

Miscellaneous *Memo*

January 2005

PEOPLE

Bucks County Bar Association (PA)

- Executive Director **Patricia Martin** is retiring. **Heather Martin**, former executive director of the Baltimore County Bar Association, will succeed her.

Connecticut Bar Association

- **Christopher Blake**, 2002-03 chair of the National Association of Bar Executives Communications Section and the bar's communications director for more than nine years, has announced his resignation. Blake has accepted a position with an association management firm based in West Hartford, CT.

Corpus Christi Bar Association (TX)

- Executive Director **Irene Canales** will retire this June.

Los Angeles County Bar (CA)

- **Stuart A. Forsyth** is the bar's new executive director.

Louisiana State Bar Association

- **Darlene M. LaBranche** has joined the bar as its first publications coordinator.

NEWS

ABA-CLE Introduces New Version of Women and Minority Clearinghouse

The ABA Center for Continuing Legal Education has enhanced its online clearinghouse for minority and women faculty. The clearinghouse refers ABA entities to capable CLE speakers in many areas of law and practice.

The enhanced clearinghouse allows speakers to register or update their profiles online. CLE program chairs and planners may use the database to search for potential faculty.

Participating as a CLE speaker provides an opportunity for involvement in today's important legal issues, interaction with other expert faculty, valuable networking opportunities, and visibility as a national speaker. Visit www.abanet.org/cle/mcle/clearinghouse/landing_page.cfm to submit a profile.

ABA/YLD Seeking Database Updates

The ABA Young Lawyers Division (YLD) is soliciting officer information changes from young lawyer bar associations. To update to the ABA/YLD database, visit www.abanet.org/yld/affiliateleaders/AffiliateLeadershipUpdateForm.pdf.

The ABA/YLD operates as a federation of more than three hundred autonomous young lawyer organizations. Its affiliation system is designed to help them communicate and share ideas. ABA/YLD affiliates have access to numerous services and opportunities: project subgrants and awards, conference funding, individual attorney scholarships, and more.

For more information, contact Renee Lugo at lugor@staff.abanet.org, (312) 988-5611.

AWARDS

2005 Spirit of Excellence Award Recipients to be Honored

The Hon. Arthur Burnett, Sr., José C. Feliciano, Emanuel B. Halper, Karen K. Narasaki, and the Hon. Raymond S. Uno, (Inspiration Award) have been selected as the 2005 Spirit of Excellence Awards recipients. The awards are presented to lawyers who excel in their professional settings, personify excellence on the national, state, or local level, and have demonstrated a commitment to racial and ethnic diversity in the legal profession.

The 2005 awardees will be honored during a luncheon at the 2005 ABA Midyear Meeting in Salt Lake City. Tickets are \$115 and can be purchased in advance or at the door. For more ticket or sponsorship information, visit www.abanet.org/minorities/spirit/home.html, or contact Regina Smith at smithr@staff.abanet.org, (312) 988-5508.

ABA YLD Subgrants Applications to be Available Online

The American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division has announced that both Public Service and Member Service subgrant applications will be available on its Web site after January 15. The division awards subgrants to young lawyer affiliates to help them undertake public service and member support projects.

For more on the subgrants, visit www.abanet.org/yld/subgrant_info.html, or contact Barbara Sharpley at sharpzeb@staff.abanet.org, (312) 988-5671

Entries Sought for Levit Essay Contest

The ABA Standing Committee on Lawyers and Professional Liability is accepting submissions for the annual Levit Essay Contest on Lawyers' Professional Liability. The winner will receive \$5,000 and an expense-paid trip to the 2005 Spring National Legal Malpractice Conference in Boston on April 20-22, 2005.

The contest encourages original and innovative research and writing in the areas of legal malpractice law, professional liability insurance, and loss prevention. The essay topic is *Mandatory Legal Malpractice Insurance: What Are Its Implications for the Profession?* Submissions should address the pros and cons of mandatory legal malpractice insurance, and the problems presented by requiring lawyers to maintain professional liability coverage.

February 17, 2005, is the submission deadline. Contest rules and application form will be available at www.abalegalservices.org/levit.html. For more on the contest, contact Edna Driver at drivere@staff.abanet.org or (312) 988-5763.

Nominations Sought for Award for Distinguished Achievement in Environmental Law and Policy

The ABA is accepting nominations for the 2005 Award for Distinguished Achievement in Environmental Law and Policy. The award is presented to one person who and one organization or program that has led significant improvements in the substance, process, or understanding of environmental law or policy.

March 31, 2005 is the submission deadline. Award recipients will be honored at a ceremony and reception at the 2005 ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago.

For details and a nomination packet, visit www.abanet.org/publicserv/environmental or contact Hannah Yu at yuh@staff.abanet.org, (202) 662-1694.

Nominations Sought for E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Awards

The ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism, part of the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility, is accepting nominations for the fifteenth annual E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Awards. The awards recognize projects that enhance lawyer professionalism.

