



# AM COUNSEL BULLETIN



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"The Quarterly Newsletter of the American Counsel Association"

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## ACA HOLDS SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING

### ACA CALENDAR

OCTOBER	
9-12	European Circuit—Rome, Italy
NOVEMBER	
16	Board of Directors Fall Teleconference
28	Young Lawyer Practice Management Teleconference
JANUARY	
1	Annual Dues Due
18	Board of Directors Winter Teleconference
FEBRUARY	
9	Midyear Event—Miami, Florida
MARCH	
7-9	CLE "Civil Practice & Litigation Techniques" - St. Thomas, V.I.
APRIL	
19	Board of Directors Spring Teleconference
MAY	
1	Law Day
22	Young Lawyer Practice Management Teleconference

The ACA held its Annual Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii August 5-7, 2006, during the American Bar Association's Annual Meeting in that city. We had a successful meeting which included both social and business activities.

One of the key business activities was the approval by the Board of Directors of a multi-year ACA Strategic Plan. Utilizing the responses to the 2006 ACA Membership Survey, President Elect Tom Bolt presented and the Board of Directors approved the comprehensive plan of action for our

organization.

On Saturday, August 6, a number of our members and their guests enjoyed a cruise down Oahu's coastline. On Sunday, President Jim Dorsett and his wife Wynn of Raleigh, North Carolina hosted a dessert reception at the Halekulani Hotel's Lewers Lounge. On Monday evening, August 7, members and guests enjoyed the Annual Dinner Meeting at the exclusive Garden Terrace/Courtyard on the beach hosted by our Honolulu member firm Chun, Kerr, Dodd, Beaman & Wong. Special



ACA President Tom Bolt.



Aerial view of Hilo, Hawaii

ACA guest was Elspeth Kerr, wife of George Kerr, former ACA President, for whom the Annual ACA Scholarship is named.

## 2006-2007 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED

We are pleased to report the election of Douglas L. McCoy of Mobile, Alabama as President-Elect of the American Counsel Association. Tom Bolt of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, last year's President-Elect, automatically ascends to the presidency for the 2006-07 term. James K. Dorsett, III of Raleigh, North Carolina was elected Secretary-Treasurer,

following the distinguished eight-year tenure of Stanley J. Cohn of New Orleans. New members on the Board include Robert M. Carlson of Butte, Montana, Richard T. Cassidy of Burlington, Vermont, Stanley J. Cohn of New Orleans, Louisiana, David S. Houghton of Omaha, Nebraska, and Donna C. Willard-Jones of Anchorage, Alaska, all of

whom will serve a three-year term. Pamela A. Bresnahan of the District of Columbia will serve a two-year term to fill the vacancy left by Douglas McCoy's election as President Elect.

The ACA Scholarship Foundation trustees are: Chairperson, Roger Toner of Roseland, New Jersey; Trustees, Barbara Howard of Cincinnati, Ohio, Craig Anderson of

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Scholarship Presentation - Chicago Bar Association  
 From left to Right: Craig Anderson (ACA Chicago Representative); Justin Bauer (Scholarship Recipient); Tom Bolt (ACA President)

## ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Each year the ACA sponsors the George Kerr Scholarship of \$5,000, and the Lowell Jacobson Scholarship provides a \$2,500 award. These scholarships are based upon both academic excellence and financial need and go to incoming third-year students. At the Annual Meeting, Elizabeth Ann Fordyce of Villanova University School

of Law was selected to receive the ACA George Kerr Scholarship and Justin E. Bauer of Northern Illinois University College of Law was chosen to receive the Lowell H. Jacobson Scholarship.

The ACA Strategic Plan includes an initiative to revitalize the Scholarship Committee to seek additional funds to increase the amounts

of the awards. One of the ACA's stated goals is to "encourage and assist law students in preparing, qualifying and establishing themselves in the practice of law". Any members interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee are encouraged to contact Pamela Bresnahan, Chair of the ACA Scholarship Committee [pabresnahan@vssp.com](mailto:pabresnahan@vssp.com).

***"Over the past several years, ACA has concentrated its efforts in building bridges, building relationships among its membership, both socially and professionally. ACA should continue to build upon the foundation of these bridges and review its responsibilities with regard to the other objectives as outlined in the ACA Bylaws."***

***ACA Strategic Plan***



From left to Right: Jeni Smith, wife of ACA President Tom Bolt, with ACA members Edith Osman and Past ACA Presidents, Barb Howard and Pam Bresnahan, at the 2006 ACA Annual Dinner at the Halekulani Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii.

## LAW PRACTICE TIPS OFFERED TO YOUNG LAWYERS

The ACA is launching a new Young Lawyer Program inviting ACA members to nominate attorneys in their respective firms who are under 37 years of age or who have been admitted to practice less than three years.

