



February 2005

## In Memoriam



### James J. Podell

Former Section of Family Law Chair, James J. Podell died on January 29, 2005 at the age of 64 after a courageous four-year battle against cancer. Jim served as chair of the Section from 1993 to 1994 and was the husband of current Section Chair Peggy L. Podell. [Learn more about his life.](#)

## Family Law Docket

### Working Group Reconvenes

The Section's Working Group on Same Sex Marriage and Non-Marital Unions [has been reconvened](#) under the leadership of past Section Chair Sandra Morgan Little.

### The Section of Family Law Wants You!

If you have ever served or are currently serving in the military we would like to know about it. [Find out more.](#)

## Articles

### Your Ethical Dilemma: Confronting the Crisis of a Client's Hidden Cash

by Linda Fidnick

Sometimes a client files financial information you later discover to be false. What could you have done to prevent it and what should you do now? Read more about this dilemma in [this month's featured article.](#)

### The New Service Members Relief Act

By Mark E. Sullivan

On December 19, 2003, President Bush signed into law the "Servicemembers Civil Relief Act" (SCRA), a complete revision of the statute known as "The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act," or SSCRA. Even for lawyers with no military base nearby, this federal statute is important. [Learn more.](#)

## Upcoming CLE Opportunities

### Spring 2005 CLE Conference and Committee Meetings

**April 13-16 in Austin, Texas**  
Culture, music, and fun await you! Join your colleagues for three days of outstanding CLE programming, networking and socializing in the heart of the

## MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

A practical guide to member benefits, helping you make your Section membership work for you.

### This month's featured benefit:

The Spring CLE Conference and Committee Meetings

[What is it?](#)

[What's in it for me?](#)

[How obtain more information and register to attend?](#)

What is it?

Packed with 14 outstanding CLE programs on a wide range of topics that impact your practice, as well as exciting social events and committee and governance meetings, the Spring CLE Conference is a fabulous opportunity for learning, networking, and fun.

CLE sessions take place each day and include a number of high quality presenters. There will also be a Wednesday evening

## **2005 Schwab Memorial Essay Contest Underway**

The 2005 contest is now underway. Communications have been mailed out to all student members of the Section as well as all Law Student Division members. The Section is anticipating an even greater response than last year when 40 essay entries were submitted.

[Find out more](#) about the contest; how to submit an entry request; rules and eligibility.

## **Best of the Listserv**

We have picked one topic of discussion from the ESQ listserv for [February's best of the listserv](#).

Lone Star State at the Spring CLE Conference and Committee Meetings. [Find out more](#) or [register now](#).

### **Upcoming Teleseminar**

On Tuesday, March 1, 2005 the Section of Family Law and the ABA Center for Continuing Legal Education will present a 90-minute teleconference on Discovery of Mental Health Records in Child Custody Cases. Featuring Judge Debra Lehrmann and attorney Carlton Stansbury this program will present an in-depth view of the conflict between the court's interest in searching out the truth and a party's right to privacy as recognized by the privilege surrounding one's mental health records. [More information](#).

### **Did you miss a Section of Family Law Teleseminar?**

Information on past Section of Family Law teleseminars and information on audiotapes and CDs for past [offerings can be viewed online](#) at the Section of Family Law website.

### **2005 Trial Advocacy Institute Registration is Filling Up Fast!**

Registration for the [Annual Trial Advocacy Institute](#) has begun. Whether you are a new family law practitioner or a seasoned veteran, you can expand your trial skills at the Institute. Approaching its 20-year anniversary, the program offers attendees an intense week-long training experience taught by the country's premiere family law trial lawyers. Register now -- this program sells out quickly every year.

### **Special Family Law Track at ABA Techshow 2005**

Law Student Program entitled "Careers in Family Law: A Program for Law Students and Recent Graduates." [Find out more now](#) or by contacting section staff at [brownl@staff.abanet.org](mailto:brownl@staff.abanet.org).

#### **What's in it for me?**

The three-day program features 14 outstanding educational programs totaling 26 hours of CLE. The conference is an excellent way to get involved with the ABA Section of Family Law by attending one or more of the Section's 22 substantive committees and Section's Council meeting. Meeting attendees receive special discounted prices on Section of Family Law publications purchased at the meeting and enjoy a number of networking functions including daily breakfasts, evening receptions, dine-arounds that allow you to try out some of the cities best restaurants and two, ticketed social events.

How obtain more information and register to attend?

A full conference brochure and registration information as well as an online registration option are available on the Section's website [in the events area](#).

ABA TECHSHOW 2005 will be held at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers on March 31st - April 1st. The Section of Family Law is co-sponsoring a new Family Law Track this year, and you can save up to \$200 on tuition fees. [Find out how.](#)

### **Annual Meeting 2005 Spring Preview**

The Section of Family Law will meet August 5-7, 2005 in conjunction with the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The headquarters hotel for the Section of Family Law is the Hyatt Regency Chicago. [Find out more.](#)

#### **Editor**

Lindy Brown  
[brownl@staff.abanet.org](mailto:brownl@staff.abanet.org)  
Please send proposals for future content submissions to the editor.

---

#### **Contact Information**

Section of Family Law  
321 N. Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60610  
312-988-5603  
fax 312-988-6800  
[familylaw@abanet.org](mailto:familylaw@abanet.org)

---

#### **ABA Email Privacy**

Your e-mail address will only be used within the ABA and its entities. We do not sell or rent e-mail addresses to anyone outside the ABA.

The complete [ABA Privacy Statement](#) is posted on ABAnet.org for your review.

#### **Unsubscribe or Update Your Email Address**

To change your e-mail address or remove your name from any future general distribution e-mails, log in to the [myABA area](#), then edit your member profile.

If you prefer, call us at 800-285-2221 or write to:  
**American Bar Association  
Service Center  
321 N. Clark St.  
Chicago, IL 60610**

#### **PDF version**

If you are unable to view this page in HTML, it can also be downloaded and viewed as a [pdf file](#).

---

©2005  
[American Bar Association](#)

[ABA Copyright Statement](#)