SUMMER EDITION OF THE CASA QUARTERLY

By Rachel Zahniser
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Welcome to the summer edition of the CASA Quarterly! In this issue, Lee Ramsey helps us find CASA’s place in the ABA’s organization. Karen Hornsby takes us on a fun trip to Nashville. And I share how I made an unlikely friend through Twitter. In a new feature, CASA members show the beautiful places where they work. You will also find the minutes from CASA’s executive board meeting, which took place at the ABA Midyear Meeting in Dallas in February, and information about the upcoming AJEI Summit in San Diego this November.

WE NEED YOU! Past Chair Susan Dautel is accepting nominations for executive board positions. Serving on the executive board is a great way to become involved in our organization and to meet other staff attorneys. And, as always, I need articles for the CASA Quarterly. Have an idea for an article about your court? Your city? We would love to hear from you!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

By Taye Sanford
Supervising Staff Attorney
US Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
Denver, Colorado

It’s hard to believe that summer is already upon us. I hope everyone had a great spring and will manage to take a little time off this summer. Now is the time to start hunting for that perfect t-shirt to bring to the CASA dinner and t-shirt exchange at the AJEI Summit in November. Speaking of which, make sure to mark your calendar for July 22, when registration will open for the Summit. This year’s Summit will be held in San Diego at the Marriott Marquis and Marina from November 14-17. The members of CASA’s Education Committee have been busy planning, and it looks like we will have a wonderful program once again, with sessions on substantive areas of interest as well as on practical matters, such as legal writing and decision making. With a wealth of breakout sessions in addition to the general sessions, you’re sure to find something that’s both interesting and relevant to your work. And you’ll also have the opportunity to attend a reception aboard the U.S.S. Midway--and to attend

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the fantastic CASA dinner and t-shirt exchange, of course! The agenda for the Summit is available at http://www.law.smu.edu/AJEI/ProgramAgenda. Be sure to check it out. And one word of caution: there are several big events going on in San Diego at the time of the Summit, so don’t wait until the last minute to book your room. Once the conference block is full, you may not be able to get another room. Hey, and don’t forget that, as a member of CASA, you have priority for scholarship money for the Summit.

Summer also means it will soon be time to renew your ABA and CASA membership. The ABA is continuing to offer spectacular group rates for public-sector attorneys. If you are not already in a group, please contact either me (taye_sanford@ca10.uscourts.gov) or Jo-Ann Saringer (joann.saringer@americanbar.org) for information on how to start one. And keep in mind that one of the advantages of being a CASA member is that you have access to CASA’s listserv, which you can use to contact your fellow CASA members with questions on court procedures and other legal matters. To send a message to the people on the listserv, just address your email to JD-CASA@MAIL.AMERICANBAR.ORG. You have to be a subscriber of the listserv to send and receive messages through it. To opt in to the listserv, sign into the ABA’s website and on your My ABA page, go to the Email, Lists & Subscriptions tab and click on Manage My Lists. Then click the button to subscribe to the item labeled “For CASA members discussion.” You can also get there by going through the Discussion Groups tab at http://www.americanbar.org/groups/judicial/pages/discussiongroups.html.

I hope to see you all in San Diego in November. Until then, enjoy your summer!

---Message From the Chair continued---

CASA Executive Board Meeting
— Minutes—
ABA Midyear Meeting
Dallas, Texas
Hilton Anatole
Saturday, February 9, 2013

Chair Taye Sanford called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. The following board members were in attendance: Taye Sanford, Chair; Rachel Ekery, Chair-Elect; Susan Dautel, Immediate Past Chair; Rachel Zahniser, Secretary; and members-at-large Geoff Davis, Frank Gibbard, Karen Hornsby, Dalila Patton, and Chris Smith.

The minutes from the November 17, 2012, annual business meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, were approved on the motion of Rachel Ekery, seconded by Geoff Davis and Dalila Patton.

