

Mass Torts Litigation Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2016

Opening

The regular monthly teleconference meeting of the Mass Torts Litigation Committee was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on June 14, 2016 by Richard Gaal.

Present

Jim Beck, Kristin Beckman, Scott Brooksby, Richard Gaal, Stanley Goos, Maxwell Herman, Clay Massey, Laurie Novion, Andrew Scholz, Courtney Ward-Reichard.

2016 Aviation Litigation National Institute Recap (June 1, 2016 in New York City at the University Club of New York)

- The Institute was a success. The programs and speakers received strong positive feedback in surveys completed by attendees.
- Sponsorships were strong and there were several walk-in attendees. However, attendance was down from last year. This was likely due to the date's close proximity to Memorial Day.
- The Institute's keynote speaker, NTSB Chairman Christopher A. Hart gave a fantastic presentation and was very well received.
- The program provided 8 CLE credits, including 1 Ethics credit (presented by Professor Steven Saltzburg).
- Program topics included air control towers, airplane maintenance, flight diversions for medical emergencies and witness preparation.
- For next year, the Committee should consider moving the Institute to Chicago or Miami and moving the date away from Memorial day. Also, greater emphasis should be placed on getting clients to attend the Institute.

2016 Annual Western Regional CLE Recap (May 27, 2016 in San Francisco, CA)

- This was the third annual Western Regional CLE on class actions and mass torts. It was co-sponsored with the CADS, Insurance Coverage, and Securities Litigation Committees.
- The aviation panel was a great success. The subject was *forum non conveniens* issues in MDLs post-Air France 447.
- For next year, the Committee should focus on increasing attendance of both attorneys and clients.

2017 Joint CLE Conference Update (January 26-28, 2017 in Olympic Valley, CA at the Resort at Squaw Creek)

- The Joint CLE Planning Committee selected an MDL-related program discussing process improvements, and Mass Torts has two breakout panels:
 - o Emerging Trends in Mass Torts, and
 - o Bioterrorism and Food Safety.
- The Committee has found two great speakers for a panel answering the question “Who represents the plaintiff in MDL proceedings?”

Mass Torts Treatise Update

- The Committee anticipates receiving the final three outstanding chapters in the next 30 days. Additional deadlines may be set in coming weeks.
- Andrew Scholz and Courtney Ward-Reichard are in the process of putting together an editorial team. The team should be established within a month. Parties interested in volunteering should reach out to Andrew or Courtney.

Monthly Deliverables Under Committee Plan

- In May:
 - o The Western Regional CLE was held in San Francisco.
 - o Young Lawyers, Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices and Aviation were responsible for Practice Points submissions.
 - o The final article for the Spring newsletter was received. The newsletter should come out this month.
- In June:
 - o The Aviation Litigation National Institute was held in New York City.
 - o A roundtable is scheduled for June 15 at 1:00 p.m. (EDT) on “Why ‘no comment’ is not the right choice.”
 - o Submissions for the Summer newsletter are due on June 15. Three articles have been proposed. Jim Beck has yet to hear from Young Lawyers and Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices.
- In July:
 - o A Litigation Communications Roundtable will be held on July 20 with Jim Beck, Courtney Ward-Reichard and Richard Gaal discussing Legal Blogging and Social Media. The roundtable will be live online. An email will be sent around with a link to the roundtable. Everyone is encouraged to sign-up.
- In August:
 - o The ABA will hold its Annual Meeting from August 3 to August 5 in San Francisco. The Committee will be organizing a lunch with the Products Liability Committee on August 4. The Restaurant has yet to be finalized. A networking lunch will also be held on August 4.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. by Richard Gaal. The next general meeting will be via teleconference at 2:00 p.m. on July 12, 2016.

Minutes submitted by: Maxwell Herman, Young Lawyers Co-Chair

Approved by: David L. Schwan, Website Content Chair