



## **Section Meeting Conference Call.**

On February 19, 2018, we had a Section Meeting by conference call. Here are the issues we discussed and decisions made:

- **Section goals.** One of the primary goals, and purpose, of the Section is to be even more involved and have higher visibility with the other substantive law sections, at least 22 are litigation related. Trial attorneys often seek appellate lawyers to assist them with legal issues, briefing, and pre-trial, trial, and post-trial strategy. All members are encouraged to join and engage in the other sections.

We discussed several ideas to foster this goal:

- Prepare a nationwide survey of unique appellate practices from state to state
    - E.g., what interlocutory orders are appealable in each state?
    - How state trial and appellate procedures differ from the national baseline.
  - Offer to assist with presentations of other sections.
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- ***Insights* articles.** Members are encouraged to contact the Section officers with ideas for *Insights* articles, or even better volunteer to draft an article. *Insights* articles present in-depth legal analysis on topics that can be exclusively appellate-procedure related or on the law regarding substantive topics. The articles are generally 3000-5000-words long. We will know soon the months that our Section is assigned. One member has already presented an article for the next assigned month, so we need only one more in the future!
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- **Section Newsletters.** Section Newsletters present a tremendous opportunity for Section members to share information about a recent win

or an interesting legal issue with which they recently dealt with. So PLEASE send you information each month for the Newsletter. I need to have the information **by the 10th of the month**. Also, we will make sure each member has the link to the FDCC monthly Newsletter, including our Section Newsletter.

- **Bi-month Section meetings.** We agreed to have bi-monthly meetings. The meetings will be held on **the third Monday of the month around noon Central Time**. Each member will soon receive a calendar invite with all the necessary information. A reminder will be sent about a week before each meeting that will provide an agenda that will include a member sharing a little about themselves, their practice, etc., as well as a story about a recent case with tantalizing facts and issues. We will also highlight new members and discuss any amicus requests.

**Amelia Island Meeting a great success.** Those who attended the Winter Meeting at Amelia Island will attest that the entire event was tremendous in every way: wonderful opportunities to catch up with friends and meet new ones; superb speakers and programs; delicious food; beautiful setting; and fun and diverse activities.

Likewise, the joint presentation by our Section and the Extra-Contractual Liability Section was a great success. Over 40 attended the panel discussion on “Establishing Favorable Appellate Precedent for Bad Faith Litigation.” We had a lively and thought-provoking discussion with the audience with lots to chew on and think about in our pending and future bad-faith cases. Many thanks to our panel: Laurie Hepler, Scott Hofer, and particularly to Jennifer Eubanks, who graciously agreed to fill in for Vicki Roberts, who was unable to attend.

Several other Section members were involved in other Section-meeting presentations. Wystan Ackerman was a panel member at the Employment and Class Action meeting on: “Employment and Class Action: ‘Hold on, Class, It’s Not Time To Waive Goodbye Just Yet!’” Jennifer Eubanks spoke at the “Masters in Marketing” presentation, and she and Charlie Frazier served on the panel in the Insurance Coverage and Reinsurance, Excess and Surplus Lines meeting on

“Intervention, DJ, or Nothing: What’s an Insurer to do to Resolve Coverage Issues?” I am sure there were others who gave presentations or otherwise were greatly involved at the Winter Meeting. Many thanks to all of you!

**Annual Meeting in Maui.** The Annual Meeting will be in Maui, July 29-August 3. The Theme is “Strive for the Summit,” meaning to aim to achieve our best in all aspects of life. Our Section is teaming with the Trial Tactics Section to give a presentation how in-house counsel, trial counsel, and appellate counsel can work together to create the best circumstances for an effective trial and effective appeal. Angela Flowers will represent the appellate-lawyer perspective on the panel. More details will follow.

**2019 Winter Meeting in Austin.** Finally, we discussed the 2019 Winter Meeting that will be held in Austin, Texas on March 24-28, 2019. The Topic is “Creative Ingenuity.” We have been asked to think about potential presentation ideas for this Meeting. One idea that was discussed:

- Have a practitioners’ discussion of how to prepare for oral argument—for crucial hearings in trial courts and oral arguments in appellate courts.
  - How can ideas and methods of preparation of other practitioners help others to make a difference in the success of oral argument.
  - Innovate to give better presentations.
  - Share the experiences of different advocates to help take one’s practice to the next level.