



October 31, 2009

## UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the Litigation Section wants to update you on the activities of the Section. This brief report addresses:

- Recent CLE events,
- Upcoming CLE events,
- Web site update,
- Electronic filing in state courts,
- Assisting the courts, and
- Section operations roundup.

**Recent CLE Events** Recent seminars have included:

- Cache County Golf & CLE: On August 21, District Judge Ted Stewart and Magistrate Samuel Alba discussed practice in the federal court and in their courtrooms with 50 members of the Litigation Section in Cache County.
- Quarterly Luncheon: On September 28, Judges Lindberg and Connors spoke to a packed crowd about likes and dislikes of judges.
- Utah County Golf & CLE: On October 9, Greg Constantino spoke with 33 section members in Utah County about collection law.
- Ethics Symposium: On October 23, the Litigation Section was a co-sponsor of BYU Law School's annual Ethics Symposium. The topic was "Reel Justice: Legal Ethics Goes to the Movies."
- St. George Golf & CLE: On October 22 and 23, the Litigation Section joined with the Federal Bar Association to sponsor a program in St. George with federal judges discussing federal practice.

**Upcoming CLE Events** Mark these dates on your calendars:

- November 13: The Section is sponsoring three panels at the Fall Forum on evidence, litigation reform, and expert witnesses.
- Quarterly Luncheon: The next quarterly luncheon on December will focus on legal writing, with a panel of judges describing ways to draft more effective complaints and make court submissions more persuasive.
- Spring Meeting: The Section is preparing two presentations for the Bar's Spring Meeting in St. George on March 18-20 on obtaining medical records in litigation and ethical issues that arise with pro se opponents.

**Web Site Update** Our redesigned Web site continues to attract attention. We have one of the most-used sites by bar members – the Benchbook. The site drives traffic to the Bar’s web site as 65% of visitors to the Section web site arrive via Google searches or visitors going directly to the Section web site: <http://litigation.utahbar.org> (not www). Curiously, the web site attracts visits from around the world, including Rwanda, Moldava, Afghanistan, and Nepal. Please visit the Web page and bookmark it.

**Electronic Filing in State Court:** Electronic filing in the state courts has arrived. The trial program begun in the Second District is being expanded statewide. The state court filing system is more robust than the federal ECF system, permitting more tasks to be performed electronically. Electronic filing is being rolled out in stages with the various districts and will progressively apply to more types of filings, including criminal cases. The section will work with the bar to provide training on the new system.

**Assisting the Courts** The Section is engaged in several initiatives to develop ways members of the Litigation Section can support state court judges and help the state courts cope with the significant reduction in their resources as a result of state budget cutbacks. We are working closely with the courts in searching for ways to help. Look for more on this soon.

**Section Operations Roundup:**

- Randall Jeffs, of Provo, was welcomed to the Executive Committee of the Section.
- The Section Chair met with the Bar Commission on September 11 to report on the activities of the Section and participated in the Bar Leadership Conference on October 21.
- The Section will co-sponsor the debate tournament at Highland High with the Young Lawyers Division.
- The Law Student Relations Committee continues to work with the law schools in developing a program that will match students with practitioners to write articles. Please send Isaac Paxman ([ipaxman@slputah.com](mailto:ipaxman@slputah.com)) your suggestions of topics for articles of interest to litigators.