



## Paul Cushing President's Message

As I begin my term as president of ACC-Northeast Chapter, it is with some trepidation, as I have big shoes to fill! Bill O'Brien, our immediate past president, brought enormous experience and some great, innovative plans to the chapter, and I will make every effort to continue in the same tradition.

We are fortunate to have two new members to strengthen our board of directors—Christine Nickerson, senior legal counsel at CVS/Pharmacy in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and John Opperman, senior vice president and general counsel of TD BankNorth, Inc. in Portland, Maine. In addition to bringing considerable experience to the board, Christine and John will be able to help us strengthen our presence in Rhode Island and Maine, as we continue our outreach in these states.

On a less happy note, we have lost two long-time board members and former presidents—Tom Farrell and Scott Squillace, both of whom have moved into private practice. Their advice, energy, and leadership over the years have been invaluable, and we will miss their presence on the board.

We have a strong roster of sponsors this year, and are busily planning the program

schedule for 2008. As an alumnus of Choate, Hall & Stewart I am delighted that the firm will be our platinum sponsor for 2008. We will be working with them to develop one monthly educational program in addition to our all-day conference in November. Choate has been a strong supporter of the chapter over the years, and we are happy to be working with them again.

Our gold sponsors, who will be developing other monthly programs with us, and who are also dinner sponsors for the Law Student Ethics Awards dinner in April, are:

- Fish & Richardson
- Folay Hoag
- Goulston & Storrs
- Greenberg Traurig
- Hamilton Brook Smith & Reynolds
- Jackson Lewis
- Mintz Levin
- Nixon Peabody
- Nutter, McClennen & Fish
- Skadden Arps

Silver sponsors will work on programs reaching out to our members in Maine, western Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island, and include:

- Pierce Atwood
- Nixon Peabody
- Ropes & Gray
- McDermott, Will & Emery

With this large and well-rounded list of sponsors, I am sure we will be bringing excellent and innovative programs and value to our members again this year.

Looking ahead, our chapter is over 900 members strong, the largest it has ever been. It is my sincere hope that as we continue to develop signature initiatives in the areas of ethics, diversity and pro bono opportunities, and continue to offer high quality, pertinent educational programming, we will have more opportunities to tap into the energy of our members and make the chapter even stronger. I look forward to meeting and working with more of you in the coming years.

Paul G. Cushing  
 President, ACC-Northeast

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# Focus on CLOs: CLO ThinkTanks, Chapter Networks, Insights & Beyond

*By Renee Danker, associate general counsel, advocacy and CLO services, ACC*

ACC focuses many of its services towards different segments of its membership, including those who are new to in-house practice, legal specialists, law department managers, chief legal officers (CLOs), and small and large department practitioners. While resources and programs may be initially created or styled with one of these segments in mind, anyone may find value in these materials. Large law departments, for instance, invest in resources that can then benefit smaller practices; and something created for an IP specialist may inform a legal generalist who has an IP problem arise that needs attention.

Whether you are the CLO for your law department or you ultimately report to the person who is, ACC's CLO materials and services can help provide a window into thought leadership and issues that are top-of-mind in top law departments around the world. Featured below are some of the initiatives and links to materials we've created for our CLO membership segment. For more information on our CLO services or resources, check out our CLO "homepage" at [www.acc.com/php/cms/](http://www.acc.com/php/cms/)

[index.php?id=59](http://www.acc.com/php/cms/index.php?id=59), or contact Renee Dankner, associate general counsel, advocacy and CLO services ([dankner@acc.com](mailto:dankner@acc.com); 202.293.4103 x358), or Susan Hackett, senior vice president and general counsel ([hackett@acc.com](mailto:hackett@acc.com); 202.293.4103 x318).

## **ACC CLO ThinkTanks**

ACC CLO ThinkTanks are invitation-only discussion forums at which a small group of large company CLO thought-leaders discuss in-depth their ideas, concerns, best practices, and forward-thinking advice on the hot topics confronting the in-house bar and their clients.

To date, ACC has held 14 CLO ThinkTanks in the United States and Canada; sessions have included CLOs from more than 100 top-ranked companies. Topics have included: Corporate Governance and Compliance; Establishing and Sustaining an Ethical Culture in a Global Organization; Managing Corporate Business Information: Ediscovery and Beyond; Hot Topics for Private Companies; Compensation and Career Advancement for In-house Lawyers; and the Law Department's Role in Financial Compliance and Relationships with Auditors.

