

Corporate Counsel Organization Highlights

Letter From The President Of The Washington Metropolitan Area Corporate Counsel Association



To The Readers Of *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*:

I am honored to begin my term as the twenty-fifth President of the Washington Metropolitan Area Corporate Counsel Association (WMAACCA). WMAACCA is changing with the needs of our 1,300-plus in-house counsel members from more than 500 corporations and private sector organizations. We are the largest regional in-house counsel bar association in the United States and the largest chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel.

In the post-Sarbanes-Oxley world, which often requires sophisticated counsel who possess deep organizational knowledge, the decision to “make” or “buy” for companies appears to be tipping towards in-house counsel. Companies are using a larger portion of their legal services budget to purchase legal services wholesale (in-house counsel by the year) instead of retail (law firms by the hour).

We have also seen a paradigm shift in the credentials of in-house attorneys. Because compensation is much more competitive than just a few years ago, many more attorneys are interested in moving from law firms to in-house. In addition, even though the number of hours worked in-house is coming much closer to private practice, in-house practice may be more appealing because it has a “business oriented” mindset measuring performance on “getting the job done well” instead of common law firm metrics (hours billed and client originations). Moreover, law firm life for many includes “big case” discovery work, matters in-house counsel can hire temporary attorneys to handle or merely farm to firms. Finally, in-house practice also may allow an attorney to work across disciplines and as part of the business team, which may be more satisfying than the strict specialization found in many law firms.

With these changes in the landscape, it is time for WMAACCA to increase its visibility and impact. We need a stronger presence; one that better reflects the increasingly significant role in-house counsel plays. To this end, I am pleased to report the formation of a WMAACCA Advocacy Committee and a WMAACCA Public Relations Committee.

During my term, WMAACCA will continue to provide significant opportunities for CLE and networking. In January, former U.S. Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell spoke at our Annual Meeting. In April, our keynote speaker will be former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. This spring, we also will offer a “mini-executive MBA” and a spring social featuring a panel comprised of counsel for major professional sports leagues and players.

With the increased specialization of in-house counsel, we also have expanded our in-house only “forums.” In January, we created our eighth substantive committee, a litigation forum designed for senior in-house litigators.

This year, we will further develop our outreach to local law schools and continue to nurture our Corporate Scholars program. We also have established a Board task force on improving governance. We continue to be grateful for our “partnerships” with most major DC law firms, whose support helps us accomplish many of our projects.

I would like to thank the membership for this opportunity and look forward to hearing ideas for improvements.

Sincerely,
Eric D. Reicin

State Bar Of Texas Schedules Replays Of Advanced Employment Law Course

The State Bar of Texas this month is planning video replays of its 14th Annual Advanced Employment Law Course in two locations.

Programs will take place on Thursday and Friday, March 9 and 10 at the Cityplace Conference Center, 2711 North Haskell, Dallas, and on Thursday and Friday, March 30 and 31 at the Norris Conference Center, 9990 Richmond, Houston. Sessions run from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first day and from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the second day.

The program addresses a variety of employment-related topics. Among them are: The Changing Face of Discrimination; Ethics in Advocacy;

How to Not Prejudice Your Own Case; Retaliatory Firings; TROs and Non-Compete Clauses; Religious Accommodation; How to Frame the Issues of Your Case, and Liberating Partners: Partners as Employees – Who Can Sue or Be Sued?

The course director is John V. Jansonius, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP.

For information on available CLE credits and registration fees, see the Bulletin Board on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpccounsel.com.

To register for either session, call (800) 204-2222, extension 1574 or visit www.texasbarcle.com.

DC Bar To Present Four-Part Securities Law Series

The DC Bar Association this month will present a four-part series of seminars on the Introduction to Securities Law.

The sessions, slated for four Tuesdays, will run from 6 to 9:15 p.m. at the DC Bar Conference Center, 1250 H Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Part 1: Introduction to the Securities Act of 1933 and the SEC Regulation Process is set for March 7. This session includes an introduction and overview of the securities laws, including an historical perspective and the basic regulatory scheme.

Part 2: Introduction to Investment Advisers and Investment Companies and Introduction to Derivatives is slated for March 14. This program will begin with a discussion of the Investment Advisers Act and the Investment Company Act, including who is covered, compliance, SEC oversight, overview of disclosure, and regulatory developments. The second half of the class will cover the fundamentals of derivatives. Speakers are Susan C. Ervin and Jane A. Kanter, Dechert LLP, and Jennifer McHugh, Division of Investment Management, SEC.

Part 3: How the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Works and Regulation of Broker-Dealers is being offered on March 21. This session will include an overview of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, including consideration of

who is covered and disclosure requirements in annual and quarterly reports, proxy solicitations, and shareholder proposals. The second half of the program will discuss regulation of broker-dealers; the SEC, NASD and other self-regulatory organizations; registration and discipline; sales practices; market manipulation; supervisory liability; Chinese walls, and current issues. The program chair is James E. Ballowe, E*Trade Brokerage Services, Inc.

Part 4: SEC Enforcement and Private Rights of Action will take place on March 28. The first half of this class will deal with SEC enforcement, including investigations, administrative proceedings and SEC actions, remedies available to the SEC, and liabilities of attorneys and other professionals who practice before the SEC. The second half will feature a discussion of private rights of action, including civil claims, defenses and procedural issues. Speakers are Mr. Ballowe; Frederic D. Firestone, SEC; Charles R. Mills, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP, and James Sottile, Zuckerman Spaeder LLP.

For details on registration fees and CLE credits, see the Bulletin Board on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpccounsel.com.

To register for any of the sessions, call (202) 626-3488 or visit www.dcbbar.org.

DSBA Slates Electronic Discovery Seminar

The Computer Law Section of the Delaware State Bar Association (DSBA) this month this month has scheduled a CLE seminar titled Electronic Discovery Primer.

The program will take place on Tuesday, March 7 from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the DSBA headquarters, 301 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE.

The three-hour seminar will highlight the fundamental issues relating to the ever-growing body of law, including a review of cases and trends, e-discov-

ery rules, and managing e-discovery.

Speakers will be Richard K. Herrmann, Morris James Hichens & Williams LLP; Tom Russo, DOE Legal, and Lou Verrelli, DiscoveryWorks Legal.

For information on available CLE credits and program fees, see the Bulletin Board on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpccounsel.com.

For reservations, call (302) 658-5279 or visit www.dsba.org.

Georgetown CLE, ACC Schedule 10th Annual Corporate Counsel Institute

The Georgetown University CLE Institute and the Association of Corporate Counsel will hold their 10th Annual Corporate Counsel Institute for Thursday and Friday, March 9 and 10.

The two-day conference is designed to help in-house counsel solve their toughest problems and leave them with “take-aways” that they can implement the next day in their offices.

Among the speakers will be Christopher Cox, chairman, SEC; U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee; Paul Clement, U.S. solicitor general; Frederick J. Krebs, president, Association of Corporate Counsel; David G. Leitch,

senior vice president and general counsel, Ford Motor Company, and the Hon. E. Norman Veasey, Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP.

The conference will take place at the Georgetown University Law Center, 600 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Sessions will run from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. on day one and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on day two.

For details on registration fees, see the Bulletin Board on *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* website at www.metrocorpccounsel.com.

To register for the conference, call (202) 662-9890 or visit www.georgetowncle.org.