Local Bars

CA - Santa Monica Bar Association
Linda Cain is the new executive director

MI – Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association
Executive Director Lorraine Weber has left the bar to become director of access and fairness of the Michigan Supreme Court. Read the press release.

ABA Takes Exception to New FTC Rule
The ABA has filed suit against the Federal Trade Commission to prevent it from applying its "Red Flags Rule" to practicing lawyers. The rule, scheduled to go into effect November 1, requires creditors to implement plans to prevent identity theft. The FTC's broad definition of creditors includes lawyers and many bar associations.

The ABA's complaint argues that the rule "imposes significant burdens upon lawyers," but "fails to articulate...a rational connection between the practice of law and identity theft." ABA President Carolyn Lamm added that the rule is "contrary to an unbroken history of state regulation of lawyers," and "would unnecessarily increase the cost of legal services."

Almost 30 state and local bar associations have registered their opposition to the rule. For more on the issue, visit the ABA's Red Flags Rule Web page.

20/20 Commission to Examine Lawyer Regulation
A new commission appointed by ABA President Carolyn B. Lamm will review the ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct and the U.S. system of lawyer regulation.

The "Commission on Ethics 20/20" will make policy recommendations that will account for advances in technology and global legal practice developments. Bar associations are invited to make comment by attending public hearings or writing in.

A soon-to-be-created listserv and Web site will keep participants updated on the review process. The listserv will include notices of hearing dates and draft proposals. To be added, contact Ellyn Rosen.

Mark Your Calendars for BLI 2010
The ABA's 2010 Bar Leadership Institute has been scheduled for March 11-12 at Chicago's Downtown Marriott. The annual meeting, which helps incoming bar leaders prepare to take the reins of their associations, draws more than 300 attendees.
New Survey Tells All On Lawyer Tech Habits
An exhaustive, six-volume survey reveals how lawyers are using technology these days -- and the role their bar associations play. The survey, published by the ABA's Legal Technology Resource Center, spans six volumes and includes responses from more than 5,000 lawyers.

Among the survey's bar-related stats: 23% of respondents use their state bar's legal research provider, such as Fastcase or Casemaker, the most for free legal research. And an interesting generational gap: respondents 60 years old and over are 16% more likely to use their state bar's Web site for free legal research than respondents 40 and younger.

Another interesting stat: the ABA is offering a 20% discount on the survey for a limited time. Call (312) 988-5465 or e-mail ltrc@americanbar.org.

Webinars on Fundraising
Two upcoming webinars will tell foundations how to stay above water in our tough economy. The series, produced by ALPS Foundation Services, will focus on effective grantmaking (September 24) and raising money from the legal community (September 29). Both webinar series are split into three hour-long parts.

National Conference of Bar Foundation members that register any part of the series will get a significant discount, and an additional discount for registering for an entire three-part series.

Disaster Planning
A new ABA Web site helps lawyers and bar associations deal with and prepare for disaster. The site, which includes sample disaster plans and other tools, has a page dedicated to bar associations. Bars can add their own disaster materials to the site by sending them to disaster@americanbar.org.

Pro Bono Day Web site
It's not too late. There's still time to take part in the National Celebration of Pro Bono, October 25-31. A tool kit offers a range of event ideas—from very simple to more involved—as well as publicity tips and other planning resources, many submitted by bars that are participating.

Besides holding events, the tool kit suggests joining the celebration by issuing proclamations or writing op-ed pieces or president’s pages that relate to pro bono; examples of these are included in the tool kit as well.

Free LPM Webzine
ABA webzine Law Practice Today covers current law practice management topics. The monthly publication deals with LPM topics such as work/life balance and managing as a solo lawyer. Bar associations can distribute the webzine to their members for no charge by e-mailing the Law Practice Management section.

Help for Constitution Day
The ABA is offering help preparing for Constitution Day, September 17. Its Constitution Day Web site has "conversation starters" and other resources to help organizations commemorate the day. All federally funded organizations are required by law to celebrate.
Looking for information on a very specific topic? Search articles from select ABA magazines by keywords and abstracts and download individual PDF articles. Visit the ABA Web Store at www.ababooks.org/articles.

Justice For Sale
The ABA has posted the video of Justice for Sale?, a panel discussion on judicial campaign contributions held at its 2009 Annual Meeting in Chicago. The program, which included former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Dennis Archer, was moderated by ABA Standing Committee on Judicial Independence Chair Bill Weisenberg.

Pro Bono Award Video Posted
The ABA has posted the video of its Pro Bono Publico Award ceremony from the 2009 Annual Meeting in Chicago. Five recipients were honored for their work improving legal services.

LPM Articles Helps Lawyers Survive the Recession
More than a dozen free articles make up a new ABA Web page to help attorneys keep their practices afloat during the economic downturn. The page, published by the Law Practice Management Section, links to recent articles on marketing, management, technology, and finance -- the four core areas of law practice management.

Group to Help Shape Diversity Policy
The ABA is seeking participants for a group that will make recommendations on improving diversity in the profession. The group is part of a "State of Diversity in the Legal Profession" initiative started by ABA Immediate Past President Tommy Wells and being continued by current President Carolyn Lamm. To participate, send a message to Angie Shaw by September 30.

ABA Keeping Members Well Dressed
American clothier Brooks Brothers has joined the ABA’s Member Advantage program.

Awards

Nomination Period Open for Women Lawyers Award
The ABA Commission on Women in the Profession is accepting nominations for its 19th Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. The award honors five women lawyers who have achieved professional excellence and actively paved the way to success for other women lawyers. The award will be presented in August 2010 at the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

The nomination deadline is November 24.

Two State Bar Programs Win YLD Awards
The South Carolina Bar Young Lawyers Division and the Washington State Bar Young Lawyers Division took home the top honors for the 2008-2009 ABA YLD Awards of Achievement program. The awards recognize young lawyer organizations programs that benefit local communities, leaders, members, and the profession. For more on the program and a list of 2008-2009 winners, visit the ABA YLD website.