust Law - Equal Opportunity Committee

Jeri Ostuw

Stetson University College of Law

Business Law

Caroline D. Pham

George Washington University Law School

Criminal Justice Council

Amanda Valentino

Seattle University School of Law

Meetings: I attended the CJS Fall Meeting in Washington, D.C. I am planning on attending the Spring CJS meeting in Miami this upcoming April.

I helped organize the 12th Circuit meeting and secured speakers for the Indian Tribal Law and Mental Health Courts sessions.

Issues: We are trying figure out how to best market our section to law student members and try to increase the involvement of law students into the section the practicing attorneys.

Projects: I am helping with the ABA Comprehensive Representation Task Force. I am organizing the law students on the Task Force as well as distributing the practitioner survey to criminal defense attorneys across the country.

Criminal Justice - Corrections Committee

Abby Schwartz

Loyola University Chicago

Activities: I am in contact with various Committee members still trying to help effectuate their goal of getting the most important, as well as the most up-to-date Corrections related ABA policies on the website. I think this would be very useful for Division members to keep current with Criminal Justice and Corrections law. I am trying to find ways to get more involved, though it is difficult as I mentioned when I accepted the position I do not know very much about Criminal Justice law, and I know even less about the IT stuff needed to help design a webpage. However, again I am have been consistently in contact and will continue to do whatever I can to help. Once the new website/ newsletter is up and running, I will request that Student Lawyer put a notice so that other students are aware.

Criminal Justice - Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and Police Practices Committee

Lindsay Sullivan

Chapman University School of Law

Criminal Justice - Defense Functions and Services Committee

Sonia Wilson

University of Alabama School of Law

Meetings: Though I was unable to attend the meeting, I was pleased that the Defense Function Committee sponsored resolution was passed by the House of Delegates urging all courts to adopt a procedure whereby a criminal trial court would, at a reasonable time prior to a criminal trial, disseminate to the prosecution and defense a written checklist delineating in detail the general disclosure obligations of the prosecution under *Brady v. Maryland*.

Issues: One on-going issue that the committee seeks to bring to the attention of the entire criminal justice section involves tribal justice. The Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 does not guarantee the right of indigent defendants to appointed counsel in criminal cases. Thus most poor Native American defendants represent themselves. The defense must also face a lack of forensic services. Additionally, crimes committed by outsiders on the reservations are assigned the lowest priority by United States Attorneys Offices. Sometimes those committing offenses do not face prosecution at all. The state of tribal justice is an outrage which needs to be addressed. The committee is continuing to work to bring a resolution on this matter to the Council (and eventually the ABA House of Delegates).

Projects: One of the goals of the Defense Function Committee is to increase the number of lawyers involved in the work of the committee. The best way to do this is to conduct effective outreach. I was recently contacted by the TIPS Animal Law Committee to be part of the student committee to create a new online publication that would highlight animal law panels, CLEs, conferences, and other events put on by bars, law schools, and organizations throughout the country. This publication will be available by email and will greatly increase awareness about animal-law related events around the country. I believe this student committee could serve as the model for a similar list for the Defense Function Committee and I am currently exploring how our committee could adopt this approach to publicizing events of interest in the criminal defense field.

Activities: The next meeting of the Defense Function Committee will be held April 16th, in Miami Beach, Florida for the Litigation and Criminal Justice Section Joint Spring meeting. At this meeting the Committee will be reviewing a proposed resolution involving Habeas Corpus Reform addressing 28 U.S.C. §2254(d)(1), (2). (this measure involves the "deference" standard, adopted into law over ABA objections, mandating that the federal courts, in reviewing state court judgments of convictions, defer to a state court ruling on the merits of any habeas claim, including questions of fact, law and mixed questions).

Criminal Justice - Immigration Committee

Charlotte Alvarez

Harvard Law School

Criminal Justice - International Committee

Latasha Towles

Valparaiso University School of Law

Criminal Justice - Juvenile Justice Committee

Jessica Chiappone

Nova Southeastern University

Criminal Justice - Prosecution Function Committee

Ben Kappelman

Suffolk University Law School

Meetings: The Committee held one of its three annual meetings in Miami this past weekend, on April. I was unable to participate after participating by conference call proved impossible. Nevertheless, I reminded the committee chairs of my availability should they have any law student related issues that arise.

