



August 2012

## Section News

### Call for Nominations: Section Leadership 2013-2014

Want to become more involved in Section activities? Already involved but want to spread your wings and do more? Apply for a leadership or Council position before November 1, 2012!

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Chair-Elect Scott Friedman, Columbus, OH, is now accepting nominations for the 2013-2014 Section year. Committee members include: Jan Keefer, Indianapolis, IN; Paula Kirby, Scottsdale, AZ; Lyne Ranson, Charleston, WV; and Jonathan Wolfe, Livingston, NJ. The committee seeks nominations for the following positions:

**Chair-elect**  
(one-year term)

**Vice Chair**  
(one-year term)

**Secretary**  
(one-year term)

**At-Large Council  
Representatives**  
(three positions; three-year terms expiring 2016)

**Region I Representative**  
(three-year term expiring 2016)  
composed of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

**Region III Representative**  
(term expiring 2014; this position became vacant when Deborah Akers-Parry was selected as Financial Officer for 2012-13.)  
composed of Ohio, Kentucky,

## CLE Calendar

### Webinar September 19, 2012

#### Criminal Law in an Un-Civil Case: Handling Accusations of Criminal Conduct in Family Law Case

What do you do when your client or the other party engages in criminal (or potentially criminal) conduct?

From domestic violence to the filing of false financial affidavits to invoking the Fifth Amendment, learn from a prominent panel of practitioners what to do when you are confronted with accusations of criminal conduct.

[Register online now.](#)

### Webinar September 20, 2012

#### Recognizing the Warning Signs of Suicide in Your Clients and Colleagues

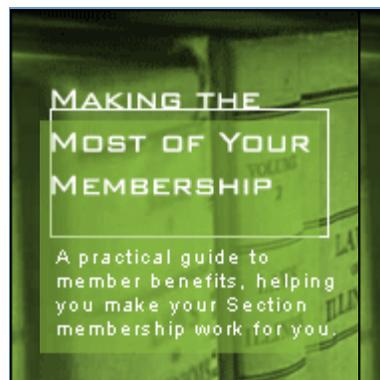
Attorneys involved in divorce and bankruptcy proceedings, custody cases, family law cases, and criminal defense cases often work with clients who are in heightened emotional states. Learn the warning signs of suicide and how to appropriately refer your clients and colleagues for help when suicide risk is identified.

Ethics Credit Requested  
[Register online now.](#)

### SAVE THE DATES

**October 10-13, 2012**  
[Fall CLE Conference](#)  
Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia Philadelphia, PA

Book your hotel room early to ensure you get the discounted



### Manage Your ABA Communication Preferences

#### What Is It?

It's a brand-new way for you to select the type and frequency of emails you get from the ABA.

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1. You can choose to receive emails from your Sections, Divisions, Forums (SDF) and ABA Membership.
2. You can choose to receive emails related to your interests (i.e., your self-identified Areas of Concentration (AOCs)).
3. You can also reduce the frequency of emails you receive.
4. You can choose combinations of any/all of the above options.

#### How Do I Get Started?

Visit the new [ABA Email](#)

Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

**Region VI Representative**  
(three-year term expiring 2016)  
composed of Alaska, Washington,  
Nevada, California, Hawaii, and  
Oregon.

**To be considered for nomination**, submit a letter of interest, a brief bio, and a [Nomination Data Form](#) by November 1, 2012. Send your letter via e-mail with Word attachment to Acting Section Director Jill Peña, [jill.pena@americanbar.org](mailto:jill.pena@americanbar.org) and Chair-Elect Scott Friedman, [sfriedman@friedmanmirman.com](mailto:sfriedman@friedmanmirman.com).

The letter should detail your bar activities (ABA, Section of Family Law, state and local bar) and provide any other information you would like the committee to consider. (Keep in mind that concise information is easier for the Nominating Committee to review.)

Be sure to read the description of [responsibilities and duties](#), too, so you know what would be expected of you.

We look forward to receiving your nominations!

**Deadline:** November 1, 2012

Visit the [Nominations](#) page for more information.

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**Fall CLE Conference  
Flies into Philadelphia  
This October**

**Early-bird discount ends August 31st**

Get ready for fun, philanthropy, and fantastic CLE courses this October 10-13, 2012, at the ABA Family Law Fall CLE Conference at the Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia!

#### **Fun**

You might not think family law and fun go hand in hand, but we're talking about the Section of Family Law, and our members know how to have a good time!

Get your nostalgia on and cut a rug at our *American Bandstand* event on Friday night, and network and socialize with your colleagues at other receptions during the conference.

rate of \$225/night. (Discounted rooms are subject to availability.)

[Visit the conference website](#) for more information or see column at left.

