



April 6, 2007

Dear Litigation Section Members:

The Litigation Section had an active first quarter, sponsoring numerous CLEs and other events. This e-mail will summarize our activities this past quarter, list information about upcoming events, and provide useful links and services for our members.

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### [1. Upcoming Events and CLEs](#)

\* The Section's next **Quarterly Lunch** will be held on a date to be announced in May 2007 at the Law and Justice Center. We will provide more information on the topic and the presenters as the time nears. As always, these quarterly luncheons will be over the noon hour at the Law and Justice Center and are free of charge to section members who sign up in advance.



\* The Section will once again sponsor the popular **NITA Trial Seminar**, planned for May 16-19, 2007 here in Salt Lake City. This represents a special opportunity to participate in a NITA seminar without having to travel out-of-state. The cost of attending a similar seminar out-of-state can be more than \$3000; this seminar is subsidized by the Litigation Section and is available to members for only \$1200. We will bring eight out-of-state NITA faculty and will complement them with eight top-notch local faculty. We sponsored a similar seminar in 2005 which was a smashing success. The Section's liaison for this event is Ryan Harris. In an effort to maximize one-on-one instruction, this event is limited to 48 participants. As of this writing, a few slots remain available, so sign up now before they are all gone. To sign up, simply visit <http://www.utahbar.org/cle/events/registration/nita.html> or contact Connie Howard at the Utah State Bar at 297-7033.

\* The **2007 Annual Convention** will take place July 18-21, 2007 in Sun Valley, Idaho. The Litigation Section will be sponsoring several breakout sessions there. The Litigation Section liaison for the 2007 Annual Convention is Jonathan Hafen. Look for more information to follow. To sign up for the Mid-Year Convention, visit [www.utahbar.org/cle](http://www.utahbar.org/cle) or call 297-7032 or 297-7036.



For a calendar of events sponsored by the Litigation Section, visit:  
<http://www.utahbar.org/sections/litigation/events.html>

## **2. Activities January-March 2007**

\* The Section's **Latest Quarterly Luncheon** took place on March 14, 2007. We successfully persuaded three of the in-court clerks from Third District Court to come and discuss litigation issues from the perspective of the in-court clerks. The event was titled "Practice Tips From the Court Clerks: Things You Really Ought to Know." We would like to thank Cheri Lindsley, Janet Banks, and Rhonda Meeks for participating on the panel, moderated by Judge Randall Skanchy. The event was, as always, very well attended and very informative.

\* The Section sponsored a breakout session at the Utah State Bar's **Spring Convention** in St. George in early March 2007. Our session included a panel of judges from the Fifth District Court, moderated by Lowry Snow. Special thanks to Judges Michael Westfall, James Shumate, and retired Judge Philip Eves for participating on our panel and providing their insight to the attendees. Thanks also to Ryan Frazier and Bryan Pattison for putting this breakout session together.

\* Mike Petrogeorge, the Section's Chair-Elect, spent many hours in January and February 2007 acting as the Section's representative on the Utah State Bar's **Governmental Relations Committee**. In that capacity, Mike helped the Committee review and comment on proposed legislation that had some impact on litigation issues. Thanks to Mike for his service on that Committee.

## **3. Sponsorships and Community Involvement**

\* On March 6, 2007, the Section sponsored the first (but certainly not the last) **Reception for First-Year Law Students** at the Law and Justice Center. All first-year law students at both local law schools were invited, and over 50 of them attended the event, as did Dean Hiram Chodosh of the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law and Dean Kevin Worthen of the Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School. The purpose of the event was to familiarize first-year law students with the Bar and the Section and encourage them to participate in Bar activities both before and after passing the Bar Exam. Brief remarks were made by, among others, Judge Deno Himonas, Utah State Bar President Gus Chin, John Baldwin and Joni Seko from the Utah State Bar, and Young Lawyers' Division President David Hall, and attendees then socialized for a couple of hours. The event was a great success, and we hope to make it a tradition on an ongoing basis. Special thanks to Elaina Maragakis for conceiving of the event and then working very hard over a long period of time to make it happen.

\* The Section was once again proud to support the winners of the **Trial Advocacy** competitions at both of our local law schools. On March 26, 2007, I was pleased to present commemorative plaques and a check for \$500 each to Victoria Ryder, Jonathan G. Winn, Wesley W. Oates, and Chad Noakes, the members of the National Trial Competition Regional Team at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law. On March 28, 2007, I was pleased to attend the BYU Law School Awards Banquet to present commemorative plaques and a check for \$500 each to Jeffrey Campbell, Justin Nunley, Debra Peck, and Kim Moore, the winning teams of the Linda Anderson Trial Advocacy Competition at the Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School. Congratulations to all of these students and future litigators.

#### **4. Upcoming Amendments to the Section Bylaws**

As I mentioned in the last quarterly email, the Section's Executive Committee has determined that the time has come to overhaul the Section's bylaws. The new set of bylaws has been submitted to and approved by the Board of Bar Commissioners, and now the next step is that the new bylaws have to be approved by the Section's membership before taking effect. We are going to designate our May 2007 quarterly luncheon as a special meeting of the Section's membership at which time the Section's membership will be asked to vote on the new Bylaws. Prior to that quarterly luncheon, I will send out an email with the new bylaws attached so that the membership can review those bylaws prior to the luncheon. Watch for that email, and if you have interest in the bylaws and the amendments, please let me know or plan to attend the May 2007 luncheon to make your views heard.

#### **5. Website Updates**

We continue to build our Judges' Benchbook, which contains very useful information about state and federal judges. Currently, information regarding more than 60 state district court judges is available through the Benchbook, and we hope to boost this number closer to 70 soon. The Benchbook is continually being updated as new judges take the bench and agree to participate, and as we reach out to other judges who have not yet had the opportunity to participate; indeed, information regarding one additional judges was recently added to the site. The feedback we get from both judges and practitioners about the Benchbook has been uniformly and overwhelmingly positive, as both judges and lawyers consider the Benchbook a useful tool that makes court appearances run more smoothly. Additionally, we are pleased to announce that to make the Benchbook more accessible, the Bar has created a direct link on the Utah Bar's homepage. Visit [www.utahbar.org](http://www.utahbar.org) and scroll down until you reach the link on the right-hand side.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.utahbar.org/litigation/welcome](http://www.utahbar.org/litigation/welcome) or, even more conveniently, at [www.utlitsec.org](http://www.utlitsec.org).

Enjoy the springtime,

Ryan M. Harris  
Chair, Litigation Section