Chair Taye Sanford reported that she and Chris Smith are participating in the Judicial Clerkship Program, which is a program for minority law students during the ABA Midyear Meeting. Taye emphasized the importance of maintaining a CASA presence in the JCP and encouraged members to participate at next year’s Midyear Meeting in Chicago. Participation requires earlier arrival to the Midyear Meeting because the JCP begins on Thursday, but the Judicial Division provides additional reimbursement for participants. According to Taye, CASA’s participation in the JCP is an extension of the career panels conducted at law schools during the Summit in that CASA provides information to law students about other job opportunities in the courts besides working as an elbow law clerk. During the JCP, students experience what it is like to be a law clerk by working on a legal problem; this year’s problem involved the constitutionality of a statute allowing DNA samples to be taken from arrestees.

Taye discussed Dean Erwin Chemerinsky’s interest in a CASA panel at the University of California, Irvine
School of Law in connection with the Summit in San Diego in November. Because of the distance from San Diego to Irvine, some expense will be involved. CASA has written a proposal to the executive boards of the Appellate Judges Conference and the Appellate Judges Education Institution requesting funding for CASA members to conduct the panel. Taye reported that Dean Chemerinsky has set aside time for the panel on Wednesday, November 13, at noon. CASA intends to conduct an additional panel at a local San Diego law school on Thursday, November 14.

**Education:** Frank Gibbard, co-chair, reported that the Summit will be in San Diego on November 14-17, 2013. CASA’s programs at the Summit will include Dean Chemerinsky’s Supreme Court reviews on Friday morning – a plenary session on the civil cases and a breakout session on the criminal cases; an employment law update for which speakers are needed; and Linda Elrod’s marriage and family breakout session on Sunday morning which will address the gay marriage cases before the Supreme Court.

**Long Range Planning:** Rachel Ekery, ex officio chair, attended the Judicial Division’s membership committee meeting. Rachel reported that the ABA group membership rate was discussed. The group membership will stay in place permanently, but the rate will increase. Rachel also noted that CASA needs to ensure that staff attorneys who are members of the Judicial Division also join CASA.

**Membership:** Taye Sanford reported that CASA does not currently have a membership chair and requested nominations. Karen Hornsby volunteered to send emails to Summit attendees identified as attorneys working for a court, thanking them for attending the Summit, encouraging them to attend this year’s Summit, and encouraging nonmembers to join CASA. Susan Dautel reported that eleven scholarships were given to attend last year’s Summit. Scholarship recipients must be members of the ABA, with preference to members of CASA. Because scholarships are considered on a rolling basis, applications should be turned in early. The board, with Rachel Ekery and Taye Sanford abstaining, approved a recommendation to the scholarship committee that the chair of CASA receive a full scholarship to attend the Summit given the additional expense and work involved in serving as chair. Chris Smith made the motion, with Karen Hornsby seconding.

**CASA Quarterly:** Rachel Zahniser, editor, reported that the first issue came out on January 31, 2013. Rachel thanked contributors for submitting articles and photographs and requested submissions for upcoming issues.

**Other Business:** Taye Sanford discussed problems with the CASA website and asked members to let her know about any website issues. Taye said that she plans to talk to Jo Ann Saringer at the ABA about some specific problems, including fixing links to the board and committee members that either do not work or provide inaccurate information and making it easier to get to CASA’s webpage from the ABA’s home page. The board also discussed issues with sending electronic communications to members because some members have opted out of receiving electronic communications from the ABA.

Judge Bill Dressel, president of the National Judicial College, stepped into the meeting to introduce himself and provide information about the NJC.

Christie Breitner, ABA liaison, joined the meeting later. Christie reported that she is still working on the new directory.

Taye Sanford adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.
CASA’S SPOT ON THE MAP OF THE ABA

By Lee Ramsey
Staff Attorney
Tennessee Supreme Court
Nashville, Tennessee

Drawing an organizational chart of the American Bar Association is way beyond my abilities, and I’m sure deciphering such a chart is way beyond the interest of any CASA member. For the benefit of CASA’s newer members, however, this article will discuss where CASA fits into the overall structure of the ABA. The article – I hope – will also assist any CASA member who has trouble sorting out all the acronyms that are thrown around at the annual AJEI Summit or in other CASA-related meetings. I’ll begin at the top of the ABA and then “drill down” to CASA’s level within the larger organization.

