

# Mass Torts Litigation Committee

Meeting Minutes  
September 1, 2020

## Opening

The regular monthly teleconference meeting of the Mass Torts Litigation Committee was called to order at 2:02 p.m. EDT on September 1, 2020 by David Schwan.

## Present

Michael Baier, Jim Beck, Megan Brillault, Sarah K. Frederick, Edward Gaus, Steven Harkins, Andrew Jackson, Josh Kahn, Natassia Kwan, Paul Majkowski, Arameh O'Boyle, David Schwan, Michael Smith, Richard Tabura, Andrew Tharp, & Michael Zogby.

## Announcements

- Joint Regional CLE 2021 – Edd reports on the virtual live/hybrid online CLE option is still in the works.
  - We have finalized our call for proposals and it is ready to go out via ABA Connect and on LinkedIn. Be on the lookout for that electronically soon.
- Section Annual Conference 2021, May 5-7, 2021, Marriot Marquis Houston, TX [Joseph Winebrenner]
  - The panels for submission are focused on practice skills this year, and we will likely be teaming up with Environmental & Energy on a potential panel at SAC. More information to come soon.
  - Please contact Joe if you have an idea for a panel submission.
- General Subcommittee Co-Chair Membership Search [David Schwan]
  - David welcomed our newest promoted leaders (Andrew Tharp as Vice Chair and Karen Woodward as Chairwoman Emeritus) and four new subcommittee co-chairs: Michael Baier; Andrew Jackson; Josh Kahn; & Steve Harkins.
  - If you know of someone who would like to be more involved with the ABA and/or Mass Torts, please discuss with them and forward their information to the co-chairs (David, Joe, and Natassia) for a potential invitation.
- Roundtable on Attorney Burnout, August 25, 2020, on Zoom (co-sponsored with the Mental Health & Wellness Committee) [Natassia Kwan]
  - Natassia reports that this Roundtable went very well and was a very timely update for everyone who attended!
  - Thanks also should be extended to our fabulous panelists.
- Products Liability/Pharma CLE will be in November [Mike Zogby] – more details to come next month.

## Ongoing Items

- Newsletter Update [Jim Beck]
  - Subcommittees with article commitments for the current quarter (Autumn 2020) -- are as follows:
    - Young Lawyers
    - Pharma/Medical Device
    - Toxic Torts
    - Experts Evidence
    - Aviation Corner
  - The due date for articles this quarter is Tuesday, September 15. Please contact Jim Beck for any assistance needed on getting your article completed or with any questions.
- Website Content Status Update [Andrew Tharp]
  - For the month of August, you can find the articles submitted and previous website articles on our webpage:  
<https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/committees/mass-torts/practice/>.
  - Three subcommittees on tap for Practice Points pieces in August, which are due to Andrew Tharp by **September 25, 2020**:
    - Young Lawyers;
    - Aviation; &
    - Experts & Evidence.

## The Present

- General Check-In
  - Committee Members shared their latest experiences on remote working and when they expect jury trials and other in-person hearings to resume within their jurisdictions.

## Deliverables

- August – Sound Advice (Sarah Frederick); Roundtable (Natassia Kwan); &
- September – Sound Advice (Edd Gaus); Second Deliverable (need volunteer);
- October – Fall Leadership Meeting; Virtual Happy Hour During Fall Leadership;
- November -- Prod Liability/Pharma CLE; volunteer for another (Roundtable, Sound Advice, etc).

## Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m. EDT by David Schwan. The next general meeting will be via teleconference at 2:00 p.m. EDT on October 13, 2020.

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

Approved by: Natassia Kwan, Committee Co-Chair