JUDICIAL DIVISION COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS
2008-2009

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE COURT SYSTEM

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Court System will focus on developing and implementing the concepts of trial court organization, staffing and budgeting that best suit their current and foreseeable functions by (1) creating an operational description of what civil trial courts presently do, (2) defining approaches to the efficient and effective accomplishment of these tasks; and (3) establishing a process for the ABA to evaluate these approaches in light of each State's particular requirements and support what is appropriate. The Committee will implement a judicial survey to provide reasonably accurate information about what courts actually do and create alternative models of court operations and comparative evaluations of them.

COURT TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Court Technology Committee assists in improving the technological understanding and skills of judges, and the capability of courts to integrate technological advances into courtrooms. It identifies technological weaknesses and strengths so that it can develop cost efficient strategies for technological improvements. The Committee's work is especially challenging because of the wide disparity in technological resources available to judges, as well as the diverse understanding of hardware and software technology by judges. To help judges, the Committee recently developed a presentation about how courts choose and implement different technologies. The Committee will also review and update information relating to technological advances which can improve access and innovation to and in the courts.

ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM

The Ethics and Professionalism Committee examines and reviews issues of judicial ethics and responsibility. The Committee identifies and establishes relationships with other American Bar Association entities that undertake issues and projects concerning judicial ethics. The Committee may propose programs and CJE activities on judicial ethics and professionalism. For the year 2008-2009, a major project of the Committee will be to work with the CPR in promoting the implementation of the 2007 ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct and in evaluating proposed changes to the federal Code of Judicial Conduct. The Committee reports to and advises the Division regarding ethics issues and their potential impact on the judiciary. The Committee maintains on the Judicial Division website updates on ongoing activities affecting judicial ethics.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MEDIATION AND ADR

The Joint Committee on Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution is comprised of members of the Judicial Division and the Section of Dispute Resolution. The Committee develops ADR programs, including the Mediation for Judges Program, and gathers and evaluates information concerning the use of ADR. The Committee works with other entities within and outside the ABA in highlighting ADR issues promoting ADR education.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON SENIOR JUDGES
The Committee collaborates with representatives from the Senior Lawyers Division on issues and programs concerning senior and retired judges.

***JUDGES' JOURNAL* EDITORIAL BOARD**
The *Judges' Journal* Editorial Board develops stories for and publishes the *Judges' Journal*. The Board ensures that information for the *Journal* is practical and innovative, providing a dialogue between the bench, bar and greater legal community. The Board evaluates and selects topics and themes on important judicial subjects significant to the work of the Division, its Conferences and Committees.

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP PROGRAM
The Judicial Clerkship Program Committee, in conjunction with the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity and with support from LexisNexis®, organizes the Judicial Clerkship Program. The two and one-half day program brings judges and minority law students together through structured legal research and networking activities at the ABA Midyear Meeting. The students, under the direction of the judges, research an issue and draft a legal opinion or memorandum. The Committee provides timely information on the Judicial Division website to enhance the participation of judges and students, and to inform Division members of opportunities to assist in promoting the goals of this program.

JUDICIAL EVALUATION
The Committee will address numerous inquiries from states, bar associations, institutes, and the media seeking assistance in the area of judicial performance evaluation, and will further enhance the work of the Lawyers Conference over the past five years. The Committee will gather information about survey instruments and procedures nationwide, and where warranted, will join with others to study their use and effectiveness, sharing the results with interested entities. Information will be disseminated through the JD website and, as appropriate at seminars, and other venues.

JUDICIAL MENTOR PROGRAM
The Judicial Mentor Program (JMP) works to attain greater diversity in the judiciary by encouraging minority lawyers to seek and achieve judicial office. The program pairs interested lawyers with judges in the area of the judiciary to which they aspire. The Committee will be responsible for publicizing the JMP, soliciting lawyers and judges to participate, matching the participants and engaging in follow-up and program evaluation.

JUDICIAL OUTREACH NETWORK
The Judicial Outreach Network Committee develops and promotes judicial outreach efforts across the country to increase understanding and public trust and confidence in the justice system. The Committee maintains on the Judicial Division website timely updates on outreach activities and programs. The Committee also has established a roster of state outreach reporters to obtain a national and current data bank for judicial outreach projects.

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee develops and implements strategies to recruit new members and retain existing members. The Committee develops and maintains relationships with ABA and external entities to embark on membership initiatives and marketing campaigns. The Committee reviews and updates membership materials to ensure that they are current and informative, and adequately reflect the many benefits of Division membership. During 2008-2009, the Committee will provide information to appropriate state entities to encourage them to provide memberships in the ABA and the Judicial Division to judges in their states. These efforts may include a survey of the states to determine the amount of assistance currently provided to judges for bar dues, continuing judicial education, and travel for judicial activities.

PROGRAM

The Program Committee sets the content and scope of the Division's Midyear and Annual Meeting programming. Specifically, it does the following:

- Encourages, reviews, and selects quality programs for the Midyear and Annual Meetings
- Assures the use of diverse faculty and panels
- Cooperates with Division and ABA staff to utilize ABA resources to bring the selected programs to successful fruition
- Ensures that Division programs do not conflict or overlap with other JD/Conference programs and activities

PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Committee oversees all facets of Division publications other than the *Judges' Journal*. The Committee edits, prepares and supervises production of the Judicial Division newsletter, *The Judicial Division Record*. From approval of concepts for books, monographs and other texts, to oversight of production and publishing, the Committee strives to ensure that the work product of the Division is of high quality, timely, marketable and within budgets.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Judicial Division Public Relations Committee promotes the positive image of judges, the judiciary and the ABA Judicial Division, through outreach to interested parties, including the media, other branches of government, lawyers, litigants, and the public at large. In addition, the Committee works to raise the profile of the Judicial Division and its programs, within the ABA and the judiciary at large.

RULE OF LAW AND INTERNATIONAL COURTS

The Rule of Law and International Courts Committee works with the ABA Rule of Law Initiative, a public service project dedicated to promoting the rule of law domestically and around the world. This important initiative includes the Europe and Eurasian Law Initiative (CEELI), and Divisions in the following areas: Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa. The Committee also collaborates with the ABA Section of International Law and the United Nations Development Programme to provide opportunities for judges to work with foreign jurisdictions, to assist in international court reform issues, and to promote and strengthen the rule of law worldwide. The Committee locates judges willing to review and comment on legislation, constitutional provisions and legal documents from emerging nations attempting to formulate plans to achieve democracy, as well as those willing to travel abroad to assist with the organization of foreign legal systems. The Committee also works

with partners such as the National Judicial College to provide learning opportunities for members of the judiciary who want to travel to foreign courts to learn about their judicial systems. In addition, the Committee will work with other entities to meet with visiting foreign judges to provide hospitality and education on the American legal system.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

The Special Initiatives Committee will handle special projects of the Judicial Division, as conceived and executed by the JD Chair. This year, its focus will be on the two principal themes for 2008-09 access and innovation.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINORITIES IN THE JUDICIARY

The Standing Committee on Minorities in the Judiciary implements ABA and Judicial Division diversity initiatives to promote the full and equal participation of minorities in the judiciary and the Judicial Division. The Committee, in partnership with other entities, performs outreach to minorities nationwide and presents programs to educate others on the role of minorities in the judiciary. The Committee also provides guidance to the Division and its Conferences to increase the diversity of Division leadership, membership and presenters. The Committee maintains updates on the Judicial Division website, and produces the Directory of Minority Judges.