Issues: The Committee remains interested in the effects of the John R. Justice Loan Repayment Program on students' willingness to become prosecutors following graduation. I solicited input from students regarding their opinions and awareness of the program in my Liaison Notebook article, which is forthcoming.

Criminal Justice - Sentencing Committee

Joseph Regalia

Boyd School of Law – UNLV

Meeting: I attended are two web conferences where I was asked questions about the project I am working on, and participated as an observer.

Issues: The United States Sentencing Commission announced a request for public comment on several proposed amendments to sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and commentary. Comments are due 3/21/11. If there

are any guidelines that the division feels are problematic, we can solicit input . Although not specifically applicable to the law student division per se, there are many sentencing guidelines that are overbroad or ineffective.

Projects: I have been working both semesters on a sentence guideline drafting project for child pornography. I have provided statistics, editing, and parts of the draft itself as part of my participation. We are in our final stages of drafting, and hopefully the proposed guideline will be done in the following couple of weeks.

The issue with the guidelines, is that there are overbroad and unfair enhancements that are punishing individuals without intent. In addition, the guidelines have become so strict that most judges are just ignoring them.

Criminal Justice - Victims Committee

Rashida Sims
UALR-William H. Bowen School of Law

Nothing new to report at this time

Criminal Justice - White Collar Crimes Committee

Eric Kleine
Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Dispute Resolution

Vikram Kapoor
Georgetown University Law Center

Meetings: I am active on e-mail chains and conference calls for the Mediation and Membership committees, and have a good working relationship with both ABA staff and the Section leadership.

Activities: We have some ideas out there for a job board, an internship program, and expanded access to practitioners in the form of an online mentoring clearinghouse and small regional panels.

Dispute Resolution (May Report)

Meeting: Last year's annual in San Francisco – first meeting, so not very involved. I participated in the long-range steering committee meeting.

Fall meeting Orlando – pretty involved. Started to pitch idea of job board; worked to get to know key players in the Section.

Spring meeting in Denver - pretty involved. Continued to work on (1) job board, (2) mediation week initiatives, (3) the website, (4) membership committee liaison involvement, and (5) worked with young lawyer division representative to target students and young lawyers for future events, including "Nuts and Bolts" webinar series.

Issues: The Section would like a contact list of all schools so we can target students in ADR clubs and similar entities (maybe professors with an ADR focus). This has been a real challenge for me. IF we have such a list, please provide.

Projects:

- Job Board – trying to setup a diversity scholarship program similar to the Section of Litigation's JIOP program.
- Mediation week – where we have receptions across the country, promote the role of mediation, and also bring mediation workshops into elementary and middle schools.

Activities: Would like to have regional career panels, and will work with AAA and other organizations to have speakers on-hand at different times of the year.

Environment, Energy and Resources Law

Brian David Kenyon
Florida State University

Family Law

Peter Agnone Ruane
Duquesne University School of Law

Meetings: I attended the Section of Family Law's Spring Meeting in April. As Liaisons are given a seat on the Section's Council, I attended all Council meetings and debates as well as the meetings for the various CLE substantive committees on which I serve.

The Model Relocation of Children Act was discussed and debated. This is of Constitutional import since it impacts the individual right to travel. However, it was explained to me, that the best interests of the child trump that right.

One hotly debated issue is that of Collaborative Law. At my first meeting, in Baltimore '08, a model act was introduced and debated to great polarity. Over the next few years, NCCUSL undertook further study and made revisions to the UCLA (Uniform Collaborative Law Act). It came to the floor again, in its latest permutation, causing some who previously supported it to weaken in their position. This new act provided for adoption of the process by Court Rule or Legislation. I know many states, (my own, PA) would not allow for adoption of this act by the legislature since it would violate their constitutions and the regulation of Lawyers by anyone other than the Supreme Court of the states themselves. Those who originally opposed continued to do so. The Delegates expressed doubts that it would pass in the House. An important distinction was drawn, that we, as a section needed to support this act because we support those who practice collaborative law, even though probably less than half of the members of Council actually practice collaborative law. The major qualm it seems, is that the act has a mandatory disqualification for the attorneys who have participated in a collaborative matter that has failed. This means that if the negotiations end without an outcome to the case, the parties need to retain new council and take it to court. Some wished the act to have the mandatory disqualification removed and said they would then support the act. I feel this would make it toothless and is required for the mode of dispute resolution to be at all effective. The only true downside could occur when one party is indigent and would not be able to hire a new attorney. It could then be used as a coercive measure. It is up to the attorneys to assess what matters are suitable for this method. Some members expressed desire to give regulation to an area of practice that has no wide standard but nevertheless has been implemented, as a method, with great success nationally. The Council passed the act and endorsed it to the House.