Up to three awards of \$3,500 each will be presented in Chicago during the 2005 ABA Annual Meeting. Bar associations, law schools, law firms, and other nonprofit, law related organizations are eligible. Award criteria include overall quality, duplicability, likelihood of continuation, innovation, success, substantive strength in the area of professionalism, scope, and other distinguishing features of the applicant programs.

March 31, 2005, is the entry deadline. Entry forms, guidelines, and information about previous recipients are available online at www.abanet.org/cpr/gambrell.html. For more on the awards, contact Kathleen Maher at maherk@staff.abanet.org, (312) 988-5307.

Nominations Sought for Harrison Tweed Award

The ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association are accepting nominations for the 2005 Harrison Tweed Award. The award recognizes state and local bar associations that increase access to legal services for the poor. It will be presented in August at the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago, in recognition of work during the year beginning April 1, 2004.

Visit www.abanet.org/legalservices/sclaid/harrisontweedinfo.html for a complete award description, past recipients, and nominating procedures. For other information about the award, contact Janice Jones at jonesj@staff.abanet.org, (312) 988-5767.

Nominations Sought for Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Awards

The ABA Commission on Women is accepting nominations for the 2005 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. The award is presented each year to five women lawyers who demonstrate professional excellence in their field and have paved the way to success for other women lawyers.

Past recipients include some of the world's most notable women lawyers, including U.S. Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor, former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, and the Honorable Bella Abzug. A more complete list of past recipients is at www.abanet.org/women/past.html.

The nomination form is at www.abanet.org/women/achievementawardform.html. The award luncheon will be Sunday, August 7, 2005, at the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago.

For more on the awards, visit www.abanet.org/women, or contact Julia Gillespie at gillespj@staff.abanet.org, (312) 988-5715.

PUBLICATIONS

New Bar President and Members of the Board

New Bar President and Members of the Board, by the ABA Division for Bar Services, is a succinct but comprehensive guide to bar leadership. The 24-page book covers every major aspect of bar management, from internal topics such as governance and financial management to member and public relations.

The book is full of quotes and checklists to help bar presidents and governing bodies effectively lead their associations. It is the only book of its kind for bar associations and leaders, and the essential guide to a successful bar presidency, an exceptional board, and a better bar.

To order single copies (\$14.95 each), visit www.abanet.org/barserv/pubs.html. For bulk orders and prices, call the ABA Service Center at (800) 285-2221 and ask for product code 1710122.

Legal Services Newsletter

The January edition of *Legal Services Now*, newsletter of the ABA's Division for Legal Services, is now online, at www.abanet.org/legalservices/sclaid/lsn.html.

2004 Survey of Unlicensed Practice of Law Committees

Does your jurisdiction permit non-lawyer practice? If non-lawyer practice is permitted, is it regulated/licensed? These and other law practice-related questions are answered in the recently released *2004 Survey of Unlicensed Practice of Law Committees*, sponsored by the ABA Standing Committee on Client Protection.

The survey includes an introduction and related charts. It is available online, at www.abanet.org/cpr/client.html, under Unlicensed Practice of Law.

Valuing Diversity: Law Firms and Leadership in the 21st Century

The program addresses such pivotal questions as, Why is a diverse workplace important for law firms? What are the current realities of professional life? What are the current barriers to a diverse workplace? How can law firms overcome these barriers? What first steps should law firm leaders take?

Available for \$25 on DVD, videotape, or audiotape. To order, visit www.abaclecatalog.org or call the ABA Service Center at (800) 285-2221.

RESOURCES

ABA Career Resource Center

The ABA Career Resource Center recently conducted a morning presentation for the State Bar of California's Young Lawyers Association. The association had invited center staff to speak to its members about finding professional success and satisfaction.

The presentation, *Saturday Suggestions for Defining Your Career: Making the Right Moves Today & Tomorrow*, focused on relying on more than luck for a lateral move. It covered career assessment, the fundamentals of a successful job search, and changing jobs and

careers. Center staff also reviewed resumes and moderated a panel on creative career paths and alternative careers.

To invite the center to one of your bar's career programs, contact Jill Eckert McCall at (312) 988-6215, or e-mail careers@abanet.org.

ABA-CLE Online Diversity Programs

Participate in an online diversity course through *CLE Now!* at www.abanet.org/cle/clenow/home.html. Numerous titles covering a variety of subjects are available, many of which are complimentary for ABA members.

ALA Legal Management Resource Center

The Association of Legal Administrators has added to its Web site a free, Legal Management Resource Center (LMRC), at thesource.alanet.org. The LMRC compiles articles and directories related to legal management issues and categorized under several main topics, including financial management, human resources management, and technology and information systems. Links are updated quarterly.

Expert Speaker on Chinese Law and Business

As bar associations turn their attention beyond their own backyard, the global community takes on more importance. James M. Zimmerman, the author of the Second Edition of *China Law Deskbook*, published in January 2005 by the ABA Section of International Law, is available to speak on a broad range of topics concerning Chinese legal and business issues.

