

 DIVISION FOR BAR SERVICES

Miscellaneous *Memo*



Top Stories

- [ABA Task Force Says Military Tribunals Justified](#)
- [Midyear Meeting Issues](#)
- [State Planning Assistance Network Launches Access to Justice Web site](#)
- [Law Day 2001 Awards Announced](#)
- [2001 Survey of State and Local Justice Improvement Activities Available Online](#)

Awards

Issues

Resources

People

Events

Please contact Dan Rubin at drubin@staff.abanet.org with any questions regarding the *Memo* or programs mentioned.

Miscellaneous *Memo*



Awards

Issues

Resources

People

Events

ABA Task Force Says Military Tribunals Justified

The American Bar Association Task Force on Terrorism and the Law has found that the September 11 attacks were arguably violations of the law of war that would justify the use of military commissions to prosecute cases involving suspected terrorists, as announced in President George W. Bush's November 13 Executive Order.

But in a report forwarded to the Department of Defense, the Task Force recommended that the commissions should be used only in "narrow circumstances in which compelling security interests justify their use."

At the Midyear Meeting several resolutions responding to the September 11 terrorist attacks, including one addressing the structure of military tribunals will be debated. Another resolution urges the federal government to protect and uphold the attorney/client privilege in its efforts to combat international money laundering.

Midyear Meeting Issues and Governmental Affairs Update

The 63rd ABA Midyear Meeting will take place from January 30 to February 5 in Philadelphia. The headquarters for the meeting will be the Philadelphia Marriott. Here is a quick rundown of various recommendations that will be discussed at the Midyear Meeting:

- Urge public financing of judicial campaigns in states where judges are elected
- Urge that federal, state, territorial and municipal courts be made accessible to individuals with disabilities
- Urge the use of translators for non-English speaking individuals in any judicial or administrative proceeding
- Urge the expansion of work opportunities for jail and prison inmates
- Update ABA Criminal Justice Standards that address when and under what conditions criminal defendants should be released pending trial

In addition, the Ethics 2000 Commission has resubmitted its report to the House of Delegates for debate at the Midyear Meeting. The new report can be found on the Commission's Web site -www.abanet.org/cpr/ethics2k.html, after January 1. For additional information, please contact Sue Campbell at suecampbell@staff.abanet.org or 312-988-5328.

Finally, ABA Officers and Governmental Affairs Office (GAO) Director Robert Evans will lead a discussion of the hot-button issues currently being considered by Congress or an Executive Branch agency. Evans will discuss

Please contact Dan Rubin at drubin@staff.abanet.org with any questions regarding the *Memo* or programs mentioned.

pending legislation including:

- Gramm/Leach/Bliley: Impact of new law that may require law firms to comply with burdensome privacy notices intended to cover financial institutions and status of ABA efforts to clarify the law.
- Legal Services Corporation: FY 2003 Funding and Selection of new LSC Board of Directors and President.
- ABA/Bar Association Program to Provide Legal Services to Deploying Military Personnel

If you are interested in attending these events, please contact Julie Strandlie in the Governmental Affairs Office at 202/662-1764 or jstrandlie@staff.abanet.org.

MJP Roundtable at Midyear Meeting

MJP Roundtable at Midyear Meeting "Common Sense" Proposal to be Discussed The American Bar Association Law Practice Management Section will hold an educational roundtable on the subject of multijurisdictional practice from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, February 3, at the Philadelphia Marriott Hotel during the ABA 2002 Midyear Meeting.

Both the section and the ABA's Commission on Multijurisdictional Practice support MJP reform. The section's "Common Sense" proposal recommends authorizing MJP for the entire bar, except for lawyers who are not employed counsel in a state, but who wish to maintain a permanent presence there. The commission's Interim Report recommends that MJP should still be categorized as unauthorized practice, but that a number of "safe harbors" should exempt a majority of the bar from its prohibition.

