

Corporate Counsel Organization Highlights

Letter From The President Of The North Florida Association Of Corporate Counsel

To The Readers Of *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*:

The in-house lawyers of North Florida are proud to announce the formation of our own Association of Corporate Counsel Chapter. Located in Jacksonville, Florida, and chartered during the summer of 2009, the chapter is already off to a busy and exciting start by providing both CLE and networking opportunities to a previously unrepresented group of in-house attorneys.

Because it is our first year, we have spent much of our time identifying what our members and potential members value. In other words, what do we have to offer to a group of incredibly busy people who have simply done without? You might think that would be easy because everything is new, but when people have survived without something, it is sometimes harder to convince them to come out of their routine and give up precious time that is already filled with something else.

We have accepted this as our challenge and are committed to offering something valuable. As a result, our current goals are:

1. To provide quality CLE targeted to the needs and interests of an in-house bar on a regular basis;
2. To build a community of in-house lawyers through networking, interest groups, and charitable activities; and
3. To increase our membership, and the membership of ACC, in North Florida.

The chapter has started with a bang by offering free CLE in areas relevant to an in-house attorney at locations throughout the city. It has been thrilling to observe the great turnout and share in the excitement that our attendees have shown. Our topics, thus far, have been targeted to both general and specific roles in the in-house world and have included: "Ethics Issues Facing Corporate Counsel" (April 2009); "Working with Financially Troubled Vendors, Customers & Companies" (July 2009) and "Changes to the Employment Law Landscape" (March 2009).

The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Attendees have valued everything from the scheduling (one-hour sessions over lunch) to the locations (conveniently held in different areas of town) to the topics ("timely," "relevant to what I do everyday," and "gave me something new that I can really use"). It is clear, based upon the attendance of our sessions and the comments that follow, that we're on to something.

We have two more events scheduled to finish out 2009. On October 22, we will present a lunch panel discussion sharing "Successful Implementation of IT Solutions" by area legal departments. The panel will discuss cost-effective technology solutions to issues that every in-house counsel faces including compliance training, billing, and contract management. Our second event is a networking opportunity to celebrate the holiday season. Our Holiday Party, which we intend to become an annual event, is scheduled for December 9, 2009 from 5:30 to 7:30. For more information on these upcoming events and to make a reservation, please visit our chapter website at www.acc.com/chapters/nfl.

It is exciting and rewarding to be part of building something that offers such value to our community, and it certainly wouldn't have happened without the hard work of many of our local lawyers and the ACC. We have spent many hours polling in-house lawyers in our community regarding what they would like to see come out of this group, both in programs and as a whole, and intend to continue our efforts to reach out to those lawyers who haven't had the opportunity to share their ideas. We hope that as word spreads about what ACC has to offer to our community in Jacksonville and the surrounding area, more people will step up and join our efforts either in leadership roles or just participating in our growing number of offerings. Together, we can do this, and so much more, to promote our professional roles both within our own companies and in North Florida as a whole.

Sincerely,
Bo Segers

NJ Annual Workers' Compensation Conference

On Wednesday, December 9, join the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education and the New Jersey State Bar Association as they present the 20th Annual Workers' Compensation Bench-Bar Conference.

The program will run from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Brunswick Hilton, 3 Tower Center Boulevard, East Brunswick, NJ. It will feature Patrick R. Caulfield of Levinson Axelrod. It will include many workers' compensation judges and attorneys from across the state of New Jersey.

This year's convention highlights

include recent case law developments and developments in the NJ Division of Workers' Compensation and a discussion of critical issues and potential future changes to the rules and practice of compensation cases. Meet and greet sessions will provide participants an opportunity to network with experts who practice in workers' compensation.

For information about available CLE credits and fees, visit CLE Events on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpocounsel.com.

To register for the seminar, call (732) 214-8500 or visit www.njiclc.com.

Virginia CLE Presents Trial Advocacy College In Charlottesville

Virginia CLE and the University Of Virginia School Of Law will hold a six-day course on Trial Advocacy. The program runs from Saturday, January 9 through Thursday, January 14 at the University Of Virginia School Of Law, 400 Ray C. Hunt Dr. in Charlottesville.

