



ABA Day in Washington Action Requested #4: Scheduling Hill Visits

Personal visits from constituents are the most important part of "ABA Day in Washington" and a key reason for our success.

Former House Speaker Tip O'Neil's famous quote "All Politics Is Local," is absolutely true: it is crucial to the success of the organized bar's legislative efforts that bar leaders develop trusting, working relationships with their own Senators and Representatives. At the same time, it is vital that bar leaders be able to explain to Members of Congress why a particular issue is so important to their respective States, Districts and constituents.

The ABA strongly encourages ABA Day participants to visit as many Members of Congress as time permits, your own Delegation's Senators and Representatives, in particular, and others with whom you have a close relationship. It is most effective for constituents to request and schedule their own Hill meetings.

NEW THIS YEAR: To increase meeting coordination and improve follow-up efforts, we are formalizing the past practice of working with the State/Local Bar Executive Director and/or Governmental Affairs staff to schedule meetings with State Congressional Delegations.

We have asked one or two "**State Captains**" to help coordinate constituent-based Hill visits with Members of Congress and/or their staff. [The list of State Captains is attached here](#), including contact information. These Captains are submitting the meeting requests and will work with GAO staff to coordinate the most effective meetings. If you are not currently on the State Captain list, but would like to volunteer to help in any way, please e-mail [Julie Strandlie](#).

Scheduling Hill Visits

To increase the possibility of securing meetings, "State Captains" plan to submit their hill visit requests by the week of Monday, March 31, when Congress returns from the Spring District Work Period. Many Hill visits have already been requested and confirmed. Please contact your State Captain as soon as possible to discuss your interest in participating in certain meetings.

To help you plan your ABA Day participation, we offer the following guidance:

(1) Review the list of [registered attendees](#) to determine who, from your State or ABA entity, is attending ABA Day.

(2) Identify your own State Captain(s), who typically will be responsible for submitting meeting requests with most or all Senators and Representatives in that State's Congressional Delegation.

(3) Contact your own State Captain to discuss: your participation in the State Delegation's Meetings; your availability; your relationships (good or bad!) with the Delegation; and your expertise on the ABA Day issues of Legal Services Corporation funding and S. 186, the Attorney-Client Privilege Protection Act. For example, your experience and knowledge as a board member of your local legal services program could be very influential in persuading a Member to support increased LSC funding. ABA Grassroots Director Julie Strandlie will also be integrally involved in this process. Please [e-mail](#) her with any questions.

(4) Should you have a strong personal relationship with Member(s) of Congress beyond your own State Delegation, please request a meeting with him/her as well. Coordinate with that "State Captain" as appropriate.

(5) GAO lobbyists will also work with **ABA entities** to schedule additional meetings with Congressional Committee staff to discuss certain other issues, including issues covered in the [Consultation Session](#) conference calls. Please e-mail the GAO lobbyist responsible for a particular issue area/ABA entity to volunteer to help schedule and plan the meetings. GAO staff and their contact information are available [online](#).

(6) The State Captains (and others who schedule Hill visits) will be asked to inform the GAO staff of requested and scheduled meetings using new online scheduling software. There are many benefits to ABA Day participants' using this online scheduling software; training will be provided via an online/conference call on April 4 at 1:00 p.m. EDT. (Log-in information will be emailed separately.)

NOTE TO BAR ASSOCIATION/ACCESS TO JUSTICE LEADERS: If you are attending ABA Day with a State or Local Bar Association group, your Bar Executive or lobbyist is likely the "State Captain" and he/she has already requested meetings for your entire group. The "State Captain" is already working with GAO staff and will be in touch with you directly regarding your meeting schedule.

NOTE TO ABA LEADERS: If you are attending ABA Day representing an ABA entity, the GAO lobbyist who handles particular issues of interest to your group may schedule additional meetings on your behalf with relevant Congressional

Committee staff. (Or you can volunteer to help, as noted in (5) above.) The GAO lobbyist will arrange those meetings and contact you. Please also contact your State Captain to complete your constituent-based visits on the ABA Day issues of LSC funding and S. 186, the Attorney-Client Privilege Protection Act.

Additional Action Requested E-Mails to Follow:

Action Requested #5: [Preparing for Hill visits](#)

Action Requested #6: [Issue Information](#) (information is being added/updated)

Action Requested #7: [Consultation Session Issues](#)