Also debated were revisions to the ABA Model Act Governing the Representation of Children in Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Proceedings. This is of significant importance to those in the Litigation and Criminal areas since it deals with whether the child should have his or her own counsel and what roles and obligations he or she would have; especially with regard to what the child has disclosed to his or her attorney. Obviously, it is undesirable to tell a child that one is her attorney (creating lawyer/client relationship) and then find oneself having to disclose the privately disclosed details to a court, etc. In the Act, it is up to the lawyer to determine diminished capacity of his client and then use (debated) either "substituted judgment" or "best interests" to proceed.

The Family Courts Committee, of which I am a member, discussed an ongoing project to produce a publication, The State of Family Courts. This is something we are in contact with each other via email about. We also discussed some long term goals for the committee.

I also met with the Young Lawyers Division Liaison (Brian Karpf), and that Committee. We discussed membership and the possible production of a committee CLE on electronic media and social networking advice for the client and its use by attorneys. We noticed this would be excellent since there were many who seemed to be unaware of it, based on their questions in the morning's plenary (such as "how do you view facebook?").

I am awaiting replies from the CLE committee on their decisions on the above.

Activities: As always, the CLE sessions were interesting and informative. There was some attention paid to the importance of informing the client of how to behave online with respect to social networking sites when the client finds him or herself in litigation. Obviously this is of tremendous import in Family Law matters but also definitely applies to every lawsuit. The CLE also treated issues of cyber spying which overlap into the criminal field (google the "cell snoop" program).

The Assisted Reproductive Technology CLE sessions are also continuously relevant and often amazing with regard to the legislation and litigation arising in that area. It is constantly growing in interested individuals and the technology and law are both constantly evolving. We are fortunate to have an international expert, Steve Snyder, in our section.

Health Law

Raquel A. Spencer
University of Illinois College of Law

Individual Rights and Responsibilities

Samuel C. Feinson

Seattle University School of Law

Meetings: IR&R Spring Meeting (via phone); Midyear Liaison Caucus (discussant). It would be helpful to have more of a Law Student Division presence at Midyear. As the Liaison Caucus did not happen until after the IR&R section meeting, my report to the Section Council on LSD activities was limited in scope.

Issues: The Section of IR&R and the Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law are collaborating on a resolution urging entities that administer law school admission tests to guarantee basic accommodations for test takers with disabilities, and additionally to refrain from "flagging" the test scores of these students to indicate that they received accommodations. The resolution will probably not be ready for a vote at Annual, but would be put before the House of Delegates at the Midyear Meeting. This seems like an ideal issue for the Division to support, although the IR&R Council will not get a chance to adopt the resolution until August. If possible, it would be great to vote to co-sponsor this resolution at the Toronto meeting upon its adoption by the Section.

Additionally, IR&R will be submitting related comments to the Section of Legal Education as the ABA law school standards are revised. If there is any way that the Division may sign on, it seems highly appropriate to do so.

Projects: I have begun putting together information to create an online career and internship resource for law students with particular interest in the issues addressed by the Section of IR&R. Once created, an ongoing component of this project will be outreach to lawyer members of the Section to provide updated information on opportunities with their firms and organizations.

Individual Rights and Responsibilities - AIDS Coordinating Group

Christine Markham
Florida A&M University

Intellectual Property Law

Krystle Thompson
Southwestern Law School

Meetings:

- ABA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA -- 08/2010 [ABA-IPL Section -- Membership Board Meeting (member of board), Council Meeting (observed), Leadership Development Meeting (observed)]
- ABA-IPL Membership Board monthly conference call (member of board, Co-Chair of sub-committee)
- ABA-IPL Young Lawyers/Law Students Board monthly conference call (member of board)
- ABA-IPL Young Lawyers Action Group monthly conference call (frequent observer and occasional invited guest speaker)
- ABA-IPL Leadership Conference , Palm Beach, FL -- 01/2011 [Young Lawyers/Law Student Board meeting, Membership Board meeting, Leadership Development meeting, various other leadership and social events]
- Upcoming: ABA-IPL Spring Conference, Arlington, VA 04/2011
- Introductory conference call

Issues: The Section is looking for new ways to educate law students about the benefits of Section membership as a law student, and later as a Young Lawyer. I have assisted them with this goal by serving on the Membership Board and the Young Lawyers/Law Students Board.

