Comments from the Chair of the House
William R. Bay

Welcome to our second issue of the House of Delegates newsletter produced by the Technology and Communications Committee. I hope you are looking forward to our time together in Las Vegas. The House committees have been hard at work preparing for our meeting. In this newsletter, you will see further details about what the Resolution & Impact, Select, Credentials and Rules and Calendar Committees are doing.

We are truly blessed with a hard-working group of House committees who are talented, enthusiastic and reflect the best of our diverse Association and House – 53% are female and 42% are ethnically diverse, nearly 40% are 50 years of age or younger and more than 1 in 7 have practiced less than 10 years*. I commend to you their work and the job they are doing to tell the story of the House – who we are, what we do and how we do much of our work.

As you make your final preparations for Las Vegas, please allocate sufficient time to review the Resolutions with Reports that will be considered by the House. Be prepared to spend time with your fellow delegates as we debate and vote on these important issues on Monday. See you in Vegas!

* We don't have good demographic data yet for identifying those who identify with the LGBTQ and disability communities. We continue to encourage everyone to update their membership profiles.
Who brings the resolutions to the House?

In the last 3 years, the House has considered resolutions from many sources. This is a list of primary sponsors by type:

- **Practice-focused ABA Sections and Forums**: 39%
- **ABA Commissions**: 14%
- **State, local, and special-focus bar associations**: 14%
- **Other ABA entities**: 14%
- **ABA Divisions such as Young Lawyers, Law Students, and Senior Lawyers**: 14%
- **Entities which are treated in a special way (National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Law, Section of Legal Education & Admissions to the Bar, and Standing Committee on Paralegals)**: 9%
- **ABA Standing Committees**: 6%
What Do We Do?
*By the Resolution and Impact Review Committee*

At every House of Delegates Meeting, during each Annual and Mid-year Meeting, virtually every ABA constituency – Sections, Committees, Divisions, Forums, and Commissions, State and Local Bar Associations – presents Reports, Recommendations and formal Resolutions for consideration by the members of the House.

Have you ever wondered what actually happens after a Resolution is passed by the House? Or which Resolutions have had a genuine impact on public policy, the justice system or legal profession?

The role of the House Resolution and Impact Review Committee is to review every Resolution adopted during the prior three (3) years, and analyze the nature of each Resolution and its relative impact. Most importantly, the Committee communicates the impact of the House’s work to all lawyers, not just members of the ABA.

Historically, the Resolution and Impact Review Committee has sought to identify as many as 8 to 10 Resolutions with exemplary impact, and which could be effectively communicated through a professionally-produced video. One or more of those videos are then aired during subsequent House meetings, and posted to the House’s website.

This year, at the request of Chair of the House Bill Bay, the Committee is building on that historical model with an innovative approach. The Committee intends to group the various Resolutions into 10 broad topics or “buckets” to facilitate a more robust analysis. (In the past, Resolutions have been grouped using the 49 categories in the ABA Greenbook (Policy and Procedure Handbook).) We believe grouping the Resolutions in broad topic categories, and by sponsoring entities, will yield greater understanding of the House’s work. Moreover, our members and non-members should receive clearer information on the nature of the House’s work and the entities responsible for that work... at least during the three year period of 2016 through 2018.
With this article is a sample of the Committee’s efforts – a chart entitled “Who brings the resolutions to the House?” This chart is the start of our categorization and illustration efforts. As you can see, more than a third of our resolutions are proposed by practice-focused ABA Sections and Forums.

In yet another innovation, the Committee will soon launch the Resolution Impact Video Challenge to encourage and enable each sponsoring ABA entity to share its own “story” about one or more Resolutions from the past three years that have a significant impact on the ABA, our profession, or broader society. The Committee expects that each video, limited to 2 to 4 minutes, can be captured and edited through an average smartphone. Current smartphone technology makes such efforts surprisingly easy and certainly affordable. The format of each video can express the creativity of the producing entity, and may include narration, vignette, slides, or other visual or sound effects; no professional production is necessary. We hope to provide a sample smartphone video to demonstrate the ease of recording, and the anticipated quality of sound and resolution.

The Committee will review any submitted videos on a rolling basis from February 4 through April 26, 2019. We hope to determine which videos to display during the House’s Annual Meeting in San Francisco. In addition, all videos submitted through the Video Challenge will be posted to the ABA website for viewing by ABA members and non-members, judicial and legislative leaders, and the general public.

Stay tuned for the Resolution and Impact Review Committee’s full report on the “bucket” project, updates on the Video Challenge and a link to the ABA web page featuring all the Challenge videos.
UPDATES FROM OTHER HOUSE COMMITTEES

- **Select Committee (Chair Hon. Pamila Brown of MD and Vice-Chair Lacy Durham of TX)**

  The Committee is prepared to provide an orientation for the nearly 60 new delegates on Sunday, January 27. The orientation will include a revamped PowerPoint presentation and a 2-minute video explaining the House. The Committee will also debut a checklist guide for new members and additional materials to help prepare them for the House meeting. The orientation session will conclude with roundtable discussions led by members of the Select Committee, which were well-received in past years.

- **Rules & Calendar Committee (Chair Christina Plum of WI)**

  The Committee met in St. Louis on November 29-December 2 and accomplished a great deal of work in preparing for the Las Vegas meeting. You have already seen the results of their work and there will be much more to come in Las Vegas.

- **Credentials Committee (Chair Eileen Letts of IL and Vice-Chair Robert Weiner of D.C.)**

  The committee received three requests from organizations seeking representation in the House. The applications and instructions for submission were provided to each organization. The Committee will review each organization's submitted credentials, and prepare a recommendation and report for the House to consider for each of the entities.

- **Other House of Delegates Committees**

  The other House Committees are also preparing for the Midyear meeting and we will provide reports on their work in future newsletters, as applicable.
Delegate Spotlight

Did You Know.........

Members of the ABA House of Delegates have many personal achievements............................

Stephen E. Chappelear of Ohio was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Ohio Chapter, in the category of Outstanding American.

Marvin S.C. Dang of Hawaii is the new Chair of the ABA Senior Lawyers Division. He also received the 2018 Stockton Guard Alumni Award from the George Washington University of Law School to honor an alumnus who has “led an extraordinary career since their law school graduation and showed dedication and commitment to the betterment of the law school.”

Pauline Weaver of California is a 30-year Board member for Eden Housing, which is low-income housing developer in Hayward, CA. Their newest project, a senior apartment complex in Fremont, CA, will be named after her as the Pauline Weaver Place.


CLICK HERE to provide us with information about any recent awards or achievements that you or other House members have received since September 1, 2018, so we can consider the information for inclusion in future House of Delegates Newsletters.