

Miscellaneous *Memo*

November 2003

News

Joint ABA Commission to Evaluate the Model Code of Judicial Conduct

The ABA Standing Committee on Judicial Independence and the Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility have appointed a new commission to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the Model Code of Judicial Conduct.

The commission will hold a series of public hearings across the country and welcomes input and participation from state and local bar association leaders. The first hearing will be held in Washington, DC, on Friday, December 5, 2003. Subsequent hearings will be held at the ABA Midyear and Annual meetings; in the spring of 2004 in Naples, FL; and in a location on the west coast. The 11-member commission is chaired by Mark Harrison of Phoenix, Arizona.

In addition to the hearings, the commission has established a listserv for people interested in keeping up to date on the issue. State and local bar associations are encouraged to designate a representative for the listserv in order to receive notice of hearings and events, review drafts and participate in discussions on relevant judicial ethics topics. To sign up for the listserv, please send an email to Maggie Viertel at viertelm@staff.abanet.org.

For further information on the public hearings, please contact George Kuhlman at 312/988-5300 or gkuhlman@staff.abanet.org. Eileen Gallagher can also answer questions about the commission and can be reached at 312/988-5105 or gallaghe@staff.abanet.org.

Commission to Examine State Court Funding Problems

The ABA Commission on State Court Funding will examine problems arising from chronic under-funding of state judicial systems and will make recommendations on how states can ensure that courts have adequate resources to meet caseload demands. ABA President Dennis Archer has called on the commission to address the impact of recent state budget cuts on the ability of courts to administer justice in a timely and effective manner. The commission, which will meet at the ABA Midyear Meeting in San Antonio, includes representatives from 17 ABA sections, divisions and standing committees. The ABA Judicial Division and Standing

Committee on Judicial Independence has created an online toolkit on court funding that is available at www.abanet.org/jd/courtfunding/home.html.

For more information, please contact Seth Andersen at 312/988-5124 or anderses@staff.abanet.org.

Professional Conduct Opinions Now Online; Archive Dates Back to 1986

With the new electronic version of the ABA/BNA *Lawyer's Manual on Professional Conduct*, bar association leaders and staff can have access to a wealth of professional conduct material. Available online are synopses of state and local bar association ethics opinions going back to 1986, full text of ABA standards and ethics opinions, analytical practice guides on the full range of professional conduct issues, and the latest news on professional conduct as well as a news archive dating back to 1998. The *Lawyer's Manual* is published by the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility and The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. Learn more online at www.abanet.org/cpr/manual.html. For more information, please contact Angela Burke at 312/988-5305 or angelaburke@staff.abanet.org.

Bar Leadership Institute Preview

The 2004 Bar Leadership Institute (BLI) will be held from March 11 – 13 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Chicago. The BLI, sponsored by the ABA Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services and the Division for Bar Services, is the premier leadership training conference for newly elected bar presidents and other presidential-track officers. During the three-day conference, bar leaders will learn from their peers and experts in the areas of bar leadership, governance and finance. Executive directors are encouraged to attend with their officers, as the shared BLI experience provides an opportunity for planning and team building.

Scheduled speakers include communications specialist Michael Sheehan, financial expert Paula Cozzi Goedert and fellow presidents and immediate past-presidents.

Registration materials will be mailed in mid-December and will also be available online. The BLI Web site, www.abanet.org/barserv/bli.html, also has a wealth of information including last year's program, an in-depth overview of the conference, and other materials. Questions about the BLI? Please contact Beverley Ware at 312/988-5353 or bware@staff.abanet.org.

Bar Services Division Says Thank You!

Over the last several months, the Division for Bar Services has sent out a few surveys to gauge the level of service we are providing to bar associations. These surveys help us determine how to better serve you and your members. Thank you to all those that responded; we appreciate it and will use your comments to make the division an even better resource for bar leaders and staff!

Awards

Nominations Sought for Gambrell Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 14th Annual E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Awards, recognizing projects that enhance professionalism among lawyers. Bar associations, law schools, law firms and other not-for-profit-law related organizations are eligible for the awards.

The ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism, a component of the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility, will present up to three awards of \$3,500 each during the 2004 ABA Annual Meeting in Atlanta. Award criteria include overall quality, replicability, likelihood of continuation, innovation, success, substantive strength in the area of professionalism, scope and other distinguishing features of the applicant programs.

The deadline for entries is March 31, 2004. Entry forms and guidelines are available online at www.abanet.org/cpr/gambrell.html. Questions regarding the awards should be directed to Kathleen Maher at 312/988-5307 or maherk@staff.abanet.org or Arthur Garwin at 312/988-5294 or agarwin@staff.abanet.org.

Brown Awards Now Accepting Nominations; Award Recognizes Legal Access Improvements

The ABA Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services is seeking nominees for the 2004 Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access. The award will be presented at the ABA Midyear Meeting in San Antonio. The Brown Award is presented to a program or project that encourages the delivery of legal services to those of moderate income. Nominations are due by December 1, 2003. Information is available online at www.abanet.org/legalservices/delivery/brownnomination.html. For further information, contact Will Hornsby at 312/988-5761 or whornsby@staff.abanet.org.

Brent Awards Looking for Excellent Women Lawyers

Nominations for the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Awards are being accepted through December 12, 2003, by the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession. The awards program, established in 1991, honors outstanding women lawyers who have achieved professional excellence within their area of specialty and have actively paved the way to success for other women lawyers. The awards will be presented on Sunday, August 8, 2004, at the ABA Annual Meeting in Atlanta. Previous Margaret Brent award recipients have ranged from small firm practitioners in Alabama and Alaska to U.S. Supreme Court justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor. Several women that have served as state and local bar presidents have been awarded the honor. For more information or to obtain a nomination form for the 2004 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, please contact Jennifer Walter at 312/988-5668 or walterj@staff.abanet.org. The nomination form also is available on the commission's Web site at www.abanet.org/women/nomform.html.

New Award Aimed at Law Teachers

A new award has been established by the ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism and the Conference of Chief Justices to recognize innovative and effective methods of teaching professionalism in law schools. The award, named "Innovation and Excellence in Teaching Professionalism" is open to full-time law teachers and is designed to promote teaching professionalism amongst law school students. For more information, please contact John Holtaway at 312/988-5298 or jholtaway@staff.abanet.org.

Law Day Activity and Finch Speech Winners Selected

Congratulations to five outstanding Law Day programs that have been selected to receive awards for their 2003 Law Day activities:

- Burlington County Law Day Project, Mt. Holly, NJ. (The Burlington County Bar Association was one of the partners in this effort).
- Connecticut Judicial Branch, Hartford, CT.
- Cumberland County Bar Association, Fayetteville, North Carolina.
- Dallas Bar Association, Dallas, TX.
- J.K. Mullen High School, Denver, CO.

The winners will be honored at the ABA Midyear meeting in San Antonio in February 2004. You can read all about the winners by visiting www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/oaa/home.html.

In addition, the three winners of the Judge Edward R. Finch Speech Competition will be honored at the 2004 ABA Midyear Meeting. The winners of the Finch award are:

First Place: Catherine Crier, Executive Editor, Legal News Specials, Court TV. The speech was given at the San Antonio (TX) Bar Association Law Day Luncheon, May 1, 2003.

Second Place: William L. Gary, Chief Judge, Second Judicial Circuit of the State of Florida. The speech was given at the Tallahassee Bar/Legal Aid Foundation "Law for All in the Courthouse" event, Tallahassee, Florida, May 1, 2003.

Third Place: Rosalie Silberman Abella, Justice, Court of Appeals for Ontario (Toronto, Ontario). The speech was given at the Palm Beach County (FL) Bar Association's Law Day Luncheon, May 1, 2003.

Their speeches can be viewed at www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/finch/home.html. In addition to the text of the speeches, guidelines for the 2004 Finch Award can be accessed as well.