The ABA is governed by its officers, the Board of Governors, and the House of Delegates and is comprised of the following sub-parts: (1) twenty-two “Sections”; (2) six “Divisions” (including the Judicial Division, discussed below in more detail); (3) five “Internal Divisions”; (4) six “Forums”; (5) nine “Commissions”; (6) many special and standing “Committees”; and (7) the ABA’s various administrative departments and offices. The Judicial Division (JD) is the next stop on this tour, because CASA is a constituent group within the JD.

The JD is comprised of six “Conferences,” and each Conference has its own governance, committees, programs, and publications. The six Conferences are: (1) the Appellate Judges Conference (discussed below in more detail); (2) the Lawyers Conference (comprised of lawyers, court managers, legal teachers, writers and publishers, and law students interested in the advancement of the judiciary); (3) the National Conference of the Administrative Law Judiciary; (4) the National Conference of Federal Trial Judges; (5) the National Conference of Specialized Court Judges; and (6) the National Conference of State Trial Judges.

The membership of the Appellate Judges Conference (AJC) includes appellate judges (state and federal) and the members of two “Councils” of the AJC – the Council of Appellate Staff Attorneys (CASA) and the Council of Appellate Lawyers (CAL, whose members are appellate practitioners). As Councils of the AJC, CASA and CAL each have a representative on the AJC’s Executive Committee. The ABA provides funding to the AJC from dues and general revenues; the AJC then allocates a portion of that funding to CASA for governance. CASA’s governance money is used for our general membership meetings and for meetings of CASA’s Executive Board. Denise Jimenez, Judicial Division Conference Manager, is the primary contact for CASA members with ABA/JD/CASA-related questions. (Phone: 312.988.5723 or Email: Denise.Jimenez@americanbar.org)

Although we’ve “drilled down” to CASA at this point, we’re not quite through with the acronyms. In 2003, the educational functions of the AJC were transferred to a separate nonprofit organization – the Appellate Judges Education Institute (AJEI). The AJEI is incorporated in Texas and is affiliated with the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University (SMU). The AJEI receives funding from the AJC and also receives funding from grants, donations from law firms and other organizations, and from registration fees for the “AJEI Summit,” the annual CLE conference for the AJC, CASA, and CAL.

The AJEI is governed by an Executive Committee consisting of a Chair (who is the Immediate Past Chair of the AJC), the AJEI President, representatives from the ABA and SMU, and all members of the AJC Executive Committee (which includes representatives from CASA and CAL). SMU provides staff assistance for the AJEI and for the annual AJEI Summits. Rebecca Greenan works for SMU and is CASA’s primary contact for AJEI and Summit-related questions. (Email: rgreenan@smu.edu)

I hope the foregoing summary adequately explains CASA’s location on the map of the ABA. But just in
case, here’s a “cheat sheet”:

CASA and CAL are Councils of the AJC,

which is a Conference of the JD,

which is a Division of the ABA;

and the AJEI is a separate nonprofit corporation, affiliated with SMU, that handles the educational functions of the AJC (i.e., sponsoring and staffing the annual AJEI Summits).

Got it?

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CALL FOR CASA EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS

CASA is seeking the names of persons interested in serving on its executive board, either as an officer or member-at-large. The term of each officer is one year; members-at-large typically serve for two years and then move into officer positions. Open positions for the 2013-2014 term include chair-elect, secretary, and members-at-large.

Executive board members attend a planning meeting in February during the ABA Midyear Meeting (travel and accommodations subsidized by the ABA) and attend the CASA business/elections meeting as part of their attendance at the November AJEI Summit. The 2014 ABA Midyear Meeting is in Chicago, Illinois. The 2014 Summit is in Dallas, Texas. Other executive board business is conducted, as needed, by email or conference call.

Service on the executive board is a way to become further involved in CASA and its education and communication missions. It is the best way to meet colleagues in similar professional positions around the country. Sometimes it is just plain fun and the beginning of many lasting friendships.

