

**ABA Mass Torts Litigation Committee**  
**Notes of April 10, 2012 Committee Conference Call**

**Call Participants:** Rudy Perrino, Duke Maloney, Beatty O'Donnell, Deborah Elsassner, Stuart Fraenkel, Arlene Hennessey, Eric Hudson, David Lester, Paul Majkowski, Ricardo M. Martinez-Cid, Jackie McCreary, Laurie Novion, Andrew Scholz, Catherine Riegle, Cheryl Woodin, Cheryl Axelrod, James Beck

**Update on Various CLEs & Seminars:**

**Section Annual Conference Update**

Beatty provided an update on the SAC schedule:

Wednesday

Content Management Program - from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Beatty plans to be there and asked that the website editors and co-chairs make an effort to attend.

The SAC's Welcome Reception starts at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 8 p.m.

The Committee's Dutch Treat Dinner will immediately follow the Welcome Reception at the Darlington House in DuPont Circle, 1610 20<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. Phone is 202-332-3722. Beatty asked that the members email her if they plan to attend.

Thursday

The Committee's networking box lunch is at 12:15 p.m. [Beatty will follow up with the ABA on the registration snafu (the ABA not listing the Committee as an option for the networking box lunch event)].

The Committee Expo is set from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Game Show Themes - Mass Torts is Trivial Pursuit. Beatty thanked the team for coming up with questions and Navigant for preparing the elaborate wheel for our booth presentation.

7 p.m. - Smithsonian ticketed event

Friday

7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. - Coffee networking event

12:15 p.m. - John Minor Wisdom luncheon

Rudy asked the participants if they were able to make it to the SAC; approximately 8 sub-committee chairs will attend.

### **Joint CLE Planning Report**

Catherine provided the Joint CLE report: The discussion is under way. There will be two Mass Torts break outs - one will involve current events. The other session has not been decided on as of yet. Catherine asked that anyone who has any ideas to please forward them along. The Joint CLE is returning to Colorado again next year. Budget talks are ongoing.

### **Aviation Annual Meeting Report**

Deb reports that the meeting is all planned. The venue will be at the University Club of NY. The Program is set; the speakers confirmed. The presentation is in a mock trial format, which has been popular in prior meetings. The mock trial fact pattern was finalized today and will be sent to the panel soon. The General Counsel of the NTSB is the keynote speaker. The ABA is taking the lead on sponsorships (in the way of trying to raise \$20-30K). In the past, the sponsor dollars were funded by the same firms at \$2K per law firm. This year there will be different levels of sponsorship participation. The National institute is also reaching out to vendors regarding sponsorships.

### **ABA Annual**

Rudy provided a report on the Mass Tort Committee program. The planning is well under way. The panel is set, with Cheryl Woodin providing the Canadian perspective on class actions.

### **Sub Committee Reports:**

Aviation: Deb reporting. The sub-committee will get back to focusing on content submissions for the aviation subcommittee following the SAC.

[Rudy asked that all sub-committees please try to maintain the great content submissions (on a timely basis) so that we can keep up the momentum and great reviews.]

Toxic Torts: Andrew reporting. The sub-committee has met its commitments on articles. The sub-committee is also planning the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Chemical Products CLE. The sub-committee is 99 percent sure that it is going to be in New York.

There are two venues up for consideration: NY City Bar Association and New York County Lawyers Association. The sub-committee is looking at late October as a date for the annual meeting. The City Bar Assoc. is very excited and wants to include breakout sessions. Chemical Products thinks that it is great to be in New York.

Andrew will go to the ABA after finalizing the location. Based on past experience, Duke advised Andrew to be on the lookout for possible disputes between the Section of Litigation and City Bar regarding revenue sharing.

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices - Eric sent his report via email. Friday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> is the date for the Pharm. Seminar. The Seminar will take place in Boston. Mass Torts is a co-sponsor; Eric will be chairing a panel. Karen is on the planning committee.

MDL/Class Actions - David reporting. The sub-committee is involved in planning the Joint CLE. The sub-committee is also working to make sure its article is submitted soon. David put out a request for additional sub-committee leadership to help with submission deadlines.

Experts/Evidence: Doug will send a written report on experts and evidence to the Chairs.

Content: Jim and David reporting. The sub-committee submitted the final article for the newsletter, which will be published by the ABA (hopefully soon). David reports that had a little bit of a drop off in submissions and that he still needs news and development and content pieces for March and April. Jim reminded the group that the standards for articles have been reduced.

Hot topics: No report.

Young Lawyers: Crystal reporting. The sub-committee is developing YL activities for the next conference. The sub-committee has submitted its articles.

Membership and Diversity: No report.