The interim report is posted at www.abanet.org/cpr/mjp-home.html It is expected that the ABA House of Delegates will consider MJP reform at the 2002 Annual Meeting next August in Washington, D.C. For more information, please contact John A. Holtaway at 312/988-5298 or jholtaway@staff.abanet.org.

Combating Terrorism in the Environmental Trenches

The ABA Standing Committee on Environmental Law is hosting its annual spring conference on Friday, April 12, 2002 in Washington, D.C. The event is co-sponsored by the Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice, the Section of International Law and Practice, and the Tort and Insurance Practice Section, in cooperation with American University, Washington College of Law.

The interdisciplinary program features noted tort lawyers and litigators, public health specialists and government officials examining critical environmental considerations in the context of terrorism. Panels address preparing for terrorism, responding to terrorism, clean-up and financing, and "future torts."

Discussions will include concrete lessons learned from the Pentagon and World Trade Center disasters; proposals for site security; evolving causes of action; insurance considerations; legal, regulatory and administrative constraints and opportunities; and more. Discounts are offered for government, academics,

non-governmental organizations and students. For more information, contact Eileen Zorc at 202/662-1694 or scelconf@abanet.org. Information is also available at www.abanet.org/publicserv/environmental.

International Bar Association to Offer Learning Diploma

The International Bar Association (IBA) recently announced it will work with the College of Law of England and Wales to develop an International Distance Learning Practice Diploma

The program, aimed at lawyers throughout the world, will include distance learning modules in a number of key practice areas. Lawyers from developing countries are likely to be among the prime beneficiaries of the work. A number of national bars have already expressed their support. It is proposed that seven modules will be developed over an initial three-year period, primarily in the corporate and commercial fields.

The program will be accredited by the College and candidates who successfully complete a module will be awarded an IBA/College of Law Practice Diploma in the relevant area. A lawyer completing five modules will become an IBA Fellow in International Legal Practice. For more information, please contact Kathleen Sullivan at the ABA's International Liaison Office at 312/988-5107 or SullivanKash@staff.abanet.org.

[Return to Top](#)

Miscellaneous *Memo*



Awards

Issues

Resources

People

Events

Law Day 2001 Activity Winners Selected

Congratulations to six outstanding Law Day programs that were selected to receive awards for their 2001 Law Day activities:

- Alabama Center for Law & Civic Education
- Baton Rouge Bar Foundation
- Maricopa County (Ariz.) Bar Association
- Napa (Calif.) Superior Court
- Nevada County (Calif.) Bar Association
- Philadelphia (Pa.) Bar Association

You can read all about the winners by visiting:

www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/oaa/home.html

Runners up included the Miami (Fla.) Senior High School Legal and Public Affairs Magnet Program; the Onondaga County (N.Y.) Bar Association; the Superior Court of Los Angeles County and the L.A. County Girl Scouts; the U.S. Army's Patton Legal Center in Germany; the Washington State Bar; and the Wisconsin Director of State Courts Office.

Check out their exemplary work -- and that of 20 other Law Day 2001 programs at www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/ideas/home.html

Law Day 2001 Speech Winners Announced

Congratulations to the three winners of the 2001 Judge Edward R. Finch Law Day Speech Competition.

First Place: Justice Harriet O'Neill, Supreme Court of Texas

Second Place: Justice Wallace B. Jefferson, Supreme Court of Texas

Third Place: Morris Dees, Southern Poverty Law Center

These excellent speeches make great reading. Access them by visiting:

www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/finch/2001win.html.

You might want to bookmark this page--it gives you guidelines for entering the 2002 Speech Competition.

Nominations Sought for 2002 ABA Pro Bono Publico Awards

Nominations are now being sought for the 2002 ABA Pro Bono Publico Awards - the preeminent pro bono awards within the American Bar Association. The Pro Bono Publico Awards were established in 1984 and are designed to recognize extraordinary contributions to extending pro bono legal services to poor and disadvantaged people by individual lawyers and

Please contact Dan Rubin at drubin@staff.abanet.org with any questions regarding the *Memo* or programs mentioned.

institutions within the legal profession. The award program is administered by the ABA's Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service.

