INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS LAW SECTION
State Bar of Georgia

Newsletter

Fall 2002

Status of Officers and Elections

Many thanks to Susan Garrett for chairing our section for the past several years. A few of the successful events under Susan's leadership include the CLE program "So You Want to Sue the Government-Nuts and Bolts of Section 1983 Litigation", which was so well-received that a repeat performance was requested. A few of the social functions the section enjoyed included a book-signing with author William S. McFeely. Professor McFeely authored Proximity Death, which chronicles his participation as an expert witness in a Georgia death penalty case. A terrific cocktail reception was held in honor of the United States Magistrate Judges from the Northern District of Georgia, all of whom attended. Susan also continued our annual fall costume get-together which will be coming up very shortly this year. Finally, under Susan's leadership the section joined forces with the Access to Justice Committee of the State Bar to cosponsor a successful grant application to fund a public education program designed to raise awareness and increase support of legal services for low-income Georgians.

Susan's term expired in June and Mike Monahan has valiantly stepped up to be the Interim Chair. Elections to formally elect Mike (and re-elect other section officers or their replacements) will be held at the Mid-year meeting luncheon in early January, 2003. Other section officers presently include Michel Phillips and Georgia Lord, both serving as Vice-Chair, Megan Gideon, Treasurer, and Patricia Gorham, Secretary. Any one interested in assuming one of these positions or simply being included on the Executive Committee let Mike know prior to the Mid-Year meeting or just show up at the Mid-Year luncheon. Mike's e-mail address is mike@gabar.org.

Visit this section's web page at www.gabar.org click once on "Sections" and proceed to the web page for Individual Rights

Halloween Party

Our Fall tradition continues with another Halloween celebration. "New Blood for the Section", our Dracula-inspired theme of years past, will be resurrected. Please join us for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at Park Tavern, at the corner of Monroe and 10th street on Tuesday, October 29th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free to section members. Those of you sporting a costume (funny hats count!) will receive a small surprise.

Mid-Year Luncheon -

Our section will meet for lunch at the Mid-Year meeting of the State Bar. Details will be forthcoming, but the Section plans to subsidize the cost of each member's lunch so you will not have to pay over $10.00 out-of-pocket. Lunch at the Swissotel usually runs close to $30.

Attorneys Richard Cohen of the Southern Poverty Law Center and Craig Jones, who both worked on the recent hitching post case in Alabama will be our invited guests. We are working on making one hour of CLE credit available for this program.

E-Mail Works Best

If you haven't already submitted an e-mail address to the State Bar...please do so. This will enable you to get an advance notice of upcoming events & newsletters. Eventually, we will eliminate "hard copy" notices going to members, and will save a few thousand trees each year. You may visit the State Bar Web Site (www.gabar.org). This newsletter is posted there too.

Click on Membership/Address Change Form and submit your e-mail address. While on the web site, check your CLE hours, view Section Meetings News, the State Bar Directory, Handbook and this section's membership roster, which is updated nightly.

Support for Georgia Legal Services Self-Help Office

At our recent Brown Bag lunch, members in attendance voted to send a letter of support for a soon-to-be created Georgia Legal Services Self-Help Program. This program, which is intended to increase access to justice for low-income persons in rural areas, consists primarily of sending an attorney with a laptop out in the community to address legal needs of isolated clientele without access to the Internet.

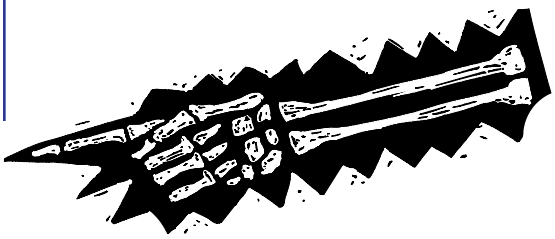
Get Involved!

An upcoming project the section wishes to sponsor is a discussion of the balance between national security and the impact new policies have had on individual rights. If you would like to assist with this project, please contact Gerry Weber at the ACLU of Georgia (404) 523-6201.

Officer

Reports -

We have a healthy treasury balance at a little over $6,000. Unfortunately, our membership has mysteriously fallen to a new low. We have had as many as 259 members in the past, and we are now down to 175. This newsletter is being sent to the 84 members who have disappeared from our roster. IF YOU DID NOT RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE CONSIDER REJOINING THIS IMPORTANT BAR SECTION !!! If you did not rejoin for a particular reason which you would like to discuss, please contact Megan Gideon at (404) 897-1000 or meg@sfglawyers.com



This can be mailed to:
State Bar of Georgia
Membership Department
104 Marietta Street, N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Yes, I Would Like To Join The Individual Rights Law Section

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Include a check made payable to the State Bar of Georgia in the amount of $15.00

(Zip) _____

Bar # _____

Now we can rest in peace!