

Mass Torts Litigation Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2021

Opening

The regular monthly teleconference meeting of the Mass Torts Litigation Committee was called to order at 2:03 p.m. EDT on May 11, 2021 by Joe Winebrenner.

Present

Jim Beck, Edward Gaus, Josh Kahn, Natassia Kwan, Munjot Sahu, David Schwan, Michael Smith, Andrew Tharp, Courtney Ward-Reichard, Joe Winebrenner, Michael Baier, Carla Karp, Andrew Jackson, and Ebony Morris.

Announcements

- Class Actions Regional CLE (June 2021) – Joe Winebrenner and Courtney Ward-Reichard reported that they are continuing to plan this regional CLE. This year, the CLE will be non-traditional considering the COVID-19 pandemic. It remains to be seen if some in-person networking functions will take place.
- 2021 ABA Section Annual Conference (Virtual) – Joe Winebrenner reported that the conference, which took place from May 6 – May 7, 2021, was a great success with over 500 registrants. No one present on the call was able to attend the Mass Torts-sponsored panel on virtual depositions, but Andrew Jackson will reach out to Jim Ray to see how it went.

Ongoing Items

- Newsletter Update [Jim Beck]
 - The last newsletter was a success and had five articles.
 - Subcommittees with article commitments for this quarter (Summer 2021) are as follows:
 - Toxic Torts
 - Discovery
 - Experts and Evidence
 - Pharma and Med Device
 - MDL/Class Procedures
 - The due date for articles this quarter is June 15, 2021. Please contact Jim Beck with any questions.
 - Edd Gaus reported that he may have an article that he can submit by June 15, 2021.

- Website Content Status Update [Andrew Tharp]
 - Practice points for this month are due by May 21, 2021, and the following subcommittees are on tap:
 - Environmental and Toxic Torts
 - Diversity and Practice Strategies
 - MDL and Class Procedures
 - Previous articles and practice points can be found on our website: <https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/committees/masstorts/practice/>.

Deliverables

- May – Section Annual Conference, Sound Advice – need volunteers
- June – Roundtable on Diversity [David Schwan, moderator]
 - Working title: *Beyond Denial: Momentum for Real Progress in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*. Discussion regarding challenges, progress, and ideas for diversity and inclusion at their firms/roles
 - Speakers:
 - Stefanie Shih, Lyft litigation counsel
 - Orlando (Rod) Richmond, Butler Snow partner
 - Natassia Kwan, Deputy City Attorney for San Francisco, Trial Team

Good News – Edd Gaus and his wife are going to have a baby girl!

Follow Up – Carla Karp asked who runs the LinkedIn and Twitter accounts for the Section of Litigation. David Schwan will email Heather Nichols with the ABA to find out. We would like to get our social media accounts more active again.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m. EDT by Joe Winebrenner. The next general meeting will be via teleconference at 2:00 p.m. EDT on June 8, 2021.

Minutes submitted by: Andrew Tharp, Committee Vice-Chair

Approved by: David Schwan, Committee Co-Chair