

Corporate Counsel Organization Highlights

Letter From The Pro Bono Community Service Chair Of The Washington Metropolitan Area Corporate Counsel Association



To The Readers Of The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel:

During the past two years, WMACCA has embarked on an initiative to increase in-house counsel involvement in activities outside of our normal practice by engaging in community service and pro bono work as an organization. We call it "In House...In The Community." The message to our 1600-plus members – the largest chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel in the world – is that we have more than just great CLE and networking events for the professional development of our members. Our members have responded to that message with flying colors.

Community Service Events

In April 2007 and April 2008, WMACCA has participated in the **Potomac Watershed Cleanup Day** sponsored the Alice Ferguson Foundation. We also contribute to revitalization of our National Park lands in Great Falls, Virginia every September, as part of the **ACC Annual Public Lands Day**.

In May 2007, we gathered several groups of in-house attorneys to paint and restore Hine Junior High School in Southeast DC, prepare and deliver meals for the DC Central Kitchen, and volunteer at SOME (So Others Might Eat), as part of the **Annual DC Cares Servathon** in 2007.

In June 2007 and 2008, we fielded teams of runners and walkers for the **Lawyers Have a Heart 10k Run/3k Walk** in Washington, DC.

Beginning this Fall 2008, we will offer our members some new opportunities as well:

We are starting to gather volunteers for local **Habitat for Humanity** build days in the Maryland and Northern Virginia area for 2008-09.

We also are embarking on new causes with our local area schools. The first is the **Street Law** program (www.streetlaw.org), working with high school students at Park View High School in Loudoun County (the most racially diverse high school in that county), starting in September 2008. For 30 years, Street Law, Inc.'s programs and curricula have promoted knowledge of legal rights and responsibilities, engagement in the democratic process, and belief in the rule of law, among both youth and adults. The second is **Geoplunge** (www.geoplunge.com), an award-winning game created by Arent Fox attorney Alan Fishel to encourage students to learn about U.S. geography in a fun, competitive way. The **Washington Lawyers' Committee's D.C. Public School Partnerships Project** works with Arent Fox LLP and the Office of the D.C. Public Schools Chancellor to organize this annual tournament in November of each year, and we will be encouraging our members to get involved as coaches, judges and supporters of this worthwhile program for our kids.

Finally, on October 29, 2008, our WMACCA Annual Corporate Counsel Awards Reception will be more than just awards and networking. The Awards Reception comes at a crucial time for food donations (when isn't it a crucial time?), and this year, WMACCA aims to help. We will conduct a food drive that evening, giving all attendees an opportunity to participate in even the smallest way, by bringing non-perishable food items with you to the event. This is our most highly-attended event of the year, and we look forward to gathering a substantial supply of food for those in need in our area, in support of **Bread for the City** (www.breadforthecity.org), in Washington, DC.

Pro Bono Activity

On May 20 and June 27, 2008, WMACCA embarked on a partnership with the Law Firm of Womble Carlyle for the "**When Duty Calls**" **Veterans Clinic**, to provide pro bono legal assistance to veterans filing disability applications with the Department of Veterans Affairs. This program, which we fittingly embarked upon just before Memorial Day, will be our chance to assist those who have served our country with honor. We will have additional clinics scheduled beginning in Fall 2008.

We encourage our members to engage in other forms of pro bono activity as well, including the **Small Business Brief Legal Advice Clinic**, which is part of the Community Economic Development Project for the DC Bar Pro Bono Program (www.dcbar.org/probono). We are always keeping our eyes and ears open for new pro bono opportunities beyond our day jobs, for which our in-house membership is best suited. We list such opportunities on our website at <http://www.acc.com/php/chapters/index.php?chapter=wmacca>.

Our members already know that WMACCA is the best bargain in town when it comes to professional development and networking among legal colleagues. For those of you who are unaware of these additional advantages of WMACCA membership, remember this:

We are not just in-house – We are "In-House...In The Community" as well.

Bob Gans
VP, External Affairs
Pro Bono/Community Service Chair
Washington Metropolitan
Area Corporate Counsel Association
(WMACCA)

Compliance With Campaign Law To Be Featured in PLI Program

On two days, Thursday and Friday, September 11 and 12, The Practising Law Institute is sponsoring a course titled **Corporate Political Activities 2008: Complying with Campaign Finance, Lobbying & Ethics Laws**. The program will run from 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on the first day, and from 9 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. on the second day. The Four Points Sheraton in Washington, D.C. will host the event.

Public scrutiny, particularly in an election year, of political contributions from corporations, trade and membership associations and unions makes compliance with federal, state and local laws more complex than ever. PLI's seminar will examine the new lobbying law compliance rules, assess the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act and the congressional and executive branch gift rules, study government gift

and travel rules and cover state lobbying, gift and campaign finance laws.

Co-chairs of the seminar will be Jan Witold Baran, Wiley Rein LLP; Kenneth A. Gross, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and Chip Nielsen, Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Mueller & Naylor LLP. Faculty will include Robert F. Bauer, Perkins Cole LLP; Lanny A. Breuer, Covington & Burling LLP; Nancy Erickson, Secretary of the United States Senate; James S. Portnoy, Kraft Foods Global, Inc. and Ellen L. Weintraub, Federal Election Commission.

For information on registration fees and available CLE credits, see the Bulletin Board on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpouncil.com.

For reservations, call (800) 260-4PLI or visit www.pli.org.

WISBAR Seminar: Problem-Solving Techniques

The ability to think creatively and solve problems in the legal arena will be the focus of an upcoming seminar hosted by The State Bar of Wisconsin. The program will take place on Tuesday, September 9, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 4 p.m. at the State Bar Center, 5302 Eastpark Boulevard, Madison, Wisconsin.

Problem Solving and Creative Thinking for Lawyers will help attendees to understand the root of issues needing

resolution, and apply proven techniques for solving them. Topics include paradigms, creative process, difficult decisions, challenging assumptions, and resolving legal conflicts through listening.

For information on registration fees and CLE credits, see the Bulletin Board on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpouncil.com.

For reservations call (800) 728-7788 or visit www.wisbar.org.

Critical Skills Training



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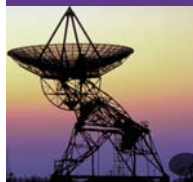
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- MARTIN HUNTER, Barrister and Professor of International Dispute Resolution, Nottingham Trent University, London
- BRIAN KING, Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, New York
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