COMMITTEE PROFILE

The Standing Committee on Law and National Security celebrated its 50 year anniversary in 2012 and is the oldest Standing Committee in the ABA. The Committee, since 1962, has sustained an unwavering commitment to educating the Bar and the public on the importance of the rule of law in preserving the freedoms of democracy and our national security. Founded by then-ABA President and later Supreme Court Justice Lewis J. Powell, the Committee focuses on legal aspects of national security with particular attention in recent years to issues raised by legal responses to terrorist events. The Committee conducts studies, sponsors programs and administers working groups on law and national security-related issues to serve members and the profession. Activities assist policymakers, educate lawyers, the media and the public, and enable the Committee to make recommendations to the ABA. The 11-member Committee is aided by an Advisory Committee, Counselors, and liaisons from ABA entities.

The Standing Committee provides research and advice on such subjects as: the restructuring of the intelligence community; cybersecurity; the legal system's ability to cope with transnational terrorism; economic threats, espionage, and organized crime in a borderless world; the role of the intelligence community in law enforcement; operational international law in the conduct of the military; and the role of law in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Committee’s consistent message has been that the possibility (and now reality) of terrorism requires measured responses consistent with the legal principles and values of the U.S.

The Committee sponsors monthly breakfast and luncheon programs in Washington, D.C., from September through June. Speakers address topics affecting law and national security and include cabinet officials, ambassadors, members of Congress, senior executive branch officials, and others in the military, intelligence, and national security community. All information can be found on our website: www.ambar.org/natsecurity.

The Committee also sponsors a Women in National Security program, several careers in national security law events held throughout the year, and an Annual Review of the Field of National Security Law Conference.

The Standing Committee is proud to be a founding member of the ABA Cybersecurity Legal Task Force – visit www.ambar.org/cyber for details.

RECENT COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS

To order, please visit the committee website: www.ambar.org/natsecurity

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PLEASE ADD ME TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND NATIONAL SECURITY LISTSERV:

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