

Mass Torts Litigation Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2016

Opening

The regular monthly teleconference meeting of the Mass Torts Litigation Committee was called to order at 2:00 p.m. (EDT) on May 10, 2016 by Laurie Novion.

Present

Jim Beck, Kristin Beckman, Scott Brooksby, Brad Drew, Richard Gaal, Maxwell Herman, Eric Hudson, Clay Massey, Patrick McGrath, Laurie Novion, Andrew Scholz, Tim Tomasik, Courtney Ward-Reichard, Joe Winebrenner, Donald Winningham III, Karen Woodward.

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 two Mass Torts breakout panels:
 - o Emerging Trends in Mass Torts, and
 - o Bioterrorism and Food Safety.

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

- Preparation for the Institute is on-track and sponsorship is up significantly from last year; attendance is also anticipated to increase.
- The Institute is now being advertised in the New York Law Journal and the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin.
- The program will provide 8 CLE credits, including 1 Ethics credit (presented by Professor Steven Saltzburg).
- The Institute's keynote speaker is NTSB Chairman Christopher A. Hart.
- Program topics include air control towers, airplane maintenance, flight diversions for medical emergencies and witness preparation.
- You can register for the conference at:
<http://shop.americanbar.org/ebus/ABAEventsCalendar/EventDetails.aspx?productId=227708681>.

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

- This will be the third annual Western Regional CLE on class actions and mass torts. We are co-sponsoring the conference with the CADS, Insurance Coverage, and Securities Litigation Committees.

- Our breakout panel will be an aviation panel focused on *forum non conveniens* issues in MDLs after the Air France 447 disaster.
- Lunch will be held at 12:00 p.m. followed by the program from 1-5:00 p.m.
 - o A networking cocktail reception will follow.
- You can register for the conference at:
 - http://shop.americanbar.org/ebus/ABAEventsCalendar/EventDetails.aspx?productId=238718207&sc_cid=LTCAD15-G1.

ABA Litigation Section Annual Conference Recap (April 13-15, 2016 in Chicago, IL at the Ritz-Carlton & Four Seasons Hotels)

- The Committee had a great turnout.
- The combined dinner with the Products Liability group went well and the Committees look forward to additional combined dinners.
- Special thanks to Richard Gaal and David Schwan for taking the lead on planning and brainstorming for the Expo on Thursday night.

Mass Torts Treatise Update

- The Committee anticipates receiving outstanding chapters by the end of May.
- Andrew Scholz and Courtney Ward-Reichard are in the process of putting together an editorial team. Parties interested in volunteering should reach out to Andrew or Courtney.

Monthly Deliverables Under Committee Plan

- In April:
 - o The Committee sponsored a program with the Class Actions group, and
 - o The Committee posted two Practice Points submissions.
- In May:
 - o The Roundtables have been pushed back to June or later this summer,
 - o The Western Regional CLE will be held in San Francisco.
 - o Young Lawyers, Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices, and Aviation are responsible for Practice Points submissions, and
 - o One article for the Spring newsletter remains outstanding.
- In June:
 - o The Aviation Litigation National Institute will meet in New York City,
 - o A Blogging and Social Media Roundtable with Jim Beck, Courtney Ward-Reichard and Richard Gaal will tentatively be held in the first half of the month, and
 - o The deadline for summer newsletter articles is June 15. The following subcommittees are responsible:
 - Experts & Evidence, Young Lawyers, Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices, Toxic Torts and Aviation.

- In July:
 - o A Litigation Communications Roundtable (Courtney Ward-Reichard) will tentatively be held during the month.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m. (EDT) by Laurie Novion. The next general meeting will be via teleconference at 2:00 p.m. (EDT) on June 14, 2016.

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

Approved by: David L. Schwan, Website Content Chair