

# NABE-News

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## CALENDAR

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### NABE/NCBP/NCBF

#### Annual Meeting

When: August 2-4, 2005

Where: Chicago, IL

### NABE/NCBP/NCBF

#### NABE Communications

#### Section Workshop

When: September 28 -

October 1, 2005

Where: Orlando, Florida

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**KUDOS:** NABE members and their associations have been racking up the awards and honors! Here are the “kudos” of the week:

- The **Clearwater Bar Association** (Karen France, Executive Director) received the Voluntary Bar Association Pro Bono Award from Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara Pariente on April 7. With a membership of 800, the Clearwater Bar Association has a long history of supporting pro bono efforts through its Foundation and in cooperation with Gulfcoast Legal Services. Its collaborative effort with GLS has yielded great success; Gulfcoast has the expertise to develop programs and the bar provides a communication link between GLS and its member for recruiting and recognizing volunteers, fund-raising, and other support. Program highlights for 2004 included Hispanic outreach clinics, living wills clinic, People’s Law School, and the Clearwater Courthouse Legal Assistance Project. These programs resulted in approximately 600 pro bono hours.
- The **State Bar of Arizona** (Teresa Schmid, Executive Director; Matthew Silverman, Director of Communications) has received two Webby Award nominations for its web site, [www.azbar.org](http://www.azbar.org): Best Law Web Site and Best Association Web Site. The Webby Award is the leading international award honoring excellence in web design, creativity, usability, and functionality; winners are determined by the International Academy of Digital Arts & Sciences. [www.azbar.org](http://www.azbar.org) is the bar’s public web site, designed to educate people about certain areas of the law, show them how to find and work well with an attorney, and how to best use the services of the State Bar. As a nominee for a Webby Award, [www.azbar.org](http://www.azbar.org) is also eligible to win a People’s Voice Award. Voting for that is open to the public until April 29th at [www.webbyawards.com/peoplesvoice](http://www.webbyawards.com/peoplesvoice). (Not that we should “stuff” the ballot box, but in case you feel inclined to support a fellow bar association!)
- **Jim Calloway**, Director of the Management Assistance Program for the Oklahoma Bar Association, chaired the ABA Tech Show held in March. The Tech Show had over 2,000 participants and is considered a premiere technology conference.
- **Paul Carlin**, Executive Director of the Maryland State Bar Association, celebrated 20 years with the MSBA in March. In June, he will celebrate 30 total years of service with bar associations.

**DBS NEWS:** Welcome to Molly Kilmer Flood, who began Monday as Information Coordinator for the Division for Bar Services, replacing Brian Myers. Molly has worked in the ABA Legal Technology Resource Center for the last three years as a research specialist, writing articles and giving presentations on law office technology, web site design, knowledge management and intranet/portals. She has an M.S. in Library & Information Science from the University of Illinois (great school!). Welcome aboard, Molly!

Karyn Linn, Staff Director of the Field Service Program, is getting married the first week in May. Marilyn Cavicchia, editor of Bar Leader, is expecting her first child in June. Congratulations to you both!

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT:** NABE is offering six scholarships to assist bar association executives who would otherwise be unable financially to attend the 2005 Annual Meeting, August 2-4, in Chicago. Those receiving NABE scholarships will have all registration fees waived and receive a check for \$500 to defray travel and lodging expenses. Scholarship guidelines and applications were emailed to all NABE members today; the deadline for submitting an application is May 16. If you have questions about the scholarships, please contact Mary Corbitt, chair of the Scholarship Committee, at 585/546-1817 or [mcorbitt@mcba.org](mailto:mcorbitt@mcba.org).

This is a wonderful opportunity for those of you who have been unable to attend a NABE meeting in the past because of financial constraints. The programming will be excellent and you'll make contacts that will save you time, money, and worry, so submit your application **NOW!** (This is a czarina edict!)

**ELECTION TIME:** Watch for your NABE election ballot, which will be mailed tomorrow, and remember to vote. (Another czarina edict!)

**THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BAR COMMUNICATIONS:** Join the Communications Section for its Annual Workshop at the Hilton in Walt Disney World™ Resort in Orlando, FL from September 28 to October 1, 2005. The group hotel rate is \$169 and it's good for three days before and three days after the workshop. Call Hilton Reservations at 800/548-8690 and indicate that you're attending the NABE Communications Workshop. The early registration fee (before September 7) is \$160 for Communications Section Members; \$295 for non-section members (it includes membership in the section); and \$350 for non-NABE members. Check the Communications Section web site ([www.abanet.org/nabe/nabecomm/htm](http://www.abanet.org/nabe/nabecomm/htm)) for information about the programs and speakers.

**BLOGS AND RSS:** Thanks to Mark Matthewson's article in the recent NABE Communications Section newsletter, I now (sorta) understand what blogs and RSS are:

Blog – “Blog” is an abbreviation of “weblog.” Simply put, a blog is a web site and blogger is a person who updates that site regularly with, for example, musings about and links to online articles, other blogs, and the like. The result is a log, or online journal, of the blogger's commentary, presented in reverse chronological order. Not so long ago, the blogosphere was largely the realm of diarists, many of them eagerly sharing too much information about their love lives and quirky hobbies. But it didn't take long for political activists, journalists, and other less inward-looking purveyors of information to adopt the blogging format. Lawyers – blawggers – have joined the bloggers' ranks in significant numbers.

RSS – short for Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summary. So what's RSS? Let's look at an example. Say you like law.com's news coverage, but you'd rather not have to visit the web site to find out whether they've added a story. If you subscribe to law.com's RSS feed, you'll get fresh headlines, complete with links to the full text, each time a story is added. However, to get the feed, you'll have to install and master a piece of software called a news reader (also called a news aggregator.) That's not a huge obstacle for the non-technophobic, but may cause the rest of us to pause! The push toward RSS is powerful, and "push" is the operative word. Most of us in the bar world know that if we build a web site, they will come – just not very often. When we really need to get members' attention, we have to push information to them. Our electronic means of doing so has been e-mail, but e-mail is a victim of its own success. Messages are increasingly killed at the gate by spam blockers and deleted by overwhelmed, spam-weary users. RSS is a promising new push technology.

So what's all this to bar associations? Blogging is an easy and inexpensive way to post timely information. For example, the Utah State Bar uses low-cost, user-friendly blogging software to allow nontechnies on their publications staff to post the Utah Bar Journal online quickly and simply. Just as law.com and a growing number of web sites use RSS to deliver updates to subscribers who have news readers, bar associations can create their own RSS feeds – as Florida and DC have done..

For Blog/RSS resources, check out the following:

Blog publishing software: [www.sixapart.com/movabletype/](http://www.sixapart.com/movabletype/) and [www.typepad.com/](http://www.typepad.com/)

Blawg Republic's directory of law-related blogs: [www.blawgrepublic.com/dir/](http://www.blawgrepublic.com/dir/)

Jim Calloway's "reading list on RSS for bar executives": [http://jimcalloway.typepad.com/lawpracticetips/2005/02/rss\\_and\\_bar\\_ass.html](http://jimcalloway.typepad.com/lawpracticetips/2005/02/rss_and_bar_ass.html)

The Virtual Chase's directory of RSS news feeds for legal research: [www.virtualchase.com/resources/rss\\_law.html](http://www.virtualchase.com/resources/rss_law.html)

**ONE LAST RESOURCE:** And don't forget to check the NABE web site ([www.nabenet.org](http://www.nabenet.org)) for information about upcoming meetings and handouts from past meetings, as well as to find policies from other bar associations on various issues. Bookmark this URL so you can access it quickly and easily!