

Appellate Practice Section Mini Retreat Part II

(2 hours of CLE credit with one ethics/professionalism)

January 21, 2010

12-1:00

Mini retreat working lunch

- Message from the Chair: Format and Goals for the Day (Dorothy Easley)
- Roundtable introductions of attendees
- Handout addressing results from Part I (Valerie Yarbough)
- Summary of Mini-Retreat Part I (Hala Sandridge)
- Assignments to Break-Out Group (Hala Sandridge)

1-2:15

Break out groups

Susan Fox: Leadership, Ethics and Professionalism

- attract new members to the Section
- update Bylaws and make them better (clarify who is on Executive Council and how the Section accomplished different things)
- focusing on professionalism (but is level of professionalism among appellate lawyers already much higher than trial lawyers?)
- become more engaged in advocacy
- more involved in the Judicial Nominating Commissions around the state
- training and education of younger appellate lawyers
- take responsibility for promoting excellence in the practice of appellate law
- improve the continuing legal education programs whenever possible
- offer programs to teach how to write appellate briefs
- address use (or lack of use) of three-judge panels at the circuit level
- elicit more input from public defenders and Attorney General's office
- communicate more with local/voluntary bar associations

Jack Reiter: Section Finances and Fiscal Independence

- promote our continuing legal education programs
- advertise on our bar website
- maximizing profitability of continuing legal education programs by moving more toward more web-based seminars
- co-sponsor with other sections whenever possible to reduce costs
- hiring a professional fund raiser to seek grants from different foundations that give money to different institutions
- work with law schools to hold seminars there and save money
- explore ways to insulate and keep the funds with the Section
- Review Section's decision to pledge funds to different institutions and noted that there may be some confusion as to what the Section will or will not fund

Hala Sandridge and Dorothy Easley: E-filing

- sell electronic filing as an investment to save money in the future
- educate or lobby the legislature in a formal fashion
- ask the Florida Bar to undertake such efforts (Bar has paid lobbyists and Florida Bar President has committed to e-filing)
- reach out to other Sections to get involved in this issue (Criminal Practice Section has hired lobbyists to try and promote this)
- get email alerts regarding opinions issued (First District currently does)
- more argument by videos
- use technology to handle alerting lawyers of matters that are expedited
- address Americans with Disabilities Act requirements related to electronic documents
- archive oral arguments for viewing
- access briefs electronically (ask Westlaw if they could provide as a member benefit)

2:30-4:30 Executive Council meeting

6-9 Cocktails and Dinner - Seasons 52