Advance Participant Briefing Binders and Executive Reports of past CLO ThinkTank sessions are available at [www.acc.com/php/cms/index.php?id=264](http://www.acc.com/php/cms/index.php?id=264). The Participant Briefing Binders include discussion outlines and links to related resources of interest. The Executive Reports summarize key takeaways and discussion highlights. Stay tuned for materials relating to upcoming sessions on FCPA Enforcement, Enterprise Risk Management, CLO as Gatekeepers, and more.

## **CLO Chapter Networks**

Several of ACC's chapters are implementing exciting initiatives to help promote networking and leadership discussions among CLO leaders in their local communities. From CLO lunch clubs, to general counsel forums, to roundtable dinners or GC Brown Bag lunches, chapters are bringing together CLOs to expand their network of peers and share ideas on challenges and best practices. For more on what the DELVACCA, Mountain West, Charlotte, Central Ohio, San Diego, and WMACCA chapters are doing, see [www.acc.com/php/cms/index.php?id=381](http://www.acc.com/php/cms/index.php?id=381).

Coming soon: posts for additional chapter CLO initiatives—stay tuned and please send an

email to [dankner@acc.com](mailto:dankner@acc.com) if your chapter is implementing initiatives you'd like us to add, or to request information on how to create or participate in CLO networks within your chapter area.

### **CLO Executive Bulletin**

ACC's *CLO Executive Bulletin* is a periodic electronic newsletter designed for CLOs. Read featured perspectives of leading CLOs on hot topics, find executive briefings on ACC public policy initiatives undertaken on behalf of the bar, and find resources of particular interest to law department leaders. Most issues include a lead article that features insights and perspectives of a leading CLO on a hot topic of interest.

Past issues feature insights on a broad range of topics, including: Optimizing Business Needs Through Risk Management (Mick McCabe, Allstate); Leading with a Vision for Innovation (Mike Dillon, Sun Microsystems); CLO as Spokesperson with the Media (Don McCarty, Imperial Tobacco Canada); and Six Key Principles for Creating an Effective and Sustainable Pro Bono Program (Ken Handal, CA). Links to past issues and featured CLO perspectives articles are available at [www.acc.com/php/cms/index.php?id=266](http://www.acc.com/php/cms/index.php?id=266).

### **CLO Club/ACC Annual Meeting CLO Program Series**

Each year at its Annual Meeting, ACC offers special programming designed with CLOs in mind. ACC's Annual Meeting 2007 included our signature CLO Club programs (sophisticated networking forum that hosts peer-to-peer discussion groups targeted to the unique executive practice, management, and benchmarking needs of CLOs), plus an entire new line of CLO programs: our CLO Executive Leadership Series sessions.

The CLO Executive Leadership Series sessions are open to all annual meeting participants and feature top CLOs as panelists. In addition, the AM 2007 program slate included ACC insights and presentations on "Cutting Edge Practices from the World's Largest Legal Departments," and "Top of Mind: What General Counsel are Thinking/Worried About." Look for these program materials soon in the Virtual Library<sup>SM</sup> at [www.acc.com/vl](http://www.acc.com/vl).

While the CLO Club sessions are open only to CLOs, we've posted session materials and key takeaway summaries on our website to help provide insights into these discussions and possibly even serve as 'tool kits' for hosting these types of discussions

within your law departments. Visit ACC's webpage for more information on ACC's CLO Club and materials, including hypothetical scenarios, reference lists, and key takeaway summaries from this year's sessions on Financial Compliance and Emergency Response Preparedness, available at [www.acc.com/php/cms/index.php?id=267](http://www.acc.com/php/cms/index.php?id=267).

### **ACC's CLO Page**

In addition to some of the more specialized services and resources noted above, ACC has dedicated a portion of its website to promote the executive, legal and department management roles of today's CLO. Find the resources and connections you need at [www.acc.com/php/cms/index.php?id=59](http://www.acc.com/php/cms/index.php?id=59).

