

Individual Rights Law Section Newsletter



Acting Officers

Mike Monahan, Chair
Georgia Lord, Vice-Chair
Michel Phillips, Secretary
Megan Gideon, Treasurer

Spring, 2003

State Bar of Georgia

Mid-Year Meeting

Those of us who were able to attend the Section's Luncheon at the Mid-Year Meeting were treated to a terrific lunch as well as a fascinating report from Richard Cohen and Craig Jones on the history and importance of *Hope v. Pelzer*, 536 U.S. 730 (2002). The Supreme Court ruled that prison guards should have known that use of a hitching post violated the prisoners' constitutional rights and therefore the guards were not entitled to qualified immunity. Cohen, the Director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, reminded our section members that the Strategic Litigation Project of the SPLC has money available to pay costs in important civil rights cases. So if you are litigating a case which meets their criteria or thinking about doing so, contact them for assistance. Check out their web site for additional information (www.splcenter.org).

Nominations for Officers

Also at the Mid-Year Meeting, the following individuals were nominated for officer positions. Mike Monahan, Chair; Georgia Lord, Vice-Chair; Michel Phillips, Secretary; Megan Gideon, Treasurer. These individuals, while happy to serve, indicated that the section is in tremendous need of NEW BLOOD. If anyone would like to step forward and volunteer for any of the positions, call Megan at (404) 897-1000. The slate will be voted on at our meeting in May. (See below.)

Upcoming Events- Please Calendar!

BOB BARR AND TECH STUDENTS SPEAK AT FORUM ON CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE NATION'S RESPONSE TO TERRORISM

On April 7, 2003, Georgia Tech students will share the stage with former Congressman Bob Barr for a discussion of the timely topic of civil liberties and the nation's response to terrorism. In response to the events of September 11, 2001, the U.S. Congress passed the USA Patriot Act, expanding certain powers available to law enforcement agencies. Mr. Barr and the students will present information regarding the civil liberties implications of the USA Patriot Act (and subsequent legislative proposals) and offer their views concerning whether this legislation represents an appropriate balancing of security interests and individual rights.

The Georgia Tech students who will be participating are from the School of Public Policy's class on Constitutional Issues. Atlanta Attorney Georgia Lord will moderate the forum.

The forum will begin at 4:30 p.m. on April 7, 2003. An informal reception follows the discussion. The event is free, but seating is limited and provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking will be available at the visitor's lot near the Tech student center, on Ferst Street.

The forum is co-sponsored by the Individual Rights Section of the State Bar of Georgia and the Atlanta Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

Bob Barr formerly represented Georgia's Seventh District in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his service in the U.S. Congress he held the post of Assistant Majority Whip. Prior to his service in the House, Mr. Barr was the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia. He has also worked in the CIA and has served as President of the Southeastern Legal Foundation, and is currently performing some consulting work for the American Civil Liberties Union.

For additional information, including the precise location of the event, please contact Georgia Kay Lord, (404) 601-4132.

Next Meeting of the Section:

Friday, May 16th, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. in the non-smoking room of Manuel's Tavern. The only item of business will be electing officers so we need a quorum of at least ten individuals. Please come!

Annual Bar Meeting:

This year's annual bar meeting will take place in Amelia Island. Our section is NOT having an official breakfast meeting, however, look for Mike Monahan who has been authorized to buy section members a drink on our tab at a time and location of his choice.

**State Bar of Georgia
Annual Meeting
Amelia Island**

June 12-15, 2003