ACA will have two one hour teleconference CLE's for these new ACA members during November and April. The teleconferences will focus on new practitioners and law practice building and management.

If you have young lawyers in your firm you wish to include in the ACA program, please email Secretary/Treasurer Jim Dorsett at: [jdorsett@smithlaw.com](mailto:jdorsett@smithlaw.com)

## INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVES LAUNCHED

Almost 90% of our members have advocated that we expand the ACA membership base to include foreign attorneys, building new bridges. Currently, ACA has members in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom. Past President Gerard McDermott has long advocated that ACA look beyond the U.S. borders for international members.

In this regard, our Board of Directors has determined to increase international membership through three membership initiatives: Europe, Latin American and

Caribbean, and Pacific Rim. All ACA members have been invited to attend the European Circuit's Annual Conference in Rome, Italy October 19-21, 2006. Information about the conference and a registration form appears on the ACA's website: ([www.amcounsel.org](http://www.amcounsel.org)). It is the goal of the European Membership Initiative to secure members in all European Union countries.

In February, the ACA will host a Midyear Meeting event in Miami at Los Ranchos at 401 Biscayne Boulevard, at Bayside

Marketplace on Friday, February 9, 2007. We will invite attorneys from Latin America and the Caribbean Basin to join us.

Our final international membership event for the year will be a Pacific Rim Initiative in connection with the ACA Annual Meeting August 11-13, 2007, in San Francisco.

Plans are in the works for a social event on Saturday, August 11, our President's Reception on Sunday, August 12, and our Annual Dinner Meeting on Monday, August 13.

## ACA JOINS ALI-ABA FOR CLE IN AMERICA'S PARADISE

ACA is co-sponsoring a CLE, "Civil Practice and Litigation Techniques in Federal and State Courts" with nationally recognized ALI-ABA March 7-9, 2007 at the Frenchman's Reef

Beach Resort in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Members will receive a flyer shortly, but information is available online at: <http://www.ali-aba.org/aliaba/crslstf.asp>.

In addition to the course, there will be an ACA social event at the home of ACA President Tom Bolt with the faculty.

<i>Projected ACA Membership Growth</i>	
2005-2006	250
2006-2007	300
2007-2008	350
2009-2010	400
2010-2011	450

## MEMBER PROFILE: PAMELA A. BRESNAHAN

Pam Bresnahan served as ACA President 2002-2003. She is currently a partner and Chair of the District of Columbia office litigation practice group of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP. She serves as trial and appellate counsel in business and commercial litigation matters with an emphasis on professional liability defense and coverage litigation.

Earlier this year, Pam was named as one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America by The National Law Journal. Her service to the legal profession was recently highlighted as a member of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary and service as an investigator and witness before the United States Senate on behalf of the ABA for then Judge John Roberts'

nomination to the United States Supreme Court.

She is a frequent lecturer on professional liability and professional responsibility issues and served as Chair of the ABA's Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability. She will be a presenter at the ACA's meeting with the European Circuit in Rome, October 19-21st.



Pamela A. Bresnahan  
Former ACA President  
Chair, ACA Scholarship Committee

## ACA MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN SURVEY

For the first time in its recent history, the ACA initiated a comprehensive survey of its membership to determine the existing demographics of its members, their perceptions of the organization, and their desires for continuation for current programming and the addition of new programs and member benefits. 178 surveys were electronically distributed to the ACA membership. 71 surveys were completed.

36% of the respondents have been members of the Association for over ten years. 47% were over 57 years of age and 56% were

from firms of over 25 attorneys. 63% of those members responding noted that they were either satisfied or extremely satisfied with the American Counsel Association. 36% indicated that they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the Association.

Generally, the survey indicated approval of ACA's current operations. 91% of the respondents indicated that the Association should continue to hold its Annual Meeting in conjunction with the American Bar Association Annual Meeting. Two thirds of those responding stated that ACA elections

should continue as presently conducted at the Association's Annual Meeting.

The survey also indicated that ACA members are quite tech savvy with 87% of the respondents desiring communication through e-mail. 8% chose regular mail and 6% requested communication by fax.

The results of the ACA Membership were utilized to develop the ACA Strategic Plan which was adopted at the Annual Meeting in Honolulu. The Board of Directors thanked the many members for their participation.

***"The current membership of the American Counsel Association, are the inheritors of a proud legacy left to us by the many members of our profession that have gone before us. It is incumbent upon each of us to secure that legacy; to build upon the foundations laid by predecessors over these past seventy five years; to build new bridges to members of our profession as well as those that seek entrance to the profession."***

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*Officers and Directors Elected*

Chicago, Illinois, Stanley J. Cohn of New Orleans, Louisiana, Bruce Ramsey of Boston, Massachusetts, Mac Greaves of Birmingham, Alabama, and Stephen Harris of Atlanta, Georgia.