

## FROM THE CHAIR

# 15th Annual Forum—“Informative and Practical”

GUYLYN CUMMINS

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to join us on January 28–30, 2010, at the 15th Annual Conference of the ABA Forum on Communications Law in Key Largo, Florida. All of our past conferences have been tremendously successful, and we believe the upcoming conference will be exciting and thought-provoking. We have gathered an extremely impressive array of experts and participants to discuss some of the most timely and interesting issues faced by communications law practitioners.

The program will feature three plenary sessions, all of which promise to be extremely informative, interesting, and practical. The opening panel on Friday, January 29, will be a debate on business models for news reporting in the digital age. Our second panel on Friday morning will focus on whether prior restraints are still alive. Although they have been strongly disfavored by the First Amendment historically, they were granted twenty years ago in the *Noriega* case and are routinely granted in copyright cases. Does this make sense? And what is the future of prior restraints on the Internet? On Saturday morning, we will present our traditional historical retrospective plenary session, focusing on access to the courts fifteen years after *People v. Simpson*. The overwhelming media coverage of the trial caused a spike in public interest in the courts and backlash against the media for perceived excesses in that case. The panel will discuss how the case was impacted by the media coverage, and how media coverage of the courts has been affected by the trial's legacy.

The small group workshops, which are specifically designed to facilitate discussion on key issues by all of our



Guylyn Cummins

attendees, are among the highlights of the meeting and one of the reasons lawyers find our conference to be so useful in everyday practice. Three of the workshops will again cover hot topics in libel and privacy, newsgathering, and the Internet. We will also offer workshops on ethics, advertising and promotions, FCC, entertainment, reporters' privacy/subpoenas, and broadening

practice—all extremely timely topics.

The conference is also the setting for our separate Young Lawyers' Media Advocacy Workshop, an all-day practicum on Thursday, January 28, directed by the Forum's Training and Development Committee.

The culmination of the Forum's Second Annual First Amendment and Media Law Diversity Moot Court Competition will also take place on Thursday. The competition is designed primarily to expose minority law students to the Forum on Communications Law and the practice of media law.

In addition, the conference will include meetings of the Forum's Women in Communications Law group, which will discuss issues of particular concern to a significant portion of our membership; the Forum's Teaching Media Law Committee; and the TIPS Media, Privacy, and Defamation Law Committee.

In addition to the excellent substantive program, the conference allows us the opportunity we so infrequently have to spend time with our colleagues and families in an informal setting. We are hopeful that many of your children will attend; they will again have an opportunity to be a “Libel Lawyer for a Day” and argue a case to a panel of distinguished (but kindly) judges.

So, the ABA Forum Conference in Key Largo is clearly the place to be next January! Please join us. Details are available on our website at [www.abanet.org/forums/communication](http://www.abanet.org/forums/communication). 

## SAVE THE DATE(S)

### 15th Annual Conference Ocean Reef Club

Key Largo, Florida  
January 28–30, 2010

It's not too late to register. For more information, see [www.abanet.org/forums/communication/pdfs/ConferenceBrochure11-9-09.pdf](http://www.abanet.org/forums/communication/pdfs/ConferenceBrochure11-9-09.pdf).

### Data Privacy and Security CLE Program

March 11, 2010  
Washington, D.C.  
29th Annual CLE Program

### Representing Your Local Broadcaster

April 11, 2010  
Encore Wynn  
Las Vegas, Nevada

### 16th Annual Conference

February 3–5, 2011  
Westin Mission Hills Resort  
Rancho Mirage, California

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