
COMMITTEE REPORTS
APRIL 16, 2018

Bar Bulletin Committee

- Deadline of April 20 for the Summer 2018 Bulletin issue. At least 1 article is being prepared by the Committee and the Committee is encouraging the submission of other articles.

Civil Courts Procedures Committee

- The Committee has met twice. Unless the court brings an issue to the Committee's attention, it does not have any further business to address.

CLE Committee

- The CLE Committee met to develop the topics and made the speaker coordinator assignments for CLE through December of this year. Check the Bar on-line calendar for details.

Collaborative Law Committee

- Along with the Birmingham Collaborative Alliance, the Collaborative Law Committee sponsored a 2-day Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice Basic Training on February 2 – 3, 2018.
- The Committee is working in conjunction with BCA and Eileen Harris at the ACDR to develop a series of webinar CLEs on Collaborative Law to be presented hopefully starting in late summer.

Communications Committee

- The Communications Committee met in January to discuss plans for the year.
- It served as the judging panel to select cover photo for the 2018 Pictorial Directory.
- The Committee is reviewing the Bar website and other websites to provide suggestions for ways to improve website. It is also looking into ways to improve communication within the Bar and externally.

Community Education Committee

- LawDay program and CLE is Thursday, May 3 at the Bar Center. Arrive at 11:30 to get a lunch; program starts at 12:00.
- Moderator: Professor Howard P. Walthall, Cumberland School of Law.

- Panelists: U.S. Senator Doug Jones, Judge Elisabeth French, Former Lt. Governor George McMillan, and State Representative David Faulkner

Diversity and Inclusivity Committee

- In February, the Committee held a dialogue session with Ellie King, a
- On April 13, the Committee hosted Mr. J. Mason Davis of Sirote Permutt in a conversation about the African-American community and businesses in Birmingham from Reconstruction through the turn of the 20th century. A walking tour of historic landmarks in downtown Birmingham followed the talk.
- Morning with Mason Davis was tremendously popular and the Committee plans to work with Mason to hold additional sessions.
- Some of the Committee's other ideas include:
 - A panel discussion on the Birmingham Pledge and the Birmingham anti-discrimination ordinance. The Committee would invite a panelists from the city familiar with both the pledge and the ordinance, someone involved in the writing/passing of both, and members of our community – people of color, LBGTQ, disabled, veterans, etc. – which the pledge and ordinance are meant to protect,
 - A combined effort with the BBA's Women's Section on the importance of recognizing sexual harassment in the workplace and educating men and women on how to speak up when they see it or are a victim to it,
 - Revising the mission statement of the D&I Committee to include the term inclusivity, and
 - A short but useful guide for law firms on how to make inclusivity a reality in their firms.

Elder Law Committee

- Working with the Public Service Committee to organize regional seminars for benefits planning in the community. Through the collaborative work of these two committees, they expect to hold 4-5 seminars discussing VA, Medicaid and Trusts in Estate/long term care planning.

Entertainment Committee

- Planning the Annual Picnic – June 8 at 11:00 am.

Family Law Committee

- No update at this time.

Fee Arbitration Committee

- Nothing to report because no fee disputes have been filed.

Future Leaders Forum

- The Committee held a very productive meeting in February to develop the agenda and make other plans for the July to December forum. Session dates and topics were determined.

- The application period is open and will close in May. Upon the closing of the application period, the Committee will meet to select the members for the upcoming Forum, which begins in July.

Grievance Committee

- The 3 subcommittees of the Grievance Committee have been handling the grievances in the standard manner.

