

**American Bar Association
2007 Midyear Meeting in Miami
Feb. 7 -13**

Programs and Events

Annual Meeting programs are listed below by topic. A complete listing of all Meeting programs is also accessible. Because the location and times of programs are subject to change, this page will be updated up to and throughout the Midyear Meeting.

During the meeting, a press room for working journalists will be in the Miami Hyatt Regency. It will be open for on-site media registration at 8 a.m. on Feb. 8, and daily thereafter at 8 a.m. It will close one hour after the adjournment of the House of Delegates on Feb. 13.

Accredited reporters are welcome to cover the meeting for free. Credential guidelines are at www.abanews.org/credentials.html.

For more information or with questions call the ABA Division for Media Relations and Communication Services at 312/988-6171 or email abanews@abanet.org.

General Advisory

Practical and personal issues surrounding judges' work in high profile cases, building a legal profession that reflects a diverse society, and intellectual property issues frequently encountered by startup companies and small businesses are just a few of the hot topics on the program at the American Bar Association 2007 Midyear Meeting, Feb. 7-13 in Miami, with headquarters at the Hyatt Regency Miami.

High-profile speakers, essential legal programs and insightful debate on critical law and public policy issues are all part of this premier gathering of the nation's legal professionals. In addition, a news conference on a range of critical legal issues will be held by ABA President Karen J. Mathis.

Friday, Feb. 9

As leaders in the legal profession face the issues, challenges and opportunities in promoting diversity, many questions are left unanswered. In **Promoting Diversity in the Practice of State, Local, Government, and Public Sector Law**, a panel of seasoned legal professionals will delve into why diversity in government and public practice is important, what barriers exist to further diversity, how these barriers can be overcome, and how to shape the future of diversity in the legal profession.
8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Hyatt Regency Miami, 3rd Level, Miami Lecture Hall

An introductory course, **You, Me and IP: Intellectual Property Issues for Startup Companies and Small Businesses**, will examine the intellectual property issues encountered by startup companies and small businesses. Experts in the field will highlight common IP-related pitfalls and provide tips to avoid problems. The panelists will also share strategies to identify, document and protect IP assets created by startups and small businesses.

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

InterContinental, 2nd Level, Sandringham

The achievements of lawyers who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting a racially and ethnically diverse legal profession will be honored at the **Spirit of Excellence Awards Luncheon**.
Noon – 2 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Miami, Terrace Level, Regency Ballroom

Collateral Consequences Concerns for the Representation and Prosecution of Non-Citizens in Criminal Proceedings will address the challenges that many non-citizens face when prosecuted in criminal courts, who are often unaware of the collateral consequences of a conviction in subsequent immigration proceedings. This panel will address the charging and plea offer decisions made by prosecutors, the advice defense counsel should give to clients, and sentencing determinations for judges.

1 – 2:45 p.m.

InterContinental, Lobby Level, Dupont

In order to maximize success, a law firm must move beyond the stereotypes of “Mars vs. Venus,” using the talents of men and women on their staff. **One Plus One Equals Three: Men and Women as Collaborators** is a comprehensive program on gender diversity. Topics to be discussed include how men and women can support each other to achieve success, how to create strong co-gendered teams for competitive business development, and opportunities and challenges for men and women working together.

2 – 4 p.m.

JW Marriott, 5th Floor, London II

Subverting the Rule of Law: A Case Study and Discussion. Participants will view “Hitler’s Courts: The Betrayal of the Rule of Law in Nazi Germany,” a 30-minute film that tracks how Hitler used the courts and the legal system to place the interests of the state above those of the individual. After the film, discussion will concern how democracies can strengthen themselves against attacks on the rule of law. Panelists will consider the health of the rule of law in such countries as Russia, Columbia, the United States, Iraq and others.

3 – 5 p.m.

InterContinental, Lobby Level, Dupont

Saturday, Feb. 10

Latin America in 2007: What’s Next? Recent election results and economic data suggest that Latin America may now be at historic crossroads. Democratic elections have occurred throughout the region, an indication that political stability may at last be taking hold. However, democratic elections have, in some cases, given rise to populist governments with challenges for the region. This panel discussion will address current debate in technical legal assistance circles that focus on what type of legal reforms are most relevant and useful, and most likely to diminish the disparity between the region and matured democracies.