Zimmerman, a partner with the law firm of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P. and the chief representative for the firm's Beijing, China office, is one of Asia's leading business lawyers in the categories of Chinese Law and Dispute Resolution. Among the subject areas on which he might speak are "The Rule of Law in China Post-WTO"; "Recent Legal Developments Affecting Foreign Business in China"; and "Legal Issues Every US Company Should Know Before Establishing A Presence or Expanding in China."

For information about Mr. Zimmerman's availability, contact Barbara Leff at leffb@staff.abanet.org or (312) 988-6116.

Information on Section Officers Conference Governance Proposals

Questions about SOC governance proposals can be directed to SOC Governance Committee Chair Hervey Levin at (972) 733-3242, hervey@airmail.net, or SOC Chair Mitch Orpett at (312) 201-6413, maorpett@tribler.com.

We the Jury Public Service Project

We The Jury is a public service project of the American Bar Association/Young Lawyers Division for the 2004-05 bar year. The project teaches junior high and high school students about the importance of jury service.

The project provides lawyer volunteers with a curriculum guide and handouts to teach students about the development of the jury system, how the right to trial by jury is guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, the voir dire process of selecting a jury, and the jury's role in trial proceedings. An interactive video presents students with a civil and/or criminal trial. Students then serve as jurors and deliberate to reach a verdict.

To order project materials, visit www.abanet.org/yld/wethejury/. For more information, visit the Web page or contact Renee Lugo at lugor@staff.abanet.org, (312) 988-5611.

West Online Editorial Resource Center

West has launched a free, online, editorial resource center for newsletter and journal editors. The center compiles downloadable articles written by West staff members on legal topics. Visit it at www.west.thomson.com/news/releases/resourcectr.asp.

MEETINGS

2005 Bar Leadership Institute

The ABA Division for Bar Services will host its 2005 Bar Leadership Institute (BLI) on March 10-12, 2005, at the Downtown Marriott in Chicago.

The BLI is the premier training conference for incoming bar association presidents and executive directors. The program, held annually, features plenaries, group discussions, and workshops on every aspect of bar management. Nearly 300 bar leaders attend. Speakers for this year's BLI include ABA President Robert Grey, ABA President-elect Michael Greco, leadership development speaker Michael Brandwein, and communications consultant Michael Sheehan.

For more on the 2005 BLI, visit its Web page at www.abanet.org/barserv/bli.html, or contact Beverley Ware at (312) 988-5353, bware@staff.abanet.org.

2005 Equal Justice Conference

The American Bar Association and the National Legal Aid Defenders Association will host the 2005 Equal Justice Conference on May 5-7, 2005, in Austin, TX. The conference will include more than 70 workshops on strengthening and expanding pro bono services, and feature special track programs for bar leaders. Keynote speakers will be

Sara Buel, ABA President Robert Grey, and nationally syndicated columnist and author Molly Ivins.

For more on the conference, contact Dorothy Jackson at jacksond@staff.abanet.org, (312) 988-5766.

Business Bar Leaders Conference

The ABA Section of Business Law will host the third annual Business Bar Leaders Conference, on May 11, 2005, in Chicago. The conference is a forum for national minority, state, and local business law bar leaders to exchange ideas and best practices.

More than 30 bar organizations from all over the country participated in the inaugural conference, in May 2003. The 2005 agenda includes a stellar lineup of topics and speakers, including ABA President Robert Grey.

For more on the conference, visit www.buslaw.org/cgi-bin/controlpanel.cgi?committee=CL870000&info=Business_Bar_Leaders_Conference, or contact the section office at (312) 988-5588.

Fifteenth Annual Margaret Brent Lawyers of Achievement Awards Luncheon

The ABA Commission on Women will host the fifteenth annual Margaret Brent Lawyers of Achievement Awards Luncheon on Sunday, August 7, 2005, at the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago. The award recognizes women lawyers who have achieved professional excellence.

Tables and tribute ads for the luncheon can be purchased now. Tickets can be purchased after the ABA Midyear Meeting in February. For more on the luncheon, call Julia Gillespie at (312) 988-5668.

Public Hearing on Model Code of Judicial Conduct

The ABA Joint Commission on Evaluation of the Model Code of Judicial Conduct will hold the eighth in a series of public hearings to obtain comments and suggestions relating to the existing code on Friday, February 11, 2005, at the ABA Midyear Meeting in Salt Lake City.

Individuals or organizations interested in appearing at the hearing can contact Commission Counsel Eileen Gallagher at gallaghe@staff.abanet.org or (312) 988-5105 by January 25, 2005. Electronic versions of proposed comments should be submitted by February 1, 2005.

Women in Law Leadership Academy

The ABA Commission on Women will host the second annual Women in Law Leadership Academy, on May 6, 2005, at the Hyatt McCormick Place Hotel in Chicago.

The academy motivates women lawyers with fewer than ten years practice experience to enhance their skills and learning, and helps them direct effective careers through mentoring and networking.

For registration information, visit www.abanet.org/women or call the commission at (312) 988-5715.

Visit our [Calendar of Key Meetings](#) for a list of upcoming bar conferences.