Projects: I recently created a new program specifically designed to get law students involved with the Section in a meaningful way at the upcoming Spring IP Law Conference. Eleven students will serve as social media "reporters" in exchange for complimentary registration to the CLE programs and luncheons. As reporters, students will blog and/or tweet about the Conference, the CLEs and the other events. You can follow the student reporters by following https://twitter.com/Krystle_Thomp/aba-ipl-student-reporters. I am also working on other ways that the Section can reach out to law students, and have proposed law student specific groups for Facebook and LinkedIn, as well as a blog to be maintained by the liaison each year. As expected, there is a lot of "red tape" to deal with when seeking to start these types of groups, so I am hoping that I at least lay the groundwork down for this to happen during my predecessor's term.

Activities: The Section's publication -- LANDSLIDE magazine has a "Meeting of the Minds" column in which senior attorneys pair with young lawyers (and a few law students) to co-author an article. It is a great opportunity for students!

International Law

Jeffrey L. Anderson
Atlanta's John Marshall Law School

Meetings: The International Section had its Midyear meeting in Atlanta, GA, to which I was able to attend. The Section also held its Council meeting where I was able to directly participate. I was able to work with Section leadership in discussion regarding issues relevant to our section. In each of our sessions, the entire section has been open to my input on behalf of the student constituency, and continues to seek more ways to foster student involvement. Each of the committees within the section continues to host monthly conference calls, and has welcomed other students as well as myself to participate in as many as my class and work schedule allows.

I attended the ABA midyear meeting in Atlanta, GA and my participation/involvement was shared between the few division activities and the needs of my section. A particular portion of the Midyear meeting I found helpful and necessary was the Liaison roundtable where we spoke with Division leadership and other liaisons about other things we can do, as well as means of better use of our leadership for assistance.

Issues: I mentioned in the previous report that during my time as Liaison, the Section has acquired record numbers of law student and a great deal of which are students from outside of the United States. There continues to be a question of where these students will be able to fit into the Law Student Division.

Projects: I am working on the efforts of foreign law student inclusion, as well as fostering more student leadership within the section. There are 60+ committees and sub-committees within my Section that are constantly seeking student input. I mentioned before, and during our Liaison meeting at the midyear, that there is still a need more effective means of transmitting information to all students, without the natural "block" of administration with regards to "solicitation". I would like to find ways of being certain students are getting all possible information and hope to have student participation in all available committees.

Activities: I feel we need to continue to encourage committee's and divisions to increase their funding possibilities to assist students who would like to participate in committee events but have needs for financial assistance. I

I believe that Liaisons should be given some additional leeway in developing additional positions within their section when as large as the international section. If I was able to have a team of representatives in the various sections, it would allow for greater involvement with focused attention.

There are also a lot of other organizations that are affiliated with the ABA in one shape or form, that there is very little direction on how to promulgate joint cooperation.

Labor and Employment Law

Heather R. Sidwell

University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law

Meeting: In late November, I attended the Section's Annual CLE conference in Chicago. After attending a welcome panel, I helped the Law Student Outreach Committee staff a booth at the welcome reception. We were able to speak with several law students in attendance, and were able to speak with practitioners regarding the need for coordinators in various areas to present panels to law students on careers in labor and employment law.

Additionally, I attended several panels on substantive issues, as well as a closing reception at which several law students were present. Finally, upon the closing of the conference, I attended a luncheon for law students in which practitioners ate lunch with students and answered questions about careers in labor and employment law. Before returning home, I sat in on the Section's fall council meeting.

I helped our circuit governor plan the Spring Conference for the Sixth Circuit, which was held on February 26th at the University of Louisville. I received the Silver Key award in recognition of my service.

