

SECTION SPOTLIGHT

Litigation Section Provides Comprehensive Education and Much More to Members

As many of you are aware, there are several different sections within the State Bar of Nevada. At last count, there are 25 sections in total. The Litigation Section of the State Bar of Nevada is comprised of more than 400 members. It was formed in 2011 by attorneys Tracy DiFillippo (litigation partner at Armstrong Teasdale, LLP) and current Clark County Commissioner Justin Jones (litigation partner at Jones Lovelock). These attorneys formed the Litigation Section for the primary purpose of providing a forum to improve law and procedure in the field of civil and criminal litigation.

What Do We Do?

The Litigation Section has been active since its inception. Notably, the executive committee of the Litigation Section has been focused on ensuring that section members have an opportunity to, among other things, satisfy continuing legal education (CLE) requirements. These CLEs have been specifically designed with the interests of litigators in mind. Indeed, in just the past few years, CLE seminar series have been held on the following topics:

1. Early Motion Practice;
2. How to Plan for Effective Discovery & Avoid and Handle Discovery Disputes;
3. Depositions;
4. Experts; and
5. Summary Judgment.

Following the CLE on experts, the section held a mixer to meet and mingle with other section members. To that end, the Litigation Section has also had a presence at the State Bar of Nevada's Annual Meeting. Topics in recent years have covered "What Sets Great Oral Argument Apart" and "New Amendments to the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure: What Every Litigator Should Know."

The Litigation Section provides more than just CLE opportunities to its members. For example, the section monitors changes to rules of procedure that impact members at large. Thus, when amendments were recently proposed to the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure, the Litigation Section monitored these changes and provided public comment. Additionally, the Litigation Section has provided comment as an amicus

curiae to the Nevada Supreme Court on issues impacting the practice of litigation as a whole. Furthermore, the section also seeks to help the community by sponsoring events targeted at furthering the practice of litigation. These events include the UNLV School of Law Society of Advocates Competition and Constance Baker Motely Mock Trial Competition. The section is also a sponsor of the annual Southern Nevada Legal Aid Pro Bono Lunch and the Clark County Bar's Meet Your Judges event.

How to Get Involved?

The Litigation Section is always seeking to promote member engagement. There are several opportunities for members to become engaged in the Litigation Section. One such avenue is to become a member of the executive committee, which is currently comprised of Tracy DiFillippo (chair), Maximiliano Couvillier III (vice chair), John Gutke (secretary), Shannon Pierce (treasurer), Paul Haire, Conor Flynn, Eric Hone, Ryan Lowe, Brenoch Wirthlin, Jamie Combs, Kory Kaplan and Rex Gardner. Executive committee members are asked to sit on subcommittees consisting of:

1. CLE;
2. Publications;
3. Membership;
4. Ethics and Professionalism; and
5. Civil and Appellate Rules.

Another way to become engaged is to plan and create a CLE course. In 2020, CLE courses are being planned on topics covering motion practice and amendments to specific federal rule of procedure amendments. Also, look out for mixers following some of the CLE events. Lastly, members are always encouraged to attend Litigation-sponsored CLEs and events.

The State Bar of Nevada website provides information concerning the Litigation Section, including section news and events, at <https://www.nvbar.org/member-services-3895/sections/litigation-section/>. Anyone interested in learning more should feel free to visit that website and ask any executive committee member relevant questions.

