



# AM COUNSEL BULLETIN



"The Newsletter of the American Counsel Association"

Winter, 2010

## ACA CALENDAR

**February 5-8**  
**ACA Midyear Meeting**  
**Orlando, FL**

**February 5**  
**ACA Midyear Dinner**  
**Todd English's**  
**BlueZoo Restaurant**  
**Dolphin Hotel**  
**Orlando, FL**

**August 6-9**  
**ACA Annual Meeting**  
**San Francisco, CA**

**August 9**  
**ACA Annual Dinner**  
**San Francisco, CA**

**October 14-16**  
**European Circuit**  
**ACA Meeting**  
**Paris, France**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>ACA Annual Meeting</b>	1
<b>Warsaw Meeting</b>	2
<b>ACA Elections</b>	2
<b>Legal News</b>	2
<b>President's Two Cents</b>	3

## ACA HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING IN CHICAGO, IL

The American Counsel Association hosted one of its most eventful and well attended annual meetings August 1 - 3, 2009 in Chicago, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Bar Association.

On Saturday, August 1, members and their guests enjoyed a guided architectural cruise along the Chicago River, followed by lunch at Morton's Restaurant. Participants expanded their knowledge of Chicago's history and signature structures while taking in the river and skyline scenery, and then enjoyed a fine luncheon. On Sunday, August 2, ACA members and guests watched the Chicago White Sox defeat the NY Yankees at U.S. Cellular Field. Later in the afternoon, the annual President's Reception was held at the Drake Hotel's Palm Court, and was attended by international guests from England, France, Canada and Germany. After enjoying a variety of delicious hors d'oeuvres and refreshments, approximately twenty members and guests moved to the Drake's Cape Cod Room for a spirited dinner.

On Monday evening, August 3, the ACA hosted its traditional black tie optional An-



**ACA 65th Annual Meeting—Chicago, Illinois**

nual Dinner at The University Club of Chicago, built in the style of a Tudor Castle and located adjacent to Millennium Park and the Art Institute. The candlelight dinner featured multiple courses served with select wines for the approximately sixty members and guests who attended. As always, the chief entertainment consisted of the members' introductions and toasts, and camaraderie reigned at a high level. The members also elected officers and directors for 2009-2010 and awarded scholarships to two outstanding and deserving law students.

As in the case of last year's meeting in New York, each of our annual meeting events in Chicago was "sold out."

In addition to our corporate sponsor Lexis/Nexis, the ACA is also grateful to the following sponsors for the Annual Dinner: The General Counsel of the Bar of England and Wales; Horton, Shields & Knox, P.C.; Maura O'Connor, Esq.; Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C; and the European Circuit of the Bar of England and Wales.

The ACA also owes a debt of gratitude to Wesley W. Horton of Hartford, Connecticut for his outstanding service as ACA President for 2008-2009. During Wes' tenure the ACA made significant strides including increasing its U.S. and international memberships.

## ACA AND LOWELL JACOBSON SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED

As always, the true highlight of the ACA's Annual Meeting was the announcement by President Wes Horton of this year's ACA and Lowell Jacobson scholarship winners. Each year the Association presents scholarships to two students who exemplify scholarship, financial need, and commitment to public service.

The George Kerr American Counsel Scholarship of \$5,000 has been presented to Elina Druker of the Univer-

sity of Michigan School of Law. Despite her own challenging circumstances, Ms. Druker worked tirelessly to provide pro bono services to others, while attaining an impressive ranking in her class.

The Lowell Jacobson Scholarship of \$2,500 has been presented to Katherine D. Vitale of the Notre Dame School of Law. Ms. Vitale also achieved a lofty class ranking while providing public service despite the most challenging of

personal and financial circumstances.

A cornerstone of the ACA's mission is to assist young lawyers entering the profession, and one of the Association's chief means is the provision of financial aid to deserving law students. Members are encouraged to give generously to the American Counsel Association to enhance its scholarship awards.

## EUROPEAN CIRCUIT OF THE BAR MEETING IN WARSAW

By: Bernard Amyot, President-Elect

On October 16 and 17 last in Warsaw, Poland, the European Circuit of the Bar held its annual conference in conjunction with the Warsaw Bar and the American Counsel Association. Over a period of two (2) days, very interesting topics were discussed on various cross-border issues including class actions and competition cases.

Four (4) past presidents of the American Counsel Association were present and gave lectures: Gerard McDermott, Q.C. of Manchester, England was Programme Chair for this year's event, and Pamela

Bresnahan, Barbara Howard and Wesley Horton presented. I also participated as President-elect of the ACA.

Events included visits to courts, tours of the city and cultural activities. This year's program was attended by more than 50 lawyers, including many British barristers and Polish lawyers, as well as others from across the European Union and from North America.

