
Helpful Hints for First-Time Attendees

SECTION OF LITIGATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE



ATLANTA, GA | APRIL 29–MAY 1, 2009

We are very pleased that you are interested in attending the ABA Section of Litigation's 2009 Section Annual Conference. Here are some helpful hints that will assist you in getting the most out of your first Section Annual Conference experience. We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta, GA!

Planning Your Meeting

The meeting will be held at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. Rooms have been blocked and can be booked through the [hotel website](#). Please note the cut-off date for hotel registration is **Monday, March 30th**.

The ABA Section of Litigation has many committees that meet and offer programming at the Section Annual Conference. This year for the first time, we are offering **Practice Area and Networking Discussion Luncheons** on Thursday which are sure to cover a topic relevant to you. All the luncheons will be held at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis and are \$15 which includes a box lunch.

The **onsite brochure**, which you will receive at the meeting registration desk, is a useful guide to the Section Annual Conference. Using the onsite brochure, you can identify the committees that address your area(s) of interest and the meetings and programs they are offering. You can find specific information about committee meetings and programs in the Programming and the Practice Area and Networking Discussion Luncheon portions of the onsite brochure. The **Schedule at-a-Glance** section also gives a quick overview of all the programs and the committee business meetings.

Attendance is open for programs and luncheons, although tickets will need to be purchased for the luncheons, listed in the onsite brochure. Committee membership is not a prerequisite to attend or participate. Check the onsite brochure or the Section website for specific meeting times and locations.

CLE credit is offered for all committee programs, but not for any of the luncheons. Accreditation has been requested from every state with mandatory continuing legal education requirements for lawyers. Certificates of attendance will be available at the conclusion of all programs offering CLE credit. Be sure to fill out the blue sign-in sheet only once for the entire meeting, along with all other necessary forms for credit in your state (please be aware that each state has its own rules and regulations). There will be information at the meeting to help you determine which CLE forms to sign.

There will also be a CD-ROM, which contains all **program materials**. The CD-ROM will be included in your registration packet that you pick up at the registration desk. There will be printers available if you need to print materials prior to a committee program or committee business meeting. In addition, this year attendees who register before the advance registration deadline will receive an email with a link to a website where all the program materials will be posted ahead of time.

Events Not To Miss

On Wednesday, April 29, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., join Section leaders and past Conference attendees at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis for a **Speed Networking Event**. At this complimentary cocktail reception you can meet new colleagues and learn more about the Conference and the Section. Advance registration is required; however, attendance is complimentary.

The Section will host a **Welcome Reception** at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis on Wednesday, April 29, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This complimentary networking cocktail reception will allow you to network with other Section Annual Conference attendees, and catch up with colleagues. Advance registration is required; however, attendance is complimentary.

The Practice Area and Networking Discussion Luncheons on Thursday, April 30, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, provides an excellent opportunity to discuss current events and developments relevant to your practice area with attorneys from around the country. All attendees are welcome to attend; tickets are \$15 each.

The Committee Expo, on Thursday, April 30, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, will feature leaders from all Section committees. This event will give you the opportunity to enjoy complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and learn what each committee has to offer while networking with Section leaders and Section Annual Conference attendees. ABA Section of Litigation members may join **up to three complimentary committees** during this event or any other time via the Section website. Advance registration is required; however, attendance is complimentary.

The Whale of an Evening: Jazz and Belugas at the Georgia Aquarium will take place on Thursday, April 30, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Join your colleagues for an unforgettable night of food, cocktails, and networking at the renowned Georgia Aquarium. You will get to experience the beluga whale and shark exhibits as you dine on the culinary creations of Wolfgang Puck Catering and talk with old friends and new acquaintances. This event promises to be one you will not want to miss. All attendees are welcome to attend; tickets are \$95 each.

During the **John Minor Wisdom Awards Luncheon** on Friday, May 1, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, the Section will honor the 2009 John Minor Wisdom Public Service and Professionalism Awards. Recipients of this year's Awards, Lynn A. Gorton, Kenneth J. Parsigan and the law firm of Leonard, Street and Deinard have made outstanding contributions to the quality of justice in their communities, ensuring that the legal system is open and available to all. The keynote speaker for the Luncheon is United States Attorney General Eric Holder. All attendees are welcome to attend; tickets are \$55 each.

Tickets to all events may be purchased online before Friday, April 8th. After this date, tickets must be purchased onsite at the registration desk. Please note that our events do sell out. Advanced ticket purchase is recommended.

Speakers Not To Miss

The Section Annual Conference has many excellent speakers, including **Eric Holder**, current Attorney General of the United States.

After the Meeting

What can you do after the Section Annual Conference to get the most out of your experience and/or your Section membership? Here are some suggestions:

- Join a committee [online](#). Membership in a committee includes a newsletter subscription, access to exclusive online articles and features and advance notice of CLE programs. Committee membership for up to three committees is complimentary for all ABA Section of Litigation members.
- Volunteer to help organize a program in an area of interest to you - you might find yourself on a panel!
- Offer to write a short article on a recent development in your area for a committee newsletter. A list of [committee newsletters](#) can be found online.
- Find out if a committee in which you have an interest has a stand-alone meeting. If it does, plan to attend the next meeting. You can find the complete listing of committee meetings on the [Section Calendar](#).
- Read [Litigation](#), the preeminent journal in the field. Published quarterly, *Litigation* covers issues from all perspectives in a lively and readable manner.
- Read [Litigation News](#). A quarterly publication and monthly email offering columns on ethics, civil procedure, important legislation and regulations, practice points, and coverage from the blogosphere, along with the best of the website and deeper analysis of its most important articles.
- Plan to attend next year's Section Annual Conference in New York, NY and bring a friend or colleague.