



## **NABE NEWS**

**September 4, 2007**

### **IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE....**

It's trite, I know, but true... "It seems like only yesterday..." I was a brand new bar exec with no concept of what a bar association was... let alone how to run one. But then NABE entered the picture and I was hooked. Please accept my sincerest thanks for teaching me (and CONTINUING to teach me) what I needed to learn about bar associations and lawyers. Thanks, too, for giving me the opportunity work with NABE's board of directors and begin to give back to the association. I deeply appreciate the confidence you demonstrated when you elected me to serve as president of this amazing organization. I promise I'll do my best to earn the honor you've bestowed upon me.

I will ask just one thing from each member of NABE for the coming year. Please give us feedback. If you have suggestions for ways we can better meet your needs and those of the other members of NABE, let any member of the board know. If something is working particularly well, let us know that, too. We're all in this together – and together we'll reach the pinnacle of success.

### **IRS PROPOSED REVISIONS OF THE 990 TAX FORM**

There's been lots of talk lately about the proposed changes to the 990 filing requirements. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the changes, check out the Independent Sector report at <http://www.independentsector.org/> or <http://www.philanthropy.com/news/updates/index.php?id=2528>.

Unfortunately, the IRS has rejected the request to postpone the deadline for comments (September 14). ASAE circulated an excellent article at the end of August in *Association Law and Policy*, the monthly e-newsletter for members of the Legal Section. The article, **Engaging Boards in Risk Management 990 Reform May Be Just What We Need** by Jennifer Chandler Hauge and Melanie L. Herman, comes to the following conclusion: "While we may not like the IRS meddling in corporate governance, we should recognize that reform of the Form 990 series is possibly the only effective method available to motivate greater numbers of nonprofit organizations to embrace sound risk management practices. Some may conclude that, in requiring organizations to report governance practices, the new IRS Form 990 inappropriately gives the IRS the mantle of chief educator, as well as chief enforcer. However, from a risk management perspective, the IRS Form 990 creates an incentive for good governance practices that nonprofit managers themselves have been too reluctant to embrace."

### **A NOTE FROM LINDA OLIGSCHLAEGER, SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE**

As you know, it's very important to keep the flow of sponsorship money coming into NABE in order to keep the cost down for many members who may not otherwise be able to attend NABE meetings. We're fortunate to have very dedicated sponsors who are with us year after year, but we could always use more. So, as chair of the Sponsorship Committee this year, I would like to enlist the help of all NABE members to help bring in new sponsors. If you have a good business relationship with a company that has benefited your members, or if you're contacted by a reputable company who would like to do business with your bar association or others, consider taking just a minute to send me the name of the company and a contact person. The Sponsorship Committee will do all the work going forward; we simply need good leads from NABE members. Thank you for your help. Send your sponsorship leads to [MembersDir\\_1@mobar.org](mailto:MembersDir_1@mobar.org).

### **ON THE HORIZON....**

In a very short while we will be adding yet another opportunity to fine-tune your networking abilities and to access almost-instant answers to knotty questions. NABE will be rolling out a Small Bar Listserv within the next few weeks. This communication tool is geared towards small-staff, small-budget, small-membership groups which often can't avail themselves of the kinds of solutions larger associations find. Stay tuned!

### **DON'T FORGET....**

Registration for the Communications Section and GR Section workshops is ongoing. Information is available on the NABE website, [www.nabenet.org](http://www.nabenet.org) and can be found by clicking on the Section pages – links on the left side of the home page.

### **REPORT OF THE ABA HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 13-14, 2007**

Recommendations adopted by the House of Delegates at its recent meeting include the following:

- Mandatory age-based law firm retirement policies be discontinued and that law firms evaluate senior partners individually consistent with the firm's performance criteria
- Urging Congress to enact legislation that would supersede the Executive Order of July 20, 2007 to operate programs of detention and interrogation that is inconsistent with U.S. obligations under Common Article 3 of the Geneva Convention of 1949
- Supporting the principle that the appointment, retention and replacement of U.S. Attorneys and career government attorneys, and the exercise of their professional judgment and discretion should be insulated from improper partisan political considerations
- Encouraging law schools to be creative in developing substantial opportunities for students to participate in law-related pro bono activities
- Urging bar associations and courts to adopt programs and procedures to enable lawyers to plan for contingencies by designating in advance another lawyer who is willing and able to assume the lawyer's practice or assist in transfer of client matters.

- Affirming the principle that dependence on alcohol or other drugs is a disease and that insurance coverage for such treatment should be at parity with that for other diseases
- That the ABA adopt the black letter Standards of Practice for Lawyers Representing Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking in Civil Protection Orders
- Urging governments, businesses and other organizations to consider and integrate Rule of Law initiatives with global environmental issues.
- Encouraging corporations, lawyers, law firms, and other professionals to promote corporate citizenship by supporting compliant and ethical corporate behavior globally, pro bono services and promotion of the rule of law
- Addressing legislation and appropriate funding with regard to assistance for victims of trafficking in persons both within the U.S. and abroad.
- Adopting the Principles on Judicial Independence and Fair and Impartial Courts incorporating the work product of the 2006 Rule of Law Symposium
- Adopting twelve principles to govern the planning, preparation and training for responses to a major disaster to ensure the preservation of the rule of law
- Urging an amendment to the No Child Left Behind Act, if reauthorized, or the adoption of other legislation to insure that all students experience high quality civic education
- Urging bar associations and other regulatory bodies to adopt a policy that provides for the waiver or suspension of dues, CLE requirements and other membership obligations for members of the Armed Forces performing services in a combat zone as designated by an Executive Order of the President of the United States
- Encouraging lawyers, law firms and other legal entities to develop medical-legal partnerships with medical entities to help identify and resolve diverse legal issues that affect patients' health and well-being
- Urging federal, state, local, and territorial governments to improve the administration of elections to facilitate voting by individuals with disabilities
- Adopting the black letter of the Updated Civil Trial Practice Standards dated August, 2007
- That the ABA urges Congress to amend Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and federal age and disability employment discrimination laws to ensure that in claims involving discriminations in pay, the statute of limitations runs from each paycheck reflecting an improper disparity

For complete information on all actions taken at the House of Delegates meeting, go to <http://www.abanet.org/leadership/2007/annual>. If you have any questions with regard to any proposals addressed at the Annual Meeting or other matters before the ABA, please contact Bill Weisenberg at [wweisenberg@ohiobar.org](mailto:wweisenberg@ohiobar.org), (614) 487-4414, or (800) 282-6556.