As sole participant from Canada, I was pleased to suggest, in spite of Wes Horton's comment that Connecticut is

considered as a "separate country" in the United States for cross-border disciplinary issues, that the Pledge of Allegiance be changed from "One country under God" to ... "One country under Canada".

Good fun and networking was had by all and I'm confident that our partnership with the European Circuit of the Bar is promised to a great future. Next year's conference will be held in Paris, in the Fall of 2010, according to Fergus Randolph, the current President of the European Circuit of the Bar.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED

Following the presentation of nominations at the ACA Annual Dinner by Director Barbara Howard, the following were elected as officers of the Association for 2009-2010:

- Richard T. Cassidy - President, Burlington, Vermont
- Bernard Amyot, - President-Elect, Montreal, Canada
- James K. Dorsett, III, - Secretary-

Treasurer, Raleigh, NC

In addition, new Directors were elected to serve a three year term, as follows:

- Maura B. O'Connor, Los Angeles, California
- James R. Erwin, Portland, Maine
- Wesley W. Horton, Hartford, Connecticut
- Palmer Gene Vance, Lexington, Ken-

tucky

Members wishing to serve on one of the ACA's standing committees may indicate their interest by contacting President Rich Cassidy at [rcassidy@hoffcurtis.com](mailto:rcassidy@hoffcurtis.com) or 802-864-6400. The standing committees are: Admissions (Membership), Communications (Newsletter, Website), Nominations, Scholarship, International (Membership) and Young Lawyers.



**President**  
Richard T. Cassidy  
Burlington, Vermont

**President-Elect**  
Bernard Amyot  
Quebec, Canada

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
James K. Dorsett, III  
Raleigh, North Carolina

**Board of Directors**

**Tom Bolt**  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

**J. Howard Daniel**  
Greenville, South Carolina

**James R. Erwin**  
Portland, Maine

**Gavin Foggo**  
London, England

**Suzanne E. Gilbert**  
Orlando, Florida

**Wesley W. Horton**  
Hartford, Connecticut

**Terrance J. Good**  
St. Louis, Missouri

**D. Michael McBride, III**  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

**Douglas L. McCoy**  
Mobile, Alabama

**Gerard McDermott**  
Manchester, England

**Francis J. Menton**  
New York, New York

**Francis P. Newell**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Randall D. Noel**  
Memphis, Tennessee

**Maura B. O'Connor**  
Los Angeles, California

**Robert D. Phillips, Jr.**  
Los Angeles, California

**Stephen R. Sorenson**  
Rapon, Wisconsin

**Palmer G. Vance, II**  
Lexington, Kentucky

## THE PRESIDENT'S TWO CENTS

### Richard T. Cassidy, ACA President

I am honored to serve from August 2009 to August 2010 as President of the American Counsel Association, the oldest association of independent law firms in the world. For 80 years, our association has supported scholarship, conviviality, and professional camaraderie.

Every year we are proud to support talented law students who are in financial need by providing scholarship assistance. Some very fine lawyers serve justice today at least in part because of the generosity of our members.

Even in this age of electronic networking, we focus on direct personal connection among our members. Our membership is intentionally small, but a very large portion of our group gathers twice a year to enjoy one another's company in connection with the American Bar Association's Midyear and Annual meetings. Membership in the ACA is generally limited to members of one law firm per metropolitan area.

Although we are "American" by name, in

recent years we have become a truly international organization, as lawyers from around the world have sought to join us. We are particularly fortunate to have developed a close relationship with the European Circuit of the English Bar. We look forward to continuing to expand our international membership and to continuing cooperation with our international partners.

Our 2009 Annual Dinner, held at Chicago's University Club, was a gala event presided over by my predecessor, Wes Horton, of New Haven, Connecticut. Some 60 of our members, spouses and guests enjoyed fabulous views of the Chicago skyline, a wonderful cocktail hour and a delightful meal. Of course, as is our long tradition at our annual dinner, each member introduced him or herself in a humorous vein.

In Chicago, we also had an elegant President's reception at the Drake Hotel, an informative river tour of Chicago architecture, and the pleasure of a trip to the ballpark to see the Chicago White Sox take on the New York Yankees.

All in all, it was a great meeting.

This year, some of our members participated in continuing legal education co-sponsored with the European Circuit in Warsaw, Poland in October.

Plans for the rest of our year are nearly complete. At the ABA Midyear meeting in Orlando, we will have dinner together at the exciting "BlueZoo" Restaurant on the evening of February 5. And, of course, we will have a full schedule of events in conjunction with the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco this summer.

I look forward to spending time with as many members of our Association as possible at this year's events. If you are a member, we hope you will find your way to at least one event. If you are lawyer, but not a member, my neighbor from Montreal, Bernard Amyot, our Membership Chair and President-Elect, would be happy to explore the possibility of membership with you.