If you are interested in an executive board position, please send an email to Past Chair Susan Dautel, who is the head of the Nominations Committee, at sdautel@courts.state.ny.us. Election of officers and members-at-large will take place at the CASA business meeting on Friday, November 15, 2013, at the Summit in San Diego, California.
As I fight spring fever and the season to travel approaches, I find myself contemplating the blessings of living and working in a part of the country that is just about darned near perfect. Why travel when everything you need in the way of weather, entertainment, and relaxation is just around the corner?

The Middle Tennessee area, Nashville in particular, retains a historic Southern charm that refuses to be changed by the influx of transient inhabitants. What was once a small city rich in Civil War history has become a haven for entertainment, good restaurants, theater, and professional and college sports. It has a mild cosmopolitan flair and remains unspoiled, unlike larger U.S. cities. While there is exceeding wealth derived from the health-care and publishing industries (think Forbes-level rich, like the Frist and Ingram families), what distinguishes Nashville from celebrity-rich cities like New York and L.A. is that the wealthy tend to remain low-key and are exceedingly generous with their money. They tend to be recognized more for their philanthropy than their wealth. Their attitude is that giving back to the community is not an obligation, but a responsibility and honor.

Identified by outsiders as the country music capital of the world, entertainment actually finishes a distant third in terms of sheer dollars. Nashville has become the music capital, not just the country music capital, as musicians of all genres have begun adopting Nashville as their hometown (The Black Keys, Jack White of The White Stripes, Usher, Donna Summer, Kevin Moore (Keb’ Mo’), and Ke$ha to name a few). Part of the attraction springs from the low-key Southern hospitality—there just isn’t the paparazzi mentality here that you find in other big cities. The rich and famous can go about their business without worrying that they’ll be accosted by the press or their adoring fans. You’ll also find that hospitality alive as a tourist on the streets—give the smallest indication that you’re lost or need help, and a friendly, smiling native with a Southern drawl is sure to approach and offer guidance or directions.

Just for fun, the staff here at the Supreme Court has come up with a list of “That’s SO Nashville” (real life) experiences to give you a flavor of what it’s like to live here. Here you go:

That’s SO Nashville If:

10. Just around the corner is a full-scale replica of the Greek Parthenon.
9. There’s a greenway or park within walking distance of anywhere in the city.
8. At dinner in a quaint old Victorian house, you spot Bono of U2 seated in a corner by himself.
7. When seated at church on Sunday morning, you’re asked to greet your fellow parishioners and the four guys in front of you turn around and you realize that you’re sitting behind the Oak Ridge Boys.
6. The winner of the Rock n Roll series Music City Marathon teaches high school in the suburbs and returns the next day to run the one-mile “fun run” with the area kids.
5. You share a limo from the Park-n-Ride to the Nashville airport with (very nice and humble) country singer Josh Turner and his lovely keyboardist/wife Jennifer (and you don’t have a clue who they are until they exit and the limo driver informs you).
4. You share an airline trip from D.C. to Nashville with lawyer/actor/former senator (and very tall) Fred Thompson, who humbly rides coach.

3. You regularly spot Taylor Swift’s luxury coach parked in the nearby Walmart parking lot.

2. You grew up living next door to Charlie Daniels and had memorized the words to “The Devil Went Down to Georgia” long before the public ever heard the song (and your Mom once totaled her car when she hit one of his cows—he was very nice and understanding about it).

1. You are about thirty minutes into your treadmill run at the gym when you notice Keith Urban walk up and talk to the woman running next to you and you realize that you’ve spent the last half-hour slinging sweat all over Nicole Kidman!

Y’all come visit, now, ya hear?

*Karen is a California native, and moved to the Middle Tennessee area (kicking and screaming) from Hawaii.*

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**STAFF ATTORNEYS AND SOCIAL NETWORKING: HOW I BECAME FRIENDS WITH A PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYER**

*By Rachel Zahniser*

*Staff Attorney*

*US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit*

*Cincinnati, Ohio*

I admit it. I am a social networking junkie. I check Facebook and Twitter on my iPhone numerous times a day and often post photos and updates. In doing so, I must remain mindful to use social networking in a manner consistent with my duties as a staff attorney.

