

**Communications Stripped Down – Las Vegas NABE Section Workshop
Thursday October 22, 2009 – 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Breakout Session 7**

Multi-Discipline Speed Networking/Idea-Sharing Event

This session features bar association-specific scenarios and situations for lively, interactive discussion directly relating to attendees experience and knowledge. The format encourages maximum individual participation within the allotted time for each topic. The session goal is to have all participants share something of their experience and knowledge regarding each topic.

Event Structure

Participants receive random numbers and letters at the beginning of the event. This reduces the possibility of having a group of friends traveling in packs and encourages homogenous mixing. Once all participants assembled, they are assigned, based on their numbers or letters, in groups of five (this number may be expanded to ten), to one of each topic tables for timed, fifteen-minute sessions. After which, at the sound of a whistle/bell, each group moves to another table and so on each fifteen minutes until every participant has addressed all five topics. Each table has a stationary facilitator who helps move the interaction along, and works to avoid any one participant from taking up too much time. Facilitators will be identified and provided with talking points (see below) to keep the discussion moving and on topic.

Note: To accommodate a specific number of participants, here are some scenarios:

- a) Each topic table has 10 participants and one facilitator at each table (50 participants)
- b) An additional topic is added to a) accommodating a larger group (60 participants)
- b) Each topic table has 6 to 8 participants and each topic has two tables (60-80 participants) However, this scenario will require 10 facilitators.

If possible: I recommend scenario a) or b to avoid the need for 10 facilitators.

Five Event Topics and Talking Points*:

1) What strategies and resources (including Bar staff and volunteer attorneys) would you work with in dealing with the following: Your current bar president just informed you that he/she is being investigated for criminal behavior and expects formal charges to be made public within a week or less.

- * leadership discussion
- * draft bar statement anticipating tough questions
- * draft news release

2) How do you work with other bar staff and bar volunteers in planning and executing your bar's annual meeting?

- * role in seminar planning and promotion
- * exhibitors
- * awards and accompanying speeches

3) Your new president, executive officers, and/or bar volunteers are pushing you and/or the bar staff in a direction that you know will either fail or cause significant problems. What do you handle these situations?

- * bar mission and objectives
- * bar policy
- * past experience with similar situations

4) There is a significant difference in how different age groups communicate. Older members often prefer hand-written notes and face-to-face meetings. Younger bar members count more heavily on texting, email and social media for their communications. How is your bar coping with the generational differences and preparing for the future?

- * new lawyers groups
- * mentoring
- * bar committee structure

5) Managing your bar communications responsibilities requires good time management skills. How do you balance your specific bar responsibilities with keeping up with bar association and legal-related news as well as more general local, state and national news, and what resources do you use to get this news.

- * local and state newspapers
- * outside news WSJ NY Times Washington Post
- * radio – local news, talk, NPR
- * online resources – MSNBC
- * Google Alerts, Burrell's online clipping service

Relative to the topics above, facilitators may use the talking points to prime the pump if things are initially slow or start to lag at any time.