

ABA DIVISION FOR BAR SERVICES

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ABA Dialogue Aims to 'Stand Up for Lawyers,' Materials Available for Bar Associations

The American Bar Association recently launched the ABA Dialogue, a major communication initiative to encourage lawyers and bar associations to "stand up for lawyers." The ABA has published marketing materials and information and invites all bar associations to use materials in your association's own communication plan.

To access the materials contained in an online toolkit for bar associations, please visit www.abanet.org/barserv. The toolkit includes a message platform, model speech, fact sheet and a campaign advertisement that can be customized with your bar association's logo. For more information, please contact Katy Englehart at 312/988-5134 or KEnglehart@staff.abanet.org.

Freedom Answer Program Continues to Grow, Local and State Bars Can Play Crucial Role in Encouraging Schools to Participate

State and local bars are encouraged to join the American Bar Association in supporting the non-partisan Freedom's Answer student-led voter turnout program, which encourages students to get pledges from adults saying they will vote this Election Day.

Nearly 2,300 schools have signed up for the program and Freedom Answer officials expect 3,000 schools to be on board by Election Day. Students and high school officials can visit www.freedomanswer.net and sign up for the program. Each student gets a photocopy of a "Take Ten" form they can use to get voting pledges from parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and neighbors.

Local and state bar associations can help the project by contacting their local high schools to make sure they are involved and registered for the program.

For more information, please contact Doug Bailey at dbailey@freedomanswer.net or 202/785-5920.

Judicial Campaign Resource Kit Available to State and Local Bars

In order to help bar associations educate voters about how to cast an informed ballot in judicial elections, the ABA has assembled an online Resource Kit titled "Ensuring Judicial Independence in the 21st Century." The Resource Kit includes information for voters on evaluating judicial campaign conduct and candidate statements. It also provides guidance to bar associations on responding to unfair or unwarranted criticism of the judiciary or attempts by interest groups and others to politicize judicial elections. The Resource Kit is available at: www.abanet.org/judind/resourcekit.



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For more information, please contact Seth Andersen of the ABA Standing Committee on Judicial Independence at anderses@staff.abanet.org or 312/988-5124.

Three Legal Guides Published Regarding Immigration Detention Guidelines

The American Bar Association Commission on Immigration Policy, Practice and Pro Bono has published three legal guides to assist people being detained by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Two of the manuals outline the processes whereby detainees can file complaints and actions to seek redress for issues that arise during their detention, and the third outlines how detainees can petition for release from indefinite detention. The publications, available at www.abanet.org/immigprobono/publications.html, were prepared in collaboration with the Washington, D.C. office of Hogan and Hartson LLP. For more information, please contact Christopher Nugent, Commission Co-Director at 202/662-1004 or via email at nugentc@staff.abanet.org

State of the Judiciary Speeches Being Collected by ABA, 29 States Currently Online

The American Bar Association has begun a project to collect the recent statements of State Supreme Court Chief Justices about their state judiciaries. These "state of the judiciary" speeches can be found at www.abanet.org/justice/statejudiciary.html. The ABA's Coalition for Justice gathered recent speeches by using Web search engines and others were provided by court staff. The collection includes speeches delivered by Chief Justices from 29 states during 2001-02, listed in chronological order and word-searchable. Where available, the link to the Web site containing the speech is provided. Additional recent "state of the judiciary" addresses will be added as they become available. For more information, please contact Paula Nessel at paulanessel@staff.abanet.org or 312/988-5450.

Task Force Examining "Practice of Law" Definition

The ABA Task Force on the Model Definition of the Practice of Law has issued a draft definition of the "practice of law," designed to stimulate discussion and input on the subject. The definition can be viewed at the task force's Web site, which is located at www.abanet.org/cpr/model_def_home.html. The task force is accepting written opinions on the definition and will be holding a half day public hearing on the matter during the ABA Midyear Meeting in Seattle in February 2003. The deadline for written submissions is December 20,2002. For more information on the task force, as well as the proposed definition of "practice of law," please contact Art Garwin at 312/988-5294 or agarwin@staff.abanet.org

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Law Day Theme Announced; Planning Guides Now Available

The 2003 Law Day theme has been selected: Celebrate Your Freedom: Independent Courts Protect Our Liberty, and the 2003 Planning Guide will be printed shortly.

Bar associations are invited to sign up for this year's free Planning Guide at www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/distribution.html and indicate how many copies of the Planning Guide your bar association needs. Guides can either be sent to the bar association for distribution and/or sent directly to a list of people who want the guide. For more information, please contact Leslie Andersen at 312/988-5721 or Andersel@staff.abanet.org.

Information Clearinghouse is Now Online

State and local bars are invited to take advantage of the ABA's Division for Bar Services' Clearinghouse, which is now online. The clearinghouse collects materials relating to state and local bar association administration, programming and activities. This material -- numbering some 15,000 documents in all - is now searchable by bar leaders and staff interested in administrative and policy issues. The catalog can be found at www.abanet.org/barserv/search.html. For more information or help with your questions, please contact Brian Myers at myersbw@staff.abanet.org or 312/988-5362.

New Book Available Through ABA Book Publishing Program

Your bar association can save 40% on select ABA publications by participating in the ABA Book Publishing Discount Program. The program is targeted exclusively to bar associations and gives you the opportunity to generate additional revenue, enhance CLE programming or increase the value of your association membership.

