

Opportunities Abound with Sun, Sand, and Socializing During the ABA YLD Spring Conference

By Edward L. Wright, Jr.

Warm weather and outstanding programming await you when you make plans to join the ABA YLD in gorgeous St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, from May 13 through May 15, 2010.

Final plans for the ABA YLD Spring Conference in St. Thomas, which is being held in conjunction with the ABA General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Division and the Virgin Islands Bar Association, are currently coming together. Conference programming is being referred to as “phenomenal . . . with ample CLE opportunities.” In addition to the great programming that will be offered, the island of St. Thomas has many opportunities for rest and recreation. This conference is sure to be an exciting mix of information, networking, and relaxation.

The Island of St. Thomas

In 1917, the United States purchased St. Thomas from Denmark for \$25 million, as part of a defensive strategy to maintain control over the Caribbean and the Panama Canal during the First World War. St. Thomas is a largely mountainous, thirty-two square mile island in the Caribbean Sea and an unincorporated territory of the United States with a population of 51,000. St. Thomas is home to the capital of the U.S. Virgin Islands, the port of Charlotte Amalie, which has been the heart of St. Thomas’s activities from colonial times to the present.

Things to Do

If water activities are your fancy, St. Thomas is a water lover’s paradise. Once you have attended some of the brilliant programming offered, you should plan a beach day for snorkeling, scuba diving, windsurfing, taking a day charter, kite boarding, sailing, fishing, kayaking, or parasailing.

Perhaps, you prefer staying on dry land. There is excitement to experience for you too! You can play a round of golf, take an island tour, check out some island attractions, or take in the historical sites downtown and do some shopping. Shopping in the historic buildings found throughout downtown Charlotte Amalie has been described as taking visitors back to the Danish era when the town was a bustling port of call, while the modern additions of taxis, shops, souvenir vendors, and cruise ships in the harbor remind vacationers that it is tourism that currently drives the economy.

Finally, if night life is what you are looking for, in the evening you can visit a happy hour at a local bar or restaurant, catch some live music, and have dinner with an awe-inspiring view!

Conference Accommodations

The Wyndham Sugar Bay Resort & Spa will be the host hotel. According to its website, “The pampering [at the Wyndham Sugar Bay Resort & Spa] reaches new heights. And it will leave you utterly renewed. . . . This is not one of your typical white box hotels, but a place that’s as unique as the island itself. [You’re able to] choose your view, choose your favorite ways to relax, choose where you want to eat—all without ever leaving [the] lush 31-acre property. From the moment you start sipping your complimentary welcome drink in [the] colonial-style lobby, you’ll understand you will be well cared for here.”

See You There

Don’t miss out on all the great programming, networking, and vacationing opportunities that will be had by all. Go online, get registered, and book your flights and hotel rooms now. In May, I will see you alongside the brilliant blue ocean and warm sandy beaches in sunny St. Thomas.

For more information about the ABA YLD Spring Conference, visit the conference website at www.abanet.org/yld/spring10.

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