ABA Section of Litigation

Public Service

10 Section programs that give back to the community. *Learn how you can do your part!*

2012–2013
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http://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/initiatives
Access to Justice Task Force

Our Mission
Engaging the Section membership to leverage its resources to improve access to justice and to promote the ABA’s Model Access Act and other efforts related to the civil right to counsel.

This Year
• Completed the filming, narration, and editing of a judicial training video on working with self-represented litigants to be promoted for use with judicial training conferences throughout the country

What You Can Do
• Contact the task force to identify and propose access to justice projects
• Work with your local bar associations on the implementation of the Model Access Act and inform the task force about your efforts

Co-Chairs
Ronald Breaux
Chinh Le
Jean Veta
Children’s Rights Litigation Committee

Our Mission
Addressing the underrepresentation of children by inspiring, assisting, and training lawyers to volunteer to represent children and to support and multiply the number and quality of children’s law programs.

This Year
- Participated in drafting a statement from the ABA to the Senate Judiciary Committee for its December 12, 2012, hearing on ending the school-to-prison pipeline
- Roundtable on student discipline in the wake of the Newtown shootings, moderated by Ron Marmer, that had over 100 participating callers
- Produced several podcasts, including “The Hidden Victimization of Foster Youth,” “Lessons from Juvenile Clients,” and “Building a Multidisciplinary Practice”
- Launch of the educational civil rights accountability project
- Presentation on pro bono opportunities in children’s law at the midyear meeting of the National Association of Women Lawyers
- Provided multiple training programs for juvenile court judges on identifying victims of human trafficking

What You Can Do
- Contact the Committee for an opportunity to volunteer to represent a child
- Assist with setting up training sessions for juvenile court judges or lawyers in your community
- Assist with content development for the Committee’s website and newsletters

Committee Director and Co-Chairs
Cathy Krebs (Director)
Rosa Hirji
Lourdes Rosado
Casey Trupin
Human Trafficking Task Force

Our Mission

Educating stakeholders about the need of working together to combat human trafficking by sharing each stakeholder’s critical role and offering a model of communication and action.

This Year

- Created regional training sessions to encourage the development of regional task forces to effectively identify and provide services to victims and increase cooperation between law enforcement and service providers
- Over 350 attendees at training sessions located on the East Coast, West Coast, and Midwest. Attendees included law enforcement, immigration officials, victim services personnel, former victims, medical care providers, legislators, and academics
- Identification of stakeholders and types of trafficking for each region and customized training for each region
- Creation of public awareness posters distributed to attendees of training sessions

What You Can Do

- Identify stakeholders in your community who can be offered training
- Participate in the creation of public awareness posters targeting your area of the country
- Assist with the logistics and materials for training sessions
- Provide pro bono assistance to legal service providers in your community who work with human trafficking survivors

Co-Chairs

Ruth Bahe-Jachna
Hon. Virginia Kendall
Implicit Bias Task Force

Our Mission

The Section of Litigation’s Implicit Bias Task Force is the first major initiative within the ABA—and one of the few in the country—to address the profound implications to our system of justice, trial practice, and our profession of groundbreaking research in psychology and neuroscience about unconscious biases every person harbors.

This Year

• In addition to signature programs we continue to sponsor both within the ABA and at major gatherings of judges and/or practitioners across the country, we also partnered with the Criminal Justice Section in successfully securing a prestigious Enterprise Grant for the Achieving an Impartial Jury Project, made all the more compelling with the input of a truly illustrious advisory group. Hands down, though, our most significant accomplishment this year was the launch of our Task Force’s website, which has received resounding accolades. Included on the site are cutting-edge material on the field and an introductory video on the subject with the foremost experts in the field. In addition, there is a comprehensive tool kit to assist any group in undertaking implicit bias programming.

What You Can Do

• Every member of the Section should familiarize themselves with the site, watch the video, take an “IAT” test, and share the link with their listservs, local bars and law schools, their colleagues, and the like. Moreover, the positive message of the research is that we can all change our unconscious biases through education. Thus the most effective action any Section of Litigation Leader can take is to utilize the tool kit and the resources of the Task Force to put on implicit bias programming in their local jurisdictions.

Co-Chairs

Charna E. Sherman
Hon. Delissa Ridgway
Our Mission
Providing judicial internships for diverse law students to enhance the pipeline of qualified, skilled, and diverse practitioners in the legal profession.