2 – 4 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Miami, Terrace Level, Jasmine Room

Focusing on practical and personal issues surrounding judges’ work in high profile cases, **Eye of the Storm: Deciding Controversial Cases** will feature a panel of judges who will address everything from potential influences on their decision-making to the unpleasant ramifications caused by controversial decisions.

2 – 4 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Miami

Monday, Feb. 12

The 546-member ABA **House of Delegates** will meet to consider policy recommendations and vote on resolutions.

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Miami, James L. Knight Center, 3rd Floor.

Among the key recommendations that are expected to come before the House are ones:

- Encouraging efforts to require the licensing and regulating of private residential treatment facilities that are not publicly funded that offer treatment to at-risk children and youth for behavioral, emotional and educational problems.
- Urging lawmakers to respond to increasing social and family support needs of children of American military personnel deployed overseas.
- Adopting a new Model Code of Judicial Conduct.
- Urging Congress and the Executive Branch to partner with the insurance industry to promote availability of terrorism risk insurance.
- Urging states to enact “apology legislation” to make apologies by medical providers or their staff as a result of unanticipated outcomes of medical care inadmissible as evidence of an admission of liability.
- Encouraging jurisdictions to develop community supervision programs that allow less serious offenders to avoid incarceration and a conviction record.
- Urging jurisdictions to limit access to, and use of, criminal history records for non-law enforcement purposes.
- Urging jurisdictions to afford prisoners meaningful access to the courts and to ensure that they are subject to procedures applicable to the general public when bringing lawsuits.
- Urging jurisdictions to develop graduated sanctions for violations of probation or parole.
- Urging governments to assist defense counsel in advising clients of the collateral consequences of criminal convictions during representation.
- Urging programs that train lawyers to assist inmates applying for pardons, sentence reductions and other relief to include among inmate target groups victims of domestic violence who were convicted of crimes against their abusers.
- Supporting the traditional right of private employers and private property owners to exclude from the workplace and property persons in possession of firearms or other weapons.
- Urging prosecutors to participate in training about how to exercise prosecutorial discretion.
- Adopting a model rule on providing legal services after a major disaster, such as a hurricane.
- Opposing laws and policies that punish homeless people for carrying out life-sustaining acts in public when alternative private space is not available.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

How can democracies strengthen themselves against attacks on the rule of law? What are some of the collateral consequences that may come into play when non-citizens face prosecution in criminal courts? What advice should defense counsel give to their clients in cases where their clients may be non-citizens? These are some of the questions that will be addressed during the meeting.

Friday, Feb. 9

Across the nation, large numbers of non-citizens face prosecution in criminal courts. Oftentimes, they are unaware of the collateral consequences of a conviction in subsequent immigration proceedings. Prosecutors, defense counsel and judges frequently have little, if any, information about immigration law and how a particular result will affect an immigration application. In **Collateral Consequences Concerns in the Representation and Prosecution of Non-Citizens in Criminal Proceedings**, the panel will address the charging and plea offer decisions made by prosecutors and the advice defense counsel should give to a client, as well as sentencing determinations for judges when a non-citizen is facing criminal charges.

1 – 2:45 p.m.

Dupont, Lobby Level, InterContinental

Subverting the Rule of Law: A Case Study and Discussion. Participants will view “Hitler’s Courts: The Betrayal of the Rule of Law in Nazi Germany,” a 30-minute film that tracks how Hitler used the courts and the legal system to place the interests of the state above those of the individual. After the film, discussion will concern how democracies can strengthen themselves against attacks on the rule of law. Panelists will consider the health of the rule of law in such countries as Russia, Columbia, the United States, Iraq and others.

3 – 5 p.m.

Dupont, Lobby Level, InterContinental

LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS LAW PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Intellectual property issues frequently encountered by startup companies and small businesses; the ethical implications involved in running a successful law practice; tips for making the most of your business dollar; and how to maximize business development opportunities are among the law practice management and business law topics to be presented at the meeting.

Thursday, Feb. 8

An introductory course, **You, Me and IP: Intellectual Property Issues for Startup Companies and Small Businesses**, will examine the intellectual property issues frequently encountered by startup companies and small businesses. Experts in the field will highlight common IP-related pitfalls and provide tips to avoid problems. The panelists will also share strategies to identify, document and protect IP assets created by startups and small businesses.

