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#### **ADVISORY I:**

### **AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION 2005 MIDYEAR MEETING**

#### **FEBRUARY 9 - 15, SALT LAKE CITY**

CHICAGO, Jan. 7, 2005 – Domestic and international challenges to the rule of law since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, new protections under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, an examination of the unique ethical issues confronted by public lawyers, the special legal problems of the homeless, and changes in regulation and administrative law in the European Union are among the cutting-edge legal issues to be covered in programs at the American Bar Association Midyear Meeting, Feb. 9 to 15 in Salt Lake City.

The headquarters for the 66th Midyear Meeting will be the Grand America Hotel.

Accredited reporters can register online at [www.abanews.org/meetings/midyear05.html](http://www.abanews.org/meetings/midyear05.html).  
The following major events are scheduled:

#### **Friday, Feb. 11**

Law practice management expert **Jay Foonberg** will present “**Learn the Platinum Rule of Building Your Practice,**” a program focusing on successful client development within a law firm’s work environment. Sponsored by the Young Lawyers Division, this program will provide guidance and tips for building a successful practice with loyal clients, the key to a successful career. This program will be held at the Little American Hotel, Grand C, from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

**Judge John Baxter**, founder of Salt Lake City's Homeless Court program, will lead a panel of advocates in a discussion of local strategies to address the special legal problems of people experiencing homelessness. **"Homeless Courts and Other Innovative Strategies to Address the Special Legal Problems of Homeless People,"** sponsored by the Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, will be held in the Marriott City Center, 2nd Floor, Olympus Ballroom A, from 9 to 11 a.m.

The **Joint Commission to Evaluate the Model Code of Judicial Conduct** will hold a **public hearing** at the Marriott Downtown, 75 South West Temple, from 9 a.m. to noon.

**"Diversity Pioneer: Minority Lawyers in Very Majority States,"** sponsored by the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession, will explore the experience of minority lawyers who practice law in an area with few other minorities, discuss the kinds of support available and still needed, and share strategies that helped these lawyers survive and thrive as diversity pioneers. The program will be held in the Grand America, 3rd Floor, Riviera, from noon to 2:30 p.m.

Panelists will address the **"Impact of *Blakely v. Washington* on Sentencing Reform"** in a discussion that will include an analysis of the impact of recent Supreme Court and other court decisions. Sponsored by the Criminal Justice Section, this program will be held in the Hilton City Center, Lobby Level, Meeting Salon I, from noon to 2 p.m.

ABA President **Robert J Grey Jr.** will speak at the annual National Conference of Bar Presidents, National Association of Bar Executives and National Conference of Bar Foundation **Joint Awards Luncheon and "Dialogue" Presentation**, honoring recipients of the Outstanding Law Day Awards, the Judge Edward R. Finch Law Day Speech Award, and the Louis M. Brown Award. A mock presentation of **"Dialogue on the American Jury,"** featuring Salt Lake City high school students, will follow. This event will be held in the Little America Hotel, 1st floor, Ballrooms A/B/C/D, from 12:25 to 2 p.m.

The American Bar Foundation and the Young Lawyers Division will co-sponsor **"Life After the JD: What do I do now?"** a panel discussion of the Foundation's research on the actual career paths and career development patterns followed by young lawyers after law school. Topics include what type of environments and skills help young lawyers reach their goals, what factors most influence their job satisfaction, and whether educational debt affects career choices. This program will be held at Little America Hotel, 1st floor, Grand Ballroom, from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m.

The **ABA Task Force on Attorney-Client Privilege** will hold **public hearings** to obtain comments and suggestions relating to the protection of communications between client and lawyer, as embodied in the attorney-client privilege, at the Grand America Hotel from 1 to 5 p.m.

**Mark Shurtleff**, attorney general of Utah, will speak at “**Ethical Considerations in Public Sector Law**,” sponsored by the Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division. The unique ethical issues confronted by public lawyers will be explored by presenters using an entertaining, interactive format involving short skits to illustrate hypothetical scenarios. This program will be held at the 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The Internet has opened the floodgates of the international marketplace and more companies are going online all the time. “**From Warranties to Localization of Language: Everything You Need to Know About Selling Online Products Worldwide**” will follow a fictitious company through the process of preparing to sell products online and will explore issues such as patent enforcement and copyright protection in the global marketing of media and technology, and the emerging privacy regimes and compliance strategies in international marketing. Sponsored by the Section of Science & Technology Law, this program will be held in the Little America Hotel, 2nd Floor, Flagstaff Room, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

An expert panel, that includes **Kenneth Starr**, dean of the Pepperdine University School of Law, will explore a wide range of issues related to “**The Rule of Law: Endangered at Home Threatened Abroad.**” University of Utah President **Michael Young** will moderate a discussion of topics including civil liberties, terrorism, differing conceptions of what is meant by the rule of law, suspension of the rule of law in war time, and challenges to the justice system. Sponsored by the Senior Lawyers Division, this program will be held in the Marriott City Center, 2nd Floor, Capitol Ballroom A, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Military Law Committee of the General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section will present a program on the **Servicemembers Civil Relief Act**, which will feature an overview of the new civil procedure protections followed by a panel discussion by experts on the issue, at the Grand America Hotel, 3rd floor, Milano, from 2 to 5 p.m.