**April 17-20, 2013**  
[Spring CLE Conference](#)  
Captain Cook  
Anchorage, AK

**August 9-11, 2013**  
Family Law Annual Meeting  
San Francisco, CA

**October 16-19, 2013**  
Fall CLE Conference  
Montage Deer Valley  
Deer Valley, UT

More information about these conferences will be available soon; be sure to clear your calendar so you can join us!

\* \* \* \* \*

Stay up-to-date on CLE offerings with our [CLE Calendar](#).

Unable to attend a teleconference or a Section CLE conference? Not to worry, you can learn on your own time when you purchase the CLE materials. [See a listing of available CLE materials](#).

## Law Student Corner

### **Passed the Bar? Congratulations!**

Congratulations to all of our law student graduates who have recently passed the Bar!

Once you have your Bar ID number, be sure to call the ABA Service Center at 1-800-285-2221 to have your member record updated. When that's done, you'll officially be a lawyer member of the ABA (and the Family Law Section) and you can join the ESQ list below.

If you've read the Best of ESQ columns each month, you know how valuable a resource it can be. It's easy to join the list (see instructions below), you just need to be recognized as a "Lawyer" on your ABA member record!

**Preference Center** today! You'll get more detailed explanations of the options available to you.

(As an added bonus, you can also manage your email discussion lists and your subscriptions from the Preference Center.)

#### **Editor**

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Never been to one of our conferences before? Be sure to sign up for the Newcomers Dinner on Thursday.

### Philanthropy

Giving can also be fun, especially when you're picking out toys to donate to our collection for Toys for Tots! Help us reach our goal of 200 toys; toys will be presented to a representative from the Philadelphia Marines Toys for Tots during the *American Bandstand* event.

### Donating is easy, even if you're not able to attend the conference:

1. Buy a toy in your hometown and bring it with you;
2. Purchase a toy when you get to Philadelphia; or
3. Send your toys to:

Blank Rome LLP  
c/o Mary Vidas  
1 Logan Square  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

If you have any questions, contact Kendra Randall Jolivet at [Kendra@randallsonnier.com](mailto:Kendra@randallsonnier.com).

### Fantastic CLE

Want financial hot tips from the experts? Need to learn how to effectively present tax evidence at trial? What should you do when self-represented litigants are opposing parties? How do you help clients in an international divorce case?

These are just a few of the questions that will be addressed in our course offerings. We'll also have programs on assisted reproductive technologies, ethics, divorce and trusts, and much more. View the [full list of CLE topics](#); descriptions are available in the [conference brochure](#).

### Registration

The early-bird deadline for discounted registration is August 31st.

[Register online now](#)

[Visit the Fall Conference website](#) for more information.

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### Annual Meeting Recap

The Section's Annual Meeting

### Still a Law Student? Awesome!

If you're still in school, no worries. You'll be done soon enough. :)

In the meantime, you can always contact your new Law Student Liaison, [Zedrick Barber II](#), with your ideas, questions, or other law student matters related to the Section.

### Best of the ESQ List

This month's column features questions and answers concerning:

- 1) UCCJEA Registration and Enforcement;
- 2) VA Disability and Spousal Support;
- 3) Federal Retirement—CSRS;
- 4) Tax—Dependency Exemption for College-Aged Child of Separated Parents; and
- 5) Income Tax—Medical Expense Deductions

[Read the August issue.](#)

### Did you know?

ESQ is cited as one of the top member benefits of the Section of Family Law and is the third most heavily trafficked of all the ABA discussion lists. Get referrals, ask questions, [sign up now!](#) (Please note that the ESQ list is only for our lawyer members.)

### Are you one of our members from outside the U.S.?

Let us help you get on the ESQ list! If you're one of our members from Canada, Mexico, England, etc., and you're not currently on ESQ, please let us know. Send an email to [Hilary Glazer](#) and be sure to include your member ID.

### Financial Focus

#### A Column by Accountants for Family Lawyers

#### Alternative Sources of Financial Information in Divorce

By Tracy L. Coenen, CPA, CFF

took place August 3-4, 2012, in Chicago, IL, during which we were proud to co-sponsor the Sharon L. Corbitt Award Reception with the ABA Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, and Schiller DuCanto & Fleck LLP.

At the Annual Awards Luncheon, Past Chair Mitchell Karpf received the Friend of the Family Award for his contributions not only to the Section, but to the practice of family law in general. In particular, Mitch was recognized for his determination to establish the Section's Families Matter initiative, the mission of which is "to develop practice methods and approaches to minimize the destructive consequences of divorce on families." Congratulations, Mitch!

Ronald Nelson received the Chair's Cup for his many contributions to the Section over the years. He has served on Council and has been involved in the work of several committees as a chair, vice chair, or member. He has also served as a speaker at Section CLE conferences and taken on the role of editing the conferences' daily newsletters in recent years. Ron authored the Section's [List Serve Guidelines](#) and serves as the moderator of the Section's highly popular ESQ discussion list. He also provides the "Best of the ESQ List" column for publication in the eNews each month. (Thank you, Ron!)

