

Mass Torts Litigation Committee

Meeting Minutes

05/14/2019

Opening

The regular monthly teleconference meeting of the Mass Torts Litigation Committee was called to order at 2:02 p.m. (EDT) on 05/14/2019 by David Schwan.

Present

Kasey Adams, Jim Beck, Megan Benett, Brian Cadigan, Clay Massey, Munjot Sahu, David Schwan, Adam Spicer, Richard Tabura, Andrew Tharp, Courtney Ward-Reichard, Joe Winebrenner, & Donald Winningham III.

This Month

- Update on Section Annual Conference, May 1-3, 2019, Marriott Marquis, Times Square, New York, NY
 - Our own co-chair Arvin Maskin was a seminar co-chair and did a great job introducing the opening plenary on political attacks on the First Amendment.
 - The Committee dine-around was held on Wednesday, May 1 at Empellon Taqueria in the West Village. Great food and a great time were had by all!
 - Our co-chair Karen Woodward organized a fantastic Committee Expo showcase on May 2 – Our chosen musical was *The Sound of Music*.
 - Joe Winebrenner planned and introduced the panel on Mastering Mass Torts Settlements, featuring former NJ Mass Torts judge Marina Corodemus. Great job!
- Upcoming Joint Regional CLE, January 29 – February 1, 2020, Westin Snowmass, Snowmass Village, CO
 - The Joint CLE will be going forward, and David Schwan will attend an initial planning call tomorrow, with details to follow;
 - We encourage everyone, once we have the details and links available, to register and reserve hotel room space early, and to encourage your firm to place an early sponsorship if possible.

Ongoing Items

- Newsletter Status Update
 - Jim Beck reports that the Summer newsletter is coming up. The following subcommittees have article commitments for the June 15, 2019 submission deadline:
 - Pharma/Medical Device

- Toxic Torts
 - Discovery Strategies
 - Experts & Evidence
 - MDL/Class Procedures
- Website Content Update
 - As an update on our Practice Points submissions for April 2019, we had two pieces: (1) a piece on burnout and mental health tips for lawyers, by Kasey Adams from Young Lawyers; & (2) a review on recent caselaw from the Supreme Court on class arbitration, by Pravin Patel of Discovery Strategies. These submissions are now available on our website: <https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/committees/mass-torts.html>.
 - The following subcommittees have Practice Points submissions due in May (this month's theme is **International ADR**), to be submitted to Andrew Tharp by **Tuesday, May 28** (with author and topic identification due to Andrew by **Monday, May 20**):
 - Aviation
 - Experts & Evidence
 - Environmental & Toxic Torts Litigation
- Book Update
 - The ABA Book Publication Committee is reviewing the entire draft, with initial comments expected next week.

Future Planning

- 25th Aviation National Institute, June 13, 2019, New York University's Furman Hall, New York, NY
 - This year's program emphasizes topics and discussions surrounding current issues in pilot hiring and training, FAA preemption, developments in drone/regulations use litigation, and a cross-border comparison about travel related torts in European countries as compared to the United States.
 - Early bird rates extended through this Friday, May 17: https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/events/cle/2019/ce1906avi_brochure.pdf
- Sixth Annual CADS Regional CLE, June 21, 2019, Bar Association of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
 - Joe reports that we're co-sponsoring this conference with CADS, Consumer Litigation, and the Antitrust Litigation Committees.
 - We have our panel on virtual defense teams in complex litigation, and we have several panelists lined up so far, with the final panelist, a plaintiffs'-side attorney, awaiting confirmation for participation.

- For more information and to register for this conference:
<https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/litigation/materials/regionals-materials/2018-2019/class-actions-mass-torts/brochure.pdf>

Mass Torts Committee Deliverables

- April -- Roundtable on Cross-Border Practice Issues [Cheryl Woodin]; Newsletter [Jim Beck];
- May – Section Annual Conference, Panel on Mass Torts Settlements, and Dine-Around [Arvin Maskin & Joe Winebrenner];
- June – 25th Annual Aviation National Institute in New York [John Maggio]; 6th Annual Class Actions Regional CLE in San Francisco [Edd Gaus]

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:22 (EDT) by David Schwan. The next general meeting will be via teleconference at 2:00 p.m. (EDT) on June 11, 2019.

Minutes submitted by: David L. Schwan, Committee Co-Chair

Approved by: Karen Woodward, Committee Co-Chair