

YOU SHOULD KNOW
...there is a lot going on at the NHBA! Including...

STAFF EDITION – August 2010

There is a lot going on through the New Hampshire Bar Association! While it is difficult to paint a concise and complete picture of what your professional organization produces, this report is intended to give you *just a glimpse* of some of what has gone on lately.

This is by no means an exhaustive compilation of activities...

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

NH Public Radio to feature Pro Bono... 'Giving Matters' a series of interviews focusing on NH nonprofits' impact on the community will feature the Pro Bono DOVE North Country Outreach program this year.

News release announcements of BOG members taking office and Section officers' elections were sent out this summer in an effort to enhance recognition of volunteers within the Bar.

Bar News advertising picking up. August had the largest advertising volume (for an August issue) in several years. More outreach is being made to potential advertisers (400+ potential contacts received e-mails promoting Bar News/website advertising. 15 percent of the addressees opened the e-mail which is a good rate for this kind of sales-oriented e-mailing, reports Assistant Communications Director Craig Sander, who has overseen this outreach campaign. Non-member ad inquiries are picking up and this week Wells Fargo signed up for a yearlong contract – it's a small ad but it's a tremendous pitch to other financial services firms that Wells Fargo is on our advertising roster.

Court budget advocacy. This month, spoke with Concord Monitor editorial page editor, and reporters from Union Leader, Keene Sentinel and Valley News regarding court budget and other issues. Also we are talking with Fred Kocher who has a business news talk show on WMUR. Excellent editorial and reporting from the Monitor on the impact of the court budget on the public (see Board packet or website).

MARKETING TEAM - RECENTLY WORKED ON EXPOSURE FOR:

Pro Bono Golf Tournament

Pro Bono Divorce Camp in Conjunction with CLE Family Law

Leadership Academy

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE Calendar:

NHBA*CLE offered a one hour webcast on the SAFE Act, July 23 through our online partner the **Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum**. The presenter made a point of discussing some of the NH issues regarding the **SAFE Act** and included a *Bar News* article from the June issue by Dan Wise in his materials. We had about ten members participate in the webcast and they were thankful for the NH reference by the speaker. It is now available as an archived online program.

The CLE Director continues work with a planning group which includes Cecie Hartigan, Jennifer Sargent, Richard Uchida and Russ Hilliard, on **balancing life**-type programming. Another planning meeting is scheduled for August 26.

The CLE Director will be working with John Garvey (FPLC) on scheduling some **client interview skills workshops** for members.

We hosted a video replay of the **PAD Pilot Rules (Proportional Discovery/Automatic Disclosure)** CLE in Dover on August 25. In addition to the 30 attendees, present were Judges Lynn and Brown and Court Clerk Julie Howard, who facilitated the discussion. Another replay is scheduled on September 1 in North Conway (Carroll County). Currently there are 16 members signed up. Both Judge Brown and Judge Houran and Court Clerks Pat Lenz and Julie Howard are planning to be present at the North Conway video replay to answer additional questions.

Our fall line-up is complete. Coming up in the next four months will be:

- **The 14th Annual Superior Court Judicial Forum (9/17);**
- **National Speaker Roy Ginsburg w/Ethics in Marketing (9/22);**
- **a program on the MedMal Panel Rules in cooperation with the Court Committee (9/24);**
- **Construction Law (9/29);**
- **National Speaker Robert Musante w/Attacking the Expert's Opinion (10/15);**
- **Developments in the Law 2010 (10/22);**
- **Shoreland Protection (10/29);**
- **Anatomy of a Criminal Trial (11/5);**
- **Effective Legal Writing to Persuade the Trial Judge (11/10);**
- **Basic Family Law (11/3);**
- **Annual Tax Forum (11/19);**
- **Municipal Liability (12/1); and**
- **Health Law (12/3).**

The 11/12/10 Federal Estate Tax program will most likely be postponed.

The NHBA's Federal Practice Section is listed as a co-sponsor of the Federal Practice Institute, November 12, 2010. The Federal Court is now the major sponsor of this program but works very closely with the section with planning. The Institute will take place at the Federal Courthouse to save money.

Our **Developments in the Law Video Replays** are scheduled across the state beginning with **Portsmouth (11/17); Plymouth (11/18); Concord (2/11); Keene (1/18); North Conway (3/24) West Lebanon (3/31).**

Something for Everyone!