One publication available through this program is *Understanding Elder Law* by Michael McCauley, Patricia Day and L.Rush Hunt.

The practice of elder law is unique because it includes key elements of several specialties, but only as they relate to the special needs of the older client. To help practitioners understand and better represent these clients, this new handbook provides a broad introduction to the legal rights of the elderly. Included in the book and on an accompanying diskette are 10 forms, including a living will directive, a durable power of attorney, an annuity agreement, and sample trust forms.

For a complete listing of titles available through this program, go to www.ababooks.org.



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For detailed information on the program please visit www.abanet.org/abapubs/discountprogram.html or, to place an order, contact Catherine Flanagan at 312/988-6112 or flanagac@staff.abanet.org.

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Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access Accepting Nominations

The Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services is seeking nominations for the Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access. The Brown Award is given annually to an innovative program that helps connect practitioners with those of moderate income. Prior award recipients have included hotlines, court self-help and referral centers and bar-sponsored lawyer referral services, as well as a coffee house that serves justice and java. The 2003 Brown Award will be presented at the ABA Midyear Meeting in Seattle. More information and a nomination form are found at www.abanet.org/legalservices/delivery/delbrownominee.html. For additional information, contact the committee's staff counsel, William Hornsby, at 312/988-5761 or whornsby@staff.abanet.org.

2003 John Minor Wisdom Public Service and Professionalism Award Seeking Nominations

Honoring excellence and dedication in public interest law, the ABA Section of Litigation annually presents the John Minor Wisdom Public Service and Professionalism Award to those lawyers and firms whose efforts have made the legal system more accessible and meaningful to the poor and disenfranchised. The awards recognize outstanding contributions made by lawyers in all types of employment situations: career public interest lawyers, large firm attorneys, solo practitioners and corporate counsel. The awards will be given at the Section of Litigation Annual Meeting, April 9-12, 2003 in Houston, Texas.

Nominations criteria and forms can be found on the Section's website at www.abanet.org/litigation/committee/probono/awards.html. Contact Burt Blanchard with any questions at bblanchard@staff.abanet.org; or call 312/988-6066. The deadline for submission is November 15, 2002.

Award for Outstanding Young Lawyer and Law Student Essay Now Open

The Levit Essay Contest is now accepting entries for outstanding published pieces by young lawyers and law students. The winner of the award will receive a \$5,000 prize and an all-expense paid trip to the ABA Spring National Legal Malpractice Conference, to be held in New Orleans, LA on April 23-25, 2003. Complete details, including topics, format and deadlines for the 2003 contest are available at www.abanet.org/legalservices/lpl/levit.html. The contest is co-sponsored by the ABA Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability and the San Francisco law firm of Long & Levit, LLP. For additional information, contact Glenn Fischer, Assistant Staff Counsel, at 312/988-5755 or by email at fischerg@staff.abanet.org.

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Bar Association Leaders, Staff Receive Spirit of Excellence Award

Each year during the ABA Midyear Meeting, the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession presents The Spirit of Excellence award to an elite group of attorneys. Recipients of the award are lawyers who excel in their professional settings, personify excellence on the national, state or local level, and who demonstrate a commitment to racial and ethnic diversity in the legal profession.

This year, the Commission has selected E. Rabb Emison, Jr. and Stella Kinue Manabe as two of the recipients of the 2003 Spirit of Excellence Award. Mr. Emison, of Vincennes, IN, is the past president of the Indiana State Bar Association (1987-88), past speaker of the state bar's House of Delegates and Board of Managers (now called the Board of Governors). Ms. Manabe is the administrator of the Affirmative Action Program at the Oregon State Bar in Lake Oswego, OR.

This year's award ceremony will take place during a luncheon at the ABA Midyear Meeting in Seattle, WA, on Saturday, February 8, 2003. For more information about the 2003 Spirit of Excellence Awards Luncheon, please contact Sharon Tindall, the Commission's Program & Meetings Manager, at 312/988-5642 or tindalls@staff.abanet.org

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Lamp CLE Scheduled for Nov. 14 - Nov. 15 in Raleigh, N.C.

The ABA Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel will be conducting a CLE program at the Holiday Inn Brownstone in Raleigh, N.C. All lawyers interested in the topic are invited to attend. Registration costs will be \$65 for civilians and \$25 for military personnel. To download materials for the CLE, please visit www.abanet.org/legalservices/lamp/clematerials.html

For more information, please contact Glenn Fisher at 312/988-5755 or fischerg@staff.abanet.org.

Judicial Independence Conference Set for March 2003

American Bar Association President Alfred P. Carlton, Jr. is convening a colloquium to discuss recommendations to be offered by the ABA Commission on the 21st Century Judiciary. Participants will include judges, lawmakers, bar leaders, business and civic leaders, academics, and others working to promote fair and impartial state judiciaries.

The meeting will be held March 14, 2003 at the North Carolina Bar Center in Raleigh, N.C. If you are interested in attending, please contact Katy Englehart at 312/988-5100 or send an email to abapresident@abanet.org with the subject line, "March 2003 Colloquium."

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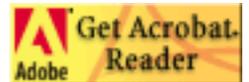
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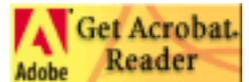
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