



Committee Corner

Ethics, Professionalism and Grievance Committee

The Ethics, Professionalism, and Grievance Committee has a number of focuses. First and foremost, in accordance with its educational mission of presenting informational programs about ethics issues, the Committee has presented a high level CLE program at every Fall and Spring Meeting of the Section since at least 1997. The Committee has also presented a teleseminar and is considering presenting another.

At the Fall Meeting in San Diego, the Committee's program is "Ask a Judge." The two panelists are Hon. Abraham Gafni (ret.) and Hon. Debra Lehrmann. The Moderator, Hon. Edward Newman, is also a judicial officer. The Committee will meet during the Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 1 at 12:30 p.m. At that meeting, the Committee's agenda will include planning for future programs. The Committee has made preliminary plans for the Spring Meeting in Washington D.C. The topic that has been approved for that program is ethics issues connected with fees. The Committee will begin discussing programs for the Fall 2006 Meeting (Santa Fe, New Mexico) and Spring 2007 (Monterey, California), as well as a potential teleseminar. New members, persons considering joining the Committee, and persons with ideas they wish to discuss are welcome. Proposals for programs are welcome. Speakers at programs are expected to prepare quality written materials for their presentation.

The Committee has also been available to leadership of the Section. Thus, the Committee consulted extensively with leadership regarding family law ethics issues when the ABA's Ethics 2000 Commission recommended revisions of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct (the revisions were by and large adopted by the ABA's House of Delegates in 2002 and 2003). The Chair of the Ethics Committee is now serving on the Committee on Civility and Professionalism, created by Howard I. Lipsey, Chair of the Section, to formulate rules of civility and professionalism for the guidance of family law lawyers.

The current officers of the Committee are: Lewis Becker, Chair; Dianna Gould-Saltman, Co-Vice Chair; Sheryl Shaughnessey, Co-Vice Chair. Please feel free to say Hello when you see us.

For more information on Section committees, including how to join a committee, please visit at www.abanet.org/family/committees.