We have recently "opted into" a number of **live webcasts** through our online partnership with Legalspan/InReach and a number of state bar associations. These programs range from 1-4 hours each. **Currently there are 19 "live" webcasts available through our online catalog – 17 of those are in September.** This includes three of our own programs. Although we would like to, we cannot offer everything to everyone. This is a good way to fill in the gaps until our CLE Committee is able to get programs scheduled (currently working on Spring scheduling and next Fall 2011). **Topics include:** Elder Issues; Estate; Employment; Energy; Veterans Benefits; Ethics Issues in Cyberspace; Personal Injury; Witness Prep Ethics Issues; School Law; Environmental Law; Social Networking and the Employer; Attorney/Client Privilege; Trust Accounts; and a program from the Maine Bar on Mediation and Settlement Conference Issues. We wanted to have plenty of programming available so that members will have every opportunity to comply with the Supreme Court Rule 53 deadline (October 1).

More and more members are using the convenient **CLEtoGO™** offerings through our online catalog. The CLEtoGO™ programs are downloadable to an iPod or MP3 player. Forty-five

members purchased a CLEtoGO™ program in June. These are NHBA•CLE sponsored programs and qualify for self-study credit.

MEMBER RECORDS

The Bar Association's long, long-time Membership Records person, Anna O'Neill, will be moving with husband John to Michigan at the start of September to be closer to family. Thanks to **excellent documentation** of this important role, and to **quickly finding a qualified successor** who has been able to train with Anna on this complex and critical function of the organization, the Association is in good shape to wish Anna well and continue maintaining the accurate, up-to-date information that is essential to our operations (and is now important to the Courts and attorneys filing matters there as well). Emily Kerrins is taking on this part-time role, in addition to providing part-time assistance to the Bar Foundation.

MEMBER SERVICES

Member ID Cards – Member identification cards that have been issued with the payment of dues in the past are currently on hold while we work to update the card quality and program (including **coordination with the AOC for district court security access**). Stay tuned; they will be coming in the next few months. In the meantime current cards are good through 2010.

NEW LAWYERS COMMITTEE:

Mentor Program –

Over the past month Susan Lakeway, NHBA Executive Program Support, has been working closely with Rose Anocibar, Member Services Coordinator, to match new attorneys that are seeking guidance and advice within their respective areas of law. **This month, ten new attorneys were matched** to mentors willing to assist and provide services for our newest members.

Many seasoned attorneys have risen to the call, as we had solicited the need for new mentors. This year has produced **twenty two new mentors** with a variety of different practices and experience to help benefit our newest members. A BIG THANK YOU for those who volunteer their time and efforts to further advance New Hampshire's aspiring young attorneys in general guidance, professionalism and ethics!

Bench & Bar Meet & Greet – The committee is gearing up to host the next Bench & Bar Meet & Greet, scheduled for December 8th! Stay tuned for further details.

Swearing-In Ceremony – We have two more swearing-in ceremonies scheduled for November! The dates are: **November 9th and the 30th**. We have approximately 138 new admittees for the 9th which will mean two swearing-in sessions that day; the Association just keeps growing!



Battle of the Bands

**The battle is brewing and the bands are warming up!
Hear the rhythm? Hear the beat?
Come on and get on your feet!**

**Sunday, October 17th
Starting at 2:00pm**

Join the New Lawyers Committee at
Murphy's Taproom, 494 Elm Street, Manchester.

An event you won't want to miss!

Why would you want to come? Because, the afternoon promises to be... fun, entertaining, exciting, enjoyable, exuberant and most pleasurable. Come out to see the razzmatazz as your fellow colleagues strut their stuff. Snap your fingers, clap your hands and tap your toes, watch while several of the NHBA members show off their musical talents in "Battle of the Bands!"

Murphy's Taproom offers a variety of beers, drinks and a great menu to choose from, come early for lunch or stay later for dinner. Dance the afternoon away!

Sponsored by the New Lawyers Committee, Battle of the Bands already has **SIX** bands **READY** to play that includes approximately 14 Attorneys!

Rock n' Roll, Big Band Swing, Dance'n Disco, BlueGrass and more...

Sign up, join in the fun.

