



## 5. Committee Reports

### A. Summit - Hector Moré

- The Summit will be held January 15-18<sup>th</sup> with Mock Trial and Teachers Law School. A joint lunch and reception with the Mock Trial participants and Teachers Law School participants will be held on Thursday. A joint dinner is being planned for Saturday with the Council and Young Lawyers Board. Ray Abadin plans to do a pig roast and a search is underway for a location for the event. A request was made for all Council members to plan to attend the Summit.
- Mock Trial - Charlie Bartlett/Kim Cook
  - Wayne Helsby and Hector Moré reported on behalf of the Committee. The Committee has already received interest from the local Tampa Judges in participating. Federal District Judge Scriven will judge the final round at the Federal Courthouse. The new Thomas Cooley Law School was notified of the Mock Trial but they advised that they are unable to participate at this time as the school has just opened. The Committee requested that all Tampa area Council members encourage participation from local bar members to assist as jurors, noting that anyone assisting will receive CLE credit for participation.
- Teachers Law School - Mindy McLaughlin/Katherine Hunter
  - Katherine Hunter reported that the Committee met Friday for planning purposes. The Committee is seeking applicants from Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties. Depending on interest from the public schools, the Committee may also extend invitations to the local private schools. The program has been revamped to provide for hotel rooms if requested by the teachers. The concern regarding the need to provide for substitute teachers was discussed and noted that the Committee will seek sponsors. The Committee is working on speakers and requested that Council members who participated in last year's program agree to speak again. Additionally, the Committee is in need of a criminal lawyer from the Tampa area to participate in the program. Federal District Judge Scriven will give the opening remarks.
  - Sponsors
    - Doug Rickel of SEA, Inc. would like to sponsor a part of the Summit, perhaps lunch, the Thursday reception or the Saturday pig roast.

B. Advanced Trial Advocacy - Tom Bishop/Bob Palmer

- Reported on the history and purpose of the program. This year's program will be held at the University of Florida College of Law, May 6-10, 2014. The Committee requested assistance with recruiting participants, perhaps an associate member of your firm. The Committee would like to host 56 participants and provide the 2 scholarships, which were named in honor of Glen Burton, from Tampa and Bob Mansbach, from Orlando. Additional publicity of the program was discussed.

C. Bylaws - Stuart Ratzan

- Stuart Ratzan reported that the Committee sought to update the original Section ByLaws to which approved changes had been made approximately 2 years ago. Bar approval has now been sought and as part of the process Elizabeth Talbot has made suggested revisions, many of which are stylistic. The Committee will review and report back at the November meeting.

D. Civil Trial Certification - Bob Palmer

- Bob Palmer reported that the Certification course is no longer part of the Summit. The review course will be held in February and is being moved back to Tampa from the previous Orlando location. The course is being looked at to determine how to make it more financially feasible, including cutting out the webinar portion due to expense, although the CD option will be retained. The course will also be renamed to "Case Law Update."

E. CLE - Tom Edwards

- Tom Edwards reported that the Committee is putting together a Medical Malpractice Seminar to be held at the USF Health CAMLS facility, in Tampa, in March, which program would include a viewing of the facility. The associated costs are being determined.
- Tom Edwards reported that an Admiralty Seminar held every other year has been receiving funding from the Section and the Admiralty Section/Committee would like for the Section to provide a sponsorship again. The CLE Committee will review the request.

F. Council of Sections – Courtney Grimm

- Courtney Grimm reported that the meeting was held at the Annual Meeting and that the Criminal Law Section thanked the Section for joining with them for the Chester Bedell Luncheon. The Reptile Section has created a student membership category and the Health Law Section has added a young lawyer section with its own executive council, both aimed at ways to increase membership and participation. It was noted that the Bar staff reminded the

Sections to advise their membership that section communications via email are subject to public records requests.

G. Discovery Handbook - John Williams

- John Williams reported that the handbook is posted on the Section's website. Judges have complimented the Section on the latest version and have been quoting it in pretrial notices and case management orders. One omission which was pointed out by a Circuit Judge was made and the change is being made on website version. Honorable Smith will provide names of judges who do not have the Handbook.

H. Leadership Academy - Vicki Sproat

- Vicki Sproat reported that the Section recommended 7 applicants, one of which was chosen Ashley Wells Green, from the Bedell Firm. The Section agreed to sponsor 3 participants but the Academy pooled the funds for all participants, not for just the Section's recommended participant. Discussion ensued regarding funding for the Academy for 2014-2015 year. The Committee will investigate and report at the November meeting.

I. Legislative Committee/Lobbyist's Report - Tom Bishop

- Tom Bishop reported providing a background of the role of the Committee and our Section lobbyist. The Committee is working with the Bar on revising the Section's legislative platform. Our platform is "access to courts" and "judicial independence" which the Bar says is already covered. Discussion ensued regarding the role of the Bar staff in revising the Section's platform. The Friday morning legislative calls will continue this year and commence near the opening of the legislative session. The Committee is looking to coordinate a TLS Committee day with the Legislature in February. Upcoming bills that the Committee knows will have activity in the upcoming session and are already monitoring are the alimony bill, foreign law bill, joint use of school bill, and bad faith bill. Skooter reminded the Council that ABOTA/FLAABOTA is here to assist the Section.