My court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, has a social media policy, which is to be read in conjunction with the Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees and with other relevant codes of conduct and personnel policies. The social media policy prohibits court employees from identifying themselves as court employees on social media or social networking sites, sharing work-related information, using court email addresses for social networking or social media activities, and engaging in activities that would compromise the security of the courthouse and court personnel. The policy requires court employees to ensure confidentiality, comply with all laws, and maintain impartiality, decorum, and professionalism in using social media.

I primarily use my Facebook page to share videos and photos of my toddler. My mother lives 150 miles away, but through the magic of the Internet, she can watch her grandson grow up. My page does not list my employment or identify my religious or political views. I try to refrain from commenting on posts about issues that might come before the court or politics -- which can be hard to do at times, particularly during election season! After wading through the advertisements and game postings, I find Facebook to be a valuable tool for keeping in touch with friends and family across the country and the world.

I use my Twitter account differently. While my toddler (who is known as “Baby Z” on Twitter) makes an occasional appearance, my “tweets” focus on Cincinnati Reds baseball -- hence my Twitter handle “redsgal12.”
Most of my followers share that interest.

I received quite a bump in those followers when, in February 2011, I won a trivia contest for a trip to spring training in Arizona courtesy of Brandon Phillips, second baseman for the Cincinnati Reds. Phillips, who has been named to the All-Star team and won the Gold Glove and Silver Slugger awards, tweeted the question, “What’s my favorite drink?” Knowing that he does not drink alcohol, I made an educated guess and was the first to respond with the correct answer: “Milk.” My husband and I had an amazing baseball weekend in Phoenix -- attending batting practices and games, meeting players, coaches, and members of management, and the best part, eating meals and bowling with Phillips, an avid bowler who has rolled three perfect games. Our trip was covered by local and national media and featured in an espn.com article (Amy K. Nelson, Brandon Phillips: #adifferentidentity (June 16, 2011), http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/otl/news/story?id=6665894). We continue to keep in touch with Phillips -- on Twitter and in person. He joined us for lunch when we went to see the Reds play the Orioles in Baltimore and visited our Bengals tailgate, in addition to stopping to chat and take photos at various Reds events. And when our son attended his first Reds game at eleven days old, Phillips hit a home run, which he later dedicated to “Baby Shawty.”

Twitter is great for following breaking news and interacting with others who share common interests. And you might develop an unlikely friendship!

Rachel Zahniser and her husband Dave at the spring training with Cincinnati Reds second baseman Brandon Phillips.
WHERE DO YOU WORK?

Dalila Patton submitted this photo of where she works -- the Virgin Islands Supreme Court located on 18 Strand Street, Frederiksted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Dalila writes, "It is within the boundaries of the Historical District which means that, although it was completely renovated on the inside from a residence to an offices, its physical appearance from the outside was not altered. Most of the buildings in this area were residences that were constructed in the late 19th-early 20th century, prior to the transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States.

Dalila also submitted this photo of the Virgin Islands Supreme Court located on 161B Crown Bay, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Wouldn’t you love to work on an island in the Caribbean?

Geoff Davis submitted this photo of the Indiana State House, where the Division of Supreme Court Administration is located.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

2013 ABA ANNUAL MEETING
The ABA Judicial Division will meet in San Francisco, CA from Wednesday, August 7 through Sunday, August 11, 2013. Judicial Division meetings and events will take place at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis. Registration, schedules, and event tickets, visit www.ambar.org/jdannual.

Changes in Appellate Judges and Practice During the 50 year History of the Appellate Judges Conference program, will be presented on Friday, August 9, 2013 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the Moscone Center West, 3014, 3rd Floor in San Francisco, CA.

Appellate Judges Education Institute Summit
November 14 – 17, 2013 in San Diego, CA
For more information, registration deadlines, and conference materials, visit http://www.law.smu.edu/AJEI/Home. Registration opens the week of July 22, 2013.