

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
March 2007

CASD Shines Through Its Committees

By
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We are well on our way into 2007 and our CASD committees are hard at work. We have a wonderful series of events planned for the year and I'd like to give you an overview of some of them. We welcome your ideas, comments and participation. Feel free to contact any of the committee leaders listed below to join one of the committees.

The Education Committee puts together and schedules all of our seminars. These educational programs range from the evening lab programs through to the blockbuster lien seminar held annually. So far this year, our Education Committee, led so well by John Rice, Joel Bryant and Wayne Hughes, has already presented us with "What's New in Tort and Trial" and a Lab on Expert Testimony: "From Designation through Trial". Upcoming programs to be on the lookout for include our own Denny Schoville reflecting on what he has learned in his first 34 years of practicing law – March 7; a two-part Evidence seminar over which the Honorable Robert Trentacosta will preside; and of course the annual lien seminar taught by our lien masters, John Rice and Don De Camara. As you know, we have a Calendar of Events on our website so you can check out more details about our educational events and register for them online.

Our Events committee is also making things happen this year. The Annual Golf tournament is coming up on May 10 at Riverwalk. This year's event promises to be the best ever! Join us and spend a wonderful afternoon with your CASD friends and others in our community. Sign up early to reserve your spot. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Events Committee is also the committee that brings us our mixers and list serve parties. The dates and locations of these events are posted on our website and in the ***Trial Bar News***. These get togethers are a great way to enjoy the company of your esteemed colleagues in comfortable and social settings. The Events Committee, in particular this year through Rebecca Lack Mowbray and George de la Flor, also assists with the annual Red Boudreau Dinner, which will take place on June 2 at a new location. Watch for more information!

Further, the Events Committee plans and brings to fruition our beautiful annual Trial Stars and Installation and Awards Dinners. Led by Karin Wick, I am sure the Events Committee will continue to exceed our expectations. They can always use a hand, though, so if you are interested in helping

out in any way, please give me or Karin a call. We welcome your participation.

Our Communications committee is also busy, providing us with the best trial lawyer association website around. Led by Kerry Hoxie and Jon Williams, this committee develops and updates our website and our guidelines governing the List Serve. The website contains access to our Motions and Briefs Bank, tended to by Rebecca Lack Mowbray. Please continue to provide your trial briefs, motions in limine and other motions and pleadings for inclusion in this Bank. We also have an Expert Bank with information on various experts who appear all too frequently for the defense and a Deposition Bank. All CASD voting members have access to the contents of the brief bank, which is a great member benefit. If you haven't already, please check it out! If you haven't contributed to it yet, please do so. The more member participation we have, the greater the benefit to us all. If you would like to join this vital CASD committee, please call me or Kerry, Jon or Rebecca.

The Communications Committee also oversees member communications throughout our organization and within our community. The Media Connect Panel handles contacts with the media and will assist with responses to the media. If you see something you think deserves a response from the plaintiff's or the attorney's point of view, this panel will help you respond. You can contact Kerry Hoxie, who chairs this Panel, for assistance.

The Awards Committee is already evaluating a number of submissions of tremendous results obtained by our members within the past several months. If you know of any members who have had trial or arbitration results you believe meet our awards criteria, please send us your nomination. The required nominator's checklist can be found on our website. Remember, it is not the size of the award that is determinative, but the nature of the case, the skills of the attorney and the obstacles the trial attorney faced throughout his or her attempt to achieve the result! Our award winners will be honored at the annual Trial Stars Dinner held in November. Wayne Hughes is chairing the Awards Committee this year and we need your submissions!

Our Legislative Committee is chaired by Ken Sigelman and Scott Levine. This committee is active in keeping and creating relationships with local and state legislators. Stay tuned for an announcement about the upcoming Lobby Day. If you have any interest in getting involved, we welcome your support.

And then there is our Membership Committee. This year the Membership Committee is chaired by Alexys Kalafer. She and Alex Scheingross are spearheading our efforts to increase membership this year. In addition to the traditional methods of obtaining members, this year we are implementing a law student outreach program which is headed by Michelle Mitchell. Our goal is to get the students with a career interest in plaintiff's trial work involved in our organization early. Also, we are continuing our outreach to the regional, ethnic and specialty legal associations, to convince those who qualify for membership that CASD membership is a benefit their practices cannot afford to be without! If you are interested in joining us, please give me a call. We welcome your assistance and participation. You should also check our website frequently for a listing of upcoming events, other news that is important to you and new additions to our document banks. Stay informed!

CASD is a great organization because of the involvement of its members. The more active and participating members we have, the stronger we are! Please join us in our efforts to grow CASD.

Whether you give us an hour a week or an hour per month, we will be stronger because of your commitment. We look forward to hearing from you!