The Pro Bono Committee is seeking nominations of individual attorneys who do not earn their income delivering legal services to the poor. Large and small law firms, corporate law departments, government attorneys offices and other institutions in the legal profession whose members have collectively made an outstanding contribution toward one of the award's criteria are also eligible. Not more than five awardees will be selected.

Interested parties should visit

www.abanet.org/legalservices/pbpages/pbawards.html for more information.

Nominations must be received by March 11, 2002. Award recipients will be notified no later than April 29, 2002. The awards will be presented at the Pro Bono Publico Awards Assembly Luncheon on August 12, 2002, at the ABA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Lawyer as Problem Solver Award

The Section of Dispute Resolution is soliciting nominations for the First Annual Lawyer as Problem Solver Award. This award recognizes lawyers who use their lawyering and problem-solving skills to forge creative solutions in their careers. The award will be given to a member of the legal profession who has exhibited extraordinary skill in either promoting the concept of the lawyer as problem-solver or resolving individual, institutional, community, state, national, or international problems.

Recipients will be acknowledged for their use or promotion of collaboration, negotiation, mediation, counseling, decision-making, and problem-solving skills to help parties resolve a problem in a creative and novel way. The 2002 Lawyer as Problem Solver award winner will be recognized at the ABA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Nomination forms are due by May 1. For a nomination form, call 202/662-1680 or visit www.abanet.org/dispute.

Nominations Sought for 2002 Harrison Tweed Award

The ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association invite nominations for the 2002 Harrison Tweed Award.

The Harrison Tweed Award was created in 1956 to recognize the extraordinary achievements of state and local bar associations that develop or significantly expand projects or programs to increase access to civil legal services to poor persons or criminal defense services to indigents.

The award will be presented in August at the 2002 ABA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC in recognition of work done during the year beginning April 1, 2001. Projects which began prior to that date will be considered if substantial services have been provided between April 1, 2001 and March 31, 2002.

Nominations must be postmarked by April 1, 2002. A full description of the award, past recipients and nominating procedures are available at www.abalegalservices.org/sclaidawd-nom.html or by calling 312/988-5767.

Business Law Pro Bono Awards - Nominees Wanted

The Pro Bono Committee of the Business Law Section is seeking nominations for its National Public Service Award. The award will be presented at the Section's 2002 Spring Meeting to be held in April, in Boston, Mass. The recipients of the award will have undertaken a significant public service project(s) that provided free business law representation to the poor or to an organization that predominantly serves the poor, or improves the provision of such services.

The Committee will present awards in two categories--one recognizing the pro bono contributions of an individual and one recognizing those of a firm/corporate legal department. Nominees for the Award may be individuals, firms, or corporate legal departments, but they may not include individuals who provide legal services for a fee to the poor or to organizations that predominantly serve the poor.

For information about nominations, please contact Joanne Travis at travisj@staff.abanet.org or 312/988-5575.

[Return to Top](#)

Miscellaneous *Memo*



Awards

Issues

Resources

People

Events

Law Day Planning Guide Printed, Online

The 2002 Law Day Planning Guide has been printed. If you've ordered copies, they should have arrived at your association.

The guide is also available online. Access www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/guidemain.html for a PDF of the guide, which you can download and use in your planning meetings. The theme of Law Day this year is "Assuring Equal Justice for All."

You can receive periodic updates on activities and resources you can use by signing up for the Law Day listserv. Just access www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/ and add yourself to the list for e-mail updates. Contact Charlie White at 312/988-5732 or charliewhite@staff.abanet.org for more information.

ABA Journal Launches Weekly Electronic Edition

The new year ushered in a new era for the ABA Journal as it launched a new electronic publication, the *e-Report*, on January 14.

Published weekly, the *e-Report* provides American Bar Association members with breaking news, timely features, and information that practicing lawyers will find important to the profession, the justice system and the practice of law.

