

the **Association** *press*



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Daniel R. Formeller (IL)



Happy New Year! The arrival of the New Year has always been a traditional time to take stock – to look at the path traveled and the road ahead – and to determine if we are on the right course. At the ADTA November Executive Council Meeting in Puerto Rico, we did just that.

Part of my platform as President was to convene a long range planning meeting to discuss the organizational issues and mission of the ADTA. Our Immediate Past President accepted my appointment to prepare for and preside over this meeting of the ADTA Executive Council. Over the course of two consecutive mornings, we discussed the state of ADTA's affairs and the direction that the association will take over the next several years. You will receive a complete report of our proceedings but, in summary, we decided that we needed to do some basic housekeeping on our membership recruitment efforts, our diversity efforts and our basic financial structure.

The conversations were passionate, provocative and sometimes amusing. We like what we have but see areas where we can improve. We need to focus on recruiting the best defense trial lawyers as members and not be seduced into increasing our membership only for the sake of numbers. There are many geographic areas where the ADTA is under-represented and we need to recruit in those specific areas if we are to continue as a national network of defense trial lawyers.

We have continually improved our Continuing Education Programs and we understand the need to offer advanced level, practical education for our members. If you attend our Annual Meetings, you already know that you are getting quality programs specifically designed to make you a better trial lawyer. Our written materials continue to improve and our CLE programs are now much longer in the













development to insure that only the best proposals are accepted for presentation.

We recognize that we do not have the breadth or the depth to offer committees, programs and publications for all practicing defense lawyers, so we will continue to focus on only one thing – how can the ADTA help the practicing trial lawyer respond to the demands of the justice system, their adversaries and their clients needs. Our Annual Meetings will continue to be built around this purpose.

Although there were points of controversy and disagreement at our long range planning meeting, there was unanimity in our feeling that we have been very fortunate to be able to participate in an association that values the relationships between members above all else. Here we found nothing that we wanted to change. Our relationships, our friendships, drive our membership in the ADTA and we want that to remain as the core of the Association.

It isn't easy to remain focused on business when the meeting is held in a tropical paradise. The Executive Coun-

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cil members were treated to a weekend of absolute delight at the El Conquistador Resort in Puerto Rico. You will always regret it if you do to attend our Annual Meeting between April 26-30. I promise you that you will find something to do with every hour of leisure time. Frankie and Martha Colon-Pagan and Bruce and Carol Keplinger have planned a fantastic event. Steve Crislip and his committee guarantee that you will participate in a first class CLE Program. Our world famous ADTA hospitality will be at your complete disposal. All of this against the back drop of white sand beaches, palm trees and clear, blue water. Please, make your plans early and come to Puerto Rico to join your friends in what will be a memorable ADTA experience.

Ann and I will be waiting to greet you!



PUERTO RICO 2006

Bruce Keplinger (KS)

ADTA TO GATHER IN PARADISE

The 2006 annual convention of the ADTA will be held on April 26-30 at the El Conquistador Resort in Puerto Rico. On behalf of our President, Dan Formeller, and our co-hosts Martha and Frankie Colon-Pagan, my wife Carol and I would like to invite you to join us in Puerto Rico for what promises to be a fabulous convention. The El Conquistador Resort is the premier destination resort in the Caribbean. The main buildings sit 300 feet above the beach and look out on an island studded bay. The views in all directions are magnificent. The Resort offers large, well-appointed and comfortable rooms, nine restaurants (plus several snack bars), six pools, a 14,000 square foot casino, and elegant shopping. The resort has its own private island, Palomino Island, which is reached by a short 2-mile ferry ride across the bay. All types of beach activities, including snorkeling, catamarans and horseback riding, are available. The Resort has charter fishing boats available from its private marina. Finally, the Resort has a gorgeous 18 hole golf course on site, with fair, but challenging holes and unmatched vistas (even if you don't play the back tees, make sure you go to the back tee of No. 15, "Nido de Aguila" for the breathtaking view). We are sure that everyone who attends will fall in love with El Conquistador and make plans to return.

A convention, of course, is much more than a resort location. A great convention has opportunities for fellowship, networking, and professional training. Our 2006 convention will fill the bill in all of these respects. We have planned evening events, including a dinner in the rain forest, that will enchant and entertain you as you enjoy Puerto Rico with your fellow members and spouses. Steve Crislip and his committee have put together an outstanding CLE program that will provide vital information and training not only for defense lawyers, but for their spouses as well. We will also have tours available for those who want to see a little more of Puerto Rico beyond our resort.