J. Long Range Planning - Wayne Helsby/ Hector Moré

- No report, other than that increased dues were going to be considered but the issue has been tabled.

K. Membership - Chris Knight

- Courtney Grimm reported that the Council's new updated directory is out and contains committee assignments. The Committee will work with Chair Eastmoore to reach out to members who have not renewed. Additionally the

Committee is looking into new membership ideas and will report at the November meeting.

L. Professionalism Guidelines - Stuart Ratzan

- Stuart Ratzan reported that the Committee met on Friday. The Guidelines have not been updated in quite some time and as such the Committee will look to see if any updates are needed. In 1993, the Guidelines were first promulgated and have gone through one revision. The Guidelines are located on the Section's website and the Committee is exploring further disbursement of them to members of the Bar, including working with YLD.

M. Publications - Kim Ashby

- Kim Ashby reported that the Committee will monitor articles being published in The Bar Journal and oversee the Advocate. The Committee met and discussed that with e-publishing, the Section needs to ramp up our communications and be more proactive. It was determined to pay Professor Flynn per issue as opposed to continue yearly payment for his support for the Advocate.

N. Special Projects - Kim Ashby/Pat Lowry

- Chair Eastmoore reported that he has implemented this Committee in order to evaluate new projects and assigned the first project of evaluating the tax consequences of spouses attending our functions.

O. Website/Social Media - Courtney Grimm

- Courtney Grimm reported that the Committee had an introductory committee meeting. It was noted that Eugene does a great job facilitating the website updates. The Committee will work with the Publications Committee to increase use of the website.

P. Liaison to Florida Bar Committees

- ABOTA - Joe Kinman
  - Skooter Kinman reported that Bob Palmer is FLABOTA- VP. FLABOTA will contribute funding to Teachers Law School (\$5000) as well as a grant request for a matching contribution from ABOTA. Additionally, the Tampa Bay Chapter of FLABOTA will contribute. ABOTA, FLABOTA and the Tampa Bay ABOTA would like to be recognized as co-sponsors of the Teachers Law School, to which all agreed.

- ADR - Joe Kinman
  - No report- meeting in Tampa in September.
- Civil Procedures Rules - Joe Kinman
  - Skooter Kinman and Tom Bishop reported regarding the offer of judgment rule proposal. The Civil Rules Committee has considered requests to revise the rule and debated inclusion of a waiver provision within the rule. The Committee recommends that TLS request the Civil Rules committee impose a time limit waiver on service or recommend that the current statutory/rule scheme is unworkable and a dis-service to all, and recommend that clarity be brought to the statute and rule. A Motion was made by the Committee and seconded by Sandy Sanborn. Discussion ensued. An amendment to the motion was made that the TLS take platform position that TLS believes that current offer of judgment scheme is broken and that clarity needs to be brought to it. The Motion was seconded by Wayne Helsby. Discussion ensued. Vote taken and Motion carries. The Committee presented a second motion to suggest to Civil Rules Committee the solution of the imposition of a concept of a time limit to object to an offer of judgment be considered. The Motion was seconded by Wayne Helsby. Discussion ensued. Motion failed.
- Evidence Committee - Joe Kinman
  - No report- meeting in Tampa in September.
- Judicial Administration Rules - Joe Kinman
  - No report- meeting in Tampa in September.
- Judicial Ethics Advisory - Pat Lowry
  - No report.

Q. Board of Governors Liaison - Jay Cohen

- No report.

R. Judicial Liaison - Hon. Amy Smith

- Honorable Smith reported that she has advised all circuit and county judges of her position and requested feedback as to any assistance the Section could provide. She has received feedback that the Florida Bar website which provides an opportunity for members to comment on judges is not utilized. It was discussed that awareness of it should be raised by including information

on our website and publishing in the Advocate. At judicial college, the Judges are interested in trial lawyers providing comments on what judges do wrong and also Judges are interested in having lawyers participate in their seminars on substantive issues. Honorable Smith noted that the Judges also have a lobbyist that the judges pay for on their own and would be interested in joining forces. She has received great feedback on the Discovery Handbook.

S. Future meetings - Ted Eastmoore

1. November 14 - 17, 2013 - The Betsy, South Beach, Miami  
Committee meetings on Friday.  
Council meeting on Saturday morning.
2. January 15 - 18, 2014 - Marriot Waterside, Tampa
3. April 3-6, 2014 - Sedona, Arizona  
Out of state meeting to be held at the Enchanted Inn, looking at all inclusive price for the entire trip.
4. June 25 - 28, 2014 - Annual Bar Meeting - Gaylord Palms, Orlando

6. Old Business  
No old business.

7. New Business  
No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.