As more and more courts require pleadings to be filed electronically, lawyers will need to become familiar with and understand the problems that can occur with this new technology. “**The Do's and Don'ts of Electronic Filing**,” sponsored by the **Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section**, will focus on the nuts and bolts of electronic filing, as well as discuss the ethical issues involved in safeguarding clients' confidential information. This program will be held at the Marriott City Center, 2nd Floor, Capitol Ballroom B, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

“**Recent Developments in EU Law and Administrative Practice: What Do They Mean for You?**” sponsored by the Section of International Law and Practice, will outline recent developments in European Union law and administrative practice, and the impact they are expected to have on U.S. companies, and their professional advisors, doing business in the EU. This program will be held at the Little America Hotel, 2nd Floor, Wasatch, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

**“Pathways to Success for Women and Minorities in the Public Sector,”** cosponsored by the ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice, Commission on Women in the Profession and Young Lawyers Division, will feature a panel of successful public sector women lawyers who will describe their jobs and discuss the obstacles, encouragement, and serendipitous events that got them there. This program will be held at the Hilton City Center, 2nd Level, Canyon Room I/II, from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m.

Chief Justice **Christine Durham** of the Utah Supreme Court will receive the **Pursuit of Justice Award**, at the Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section’s Task Force on Plaintiff’s Involvement Reception at the Marriott City Center, 2nd Floor, Olympus Ballroom B, from 5 to 6 p.m.

### **Saturday, Feb. 12**

The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation presents a moderated a discussion of two ongoing ABF research projects at **“New Approaches to Access to Legal Services: Research, Practice, and Policy.”** The first project is a national survey of public interest law firms. The second focuses on *pro bono* and not-for-profit legal services provider community in a large metropolitan area. This program will be held in the Grand America Hotel, Lobby Level, Savoy Room, from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

The Law Student Division’s Negotiation Competition promotes greater interest among law students in legal negotiation and provides a means for them to practice and improve their negotiating skills. The topic of this year's competition is Art, Museums, and Collectibles: Transactions and Disputes. The competition simulates legal negotiations in which law students, acting as lawyers, negotiate a series of legal problems. Rounds one and two of the **Negotiation Competition National Finals** will be held at the Sheraton City Centre, Main Floor, from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The championship round will take place Sunday morning, Feb. 13.

**The Spirit of Excellence Awards** are given to lawyers and judges who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of racial and ethnic diversity in the legal profession. Senior Judge Arthur Burnett Sr., Superior Court of the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.; Jose Feliciano, partner, Baker & Hostetler LLP; Emanuel B. Halper, president, American Development & Consulting Corp.; Karen K. Narasaki, president and executive director, National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium; and Judge Raymond S. Uno (Ret.), Third Judicial District Court, Salt Lake City, will be honored at a luncheon at the Grand America Hotel, Lobby Level, Grand Ballroom B, from noon to 2 p.m.

### **Sunday, Feb. 13**

The Law Student Division’s **Negotiation Competition Championship Round** will be held at the Sheraton City Centre, Main Floor, Harvest, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## **Monday, Feb. 14**

The ABA **House of Delegates** will meet to debate and vote on policy recommendations on such topics as preserving patients' right to receive full information about available healthcare options, compensating people incarcerated for crimes they did not commit, opposing changes proposed in the "Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act," repeal of numerical caps on granting lawful permanent resident status to people who have already been granted asylum, and promulgating new principles to improve jury service and management of jury trials. The House will assemble in the Grand America Hotel, Lobby Level, Grand Ballroom, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Accredited reporters are welcome to attend and cover all sessions. A Press Room for working journalists will be in the Grand American Hotel Imperial Ballroom and will open for on-site media registration beginning at noon on Thursday, Feb. 10. Thereafter the Press Room will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and will close one hour after the adjournment of the House of Delegates on Monday, Feb. 15.

**ABA credentialing guidelines can be found online at [www.abanet.org/media/credentials.html](http://www.abanet.org/media/credentials.html). Whether registering online or by fax, reporters must fax a copy of their official press credentials to the Division at 312/988-5865.**

Reporters can register online until Jan. 14. After that they can register on-site in the ABA Press Room.

For hotel accommodations, a deposit of \$100 per room is required, payable to ABA/ITS. Credit cards are accepted. Requests will be forwarded to the ABA's housing and registration bureau, ITS. Housing reservations will be accepted until Jan. 14. After that, housing will only be available directly from the hotels. Hotels that will still be offering the ABA rate will be listed on the Midyear Meeting Web site at [www.abanet.org/midyear/2005/](http://www.abanet.org/midyear/2005/).

Registrants can make arrangements for air transportation through Tower Travel. ABA airline discounts are available by visiting the ABA online travel Web site at [www.abanet.org/midyear/2005/](http://www.abanet.org/midyear/2005/) or by calling Tower Travel at 800/921-9190.

Future advisories will be sent out as details on programs, speakers and policy recommendations are confirmed. For general media information please contact the Division for Media Relations and Communication Services at 312/988-6171, or visit [www.abanet.org/media/midyear05.html](http://www.abanet.org/media/midyear05.html).

With more than 400,000 members, the American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law in a democratic society.