Corporate Support Policy and Guidelines

(Adopted January 1998)

I. General Policies

A. Definitions.

Corporate support or sponsorship is defined as outside funding, underwriting, or any in-kind contribution of goods or services for a Section of Antitrust Law event, program, meeting, activity, publication, or product. Corporate support or sponsorship does not include:

1. Speaker expenses provided in connection with a program where these expenses are borne by the organization with which the speaker is affiliated or employed; contribution of professional or support staff time to work on Section activities, projects, products and publications; provision of in-kind support for participation of Section members in Section activities, products, projects and publications, including but not limited to research assistance, word processing services, mailing and reproduction services, office supplies, preparation of camera-ready copy for publications; or similar assistance or contributions associated with the participation in Section activities by individual Section members.

2. Member benefit activities pursuant to which a discount or other benefit is made available to individual Section members, who are free to accept or reject the benefit.

3. Agreements between the Section and commercial entities for the marketing, distribution, or dissemination of previously published Section periodicals or publications in electronic or other form or as part of a compilation, treatise, textbook, or other written work.

B. The Section of Antitrust Law will not enter into any corporate support agreement that designates a commercial entity or organization as a corporate sponsor (including, but not limited to official or exclusive sponsor) of the Section.
C. The Section of Antitrust Law will not enter into any corporate support agreement that involves the Antitrust Section in certifying or endorsing any commercial product or service through the use of the Section's name, logo, seal, etc.

D. The Section of Antitrust Law will not permit corporate support for or sponsorship of any Section publication, except for advertising materials, which will be considered for inclusion in Section periodicals on a case-by-case basis.

E. The Section of Antitrust Law will not provide the mailing list of the Section's members in exchange for or in connection with any provisions of corporate support or sponsorship.

F. In any case in which the corporate support or sponsorship is accepted, it must not conflict with any of the general purposes or established policies of either the American Bar Association or the Section of Antitrust Law.

II. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

The Section of Antitrust Law will consider the acceptance of corporate support or sponsorship for Section meetings, programs, CLE activities or associated social events (e.g., cocktail parties) on a case-by-case basis, but such support will not be permitted when it creates appearance or perception problems by suggesting that the independence of the Section's programs or their content has been compromised or when it limits the participation of government attorneys and members of the judiciary in Section activities.

The following guidelines shall govern the process of review, approval, and oversight of any corporate support or sponsorship for activities, projects, productions, and publications of the Section of Antitrust Law. These procedures apply only to the activities within the scope of the first paragraph of this section.
A. All proposals for corporate support or sponsorship shall be described with specificity in a written request for approval.

B. All such written requests for approval of corporate support or sponsorship shall be considered in the first instance by the Officers of the Section of Antitrust Law, who are authorized to reject any proposals that, in their sole discretion, do not comply with the Section of Antitrust Law Corporate Support Policy and Guidelines.

C. If a corporate support or sponsorship proposal is approved by the Officers of the Section of Antitrust Law, the proposal also shall be presented to the Council of the Section of Antitrust Law for its approval, which must be granted before the proposal can be accepted.

D. At the end of any fiscal year in which any corporate support or sponsorship was received by the Section, the Finance Officer of the Section of Antitrust Law shall prepare a report for the Council of the Section that identifies the revenue received from all corporate support or sponsorship activities.

E. The Section of Antitrust Corporate Support Policy and Guidelines shall be included within and reprinted as part of the Section of Antitrust Law Policy, Procedure and Leadership Handbook.