



AM COUNSEL BULLETIN



"The Newsletter of the American Counsel Association"

Summer, 2009

ACA CALENDAR

ACA Annual Meeting Chicago, Illinois

- August 1 (11 AM)
Architectural Boat
Tour
- August 2 (4:30PM)
President's Reception
- August 3 (7PM) ACA
Annual Reception and
Dinner

European Circuit Meeting Warsaw, Poland

- October 15 (7:30PM)
Embassy Reception
- October 16 (10AM)
Supreme Court Visit
- October 16 (2PM)
Substantive Programs
- October 16 (7PM)
Dinner
- October 17 (9:30AM)
Substantive Programs

ACA Midyear Meeting Orlando, Florida

- February 5-8

ACA Heads to "Obama Country" 2009 Annual Meeting in Chicago

The American Counsel Association will convene its 65th Annual Meeting in the home of the new U.S. President Barack Obama, in Chicago, Illinois August 1 - 3, 2009.

The three day conference will include a number of events beginning Saturday, August 1st when the ACA will return to the ever popular Architectural Boat Tour along the Chicago River. At 11:00 AM, members and their guests will board the ship for a 90-minute cruise and guided tour of the architectural monuments of downtown Chicago.

Following the cruise, members and guests are invited to enjoy a wonderful view and menu over lunch at "Fultons on the River" located on the Chicago River with views of downtown, offering a great place for ACA members to dine, relax and celebrate!

The Annual ACA President's Reception hosted by ACA President Wes Horton will be held at the historic Drake Hotel from 4:30 - 7:30 PM on Sunday, August 2nd. A variety of savory hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided in the private Palm Court Room.



Chicago, Illinois will host the ACA 65th Annual Meeting

ACA members and their guests are invited to welcome President-Elect Richard Cassidy and thank President Wes Horton for his outstanding year of service to ACA and its membership.

As always, the highlight of the ACA Annual Meeting will be the elegant reception and dinner, to be held at the University Club of Chicago at 76 East Monroe Street overlooking Millennium Park on Monday August 3rd.

During the course of the Annual ACA Reception and Dinner, the Association will award its annual scholarships honoring former

Presidents George Kerr of Honolulu, Hawaii and Lowell Jacobson of Chicago, Illinois.

The ACA Scholarships are presented annually to law students of extraordinary merit and financial need. The menu will be exceptional and the fellowship warm and convivial.

Members are encouraged to sign up early for these events, as space will be limited and the demand will again be high (all Annual Meeting events last August in New York were "sold out").

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The President's Two Cents

Forty-two members and guests – by far a record – gathered together on Friday, February 13 for the **ACA Midyear dinner at Mistral**, one of the top restaurants in Boston. We had a private wine-cellar room starting at 7:00 pm, and we didn't leave until around 11:00.

We had a number of new members in attendance, so I called on all members to introduce themselves and where they were from. Since I (deliberately) started with Tom Bolt, everyone got the hint that a witty remark from each would be in order. Much of the wit was at my expense. The best quip was "I'm Bernard Amyot from your province of Montreal, and I can see Connecticut from my office."

Shortly after becoming President last August, I appointed my partners, Mike Taylor and Karen Dowd, to be Co-Chairs of a revived **Young Lawyers Committee**. They promptly decided to rename it the *Youngish Lawyers Committee*. In his toast, Mike commented on the alleged foibles of numerous prominent members of the Association ("if you were actually wounded in the battle of Gettysburg, you are *not* a Youngish Lawyer!"). I noted lots of smiles and laughter. Thank you, Mike.

I also appointed Maura O'Connor Chair of a new **Sponsorship Committee** and recently added Howard Daniel as Co-Chair. I am pleased to say that Maura's firm Seyfarth Shaw, Jim Dorsett's firm, Smith Anderson, and my firm, Horton, Shields & Knox, co-sponsored the

Boston meeting. I anticipate that the Committee will shortly announce sponsors for our Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Since the Boston meeting, I also have established a new **Endowment Committee** to build upon the funds available for our Annual ACA Scholarships. I have appointed past presidents, Mac Greaves and Stanley Cohn, as



WESLEY W. HORTON
2008-2009 ACA President

Co-Chairs.

Our **membership** has grown strongly, and we have added new members from countries around the world, namely, France, Italy, Spain, Germany and Oman, in addition to Canada and the United Kingdom.

Speaking of around the world, our next major event was a conference co-sponsored by the ACA and the Connecticut Bar Association held Friday, April 3rd, entitled "**Global Perspectives in Appellate Courts.**"

Held at the Connecticut Bar headquarters in New Britain (near Hartford), approximately 50 appellate lawyers attended and the many comments I received afterward were uniformly raves.

ACA member Kim Knox and

I were the Co-Chairs for the event.

Four ACA members – Gerard McDermott, QC from England, Bernard Amyot from Montreal, Buddy Menton from New York City and Pam Bresnahan from D.C. – were the stars of the show.

Gerard spoke of his work before the Court of Appeals and the House of Lords in London and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

Bernard talked about the appellate courts of Canada (ah, the joys of arguing in two languages).

Pam and Buddy talked about their work before state and federal appellate courts around the United States, with Pam explaining her take on how to get the U.S. Supreme Court to take a case, and Buddy explaining some of the bizarre practices of handling in New York (where you can appeal as of right from almost any ruling) and Virginia (where you can appeal as of right from almost no ruling).

After their presentations, the chief justice and two associate justices of the Connecticut Supreme Court reacted for over an hour to the presentations.