The newsletter is free to all ABA members. Members who supplied their e-mail address will receive the publication. If a member wishes to subscribe, please visit www.abanet.org/journal/dec01/home.html.

Administration of Justice Publication Shows How to Improve the Courts

The Improvement of the Administration of Justice, 7th Edition, will be available in the spring. The book is a tool for those interested in undertaking any of a variety of court improvement projects. This volume is the first revision since 1981.

Chapter topics include access to prompt and affordable justice, promoting lawyer professionalism and civility in the courts and litigants without lawyers.

To order this publication, contact the ABA Service Center at 800/285-2221 and reference PC #523-0050. The cost is \$40.00 (1-2 copies). For Judicial Division members, the price is \$30.00 (1-5 copies). If you have questions about the publication, please contact the Judicial Division staff at 312/988-5705.

Third Edition of Directory of Minority Judges Set for Publication

The Directory of Minority Judges, 3rd Edition, will be published at the 2002

Please contact Dan Rubin at drubin@staff.abanet.org with any questions regarding the *Memo* or programs mentioned.

Midyear Meeting in Philadelphia. The directory is the most comprehensive compendium of all minority judges in the United States.

It's easy to use, with geographical listings of African-American, Asian/Pacific Island, Hispanic, Native American, and Tribal Court Judges. The directory is a resource for law students and young lawyers to identify role models and strengthen their commitment to the legal profession. Finally, it's a reference for members of the bar and public to identify distinguished jurists in their communities.

To order this one-of-a-kind publication, contact the ABA Service Center at 800/285-2221 and reference PC # 523003201. The cost is \$49.95 (1-5 copies). For Judicial Division members, the price is \$39.95 (1-5 copies). If you have questions about the publication, please contact the Judicial Division staff at 312/988-5705.

State Planning Assistance Network Launches Access to Justice Web Site

The State Planning Assistance Network (SPAN), a joint project of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association and the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants, has launched a Web Site: www.nlada.org/Civil/Civil_SPAN/Civil_SPAN_Home.

"The SPAN Report: Access to Justice Partnerships, State by State" is posted on the site, and includes information about access to justice initiatives across the country. The site also features contact information organized by state, a document library, the quarterly Span Update, and links to resources useful to state-level partnerships among the bar, the courts, and legal aid providers seeking to increase access to justice.

For more information, please contact the SPAN project at span@nlada.org.

2001 Survey of State and Local Justice Improvement Activities Available Online

The ABA Coalition for Justice has added the results of its 2001 Survey of State and Local Justice Improvement Activities to the Office of Justice Initiatives Web site at www.abanet.org/justice.

This electronic version of the Summary of State and Local Justice Improvement Activities--2001 provides the latest information on justice reform, especially "justice initiative" activities that include the public in partnership with courts and bar associations. Browse the "Summary-2001" area to view your state's current justice reform activities; check out what other states are doing to strengthen public trust and confidence in the justice system; and view the topical summaries for an overview of what's happening around the country to improve access, encourage alternate dispute resolution, eliminate bias in the courts, and more.

For further information, contact Paula Nessel at the ABA Office of Justice Initiatives at paulanessel@staff.abanet.org or 312/988-5450.

Webcast, Teleconference Call to Discuss Legal Malpractice Cost

The ABA Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability and the ABA Center for Continuing Legal Education are hosting a 90 minute teleconference and Webcast that will discuss how lawyers can control the costs of legal malpractice insurance. The call is set for February 2 at 1:00 PM

Eastern Standard Time.

The panel on the call will discuss solid loss prevention principles that should help keep insurance premiums low.

Key issues to be discussed include:

- What are the "best practices" you can implement to lower your premium cost?
- What can you do on your application to demonstrate that you are an insurable risk?
- What can you do to reduce your premium from your long-term carrier?
- Can switching carriers affect cost and availability and can it cause coverage gaps?
- Will insurance be available?
- How will world events affect the niche market of legal malpractice insurance?

Cost for the event is \$85 for ABA members; and \$110 for all other registrants. Additional registrants who use the same phone line pay only \$60.