Issues: Two issues facing my committee recently have been:

(1) whether it is feasible or desirable to offer circuit governors for the law student division the opportunity to have a labor and employment law panel at spring circuit meetings and

(2) whether to accept a request from the Peggy Browning Fellowship to include advertisements for the fellowship in panels hosted by the section.

As to the first issue, the committee decided to allow local coordinators to contact circuit governors an offer to host a panel. In my region in particular, the local coordinator decided against making such an offer because of the desire to have a dedicated audience of students specifically interested in labor and employment law for his panel.

As to the second issue, it was decided that despite the fact that the Peggy Browning Fellowship is a great program for students interested in labor law, opening the committee's panels to outside advertising sets a bad precedent. However, committee members expressed hoped that, in the future, individual law schools will do a better job of promoting the fellowship.

Projects: The Law Student Outreach committee hosts panels of practitioners at area law schools, at which students can learn more about involvement with the section and careers in labor and employment law. I am currently working with the local coordinator to schedule and plan a panel for the University of Louisville.

Activities: I will be attending the Equal Employment Opportunity committee's Midyear Meeting April 6th- 9th, and plan to attend the Section's spring council meeting April 29th- May 1st. I remain involved in monthly conference calls for the Law Student Outreach Committee.

Law Practice Management

Alexis Lundgren

University of Minnesota

Meeting: I attended the LPM Fall Meeting in October but did not attend the Midyear Meeting. TechShow is coming up in Chicago in April. This is a big event for our Section and lots of hard work has been put into our programming and speakers. We do not have another big meeting/event until the Annual Meeting.

Issues: LPM, like much of the ABA, is struggling with how best to market our Section. What is our true value proposition? How can it be worded in such a way to entice people to join our Section who are not currently members? How can we reiterate/re-demonstrate this value proposition to existing members to prevent them from dropping our Section? These are many of the same issues facing the Law Student Division. We are currently trying to figure out how best to re-attract dropped members. All of the Section committees are also busy planning programming for upcoming meetings and events.

Projects: I am working on putting together an event at my law school for students who are thinking of going solo after law school. I will be using my LPM resources to help put together the topics for the event. My goal is to then put this into an event template that can be sent to Student Services/Programming departments and Career Services offices at schools around the country along with a list of LPM members that would be willing to speak on this topic. I may also consider putting together a second event template but am not yet sure as to the specific topic it would cover. I have already spoken with the former Liaison to the Section about speaking at an event in the spring since he happens to live in my area and I am working with him on the project as well.

Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar

Bryan O'Keefe
Penn State Dickinson

Litigation

Mallory M. Miller
Western State University College of Law

Meetings: I attended the Section's Winter Leadership Meeting where the Section initiated the Law Student Good Works Competition. The competition encourages law students to develop public service projects by providing the most qualified submissions with \$10,000 in seed money to implement the proposed project as well as \$2,500 in prize money. Second and third place submissions will receive \$2,000 and \$1,500 respectively. The top three submissions will be flown out to the Section of Litigation's Spring Leadership Meeting in Orange County California to present their proposals to Section Leadership.

I also attended the Section's Annual Conference where I met with my Law Student Competition committee members to work through details involving the competition. The deadline for submissions is April 27 and the selection process will run through the Spring meeting in June.

Issues: The Section has a strong interest in gaining and retaining law student members and is working towards this goal through the Law Student Competition.

Projects: As stated above, my main project is the Law Student Competition. I am one of the co-chairs in the committee charged with running this competition and will continue working with the Section throughout my tenure in August.

Litigation (May Report)

Meetings:

- **Miami, FL:** My primary activity at this meeting (in April) involved planning the Section's first (and hopefully not last) Good Works Law Student Competition. I also attended counsel meetings where we discussed the progress of supported policies and proposals in the ABA House of Delegates.
- **Dana Point, CA:** After months of reviewing law student submissions for the Good Works Competition and selecting the top three proposals, we finally presented the top three and selected the first, second and third place winners. I'm very proud to report that the Section leadership was so impressed with the three proposals that the Section insisted on funding all three programs for up to \$10,000 each. Originally, the Section planned to fund only the top proposal. In addition to the \$10,000 funding, the Section also awarded the first, second and third place finishers with monetary prizes. For more information on the winning good works project, please visit: <http://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/initiatives/law-student-competition-2011.html>. While the future is uncertain as to whether the Section will repeat this competition, keep an eye out of the Section of Litigation Facebook page and Twitter account to see when/if another opportunity to participate arises.