For example:

Chief Justice Rogers: "So tell me, Mr. McDermott, we would give you half an hour for oral argument in Connecticut; how much time to you get for an oral argument in the Court of Appeal (in London)? (*cont'd pg. 4*)

Gerard: "Up to five days."

ACA Continues 2008-2009 Membership Drive

Thanks to the fine work of the ACA Committee on Admissions chaired by Richard Cassidy of Burlington, Vermont, the Association has added outstanding new members from multiple locations throughout the United States.

In addition, the ACA international outreach led by Gavin Foggo of London has recently added new members from Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany,

Italy, Jordan, Spain, and the Sultanate of Oman.

In addition to serving as a network of professional colleagues and friends who value service to the organized bar and travel, the American Counsel Association increasingly functions as a network for referrals among lawyers and their clients.

Currently the ACA boasts domestic and international

membership of 260.

It is a goal of the ACA Board of Directors to have at least one member in each U.S. state and territory as well as every metropolitan area.

ACA Secretary Jim Dorsett maintains the Association's membership list and invites members to submit membership nominations for consideration.



Former ACA Presidents Randy Noel and Barbara Howard enjoy the festivities of the ACA Midyear Dinner at Mistral in Boston. Barbara Howard recently took office as President of the Ohio Bar Association.

European Circuit of the Bar of England and Wales to Host Warsaw Meeting with ACA

The European Circuit of the Bar of England and Wales will hold its Annual Meeting in Warsaw, Poland, October 15-17, 2009 in conjunction with the Warsaw Bar Association and the American Counsel Association.

ACA member and former President, Gerard McDermott, QC, of Manchester, England will chair the event which begins with an Embassy Reception on Thursday evening. The following

day their will be a tour of the Supreme Court of Poland and in the afternoon the venue shifts to Wardynski and Partners where substantive programs on class actions and Rome II and its impact on personal injury, product liability and environmental cases. A timely program on financial services control and another on the regulation of professionals and its impact on cross border practice will also be presented.

ACA members are cordially invited to attend the international meeting with colleagues from the US and Europe, and explore the history and culture of a revitalized eastern European capital city. A number of ACA members attended last year's meeting in Brussels, and all reported the event was both excellent and enjoyable.



Former ACA Presidents Gerard McDermott, QC and Tom Bolt review plans for the European Circuit Annual Meeting in Warsaw later this year.

ACA Members Legal News

Among those ACA members appearing recently in the legal news are:

- Steven Krane of New York City' Proskauer Rose, and our Tucson, Arizona member Judge Leslie Miller, who have been honored for their service with the Ameri-

can Bar Association's House of Delegates.

- Former ACA President, Bruce Belding, has been elected President of the College of Commercial Arbitrators.

- ACA Secretary Treasurer, Jim Dorsett, of Ra-

leigh, North Carolina has been elected Vice President of the International Society of Barristers Foundation.

- Former ACA Presidents Pam Bresnahan of Washington, D.C. and Tom Bolt of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands will stand for reelection to ABA House in Chicago in August.



ACA Member Profile: Jeremy Scudamore Scudamore Abogados - Madrid, Spain

Jeremy Scudamore is the founding partner of the Anglo-Spanish law firm Scudamore Abogados based in Madrid and with offices in London (UK). He is double qualified as an English barrister and Spanish 'abogado' and has been involved in international legal work for over 25 years. He has practiced in London, Paris, Barcelona and Madrid. The focus of Jeremy's practice is international commercial transactions and disputes with an emphasis on foreign investment and trade with Spain.

After a traditional common law background in the UK, Jeremy Scudamore developed his career over the following 20 years almost entirely in practice in continental Europe first, in an ICC arbitration practice in Paris and later, advising on foreign investment in Spain. During this



time he has managed law firm offices in Paris and Madrid and acted as in-house international counsel for the engineering division of the French state steel group USINOR/SACILOR.

Scudamore Abogados provides a comprehensive range of specialist legal services tailored to the needs of foreign investors and traders, and is specialised in the cross-border as-

pects of commercial transactions. It advises a wide range of businesses through all phases of their development in Spain spanning agency and distribution law, joint ventures, M&A, property, employment and IP law, commercial contracts, regulatory advice, insolvency and commercial litigation.

Jeremy received his undergraduate Combined Honours Degree (BA) in Philosophy and Sociology at Exeter University in 1980. He went on to study law at Newcastle Polytechnic (CPE) and the Council for Legal Education in London and was called to the Bar in 1982. Jeremy is admitted to the Bar of England & Wales and the Madrid Bar Association. He is a member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, the European Circuit of the Bar of England & Wales, Euro Defi and the American Bar and Counsel Associations.

President's Two Cents cont'd from Page 2

Gerard: "Up to five days."

Chief Justice: "You what?"

Gerard: "Well, we don't always ask for five days."

Chief Justice: "What could you possibly be saying by the third day?"

Bernard: "Could I interrupt? I understand you can take five days in Connecticut to pick a jury. In Canada we do it in

in half an hour."

Chief Justice: "Touché."

And so it went for the amusement and edification of the experienced appellate lawyers in the room.

I am pleased to say that in addition to our four ACA speakers, there were eight ACA members in attendance, including Livia Barndollar, the President of the Connecticut Bar Association, and Bruce Ramsey, ACA Past President from Boston.

Gerard McDermott is preparing a Warsaw program for the ACA in

conjunction with the Warsaw Bar Association and the European Circuit of the Bar. Please reserve the third weekend in October, and further details will follow.

So, there's a lot going on in your organization. Please come to Chicago in August and to Warsaw in October. See you somewhere soon!

Wes

Wesley W. Horton
ACA President