Spirit of Excellence Award Winners Named

The Spirit of Excellence Awards honor an elite group of attorneys who have worked to promote a more racially and ethnically diverse legal profession. Recipients of the award are lawyers who excel in their professional settings, who 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 ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession has selected several bar leaders as recipients. The Honorable Royal Furgeson, Jr. and Arvo Quotone Mikkanen are two of the recipients of the 2004 Spirit of Excellence Award. Judge Furgeson, of San Antonio, TX, is past president of the El Paso Bar Association (1983) and currently serves as a U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas and the Chair of the State Bar of Texas Judicial Relations Committee. Mr. Mikkanen, of Oklahoma City, OK, is founder and president of the Oklahoma Indian Bar Association and a two-term president of The National Native American Bar Association.

Other recipients of the 2004 Spirit of Excellence Award include: Dr. Mary Frances Berry, Washington, DC; Norma V. Cantu, San Antonio, TX; E. Christopher Johnson, Detroit, MI; and Bill Lann Lee, San Francisco, CA.

This year's awards ceremony will take place during a luncheon at the ABA Midyear Meeting in San Antonio, TX, on Saturday, February 7, 2004. For more information about the luncheon or the award, please contact Regina Smith at 312/988-5508 or smithr@staff.abanet.org.

Resources

ABA Offering Free Consulting for LRIS Programs

The ABA's Network Infrastructure Group is now offering free consultations regarding telephone and technology issues your LRIS program might be facing. Please read over a simple checklist at www.abanet.org/legalservices/lris/par.html and then contact Jane Nosbisch at 312/988-5754 or jnosbisch@staff.abanet.org to arrange a consultation.

Issues Handbook Offers Briefings on Hot Topics

If you want to stay current on issues of concern to the organized bar look no further - the *Issues Handbook* can help. A concise resource and useful tool for ABA and state and local bar leadership, the handbook presents the issues in relatively short, objectively written "briefing" pages. Written and updated by ABA staff experts, the *Issues Handbook* covers more than 60 topics, including recent additions such as multijurisdictional practice, Sarbanes-Oxley, asbestos litigation and class actions. The handbook is available for \$10. Please contact Lori Boguslawski, ABA Division for Media Relations and Communication Services, at 312/988-6147 or boguslal@staff.abanet.org, with any questions.

ABA TECHSHOW Offering Discount Passes to Bar Associations

Any bar association that becomes a program promoter for the ABA TECHSHOW can receive free passes and discounts to the world's leading legal technology conference. The ABA TECHSHOW has received wide acclaim for its stellar educational programs and state-of-the-art technical exposition. The 2004 TECHSHOW will be held March 25-27, 2004, in Chicago, IL. Visit www.techshow.com/programpromoters.html for more information and to apply.

Rainmaking Tips for Women Lawyers Video Now Available for Purchase

Produced by ABA-CLE and the Woman Advocate Committee of the Section of Litigation, *Raindance: A New Video on Rainmaking Tips for Women Lawyers*, features ten women rainmakers who reveal strategies for developing business while taking into account lawyers' busy lives and commitments outside the office. It also includes interviews with in-house counsel and professionals who share—from a client's perspective—the marketing efforts that ultimately work and those that are ineffective. Several bar associations are already using this new videotape program as the basis for brown bag luncheons.

Packages, which include a softbound study guide, are available on DVD (\$99) and videotape (\$89). Additional copies of the study guide are available for \$20 each and may be used as course materials for in-house programs. For more information about, or to purchase *Raindance*, go to www.abanet.org/cle/products/v03rrtd.html or call 800/285-2221 and select option '2'.

ABA Career Center Publishes Guide for Corporate Law Departments

The ABA Career Center has recently published a new book, *The Productive Culture Blueprint for Corporate Law Departments and Their Outside Counsel* by Debra H. Snider. Written for both in-house counsel and the outside lawyers who serve them, *The Productive Culture Blueprint* provides a framework for building sustainable strategic productivity into law departments by redefining and reinvigorating both internal and external roles, all based on adding business value to the corporate client. Strategic partnering between corporations and outside law firms is one of the key concepts that comes alive in the pages of this comprehensive, user-friendly manual.

