Greetings to all Committee members, old and new. It is no coincidence that the annual cycle of activities for committees within ABA sections tends to follow the academic year. Teaching and learning is what ABA committees are all about. That will be our focus again this year as we continue our tradition of presenting high-quality programs at ABA and seasonal Section meetings, while seeking to expand the circle of Committee members active on other projects.

Here are some highlights (so far!) of your Committee’s calendar for 2009-2010.

First and foremost, please plan on joining our first conference call on Monday, September 28, at 11 am (EDT). Although technically this is our first steering group call, we are deliberately inviting all Committee members to dial in. This is because we want new volunteers – not just the usual suspects – to join the steering group and participate in a variety of Committee initiatives ranging from Year in Review to new stand-alone programs. More information about these initiatives will be presented on the call (and below). Dial-in numbers are 1.800.504.8071 (U.S. and Canada) and +1 3032480281 (other countries). The access code for everybody is 6622672. The detailed agenda for the call will be e-mailed to all Committee members shortly.

And now for some great news on the Committee’s maritime piracy program for the fall Section meeting in Miami Beach: it has been granted “Showcase” status!!! Congratulations to former Committee co-chair Steve Snell for crafting the program proposal and shepherding it through the approval process. We are also grateful to the Section’s Law of the Sea Committee (and its co-chairs Michael Becker and Margaret Lynch Tomlinson) for agreeing to co-sponsor this program, now scheduled for 10:30 am to 12 noon (EDT) on Thursday, October 28. Be there, me hearties!! Depending on how many Committee members register, we will consider organizing a Committee meeting in Miami Beach. Registration for the Fall meeting is open now at http://www.abanet.org/intlaw/fall09/. A special per night hotel rate of $249 for conference attendees is available until October 6, 2009 at the Eden Roc hotel in Miami Beach.

This just in, too: your Committee is co-sponsoring a brown-bag lunch on “Export Controls and Sanctions – Responsibilities of Freight Forwarders,” to be held at 12 noon (EDT) on October 7 in Washington, DC. Organized by the Section’s Export Controls and Economic Sanctions Committee, this program will include presentations by and Q&A with speakers from the U.S. Treasury and Commerce Departments. Any Committee member representing forwarders and logistics providers involved in global trade with the U.S. should try to attend. For details, see the e-mail sent by the Export Controls Committee to our membership on Monday evening, September 21. Note that you will be able to dial in for a recording of the program after the fact if you cannot attend in person.

Volunteers are needed to help write your Committee’s contribution to the next Year-in-Review edition of The International Lawyer, with a due date of December 1, 2009. Lorry Halloway and Gerry Murphy of Crowell & Moring LLP have agreed to be our principal YIR editors for this year, and we are looking for co-editors with particular regional or non-aviation modal expertise to assist them. This will be a prime topic for the first part of the September 28
call, so be thinking of a section that you would like to author or co-author. Be assured we are not looking for a magnum opus from anyone, as our entire article is limited to 7,000 words. **We do need people whose calendars will permit producing advanced drafts by November 15**, to allow time for final editing and bluebooking. If interested, please speak up on the September 28 call, and/or e-mail Lorry at lhalloway@crowell.com and Gerry at gmurphy@crowell.com.

**We also want volunteers to write articles for the next issue of the Committee’s e-newsletter.** Look at our inaugural issue released on May 30, 2009 to get an idea of the length and type of subject matter we are looking for. Please send your story ideas to the co-chairs and Matthias Edrich, your Committee’s information officer. His e-mail is medrich@peckshaffer.com.

**About the proposed new Rotterdam Rules for international maritime cargo liability and related matters: we’re on it.** By the time of our September 28 call, we will know who showed up for the September 23 signing ceremony in the Netherlands – and who didn’t. **We’ll tell you what we know on the call.** We’ll also provide an update on your Committee’s participation with the Tort and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) and the U.S. Maritime Law Association in preparing a Report and Recommendation on Rotterdam for consideration by the ABA House of Delegates in February. Depending on the extent and timing of U.S. and international acceptance of Rotterdam during the coming year, your Committee will take the lead in organizing another seasonal-meeting or stand-alone program as a follow-up to our presentation on the UNCITRAL convention (as it was then known) at the Section’s 2008 Spring meeting.

**And finally: watch our Web site** for new developments on all of the above and more. It is accessible at www.abanet.org/dch/committee.cfm?com=IC706000 and is currently in the process of being updated for the 2009-2010 Committee year. Matthias Edrich is responsible for keeping our Web content current, so please inform him of any proposed additions or corrections.

We all look forward to hearing from you and working with you during the upcoming year!

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