



Cincinnati Bar Association

UNCONVENTIONAL CONVENTIONS

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CINCINNATI BAR ASSOCIATION PROGRAMMING/EVENTS

1. Night at the Net

A combination bar association/bar foundation event, intended to be a social activity for the members, and also a benefit for our foundation. We rented a tent at the local ATP tennis match, held a social event with food and drinks, and then coupled it with a silent auction, with all proceeds going to the Cincinnati Bar Foundation. However, this event suffered from everything but a plague of locusts, so it lasted only one year before dying a merciful death.

2. Career Development Conference (Job Fair)

We brought to the bar association about a dozen local legally-related employers including private law firms, governmental entities and others, and allowed them to set up booths and tables and talk to prospective employees. Those in attendance included attorneys, law students, legal secretaries, etc. We then put on a program with a placement professional entitled “Finding Your Next Job—Essential Strategies and Techniques for Today’s Legal Market.” We had about one hundred people in attendance, and will try this program again next year.

3. Legal Technology Workshop

This program was primarily intended to benefit our members’ support staff, although a number of attorney members did attend. Different breakout sessions discussed document management, an overview of case management and litigation support software, and also some HR issues and matters. Limited attendance (about 40), so we are not sure about pursuing additional programs like this in the future.

4. Tall Stacks Cruise

Every four years there is a five-day riverboat gathering in Cincinnati. Approximately 15 to 20 boats dock there for the week, offering a variety of cruises and events. The boats range in size from those accommodating a hundred passengers, to those holding over seven hundred. The Cincinnati Bar Association and Foundation combined to rent one boat for a fall, 2006, dinner cruise. We had to commit to a \$12,000 expenditure long before we begin to sell the first ticket, so it is a risk. But we have recruited 35 “hosts” to date, individuals who agree to purchase two tickets for the cruise and to encourage others to attend. This is another combined social event and foundation fund raiser and will hopefully not be a” fund loser.”

5. Cincinnati Red's Museum Party

In 2005 the Cincinnati Reds Museum had just opened up next to the Reds stadium. We scheduled a social event there just before the opening of the baseball season and made it free to members and to their children under 12. Although we realized that the word "free" is often enticing, we were surprised as we had over 350 people attend, including nearly 100 children (the museum has many fun activities for kids). The biggest problem: We were not able to get the kids out of there until over an hour after our event ended.

6. Discover Your Bar Benefits

A monthly lunch program which features one vendor each month. The vendor buys lunch for those attending, and then puts on a short program detailing the value of its products. Not difficult to put on, but has a very limited attendance, mostly a group of legal secretaries looking for a free lunch. However, the vendors have been generally pleased and it does let us show a wide variety of member benefits to our members.

7. Run for Kids

Now in its tenth year, this is a 5K run that benefits Pro Kids, a child advocacy organization in Cincinnati. This couples a race involving 400 to 700 participants, with an outdoor party afterwards featuring a band, food, drink, clowns and games. It is more like a street festival than just a simple race and has raised over \$100,000 for this charity. Approximately 75 volunteers are needed, most of who are Cincinnati Bar young lawyers. And, best of all, the Samuel Adams Beer truck comes each year, bringing donated beer to thirsty, and needy, runners and guests.

8. Member Benefit Open House

One hundred thirty five members and their staff attended the Open House this year, together with 24 vendors. The vendors are entities with whom we work (insurance products, office supplies, clothing stores), and each set up a display of their products or services. We provided a free lunch for those attending and then just let them wander around, meet the vendors, and see if they can utilize their services. This program gets very high marks from both members and vendors and will be repeated next year for the third time.

9. Casino CLE

Several years ago four of the Ohio Metropolitan Bars combined to offer a CLE program on a riverboat casino in Indiana. The CLE portion included Ohio required subjects such as substance abuse, ethics, and professionalism. It was hoped that the unusual setting might encourage attendance, as you

could combine education with fun. One person did complain to the Ohio Supreme Court that this was not an appropriate setting for continuing education, particularly in light of the problems gambling can cause to our members. Attendance was moderate and we have not repeated the program.

10. Law Student Towne Hall Meetings

Scheduled for fall, 2006, at two Cincinnati area law schools, this program involves bringing twelve attorneys from various practice areas into the law school for a three-hour program. The attorneys will break up into several panels to start with, telling the students about their areas of law, specifically the pros and cons. For the last hour and a half, the attorneys and students will engage in “speed dating.” Each attorney will be stationed around a large assembly room, and the students will each have three minutes to talk to the attorney before the gong sounds, requiring the student to move on.