# The Law Student Ethics Awards—2008

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Once again, the Northeast Chapter will be hosting the Law Student Ethics Awards this year, for the fourth time. The success of this initiative has led us to invite five more law schools from the northeast to participate in the program, to better represent the communities in which our members work and live. Therefore, law schools from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, western Massachusetts and Rhode Island will be joining with the six Boston area law schools to submit nominations for students who have shown an exemplary commitment to ethics in the course of their studies. Two students will be submitted from each school, and the nominations will be reviewed by the ACC-Northeast Board of Directors. One student from each school will be selected to receive a \$1,000 award at a dinner and awards ceremony held in April.

Participating schools for 2008 will be:

**Boston College Law School**  
**Boston University School of Law**  
**Franklin Pierce Law Center**  
**Harvard Law School**  
**New England School of Law**  
**Northeastern University School of Law**  
**Roger Williams University School of Law**  
**Suffolk University Law School**  
**University of Maine Law School**  
**Vermont Law School**  
**Western New England College School of Law**

We are also exceptionally pleased that our keynote speaker for the awards will be Benjamin Heineman, Jr., former senior vice president and general counsel for General Electric, and senior counsel at WilmerHale. Mr. Heineman is also a senior fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

## Upcoming Programs

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We have an excellent roster of programs coming up for spring of 2008, as follows:

**February 27**—"Navigating the Minefield: Employment Law 2008," sponsored by Jackson Lewis

**March**—"Crisis Management for In-house Counsel," sponsored by Nutter, McClennen & Fish

**April**—"A Practical Litigation Primer," sponsored by Choate, Hall & Stewart

A note about program attendance: We realize that everyone is working harder, faster, and smarter these days. Often it is difficult to get out of the office to attend ACC programs, but we urge you to make a sincere effort to do so. Our sponsors put a lot of thought and effort into the programs, and if they are disappointed in the turnout, we risk losing them as a sponsor for upcoming years. We hope to see you at many programs in 2008!

## Advocacy

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The board of directors has voted to send a letter to Governor Deval Patrick on behalf of the entire chapter, urging an increase of \$5 million in FY 2009 for civil legal aid. Civil aid programs throughout the state are forced to turn away half of all eligible callers because they lack funding. As a result, low-income Massachusetts residents with serious civil legal problems often find themselves without legal advice or representation, and are left to navigate the judicial system by themselves when confronted with complex issues such as domestic violence, child custody, homelessness, disability, and other critical human needs.

The Northeast Chapter is now over 900 strong, and we have a voice we should use for issues such as this. If there is an advocacy issue that you would like to bring to the chapter's attention, please contact Advocacy Chair Paul Nightingale at [paul.nightingale@hphood.com](mailto:paul.nightingale@hphood.com).

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## It's Time to Renew!

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Your ACC-Northeast membership is rolling over at the beginning of the year, and we want to urge you to renew and not let it lapse! The resources available to you are invaluable—from our excellent monthly educational programs, to the tremendous online resources in the Virtual Library<sup>SM</sup>, so renew today!

## Pro Bono

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Our immediate past president, Bill O'Brien, is now chairing our Pro Bono Committee, and is researching opportunities for chapter members to volunteer at several organizations that will provide training and a variety of issues to handle on a pro bono basis. We will keep you updated as we confirm the opportunities!

## ACC Virtual Library Offers Tangible Resources

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Take a look at these valuable additions to the ACC Virtual Library<sup>SM</sup>:

- **Managing Competition Law Risk** ([www.acc.com/resource/v9336](http://www.acc.com/resource/v9336))  
This presentation on Managing Competition Law Risk by the law firm Fasken Martineau DuMoulin was presented to the ACC Ontario Chapter.
- **Successful Interview Strategies** ([www.acc.com/resource/v9286](http://www.acc.com/resource/v9286))  
Read the Robert Half Legal article on successful interview strategies.
- **Top Ten Steps to Making a Successful Transition: A Former Litigator's Guide to Going In-House** ([www.acc.com/resource/v9284](http://www.acc.com/resource/v9284))  
Read ACC's top ten tips on how to make a successful transition from the courtroom to an in-house operation.
- **Strategy & Society: The Link Between Competitive Advantage and Corporate Social Responsibility** ([www.acc.com/resource/v9286](http://www.acc.com/resource/v9286))  
Read about a new way to look at the relationship between business and society that does not treat corporate success and social welfare as a zero-sum game.

The Virtual Library ([www.acc.com/vl](http://www.acc.com/vl)) has volumes of timely resources that can help you do your job better, faster, and easier. Check it out now!