OR

Come be the judge! Help determine who wins the prizes –
one of the prizes is an Electric Guitar!



**For further information email Rose Anocibar, Member Services
Coordinator at ranocibar@nhbar.org**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Collaboration with the Court on membership data – on July 27th key staff met with representatives from the AOC and Superior Court Center to determine how the Association can **assist the Court in having up-to-date contact information for members** without having to maintain separate databases, which they do now. A 2-step plan has been put in place that has the Association providing the Court with daily updates on member address changes (after having provided the Court with a full up-to-date data file immediately following the meeting). Once the Association has migrated to new database software (this fall), this group will meet again to determine if the new software can be utilized to provide even better ways for the Association to share this information with the Court

Solicitation for Committee appointment requests for the 2010-11 Bar year were done electronically during the month of August via Survey Monkey through the Bar's e-Bulletin. Appointment work is ongoing with letters targeted to be mail the end of August.

Leadership Academy – staff have worked with the LA Steering Committee to create the application process and spread the word about the opportunity; work is ongoing to finalize the program content for the “kick-off” Retreat and the subsequent sessions. National speaker Michael Brandwein has been recruited for the Retreat.

Foundation support – Executive Director has engaged in discussions with the Campaign for Legal Services about the potential of the CLS establishing its endowment within the Foundation, and with a retired judge/philanthropist regarding assisting the Foundation with new development work. Planning for an important Foundation Board session (9/1) regarding the future of the entity is underway. Work will begin soon to assist the Foundation in preparing to administer Mandatory IOLTA.

Board Orientation – research into the latest “best practices” for governing boards will be incorporated into information used at the BOG orientation session and during “governance updates” throughout the year. Brad Cook has been recruited to present a mini-CLE on responsibilities of lawyer-board members.

NHMCLE Administration – major editing work was done on the “Certificate of Compliance” form instructions, and has led to significant reorganization and editing of the information on the NHMCLE website (currently underway). As part of work to document functions, a number of administrative practices are being examined for service and efficiency improvements.

National leadership – the Executive Director has again been asked to serve on the National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) Chief Staff Executives Committee. Jeannine McCoy also participated as a moderator of a discussion on Association/Foundation relations at the August NABE meeting.

NHMCLE

For 2010, the NH Supreme Court has shortened the amount of time that lawyers have to complete their annual NHMCLE requirement before the process of suspension begins. The names of lawyers who have not completed their credits and filed their Certificates by November 1, 2010 will be sent to the Court to begin the suspension process. In previous years, lawyers could pay late fees to extend their compliance reporting for another four months. The change will reduce the maximum late filing fees assessed from \$450 to \$150.

The NHMCLE Office has compiled records for the more than 4,800 lawyers in active membership. These records will be printed in three colors as SC Rule 53 Certificates of Compliance and mailed to lawyers at the end of the month. The lawyers receiving white and blue forms do not have to respond unless corrections are needed in the credits or courses listed. They have until October 1, 2010 to make corrections.

About 1,200 lawyers will receive pink Certificates, indicating that they either have to claim an exemption or had not completed the annual NHMCLE requirement by June 30, 2010, the end of the compliance period. These lawyers have until October 1, 2010 to complete their credits or claim their exemption, sign and return their Certificates to NHMCLE. Lawyers who need credits will have to include copies of their new course attendance records to show how they made up their NHMCLE shortage. Those who miss the deadline will be assessed a \$50 late filing fee and have until November 1st to comply before they are subject to an additional \$100 fine and their names will be sent to the Supreme Court for suspension.

LAW RELATED EDUCATION:

One would think all LRE programs would be on hiatus over the summer months – aah, not true, schools, teachers, administrators, students and WE are gearing up for the NEW school year!