Issues: As discussed above, the Good Works competition was a great success so far and may be repeated in the future. The Division should keep eye out and an ear to the ground about when the Section will hold another similar competition.

Projects: The Section of Litigation saw an increase in membership on Facebook and Twitter and hopes to see that trend increase through any assistance or endorsement through the Law Student Division. Note, involvement on these sites is the best way to hear about upcoming law student opportunities to win money and to help make a difference in the legal community.

Public Contract Law

J. Elise Maraist
South Texas College of Law

Public Utility, Communications and Transportation Law

Raiford Smith

Charlotte School of Law

Meetings: I attended the Annual Spring Program at PEPCO Holdings in Washington, DC on March 7th. At the meeting, I visited with the past president of the division, discussed future activities with the Young Lawyers Division representative, and chatted with several of the other attorneys in attendance.

Issues: Need to get students interested in the mentoring program provided by this entity at the next annual meeting. I plan to write a short solicitation note in support of the event.

Activities: Currently, nuclear issues in Japan, merger activity, and other issues regarding aging infrastructure, need to build new facilities, renewable generation, and environmental regulation is of most concern to attorneys in this section.

Real Property, Trust and Estate Law - Real Property Division

Chibundu Nnake

SMU Dedman School of Law

Real Property, Trust and Estate Law - Trust and Estate Division

Willie Hudson

West Virginia University College of Law

Science and Technology Law

Derek Soltis

Rutgers University School of Law - Newark

State and Local Government

Margaret R. Good

University of Florida, Levin College of Law

Meetings: Annual Meeting (San Francisco, CA); Fall Meeting (Providence, RI); Midyear Meeting (Atlanta, GA). For each meeting, I have promoted the Thursday evening networking receptions to area law students. I have also attended relevant committee meetings and Council meetings.

Projects: I am working on promoting our law student database. I would like to promote it to more students and recruit more employers to use it.

Taxation

Lillian Bozonie

Franklin Pierce Law Center

Activities: Had tax pro bono speaker panel that highlighted how you can volunteer in a non-traditional pro bono field. Also, worked on (and will be submitting later today) an article about the section's upcoming events and opportunities for law students.

Tort, Trial and Insurance Practice Section

Christopher Shelton

Loyola University Chicago

Forum Committees

Affordable Housing and Community Development

Myshanda V. Upton

University of San Francisco School of Law

Meetings: I was unable to attend any of the Law Student Division Meetings because the circuit scheduled the meetings at the same time as Forum meetings.

- Fall meeting in October in Lake Tahoe, CA. I submitted a report to the Forum discussing LSD Division goals and law student participant post-graduate in the committee as members.
- Spring Meeting in February in Orlando, FL. I submitted a report to the Forum discussing LSD goals and programs.

Issues: The largest issue is membership. This has been an ongoing concern because there was a huge drop in membership. They are looking for a way to increase law student membership after the free ride is over.

Projects:

1. Law Student Initiative Program (LSIP) at University of San Francisco in January. 20 Students and Alumni attended the event from law schools from across the Bay Area.
2. Post Graduation Employment Webinar. I am working with the YLD to create a foundation for the webinar that will show law students and young lawyers how to break into the Affordable Housing and Community Development legal field.
3. I was responsible for advertising the Affordable Housing writing Competition for law students. I sent email to the listserv, 14th Circuit Governor for dissemination to other Governors for students, etc.

Activities: The Forum is planning the Annual Convention in May 2011. However, the Forum has scheduled the convention within days of several law school graduations, BAR Prep courses, or alternatively during finals. They understand that this is a big deal for law students that will limit law student participation in the Convention. We decided that a Webinar regarding finding a job would meet the law student's needs and allow them to participate in the convention remotely.

Air and Space Law

Steven Osit

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

Communications Law

Alexandra Armstrong Goldstein

American University, Washington College of Law

Issues: I have primarily been involved with event outreach. I have submitted updates for inclusion in the Enewsletter. Additionally the Forum held their Diversity Moot Court Competition at the Annual Meeting; I helped publicize the event to students in the DC area and nationally. The leadership eliminated the cost of the Oral Advocacy Workshop at the Annual Meeting and I relayed this information to students who attended the meeting.