10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

InterContinental, 2nd Level, Sandringham

Friday, Feb. 9

Define Your Event Strategy: Maximize Your Business Development Opportunities and Marketing on a Shoestring: Tips for Making the Most of your Business Dollar. This two-part program begins with a discussion on how to maximize business development opportunities through participation in various types of events -- internal (a seminar hosted by the law firm) or external (sponsorships, tradeshow, networking events, etc.). The second part, Marketing on a Shoestring, will provide tools and tips to make the most out of your time and money. Participants will have an opportunity to ask and learn from members of the ABA Law Practice Management’s Marketing Core Group.

8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

JW Marriott, 5th Floor, London II

Public Law Office Management 101: Strategies, Solutions and Ethics Rule Implications.

Illustrated through humorous real-life scenarios, this program will discuss the issues and skills relevant to running a successful public law office and enhancing the quality and efficiency of service to clients. Topics include recruiting, retention, developing a legal team, supervising and building excellent attorney/client relations, and the ethical implications involved in running a successful law practice.

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Miami, 3rd Level, Miami Lecture Hall

The Proper Retainer Agreement: Solid Writing, Strong Planning, Prompt Payment presents a panel of three experienced lawyers who will discuss and demonstrate techniques for effectively executing two critical phases of client representation -- drafting a retainer agreement that will ensure success in landing and keeping a client.

11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

InterContinental, 2nd Level, Sandringham

INTERNATIONAL LAW PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

How did Adolph Hitler subvert the rule of law in Nazi Germany? What type of legal reforms in Latin America would be most likely to diminish the disparity between that region and matured democracies? These are some of the international law topics to be presented at the American Bar Association 2007 Midyear Meeting, Feb. 7 – 13 in Miami, with headquarters at the Miami Hyatt Regency.

Friday, Feb. 9

Subverting the Rule of Law: A Case Study and Discussion will address how Adolph Hitler used the courts and the legal system to place the interests of the state above those of the individual in Nazi Germany. Ironically after the war, judges who served during Hitler's reign were returned to the bench where they upheld pensions for the families of Nuremburg war criminals. Discussion will also center on how democracies can strengthen themselves against attacks on the rule of law, with a focus on Russia, Columbia and Iraq.

3 – 5 p.m.

InterContinental, Dupont Room, Lobby Level

Saturday, Feb. 10

Latin America in 2007: What's Next? Recent election results and economic data suggest that Latin America may now be at historic crossroads. Democratic elections have occurred throughout the region, an indication that political stability may at last be taking hold. However, democratic elections have, in some cases, given rise to populist governments with challenges for the region. This panel discussion will address current debate in technical legal assistance circles that focus on what type of legal reforms are most relevant and useful, and most likely to diminish the disparity between the region and matured democracies.

7:30 – 9 a.m.

Hyatt Regency Miami Hotel, Jasmine Room, Terrace Level

WOMEN, MINORITY LAWYER AND DIVERSITY LAW PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

How can minority law students and minority and women lawyers gain leadership roles within bar associations? Can law firms increase the number of women rainmakers? What is the best approach for recruiting, retaining and involving minority lawyers in a firm? These topics and many others that affect women and minority lawyers and their clients will be addressed at the meeting.

Friday, Feb. 9

Pathways to Success for Women and Minorities in the Public Sector will feature a panel of field leaders currently working in the public sector. Panelists will provide insight into their work, obstacles they've faced as women and minorities, and the unexpected events that helped them achieve success.

3:45 – 5:15 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Miami, 3rd Floor, Miami Lecture Hall

Minority law students and minority and women practicing lawyers interested in bar association leadership roles, specifically within the ABA, will benefit from the guidance and resources offered in **ABA Leadership Pathways for Underrepresented Lawyers**. Hot topics on the agenda include how lawyers transition to leadership roles, personal and professional benefits of the leadership experience, and an overview of available leadership and outreach programs.

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

InterContinental, 2nd Level, Sandringham

In order to maximize success, a law firm must move beyond the stereotypes of “Mars vs. Venus,” using the talents of men and women on their staff. **One Plus One Equals Three: Men and Women as Collaborators** is a comprehensive program on gender diversity. Topics to be discussed include how men and women can support each other to achieve success, how to create strong co-gendered teams for competitive business development, and opportunities and challenges for men and women working together.

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