Food, Cosmetics, and Nutraceuticals Committee’s Meeting Notes

June 12, 2014

On June 12, 2014, we had our monthly ABA Food, Cosmetics, and Nutraceuticals Committee teleconference. Below is a brief summary of our call and the action items that came from it.

(1) ABA Annual Meeting

The ABA Annual Meeting is coming up on August 8-10 in Boston. Registration is now open for the ABA Annual Meeting (https://www.xpressreg.net/register/abaa084/lookup.asp?hkey=).

(2) Annual Food, Cosmetics, and Nutraceuticals Committee Report

Suzan is preparing our committee's annual report to submit to the ABA SciTech division. The report will cover FCN committee programs for the upcoming year. The programs are further described below. If you would like to get involved in the planning of any of these programs, please contact the program point person.

a. Food Import Regulation Webinar

In Fall 2014, we will be hosting a webinar regarding food import regulation, including changes in import procedures and the risks and considerations for the food industry as we move towards full implementation of FSMA over the next two years. Charley Woodhouse is spearheading this webinar. Along with Charley, the webinar will feature panelists including the President of the Customs and International Trade Bar Association and a customs broker. If you would like to assist with this webinar, please contact Charley at cfw@regulatory-food-science.com.

b. Cross-section of the Environment and Cosmetics Webinar

In early 2015, we will host a webinar addressing the cross-section of the environment and cosmetics, which will examine issues including the use and disposal of cosmetic packaging. If you would like to assist with this webinar, please contact Laurie Henry at LHENRY@shb.com.
c. POM Wonderful Brown Bag

With today's issuance of the Supreme Court's opinion in POM Wonderful LLC v. The Coca Cola Co., the committee discussed hosting a brown bag about the decision and potential ramifications. The brown bag event will likely address Lanham Act, FTC Act, FDA, IP, and litigation issues. If you would like to assist with this program, please contact Kurt Weaver at KWeaver@wcsr.com.

d. Full Day Program Co-Sponsored with Torts and Products Liability Sections

Laurie Henry is spearheading this program. Kurt Weaver, Sarah Roller, and Sonali Gunawardhana have volunteered to assist with planning. The first priority is to identify a location for our program. It would need to accommodate 75+ people, theater style. To promote attendance, we would like it to be held in or near a major city. Please give some thought to whether you have any clients or contacts who might be willing to host the event. Once the venue is confirmed, we will move on to identifying sponsors and lining up speakers and topics. If you would like to assist with this program or if you have a suggested venue, please contact Laurie Henry at LHENRY@shb.com.

(3) Sub-Committee Updates

a. Newsletter

Charley reported on the upcoming edition of the Newsletter. Currently, the Newsletter will include three articles addressing: (1) New EU food packaging and labeling legislation, (2) Proposition 65 and dietary supplement regulation, and (3) current "Generally Recognized as Safe" (GRAS) issues. We anticipate the Newsletter will be finalized and ready for circulation at the end of June.

All committee members are encouraged to contribute articles to the newsletter. The article should address relevant and timely issues in the food, cosmetics, and nutraceuticals arena. In particular, we are looking for a cosmetic article for a future publication. If you or someone you know is interested in contributing an article, please contact Charley (cfw@regulatory-food-science.com) or Kelly Lightfoot (KLightfoot@fuerstlaw.com).

b. ABA-FCN Digest

Volume 23 of the FCN Digest will be circulated next week to the committee listserv and posted on the committee website. If you are interested in contributing to the Digest, please contact Michael Cromwell (mcromwell@wcsr.com) or Jackie Chan (Jacqueline.chan@klgates.com).

(4) Call for Short Biographies

Every quarter, we will circulate a directory of ABA FCN committee members which includes a short bio and contact information. The most recent version was circulated with the calendar.
invitation for today's teleconference call. If you have not already done so, please send a short biography to Suzan (suzan.onel@klgates.com) for inclusion in next quarter's member directory.

(5) New Committee Chair

Suzan will be stepping down as Chair of the committee in August, at the end of the ABA calendar year. She thanked everyone for their energy, enthusiasm, and hard work in moving the committee from concept to fruition over the past 18 months and plans to stay involved in the committee. She has proposed to the Division heads that Madeleine McDonough move from Vice Chair to Chair of the committee. Announcements will be made in September, with the beginning of the next ABA calendar year.

Thanks to everyone for taking part in our monthly teleconference call. For those committee members who were not able to make the call, we look forward to your joining our next call and hearing your ideas. We will circulate the date and time for the next call. In the meantime, if you have any ideas, questions, or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Suzan (suzan.onel@klgates.com), Madeleine (mmcdonough@shb.com), or any of the subcommittee contacts.

Click here to join the Section of Science & Technology Law’s Food, Cosmetics, and Nutraceuticals Committee.