Although the Section of Family Law was not the principal sponsor of any resolutions at the Annual Meeting of House of Delegates, all resolutions co-sponsored by the Section were approved:

The ABA Standing Committee on Specialization's resolution to amend the Accreditation Standards for Specialty Certification Programs for Lawyers;

The ABA Commission on Law & Aging's three resolutions, of which: 106A—Urges Congress to amend the Patient-Self Determination Act provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid law regarding advance care planning; 106B—Adopts the Third National Guardianship Summit Standards and Recommendations; and 106C—Urges collaboration on court-focused elder abuse initiatives;

The resolution proposed by the

Everyone knows about the typical sources of financial information in divorces. Income tax returns, bank statements and related documents, brokerage statements, credit card statements, and business financial statements are some of the most common.

There are alternative sources of financial information that can be incredibly helpful in divorce cases, however. They are helpful because they can refute or support claims being made by one party about income and assets. They are particularly helpful because often, the other side isn't prepared for these documents to become part of the divorce case.

#### **Loan Applications**

An application for a home mortgage, auto loan or lease, personal loan, or commercial loan will require detailed financial information from the applicant. Assets, liabilities, and income sources must be disclosed, and sometimes supporting documentation is required.

When someone is applying for a loan, there is sometimes a desire to make the financial picture as rosy as possible. In this case, the applicant will likely fully disclose all income sources and all assets. This may differ from the disclosures during divorce, when parties are sometimes motivated to hide income and assets. In addition, assets may have been used to secure the loan, and the loan documents should be examined to determine whether the assets belong in the marital estate.

#### **[Continue reading](#)**

(You will need to log in to the ABA website.)

## **Tech Tips**

### **Enable iPhone LED Flash Alerts**

Whether you have difficulty hearing, work in a particularly noisy office, or simply have a habit of forgetting to turn your ringer back on after meetings, it can be helpful to have your smartphone provide a clear visual cue that you have an incoming call or alert. For those with iPhones, one easy solution

ABA Criminal Justice Section which urges review of child sexual abuse statutes of limitation to see if extension of statutes of limitation is warranted;

The ABA Standing Committee on Gun Violence's resolution which opposes limits on physicians' rights to inquire about firearms in homes and how they are secured;  
and

The ABA Commission on Youth at Risk's resolution which urges postsecondary education completion for youth in foster care or who have been in foster care.

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### **Bylaws Changes Up for Vote in Anchorage**

Changes to the Section Bylaws were approved by the Council at the 2012 Annual Meeting and will be voted on by Section members at the Spring 2013 Conference. You must be a Section of Family Law member and a registered spring conference attendee in order to vote.

Proposed changes affect Section 4.6 (Delegates), Section 4.7 (Financial Officer), Section 8.8 (Nominations by Petition), and Section 8.9 (Announcement of Nominees).

[View proposed changes to the Bylaws](#); the proposed changes will also appear in the fall 2012 issue of *Family Advocate*.

[View the current Section Bylaws in their entirety.](#)

## Publications

**The Hague  
Abduction Convention:  
Practical Issues and Procedures  
for the  
Family Lawyer**

**(includes cd-rom)**

Jeremy D. Morley

is to set the device's LED flash to blink as an alert.

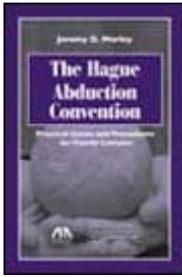
To turn on the flashing alerts, open your iPhone's Settings app, select General settings and then Accessibility. Near the bottom of the Accessibility settings, you'll see an option to enable "LED Flash for Alerts." With that feature enabled, the LED Flash on the back of your iPhone will blink each time you receive a phone call, text, or other alert—even if the phone is on mute.

*This tip was shared by Reid Trautz at the ABA Annual Meeting.*

—Joshua Poje, [ABA Legal Technology Resource Center](#)

**Get More!** Looking for more quick technology tips for your practice? Visit our [Tech Training library](#) with more than 50 training videos available exclusively for ABA members.





Product Code 5130190

Every family lawyer should understand the workings of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Family law is becoming increasingly internationalized as the world is shrinking, international relationships are increasing and international travel is growing. Clients who fear that their children may be abducted, or who worry about allowing their children to travel overseas, or who are contemplating international marriage or international divorce expect their family lawyer to be conversant with the treaty.

*The Hague Abduction Convention* tells family lawyers how this critical treaty works in the United States, both in theory and in practice. The renowned author, Jeremy D. Morley, has enormous experience counseling clients and fellow practitioners as to international family law matters globally, as well as lecturing on international child custody law to audiences around the world.

[More information](#)

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