Activities: While the Forum has nearly five thousand student members, I believe they could always benefit from the addition of more students, and students in turn can derive significant value from their involvement in the Forum. I'm hoping to leave the next liaison with a report about my involvement, key dates, and ideas for the upcoming year.

Communications Law (May Report)

The following is the entity report I submitted to the incoming Liaison to the Forum:

Communication: The leadership is very involved and eager to develop new ways to advance the Forum. The first person I reached out to was Charles Tobin. He was the Forum Chair last year. I just checked the website, and it looks like he's still in that position. Steven Zansberg is the Forum Chair-Elect, but I'm not sure when the switch occurs -- probably around the time of the ABA meeting in August, but I could be wrong.

The other thing that's really good to know is that there is a Forum contact at ABA HQs in Chicago. The woman's name is Teresa Ucok. Her email is tucok@staff.abanet.org, and she will send you periodic updates about the Forum, including invites and updates. She's also really helpful when you need more info about a Forum event, etc.

I talked with Lindsay LaVine a couple times over the past year -- she is the ABA Young Lawyers Division liaison to the Forum on Communications Law. It's a subset of the Forum membership, and I believe it includes recent grads. She's really great and very involved. If you want to do any sort of joint initiatives, she's a great resource and seems happy to help. Around the time of the Forum annual meeting, she was working on an idea to give current students a discounted rate for a CLE event, and I helped get the word out to current students.

Publications: The Law Student Division of the ABA is a subset of the ABA and has it's own publications, contacts, and leadership. They will email you as well, primarily calling for submissions to one of their two publications. Carol Simmons (Carol.Simmons@americanbar.org) sends out most of the emails and requests submissions for the ABA Law Student eNewsletter. This publication is distributed via email, and is a really easy way to get info out to students. It's a monthly publication - I found it was easy to check with the Forum leadership (in your case, probably Steven Zansberg) to see if there were upcoming events of interest to students, write up a blurb, and send it to Carol. The second publication is the Student Lawyer, which is distributed to student members of the ABA. It's a good route to get the word out about the Forum and some of the more general benefits of membership.

Construction Industry

Nathan Jaye

Nova Southeastern University

Entertainment and Sports Industries

Kyle N. Novak

Ohio Northern University College of Law

Standing Committees

Armed Forces Law

Brett Anthony

Appalachian School of Law

Bar Activities and Services

Christopher Hurtado

Yale Law School

Election Law

Micah B. Haber

University of Minnesota Law School

Meetings: 8th Circuit Student Leadership Meeting, Lincoln, NE, 25-26 Feb. 2011. Represented UMN Law, with two proxy votes. Gave brief commentary on existence of, substance of, and need for student liaisons to ABA entities. Assisted post-meeting evening event where I spoke with UNL student who had been present at Circuit Meeting, as he expressed further interest in the liaison program.

Projects: As Liaison from the IP Transactions Committee to the Cyberspace Law Committee, attended the Cyberspace Winter Working Meeting in Austin, TX. Will be attending the Business Law Section Spring Meeting in Boston this April

Judicial Independence

Nicholas D. Wittenberg

University of Toledo College of Law

Law and National Security

James Jeffrey Mustin

Texas Tech

Issues: We are integrating the National Security Law Society with the ABA SCOLANS. I am in the process of taking over all national-level NSLS functions. They will be merged under the ABA within the month.

Projects: As we integrate with NSLS, we are building a database of all NSLS/ ABA schools and soliciting feedback from them on how we may better support them. We are offering speakers, "pizza money," writing competitions, and subject matter experts for any law school interested in furthering national security law.

Activities: There are no further issues; we are simply trying to integrate and communicate with all the law schools to provide better support. This streamlining takes time.

Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants

Sopi Mitil

Florida A&M University College of Law

Meetings: I have attended our Spring Circuit meeting/elections. My involvement in that meeting was to show support for my section and listen to the candidates that were running for elections. This meeting gave me an opportunity to network with established attorneys and other students in my Circuit.

Midyear Meeting: All of the CLE programs that I attended during the Midyear Meeting were very informative and I walked away with a wealth of knowledge. I only wish more students are given the opportunity attend ABA events.