This Year
- Raised over $300,000 in financial support
- Volunteers interviewed over 600 program applicants
- Over 170 law students were placed with summer judicial internships in 10 locations
- New committee formed to help JIOP alumni become involved in the Section
- Formation of communications committee to further enhance website and create newsletter
- Partnering with other ABA sections and non-ABA bar organizations to jointly place students

What You Can Do
- Volunteer to interview program applicants
- Mentor a JIOP student in your city
- Become a program sponsor or ask your firm to be a sponsor
- Speak at a program orientation
- Help raise funds in your city to support JIOP interns
- Develop programs and activities for JIOP alums

Committee Director and Co-Chairs
Gail A. Howard (Director)
Daniel Dowd
Hon. Barbara Lynn
Joseph Ybarra
Our Mission
The goals of the Leadership Fellows are to attract, retain, and develop talented and diverse lawyers; foster a culture of diversity and inclusion; demonstrate the Section’s commitment to ensuring equal opportunity in the profession; and create a pipeline of future Section leaders. The Leadership Fellows program provides opportunities for lawyers in underrepresented groups—racial and ethnic minorities; persons with disabilities; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons—to participate in leadership roles within the Section of Litigation. The goal of the Young Lawyer Leadership Program is to increase the participation of young lawyers in the Section of Litigation by involving young lawyers in the work of the Section with the hope that they will develop into future leaders of the Section and enhancing the image of the Section among young lawyers, including those who are members of the Section and the Young Lawyers Division of the ABA.

This Year
- Selected a total of 10 participants
- Each fellow was assigned and work with a substantive committee within the Section. They also assist with the implementation of the committee’s tasks and project development
- Fellows are also assigned mentors from the Section’s leadership for training and guidance
- Fellows hosted a Roundtable discussion titled “Tips For Junior Associates When Speaking With Clients”
- Hosted a “Speed Networking” event at the 2013 Section Annual Conference in Chicago, IL

What You Can Do
- If you would like to get involved and assist, become a mentor or simply stop one of the Fellows at the next meeting and share some wisdom.
- Section chairs and subcommittee chairs can assist by getting your assigned fellows involved in your committee. Give them assignments and ask them to help your committee in any way they can.
Legal Services Delivery

Our Mission
Support organizations and litigators that provide legal services to low-income clients.

This Year
- Presented at the Section Annual Conference a fund-raising training program for legal services organizations
- Continued operation of the Justice Assistance Fund grant program
- Created an advisory board of members of outside organizations to help promote and best utilize the Committee’s programs

What You Can Do
- Inform local legal services organizations in your community about the Committee’s programs
- Alert the Committee to any local legal services organizations in your community so that the Committee can communicate with groups it is not currently reaching
Legal Services Training

Our Mission
Providing free trial training to legal services attorneys.

This Year
- Organized two 2½ day training programs: St. Louis, Missouri, April 5–7, 2013, and Columbus, Ohio, June 26–28, 2013
- 10 faculty members working with 20–30 legal services attorneys
- Attendee workshop performances are videotaped for faculty critiquing
- Covers all phases of trial from opening statements, to witness examinations, objections, and closing arguments

What You Can Do
- Volunteer to serve as a faculty member for a future training program

Co-Chairs
Mark Drummond
Paul Nettleton
Steve Rosen
Penny White
Our Mission
Fostering interest in the performance of pro bono work for indigent litigants and improving access to justice for vulnerable persons.

This Year
• Participated in a summit in Miami on May 21, 2013, with the Miami Pro Bono Roundtable and Florida Bar Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services
• Conducted a survey of the pro bono efforts at the Section Annual Conference of attendees
• Created and circulated an updated 50-state listing of CLE programs of interest to pro bono and public service lawyers
• Maintained and updated the Committee's website

What You Can Do
• Volunteer your time to local legal aid organizations
• Develop self-help information for applicants for aid that must be turned down for lack of resources
• Direct funds to legal aid programs through cy pres provisions in class action settlement agreements
• Encourage your local bars to contact congressional delegations to stress the importance of legal aid funding
Special Committee on Litigation Assistance to Military Personnel

Our Mission
Supporting the unique needs of active duty military personnel as those needs evolve based on current deployments and the availability of other resources.

This Year
- Established a relationship with the Judge Advocate General of the Navy to provide the Committee with a better understanding of the needs of active duty personnel
- Working to establish a liaison between the Committee and the Office of the Judge Advocate to help identify needs for military personnel and to create meaningful programs to service those needs

What You Can Do
- Alert the Committee to underserved litigation needs of active duty military personnel
- Identify attorney contacts within the armed forces to serve as advisors and liaisons for the Committee

Co-Chairs
John Burns
Richard Harper