



NABE NEWS

March 4, 2008

I think every bar exec should serve a term as the president of an organization. It eliminates the possibility of not understanding what our officers experience. Like having writer's block while pondering the subject for the "column" of the month.... (I know – I should have been paying attention at BLI over the last 15 years!) Here's *my* hint – feel free to pass it along to your bar president – just offer print space to your committee, section and forum chairs. They're the ones who will communicate the relevance of your organization! Read on, folks – we're a vibrant, energetic organization working to make each other's work easier and more effective..... (and thanks to this month's contributors!)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Linda", followed by a horizontal line.

A Note from the Sponsorship Committee

Linda Oligschlaeger, Sponsorship Committee Chair

The Sponsorship Committee would like to equal or exceed the dollars we brought in for the mid-year meeting, so I would ask the NABE membership to keep their eyes and ears open for new sponsors. I would appreciate any and all leads, so if you come across a good prospect, please send them my way.

...And a Reminder from the Scholarship Committee

Jan Wade, Scholarship Committee Chair

It's not too soon to start thinking about NABE's Annual Meeting in New York City in early August. There are 6 scholarships available (registration fee is waived and a \$500 travel stipend) – priority is given to first-time attendees, or those who have not received a scholarship within the last 3 years. For more information, contact Jan Wade (director@kanecountybar.org)

The Next Step for IT Programming

Pat Yevics, IT Section Chair

The IT Section is looking to increase its membership by expanding its programming at the NABE Meetings. The Section is looking to hear from IT Directors in Bar Associations about what topics will compel them to attend a NABE Meeting. If you are an IT Director and want to let us know what will bring you to NABE, please forward those topics, speakers, ideas to Pat Yevics, Chair, IT Section, pyevics@msba.org.

If you are an ED whose IT Director is not a member of NABE, please forward this to him or her and to get feedback. We really want to know what your needs are.

For the rest of the non-techies, don't worry, the IT Section is still going to be putting on great programming for all levels of staff. They are an amazingly talented group of people.

Calling All Social-Media Pioneers

Mark Mathewson, Communications Section Chair

Does your bar association have a Wikipedia entry? Or maybe its own wiki, created by volunteer/member contributors? Does your bar use YouTube for promotional purposes? Have you launched - or are you launching - a Facebook-like networking site? A blog that allows readers to comment? If so, are you seeing hoped-for results? What pitfalls and problems do you face?

If you have a toe in the new/social-media waters, the NABE Communications Section Educational Programming Committee wants to hear from you. They're putting together a workshop proposal for the Annual Meeting on social media and the opportunities and challenges it presents for bar associations. Please send your comments to programming committee member Bonnie Sashin, Communications Director for the Boston Bar Association, at bsashin@bostonbar.org or (617) 742-0615.

Professionalism Task Force Priorities for 2008

Chris Manos and Christine Cendagorta, Task Force Co-Chairs

Our Task Force continues to focus on programming for the Annual and MidYear meetings, as well as outreach and programming at the Small Bar Conference (and other conferences). We are working on completing a working definition of "professionalism" for Bar Executives and coordinating that definition with a self-assessment tool which will lead bar executives to helpful resources (and provide support for the Program Committee in planning presentations). The reading/resource list that is being compiled will also dovetail with the self-assessment tool. Our Task Force is pleased that the Bolton Award winner continues to be asked to make a presentation at the MidYear Meeting, focusing in part on the role of professionalism in the success of a bar executive.

ABA House of Delegates

Bill Weisenberg, NABE Delegate

The House of Delegates met on February 11, 2008 in Los Angeles, California. The most engaging debate addressed adoption of the Model Rule on Conditional Admission to Practice Law during which advocates, both pro and con, articulated in a highly professional and civil manner their rationale for their respective positions. The issue of confidentiality, that being whether a person admitted to practice conditionally should be required to disclose such conditional status to the client, was resolved through the adoption of an amendment to the commentary that reads as follows: "The Commission recognizes that there are differences in approaches to confidentiality and defers to state courts of highest appellate jurisdiction to make this ultimate decision." Upon arriving in L.A., I was inclined to vote against the proposal, having discussed it at length with my ethics counsel at the OSBA. However, after several meetings and much discussion, I became convinced that having law students seek help for substance abuse and mental health problems was preferable to not seeking help and not bringing this information to the admissions authority, thus placing the student and future clients in

greater peril. The compromise amendment further satisfied my concerns about confidentiality, thus leaving it to my state and yours to best determine how to address the subject.

Among other proposals considered, the House adopted the following:

Report 10A, as amended, pertaining to consideration of long-term care programs such as the “Compact for Long-Term Care” as a reasonable and fair solution to long-term care financing;

Report 10C, supporting retention of the 10-day time limit in Rule 8002 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure for filing notice of appeal from a judgment, order or decree;

Report 10D, as revised, urging the release of all detained judges and lawyers in Pakistan; the restoration of Pakistan’s constitution as it existed prior to the November 3, 2007 emergency decree; and the reinstatement of its Supreme Court justices and other judges removed from office (unanimously approved);

Report 102B, as revised, recommending that bar associations in cooperation with local pro bono, lawyers referral and legal aid programs establish programs for victims of identity theft;

Report 105A, urging vigorous prosecution of elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation;

Report 105B, that amends Rule 3.8 of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct to identify prosecutors’ obligations when they know of new evidence establishing a reasonable likelihood that a convicted defendant did not commit the offense for which he/she was convicted;

Report 105C, urging implementation of sentencing laws and rules of procedure that both protect public safety and give mitigating consideration to youthful offenders;

Report 107, as revised, approving the Model Act Governing Assisted Reproductive Technology as appropriate legislation for consideration by the states and appropriate governmental agencies; and

Report 108, pertaining to the provision of legal services to veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist them in obtaining the full range of services to which they are lawfully entitled.

For a complete report of all action taken by the House of Delegates, please visit the House of Delegates website at www.abanet.org/leadership/2008/midyear. If you would like to speak with me directly or communicate by email, I can be reached at (614) 487-4414 or wweisenberg@ohiobar.org. Your thoughts and opinions on any matters considered by the House or to be considered in the future are welcome and appreciated.