

# SECTION NEWS

## RPPT Committee Spotlight: Join a Section Committee!

The Section of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law has over 115 substantive committees that cover a variety of subjects of importance to lawyers in the fields of estate planning and real property.

If you are a member of the Section and do not belong to a Committee, you are not taking full advantage of your Section membership. To receive a copy of the most recent *RPPT Guide to Committees* or for further information on committee membership, please contact Nikki Dennard in the Section office at (312) 988-5651. Or you may visit the Section's Committees Page at [www.abanet.org/rppt/committees/home.html](http://www.abanet.org/rppt/committees/home.html). All Section members may join up to two committees free of charge.

This issue's committee highlights:

### Probate and Trust Division— C-6 S Corporations Committee

This committee focuses on the use of S Corporations in estate planning and the issues, tax and non-tax, involving trusts as S Corporation shareholders. It also follows and participates in legislative and regulatory developments affecting this area. The committee prepares comments on legislation and regulations, publishes information for Section members, and participates in or sponsors Section CLE programs on these topics.

The chair of the committee is T. Randolph Harris, and the vice chairs are W. Birch Douglass III and Steven B. Gorin. Check out the committee web site at [www.abanet.org/rppt/committees/pt/c6/home.html](http://www.abanet.org/rppt/committees/pt/c6/home.html).

### Real Property Division— A-2 Decisions Committee

This committee informs the Section of judicial and regulatory decisions affecting real estate practitioners. It prepares and distributes a quarterly report, publishes an annual survey, and presents programs as developments warrant. Most committee members have a specific reporting responsibility. The chair of the Decisions Committee is Carol Ann Martinelli.

Check out the committee web site at [www.abanet.org/rppt/committees/rp/a2/home.html](http://www.abanet.org/rppt/committees/rp/a2/home.html).

## Skills Training for Estate Planners (STEP)

Cosponsored by the Section of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law and ALI-ABA  
Planning Chair, Professor Jeffrey N. Pennell,  
Emory University School of Law

**Hands-on skills training ("lab work") integrates substantive law with the practical skills required for estate planning. Learn the fundamentals of drafting wills and trusts, incorporate experienced feedback from noted authorities, and familiarize yourself with common issues presented in any estate planning practice.**

Topics include: • Using computer software • Interviewing and counseling clients • Analyzing client goals and formulating plans • Anticipating and addressing ethical problems • Drafting wills, trusts, and powers of attorney • Powers of appointment and other flexibility adding devices • QPRTs, GRATs, and other low or no gift tax gifting techniques • Fiduciary administration, tax compliance, spreadsheets, and office management/politics • Coordinating the substantive elements of an effective plan (marital deduction, life insurance and employee benefits, valuation and business planning, charitable planning and inter vivos giving, and intergenerational transfers).

Targeted at new attorneys or experienced practitioners desiring to practice in another area of law, the Skills Training course is a two-week program designed to impart practical skills as opposed to book learning. These courses are designed to efficiently mentor lawyers who desire practical training and a fundamental foundation in estate planning. The emphasis is practical skills—lab work. There is some traditional classroom instruction, but registrants should already know the basics in trusts and estates, wealth transfer taxation, and the income taxation of trusts and estates.

Session 1, July 8–July 12, 2002

Session 2, July 29–August 2, 2002

\$995 per session; \$1,895 for both

► Section Members pay \$945/\$1,795 ◀

*Continental breakfast, lunch, and some dinners are included.*

*Lodging is not included: dorm rooms are available for approximately \$35/night.*

Visit our web site for extensive details—[www.ali-aba.org](http://www.ali-aba.org);  
or call ALI-ABA at 800 CLE-NEWS (253-6397)  
or e-mail [pmccutcheon@ali-aba.org](mailto:pmccutcheon@ali-aba.org).

## Important dates in March 2002

- 4th Spring Status Reports sent to committee chairs
- 15th **Deadline** for committee chairs to submit to RPPT staff info & agendas they want mailed to their committee members about Spring Meeting
- 18th **Deadline** for Spring Status reports to the SCM
- 20th **Deadline** for Spring Meeting advance registration
- 22nd **Deadline** for Housing at the Westin St. Francis, San Francisco, CA
- 25th **Deadline** for Spring Status reports to the RPPT office

## Important dates in April 2002

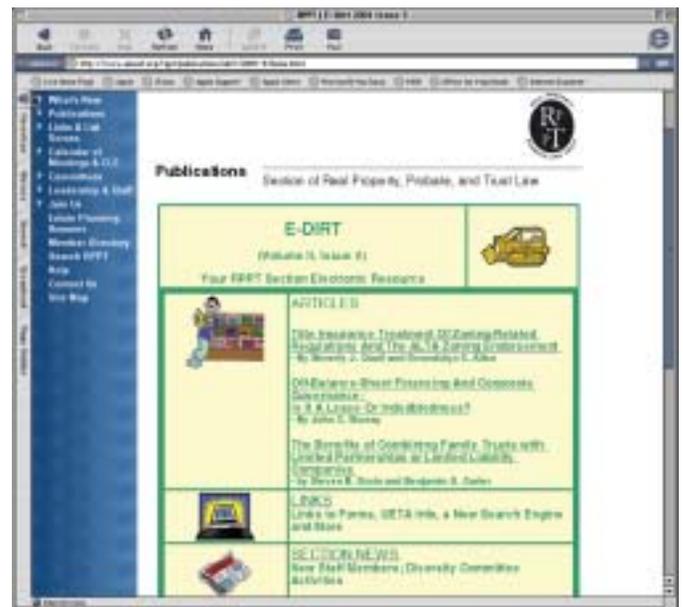
- 19th **Deadline** for all appointments from Chair-Elect & Division VC to RPPT Committee Manager
- 25th **Spring Symposia & Council Meeting** in San Francisco, CA
- 26th **Spring Symposia & Council Meeting** in San Francisco, CA
- 27th **Spring Symposia & Council Meeting** in San Francisco, CA
- 28th **Spring Symposia & Council Meeting** in San Francisco, CA

## Web Spotlight

### Estate Planning FAQs

Do you know someone who needs quick answers to questions about estate planning? The RPPT Section proudly announces its new web page with answers to frequently asked questions about wills, the probate process, and related topics. This page answers the most common questions about the estate planning process, probate and administration of estates, transfer taxes and tax planning for assets, and disability planning.

Have your questions answered at [www.abanet.org/rppt/public/home.html](http://www.abanet.org/rppt/public/home.html). Or click on "Estate Planning Answers" on the left side of any page on the RPPT web site at [www.abanet.org/RPPT](http://www.abanet.org/RPPT).



### E-Dirt

Keep up-to-date on the latest information in real estate law by reading our electronic publication, *E-Dirt*, complete with timely articles, links to relevant forms and useful sites, and RPPT Section news and events, including contests and upcoming meetings.

Check out the most recent issue at [www.abanet.org/rppt/publications/edirt/2001-3/home.html](http://www.abanet.org/rppt/publications/edirt/2001-3/home.html). ■