

Mass Torts Litigation Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2021

Opening

The regular monthly teleconference meeting of the Mass Torts Litigation Committee was called to order at 2:02 p.m. EDT on August 10, 2021 by Joe Winebrenner.

Present

Kasey Adams, Jim Beck, Angela Browning, Karen Crawford, David Elman, Edward Gaus, Steve Harkins, Andrew Jackson, Josh Kahn, Carla Karp, Natassia Kwan, Ebony Morris, David Schwan, Michael Smith, Andrew Tharp, Courtney Ward-Reichard, & Joe Winebrenner.

Announcements

- Intro and Welcome to New Committee Leadership
 - August is the time for departing and new leadership. On the departing front, David Schwan and Natassia Kwan are leaving as co-chairs. And while we will miss them dearly and appreciate their contributions, we are excited to welcome to Karen Crawford and Dale Weppner as our new co-chairs!
 - Karen Crawford is joining us as a former Environmental and Energy Litigation Committee and Professional Development Committee Co-Chair. She has a great deal of class action and mass torts experience from Nelson Mullins in South Carolina, and most recently she has opened her own practice. She has also worked with Mass Torts in the past on panels and Joint CLE.
 - Dale Weppner was unable to join this meeting, but we will get to meet him in September. His most recent work in the ABA was on Council, and we are excited that he is now a Mass Torts Litigation Committee Co-Chair!
- Subcommittee Leadership Roster/Opportunities
 - We will be freshening this roster up in the near future. If you have colleagues (or opposing counsel even) that would be a positive contributor to the Mass Torts Committee, let us know, and they may be a good fit for a subcommittee co-chair position. These new leadership opportunities are great for people that want to be engaged in the ABA going forward.
 - Also, if you have served on a subcommittee for some time, and you want to explore another subcommittee, let us know. We will take that into consideration as we freshen up the roster.

- 2022 Virtual Joint CLE [Andrew Tharp/Edd Gaus]
 - We have great topics that we are whittling down that we will use going forward and then find the right speakers.
 - We are expecting an exciting virtual CLE in January for this conference.
- Class Actions Regional CLE (Chicago) – Joe Winebrenner reports that this Regional CLE has not progressed recently, and it may be too late for the ABA approvals to be secured for the Fall, especially in light of the potentially conflicting National CLE Class Actions Conference.

Future Planning

- Newsletter Update [Jim Beck]
 - Subcommittees with article commitments for this quarter (Fall 2021) are as follows:
 - Young Lawyers
 - Pharma/Med Device
 - Environmental & Toxic Torts Litigation
 - Experts & Evidence
 - Aviation Corner
 - The due date for articles this quarter is September 15, 2021. Please contact Jim Beck with any questions.
- Website Content Status Update [Andrew Tharp]
 - Practice points for this month are due by August 23, 2021, and the following subcommittees are on tap:
 - MDL & Class Procedures
 - Pharmaceuticals and Medical Device
 - Young Lawyers
 - Previous articles and practice points can be found on our website: <https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/committees/masstorts/practice/>.

Deliverables

- July – Newsletter (Jim Beck); Sound Advice (David Schwan)
- August – Sound Advice (2) (Josh Kahn; Steve Harkins)
- September – Sound Advice (Volunteer?); & Roundtable on Mass Torts Litigation Updates in 2021, Court Re-Openings, and General Changes after COVID-19
 - *Post-Pandemic Trials and Verdicts: 4 Faegre attorneys; they will opine on what will stay and what will go.*

Good News – MDL & Class Procedures Subcommittee Co-Chair Josh Kahn shared a good news anecdote from 2020-21 – Josh reports that he got a great result in Delaware in

which he obtained a favorable result from a client on multiple counts in a large class action.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m. EDT by Joe Winebrenner. The next general meeting will be via teleconference at 2:00 p.m. EDT on September 14, 2021.

Minutes submitted by: David Schwan, Committee Co-Chair

Approved by: Natassia Kwan, Committee Co-Chair