On Saturday, registration begins at 7:30. Classes begin at 8:30 a.m. and run until 5:00 p.m. and a reception will follow at 5:30. The next five days the sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

First, participants will attend daily live lectures and demonstrations by experienced lawyers and speakers from across the country. From the beginning each participant will be assigned to a group of like-experienced lawyers. Within the small groups, each participant will study and perform every aspect of advocacy, such as opening statements, direct examination, examination of experts, introduction of exhibits, negotiation, and closing arguments. Each group will be videotaped as they practice advocacy skills under the guid-

ance of faculty members. Later, the videotaped performances will be reviewed and critiqued by both faculty and students.

Finally, participants will conduct, as lead counsel, a live mock jury trial presided over by an experienced federal or state judge. At the conclusion of the mock trial, the judge will discuss and critique the trial with participants.

An expert faculty will include Hon. Joanne F. Alper, State of Virginia, Circuit Court, 17th Judicial Circuit; Hon. Russell E. Carparelli, Colorado Court of Appeals, Denver; Hon. Peter Beer, U.S. District Court, New Orleans, LA; Thomas F. Campion, Drinker, Biddle, LLP; James H. Falk, Jr, Epstein Becker & Green, PC; and Edward F. Mannino, Akin Gump.

For information about available CLE credits and fees, visit CLE Events on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpocounsel.com.

To register, see www.trialadvcolle.com/registration.htm, call (800) 979-8253, or visit www.vacle.org.

South Florida Presents Ethics And The ACC Value Challenge

Join the South Florida Chapter of the ACC on Thursday, December 10, as they present an ethics program examining the ACC value challenge. The session will be located at the Sheraton Ft. Lauderdale, 1825 Griffin Road, Dania Beach, FL.

The seminar will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a presentation by Susan Hackett, senior vice president and general counsel of the ACC. At 6:00 the ACCA South Florida Annual Meeting will be held and will be followed by a reception until 8:00 p.m.

Participants will learn about the ACC Value challenge and its focus on reconnecting the cost of legal services to their value. Attendees will learn the impact of the ACC value challenge to the Model

Rules of Professional Conduct and the ethical obligations regarding whether lawyers and clients can engage in fee agreements that re-allocate risk, create incentives or rewards for certain outcomes, mandate fees, or outline staffing strategies, alignments and risk sharing. An exploration of these and other ethical considerations will be presented through a mixture of lectures and interactive dialog with the audience.

For information visit CLE Events on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpocounsel.com.

To register for the seminar, contact Rachael Brooke (561) 477-8100 or email her at rbrooke@association-source.com or visit www.acc.com/chapters/sfl.

Pennsylvania Bar To Present Mid-Winter Gulf Coast CLE Conference

The Pennsylvania Bar Institute is sponsoring a Winter Gulf Coast CLE getaway on Friday, January 15 through Sunday, January 17. The conference will be held at the Marco Island Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa, 400 South Collier Boulevard, Marco Island, FL.

Each day sessions run from 8:00 until 10:15 a.m. For those interested in earning more credit hours, bonus CLE video presentations will be available from 10:30 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. on all three days.

A variety of interesting topics are scheduled. On Friday, presentations include: One Year After the Global Financial Crisis: Opportunities and Risks in China and India, and Daubert Issues Affecting Pharmaceutical Cases. On Saturday, the topics include The "Shrinking Violet": What is Left of the Tools and Tricks of Estate Planning

Under Federal Transfer Tax Reform, and The Science of Influence: Ethically Causing Others to Say "Yes." Sunday programs are Commercial Real Estate: Obscure Provisions of the Internal Revenue Code that Can Generate Positive Cash Flow from an Upside Down Project, and Federal Tax Issues for Older Clients and Their Caregivers.

Scheduled speakers are James R. Ronca, Anapol, Schwartz, Weiss, Cohan, Feldman & Smalley; Vicky A. Trimmer, Persun & Heim, PC; James S. Tupitza, Tupitza & Bryman, PC; Dennis Unkovic, Meyer Unkovic & Scott, LLP; and C. Thomas Work, Stevens & Lee, P.C.

For information visit CLE Events on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpocounsel.com.

To register, call (800) 932-4637 or visit www.pbi.org.