To register, call 800/285-2221, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. To register online, please visit:

www.abanet.org/cle/programs/t02cym1.html

Law Practice Quarterly Subscription Offer

The Law Practice Management Section has a special offer for state and local bar groups that would like to offer their members a valuable law practice management benefit. The Section's newsletter, *Law Practice Quarterly*, is available to these groups for the cost of \$12 a year per member. Single issues can be purchased as well at \$3 each per member.

This subscription provides members with four issues of the Quarterly, full of insightful and practical information on legal technology, networking, practice development and marketing. The Law Practice Management Section offers this resource to develop and promote strong partnerships with similar state and local bar groups. For more information on how your group can provide members with the Law Practice Quarterly, email editor Ed Dietel at ENDJED@aol.com.

[Return to Top](#)

Miscellaneous *Memo*



Awards

Issues

Resources

People

Events

- **Deborah Fleischaker** joined the ABA as project director of the newly established ABA Death Penalty Moratorium Implementation Project. She can be reached at 202-662-1661 or FleischD@staff.abanet.org.
- **David Blaner** is the new executive director of the Allegheny County Bar Association. Blaner worked for 10 years at the ACBA, serving as deputy executive director and then as assistant executive director. Blaner can be reached at dblaner@acba.org or 412/402-6601.
- **Mona Buckley** has left the role of executive director at the Multnomah Bar Association to join ABA as Director of the International Law Section, located in the ABA Washington D.C. office.
- **Linda Tangeman**, communications director for the Wyoming State Bar, is leaving her job to go to the Wyoming Attorney General's office. No successor has been selected yet.
- The new executive director of the Sonoma County Bar (CA) is **Joyce Shimetz**. She can be reached at 707/542-1190 or info@sonomacountybar.org

[Return to Top](#)

Please contact Dan Rubin at drubin@staff.abanet.org with any questions regarding the *Memo* or programs mentioned.

Miscellaneous *Memo*



Awards

Issues

Resources

People

Events

Equal Justice Conference Set for April in Cleveland

The Equal Justice Conference brings together the key members of the legal community to discuss equal justice issues. Its main focus is client-based service and the ways to increase equality in the legal field.

This year, the event is being held in Cleveland, Ohio on April 18-20, 2002.

The 2002 Conference will focus on securing better futures for clients, program, staffs, the courts and the legal profession. The conference will explore the partnerships that must be created, the resources that must be tapped, and the new issues facing clients. These discussions will take place in the context of a changing society -- one seeking to respond effectively and appropriately with threats to our clients' personal and economic security while working to expand opportunities for all to prosper.

Early registrations ends on February 15, the registration deadline is March 29. For more information, contact Benjamin Woodson at 312/988-5308 or woodsonb@staff.abanet.org. Also make sure to visit www.nlada.org or www.abaprobono.org.

Brownfield Issues to Be Explored at Meeting

The recent spate of brownfields redevelopment has created a host of legal and ethical questions for real estate, environmental, transactional and municipal lawyers.

Join the ABA Section of State and Local Government Law for a three-part exploration of the complex and timely topic of "Brownfields and Environmental Justice."

The meeting will be held in Los Cabos, Mexico on April 27, 2002. Contact Jackie Baker at JLBaker@staff.abanet.org or 312/988-5652 for more information.

TechShow 2002 Highlights Practical Uses of Technology in the Law Field

The 2002 ABA TechShow is geared at showing the practical uses of technology in today's law profession. Running from March 14 - 16 in Chicago, IL, the show will feature six different tracks geared toward the specific concerns of lawyers and other legal professionals of all interests and all technology needs.

Also featured will be a "Courtroom of the Future" exhibit that shows how technology can make in a difference in today's courtrooms.

Early registration ends on February 2. To register and for more information, please visit www.techshow.com.

Please contact Dan Rubin at drubin@staff.abanet.org with any questions regarding the *Memo* or programs mentioned.

[Return to Top](#)