Immigration Committee

- Conference call held on March 14 with officers to discuss possible events, CLEs, membership awareness, and the Committee's mission statement.
- Developed Mission Statement and Goal of the Committee:
 - The immigration committee has a goal of becoming an active section of the Birmingham Bar Association. Many members of the Bar do not deal with immigration issues on a regular basis and we feel that this committee could serve to educate the members of the bar to be able to spot immigration issues in their own cases and also arm them with basic knowledge about current immigration issues.
 - Immigration laws are in a constant state of change and we as the immigration section have a goal of educating the bar on these issues in addition to bringing many different types of attorneys together who would otherwise not generally associate
- Developed plans for the Committee:
 - Meeting with committee officers in April of 2018 to define roles of the officers and brainstorm about events.
 - The first step in our plan is to have a cocktail mixer and invite the entire Birmingham Bar. We want the Committee to be something that BBA members see as an educational tool and a networking opportunity. We feel that this will be an opportunity to publicize the forming of the committee and use it as a building block for future events. We do not have a specific date for the mixer in mind, but hope to schedule it in late 2018.
 - We hope to use the cocktail mixer to promote a CLE that focuses on a topic of immigration that would appeal to a wide number of BBA members. The first CLE will most likely be during lunchtime and the topic has yet to be determined.

Judicial Liaison

- No update at this time.

Juvenile Law Committee

- No update at this time.

Lifetime Achievement Award Committee

- Will meet later in the year when it is time to identify award recipients.

Long Range Planning Committee

- The Committee's initial meeting was held on Thursday, March 22, 2018. The Committee and BBA Executive Director Jennifer Buettner reviewed the existing BBA strategic plan (2016-2021) and discussed potential amendments to the plan in light of current BBA goals and benchmarks, including effective communications, adding new members, and utilizing technology.
- The Committee also discussed, as has been discussed in the past, how the various legal organizations in the Birmingham community can most effectively coordinate together.
- The Committee will meet again this spring/summer to discuss further the strategic plan.

Medical Liaison Committee

- The Committee's first meeting will be held in April to discuss ideas for committee projects.

Membership Committee

- The Committee has approved the applications of 113 new members.
- The Committee held a meeting in January to discuss membership initiatives for the year.
- The Committee is exploring additional member benefits, while also encouraging non-member colleagues, friends and associates to join the BBA.

Mentoring Committee

- The Mentoring Program for the year 2018 began January 18, 2018 with 20 pairings of Mentees with experienced Mentors. 1 Mentee dropped out of the program leaving the current number of program participants to 19.
- We have received all of the signed Mentoring Plan Pledges, which were due by March 1
- We have received all signed Mentoring Agreements, which were due by March 1
- Working with Judge Boohaker's office to organize a Civil Courtroom session for the Mentees. Tentatively set for May 8, 2018, 12noon – 1pm.
- Mentees are scheduled to attend Shores – Vance American Inn of Court on May 8, 2018, 5:15pm - 7pm. Dinner for the mentees is generously sponsored by Farris Riley and Pitts.
- Mentees are scheduled to attend a summer mingle graciously sponsored by Leila Watson at her house on June 6, 2018, 5pm – 7pm.
- Mentees have signed up and have begun working at the Help Desk with the Birmingham Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program.

Nominating Committee

- The work of the Nominating Committee to nominate will kick off later in the year.

Pro Bono Committee

- This Committee will help solicit for Pro Hops Vino, as it has done in the past.
- The Committee has talked with Dean John Carroll about his ideas for a Veterans Pro Bono program conducted by the BBA and funded by Foundation grants. The Committee expects to receive a report from Nancy Yarbrough as to a possible framework for how a Veterans Pro Bono program might work and how it would come into existence.

Public Service Committee

- The Committee meets regularly and has planned 4-5 events this year.
- One such event is the Better Basics Birmingham Reads Day book drive March 19-April 19 with a group going to read to elementary school students on April 19.
- Another event will be the Greater Birmingham Ministries' TGIF summer food program – preparing lunches for children who may not eat well when school is out for summer
- The Committee will also hold a school supply drive in July-August for Children's Village and Big Brothers Big Sisters.
- In addition, the Committee is planning a community education event with the Elder Law Committee.

Scholarship Committee

- The Committee has posted ads regarding the scholarships offered by the Birmingham Bar Association at the law schools located in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa
- The BBA is receiving applications.
- The Scholarship Committee will meet in the fall to review the applications and select the recipients of the scholarships.

State Court Funding Task Force

- No update at this time.