If you would like to review this publication for your newsletter or magazine, or are interested in negotiating a group rate, please contact Jill Eckert at 312/988-6215 or eckertj@staff.abanet.org. The manual is available in softbound (\$49.95 plus s/h) and PDF (\$45.00). For more information, please visit www.abanet.org/careercounsel, and click on "Career Publications" in the left navigation bar.

ABA Teleconferences Address Practical Skills for Your Members

The ABA Career Resource Center teleconferences are focused on the needs of your newer lawyer members and those who supervise them. You can easily host a teleconference in your

bar's office, or seek a local firm to provide space. All you'll need is a speakerphone set up in a conference room where your association's attorneys can gather.

The November teleconference, *Business Terminology By the Letters: Words and Phrases Lawyers Need to Know*, will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2003, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. E.S.T, and will address practical, up-to-date information on the language and concepts needed to better serve sophisticated corporate clients.

If you register for the November teleconference, you will receive a special discount on the New Lawyer Training and Retention Package, including the Meg Spencer Dixon audio package *So Little Time, So Much Paper*, and the audio of the previous ABA Career Resource Center teleconference, *Mistakes Lawyers Make*.

Please visit www.abanet.org/careercounsel/eventnov2003.html or contact Jill Eckert at 312/988-6215 or eckertj@staff.abanet.org for further event and registration information.

Previous teleconferences, *Time Management By The Numbers: Essential Principles Lawyers Need to Know* and *Mistakes Lawyers Make*, are now available in audiotape format for your association's library. Please visit www.abanet.org/careercounsel/crcofferings1.html for information on those programs.

ABA Book Publishing Distributor Discount Program – New Offering

The ABA Book Publishing Group has announced a new way of getting publications into the hands of your members and generating revenues along the way. The program allows bar associations to buy any ABA publication at a 40% discount. To eliminate the hassle of your staff fulfilling orders, email or fax us your order and we'll ship directly to your customer and invoice you at a 40% discount. You bill your customer and make a profit for your association!

Your members benefit, your bottom line benefits and there is no risk to you. There are no minimum quantities, time limits or hidden charges. Discover what many state, local and specialty bar associations have already discovered – selling ABA books is a profitable way to deliver valuable information to your members.

For more information on becoming a distributor, please contact Catherine Flanagan at 312/988-6112 or flanagac@staff.abanet.org.

Meetings

Second Annual Business Bar Conference Set for May

On May 12, 2004, the Section of Business Law will host the second annual Business Bar Leaders Conference in Chicago. This conference is designed to facilitate an ongoing interactive exchange of ideas and best practices among national minority, state and local business law bar leaders. In May 2003, a total of 32 bar organizations from all over the country participated in the inaugural

conference. For more information on the 2003 conference, including conference materials, please visit www.abanet.org/buslaw/stlocal/materials/030506/. For information on the 2004 conference, please contact Zenaida Arroyo at 312/988-5627 or arroyoz@staff.abanet.org.

Equal Justice Conference Provides Discounts to Bar Leaders

The ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference will be held April 15 - 17, in Atlanta. The conference will feature over 75 workshops and seminars for those dedicated to pro bono and legal services at all levels. Bar associations sending two or more people from its governing board receive a discounted registration. For conference details and registration, go to www.equaljusticeconference.org. For more information, please contact Dorothy Jackson at 312/988-5766 or jacksond@staff.abanet.org

National Conference for the Minority Lawyer Conference Set for June

The sixth annual National Conference for the Minority Lawyer: *A Unique Program for Litigators, Business Lawyers, In-House Counsel and Government Lawyers* will take place on June 17-18, 2004, in San Francisco, CA. The ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession and the ABA Section of Business Law co-sponsor the conference. The conference will offer a combination of practical training sessions and cutting-edge, substantive CLE programs designed specifically for minority business lawyers and litigators. For more information, please contact Zenaida Arroyo at 312/988-5627 or arroyoz@staff.abanet.org.