Issues: A consortium of ABA entities – the Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants (SCLAID), the Judicial Division, the Commission on Immigration, the General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Division, and the Council on Racial and Ethnic Justice – has been awarded a special grant of ABA funds to create national standards for the provision of language access in state courts. The standards will establish guidelines for courts and state court administrators across the country to use in implementing language access throughout court systems.

There are currently 24 states providing the Loan repayment Assistant Programs (LRAPs), the following states are: AZ, DC, FL, IA, IL, LA, ME, MD, MA, MN, MS, MT, NH, NM, NY (two), NC, OH, OR, PA, SC, TX, VA, and VT.

Summary charts of the programs are posted at <http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/sclaid/lrap/statelraps.html>. Funding was suspended for Indiana's and Nebraska's LRAP and the primary LRAP in South Carolina.

It is important for us as future attorneys to give back to our respective communities. Listed above are the states that have a LRAP that we can take advantage of if we plan on practicing in any of the above mentioned states.

Legal Assistance for Military Personnel

Mervin Ashley Alexander Garry
Cornell Law School

Legal Services

Kong-Sun Chan
Whittier Law School

Public Education

Samantha Midkiff
The University of Akron School of Law

Substance Abuse

Morgan Windbiel
Chapman University School of Law

Meetings: I attended the conference at the beginning of my appointment. Unfortunately I could not get funding so I called into the meeting during the ABA Midyear conference.

Issues: Due in large part to the issues of the originally planned scope review, much of the focus has been on finding other entities in which we can collaborate with and take shelter under. Now that the scope review has been moved back a year the committee is starting to move more efficiently toward the CLE events and having already completed one, the next in line will be easier to promote.

Activities: I am hoping to give as much help as I can to the Annual Meeting program that is planned in regards to the future of drug control efforts and the effect that the decline of federal support is having on those efforts.

Activities: I had an article published about the plans for our entity and also where students could go to find out more. I also talked to students at my school about substance abuse issues that they were worried about. There are still many problems that need to be addressed in regards to substance abuse and the best place to start is in school when we are being taught about the responsibility of being lawyers. During our next meeting, I am going to pitch them to the standing committee and see where we can go with the ideas and what we can do to promote our entity better to law students as many do not know that it exists and if they do, they still are unaware of the events that we produce.

Commissions

Domestic Violence

Mary Allison Iglehart
Stetson University College of Law

Homelessness and Poverty

Anupa Iyer
Seattle University School of Law

Lawyer Assistance Programs

Sandy Al Fordham
Atlanta's John Marshall Law School

Mental and Physical Disabilities Law

Rina Shah
University of Houston

Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession

Tanieka Alashea Thompson
Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

David C. Bell
Whittier Law School

Women in the Profession

Kimberly E. Gomez-Ortigoza
Chapman University School of Law

Youth at Risk

Zachary Paul Ulrich
Pepperdine University School of Law

Centers and Other Organizations

ALI/ABA Continuing Professional Education

Richard Mitchell
Valparaiso University School of Law

Meetings: ABA Midyear Meeting in Atlanta, GA. February 9-11. I provided a Law Student Liaison report to the ALI-ABA Board at their midyear meeting. Directors requested copies of the first article I had written on ALI-ABA and published in my local law school's newspaper.

Issues: ALI-ABA continues to maintain an interest in law student input relative to ALI-ABA's products and the role of ALI-ABA in legal education.

Projects: ALI-ABA is interested in investigating (surveying) law students and their interests in continuing legal education. Whether or not I will be the liaison to complete this survey of law students is unknown, but I'm confident that ALI-ABA would appreciate making this semi-large scale study a priority for next year.

Children and the Law

Tianna Jade Mays
West Virginia University College of Law

Professional Responsibility

John-Paul Singh Deol
UOP McGeorge School of Law

Rule of Law Initiative - Europe & Eurasia Program

Anton Vozheiko
Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Project Directors

Law Student Mental Health Initiative

Taylor Denslow
University of South Carolina School of Law

National Mental Health Day is a nationwide effort by law schools across the country to recognize the importance of mental health in the legal community. I have been working to get the word out about this day by contacting Deans of Student Affairs at all ABA law schools.

In addition to planning for NMHD, I have been in contact with Dan Lukasik, a practitioner in New York who has spearheaded the effort to increase awareness of depression among lawyers. He began an organization for lawyers with depression and has been instrumental in helping me add informational links to our website and brainstorm ideas for NMHD.