



July 30, 2009

UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

- Election of new officers and adoption of a budget,
- Our new Web site,
- Recent CLE events,
- Upcoming CLE events,
- Assisting the courts, and
- Reminders of other services available for members.

Elections/Budget At the annual meeting of the Section on June 10, new officers were elected for the 2009-2010 year. They are:

- Chair: Wayne Klein (Lewis B. Freeman & Partners)
- Chair Elect: Dan Steele (Stucki, Steele, Pia & Anderson)
- Treasurer: Ryan Frazier (Kirton & McConkie)
- Secretary: George Burbidge (Christensen & Jensen)
- Past Chair: Sammi Anderson (Manning, Curtis, Bradshaw & Bednar)

At the Section annual meeting, the Executive Committee also adopted a budget for the upcoming year. Most of the \$31,450 in expected revenue will be spent on continuing education programs. We budgeted \$19,450 for CLE programs including the annual meeting, the spring meeting, the Fall Forum, quarterly luncheons, golf & CLE programs, and several other specialized programs. Another \$4,250 is being reserved to help subsidize a future NITA training program. The other \$7,700 is for Web site maintenance, awards to the winning law school advocacy teams, law student relations, grants/contributions/scholarships, and meetings of the Executive Committee.

For those who want to learn more, please visit the Section Web site where you can find a list of Executive Committee members, Section bylaws, meeting minutes, and prior newsletters.

New Web Site We are very proud of our redesigned Web site. We have an easy-to-remember address: <http://litigation.utahbar.org> (not www). Please visit the Web page and bookmark it. There you will find information on upcoming CLE events, Bench Books – our crown jewel – containing practice information for almost all the judges in the state, and other resources. We expect to add information to this page including litigation-related articles and CLE materials, directories of experts, and developments that will affect litigation in Utah. Thanks to Dan Steele, Ryan Frazier, David Castleberry, and Patrick Burt for their work on the new Web site as well as appreciation to Lincoln Meade at the Bar for his time and expert assistance.

Recent CLE Events Recent seminars have included:

- At the July 2009 Annual Meeting, the Section presented breakout sessions on changes to the Rules of Civil Procedure and the role of economics in litigation.
- At a June 22 Quarterly Luncheon, section members heard Chief Justice Durham discuss the judiciary's relationship with the other branches of government.
- At an April 28 Quarterly Luncheon, 115 attendees heard Chief Justice Durham, two legislators, and representatives from the Governor's office and the Judicial Nomination Commission discuss the judicial fitness requirement under the Utah Constitution.
- On April 20, the Section co-sponsored the Appellate Judges' Review of 2008 Cases.
- A March 31 Quarterly Luncheon focused on "Lessons Learned from Mentors," encouraging Section members to sign up to be mentors for new members of the Bar.
- At the Spring Meeting the Section presented two breakout sessions on dismissal standards and the art of persuading judges.

Upcoming CLE Events Mark these dates on your calendars:

- A Golf & CLE seminar will be held in Cache County (Birch Creek course in Smithfield) on August 21. District Judge Ted Stewart and Magistrate Samuel Alba will discuss practice in the federal court and in their courtrooms.
- A Golf & CLE program will be held in St. George (at the new Sand Hollow course) on October 23. The topic and presenters are being selected.
- The next Quarterly Luncheon will focus on benefitting from the Section's new Web site.
- The Annual Ethics Symposium, entitled "Legal Ethics Goes to the Movies," is set for October.
- The Fall Forum this year will be on November 13 and will include breakout sessions on litigation topics.

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 also need your help with habeas corpus cases. The bench and the bar need attorneys to serve as court-appointed pro bono counsel for post-conviction relief cases. If the bar cannot provide sufficient volunteers, the courts may be forced to appoint counsel involuntarily. Please contact Kent Hart of the Federal Defenders Office (801-524-4010) to discuss how you can help.

Other Services One of the most popular services provided by the Section is its Bench Book. Almost all the judges have provided information to improve the ease and quality of practice in their courtrooms. Also, remember our quarterly luncheons are free to members of the Section. We are beginning a collaborative effort between law students and practitioners to author articles on litigation topics that will be posted on the Web site. If you want to work with a law student on a litigation-related topic, contact Isaac Paxman.