- **We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution** – We are very excited to announce the adoption of the *We the People* program by the Concord School District's 5th grade classes for their Civics curriculum. 15 teachers in 4 Concord Elementary classrooms will receive the WTP texts in time to start the new school year. This proves even more exciting with the release of the NEW 2010 Elementary text release on August 15, 2010. The Speaker of the House Representatives has confirmed our dates for the District and State Hearings to be held at the Legislative Office Building on December 10, 2010 and January 7, 2011.
- **“A Lawyer and Judge In Every School”** – “Law Day” 2011 in NH will be Friday, May 6, 2011 – confirmed date.
- **We the People: Project Citizen** – The National Showcase/NCSL Legislative Summit in Louisville, KY was held July 25-29, where NH was represented by Fairgrounds Middle School with their Public Policy portfolio “Every Dog Deserves a Chance at Life”.
- **LEAPHOLES** – The Timberlane Regional Middle School is gearing up for the 3rd year of using Leapholes in the classroom. They are one of our original Pilot Program schools and have requested a Distance Learning Experience with the author, James Grippando. James has enthusiastically responded to the idea with a ‘happy to participate’. We will report more on this as it unfolds over the school year!
- **LRE Web site** – Transforms over the summer to up-dated info and dates about our programs for Attorney Volunteers and schools.
- **Mock Trial** – Students needing information about Mock Trial teams are referred to resources on our Web site and to Dave Alcox of Milford HS and Kyle Skinner of the Yale University HS Mock Trial competition – in which NH schools have been taking part and doing quite well in over the last 2 years.

LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Pro Bono staff, with help from other Bar staff, was hard at work this month with preparations for the **17th Annual Quid Pro Bono Golf Tournament** held on August 12, 2010 at the Lake Sunapee Country Club in New London. Eighty-seven players enjoyed the great course, great weather, and camaraderie, all while raising needed funds for the Pro Bono Program. This year's net total of \$16,000 exceeded last year's tournament profits by over \$1,000...amazing in this tough economy!

Divorce Camp: The Pro Bono Program plans to recruit new volunteers for its family law panel via a new version of Divorce Camp in collaboration with the CLE Department. The concept calls for special arrangements for Divorce Campers to learn the nuts and bolts of family law through attendance at the CLE Department's basic family law seminar in November at a reduced tuition rate. Divorce Campers will be required to accept a family law case contemporaneously with the seminar in addition to attending a separate evening Divorce Camp workshop focusing on Pro Bono Program supports and issues impacting low-income clients. Details are still being worked out for this coordinated programming.

DOVE: To continue its successful DOVE North Country Outreach Project, the Pro Bono Program is researching new funding sources as its federal stimulus grant is about to expire. A grant has been submitted to the NH Women's Fund and staff members are researching other funding possibilities.

Low-Income Taxpayer Project: The Taxpayer Project was fortunate to coordinate the work of two dedicated law student interns who each volunteered one day a week throughout the summer. Lillian Bozonie (3L) and Jordan Wilcox (2L) assisted with research, client intake and case support. Ms. Bozonie was instrumental in helping to launch the LITP's first volunteer e-newsletter which featured a volunteer spotlight, upcoming events information, a case success story, and tax law developments. The Project hopes the newsletter will be sent out quarterly moving forward. Mr. Wilcox updated the Project's lending library and helped to develop several information sheets on tax topics to assist the Project's volunteers. The LITP thanks these dedicated student volunteers and is pleased to report that Ms. Bozoine will be continuing to volunteer for the Project one day a week during the school year. The LITP also submitted an application for a three year renewal of the IRS grant that funds project operations.

ACCOUNTING & COMPUTER SERVICES DEPARTMENTS

During the week of June 1, 2010, **annual Bar Dues and Court Fees** invoice packets were printed, collated and mailed to **6,674** attorneys. To date, payments have been collected and applied from **over 92%** of these NHBA members, which represents all but \$118,000 of the \$1,744,000 that was billed out.

The on-site component of our **annual audit** was completed in July, and we are currently working on the interim financials for the current year while we await drafts of the annual report from our CPAs.

BAR CENTER USE

We were very happy to accommodate a recent request from the Attorney General's Office to use our conference room space. They needed space for depositions on a very large case and requested the use of our rooms for 14 separate occasions between August 10 and the end of September.

In the 5 weeks since the July 2010 BOG meeting:

- **280** members held **27** meetings in Conference Rooms
(wkly average: 56 mbrs.; 5 mtgs.)
- **80** lawyers and guests held **28** meetings in Small Meeting Rooms
(wkly average: 16 mbrs; 6 mtgs)
- No Section meetings or CLE's were held
in our Lower Level Seminar Room – however we had a great
Summer Outing (a/k/a/ Stouting – Staff “Stay-Outing”) there !

Member Log-In for www.nhbar.org

33 requests from members for their log-in information were filled.