In short, the 2006 Convention is not to be missed. Reservations are already being made and indications are that our block of rooms at the resort may soon be filled. If you have not already done so, please register today!

We look forward to greeting you in sunny Puerto Rico!



PUERTO RICO CLE

STEVE CRISLIP (WV)

Any time more than two lawyers are practicing together, you have a legal bureaucracy. When a defense lawyer says to other lawyers in his or her firm, "I want to go to Puerto Rico in April", the inevitable management questions follow. Well, this time you have an answer, and a good one.

Sure you can get CLE over the telephone, on your computer, and across the street at the local Bar meeting. However, ADTA is made up only of working defense attorneys and its CLE is uniquely designed to aid our members in their area of practice. In fact, the title of this year's program is "Working for a Living - Practical CLE for Working Defense Trial Attorneys." Our speakers and their topics are as follows:

Matthew Stippich

"Dealing with Electronic Discovery"

Stephen Morrison

"Opening Statements: Creating Curiosity and Conviction"

Nancie Poppema

*"Witness Preparation:
An Alternative Approach"*

Michael Brady

*"Punitive Damages: Where Are We Going
After Campbell v. State Farm?"*

Judge Kevin Burke

"Predictable Plays in the Courtroom"

William Haltom

*"In Search of Hamilton Burger: How a Trial
Lawyer Can Triumph Even in Defeat"*

Professor Forest J. Bowman

"Managing the Stress in Your Life"

In Ready Reserve:

Thomas J. Hurney, Jr.

"Musings of a Dayton Flyer on Trial Stuff"

This year's committee of Tom Burke of Phoenix, Arizona; Doug Johnson of Eau Claire, Wisconsin; and Bill Lockett of Memphis, Tennessee held numerous electronic and telephone conferences to get the right mix of speakers and topics that would appeal to our working attorneys. We plan to touch upon the huge changes that are coming in electronic discovery at the end of 2006, hear things about opening statements you hadn't thought about, and consider a completely different way to prepare witnesses in a big case. We'll talk about tort reform as it affects us, we'll hear talks on courtroom techniques and deal with the monster of stress management for lawyers and their families. We hope you come just for the CLE, but if you do, there will be a beach, warm weather, and rum on the side.

Now, I don't care what you say, that CLE is approvable by any firm.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

GEORGE WALKER (AL)

As usual, the report of the Secretary is short and sweet:

I continue to work as a liaison between the Membership Committee and the Executive Council to facilitate the review of and voting upon applications for membership. You will read of the successes of the Membership Committee elsewhere in this edition of *The Association Press*.

I attended the fall meeting of the Executive Council at the El Conquistador Resort in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, and prepared the minutes for the meeting of the Executive Council, as well as the minutes of the Long Range Planning Committee conducted over the same period of time. You will read more about the Puerto Rico site for our April 2006 meeting elsewhere in this edition of *The Association Press*. I suspect that whatever is said there will not do justice to the resort where we will be meeting in April 2006; this is a



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meeting that you will not want to miss (unless you dislike golf, boating, fishing, sun, rum, boat drinks, sand, beaches, tennis, casinos, food, and leisure activities).



WHAT'S NEW IN MY STATE

ARKANSAS



ROBERT L. "BOBBY" JONES, III, Fayetteville Arkansas, recalls his first ADTA meeting at Napa Valley in 2003. He and his daughter, Michelle Kooi, met up with former acquaintances Sandy and Joe Farris of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and had a great time. He soon made the acquaintance with Past President Gordon Broom and before long Bobby was a featured speaker at the

Dublin meeting and represented ADTA in Barcelona, Spain.

Bobby's practice includes trucking defense, products liability, malpractice on the part of various professions and the occasional big plaintiff's case that brings joy to the bank account. Bobby is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a Fellow in the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He has served as President of the Arkansas Bar Association and President of the Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel. He has been included in *Best Lawyers in America* 2003-2004; 2005-2006.

A year and a half ago Bob married Cheryl. His family includes a daughter, Michelle Kooi, a CPA in Fort Collins, Colorado; a son, David Jones, who practices law in Fort Collins, Colorado; two grandchildren, Wyatt Kooi and Sage Kooi; a stepdaughter, Ashley Doss, a teacher in Nashville, Tennessee; and a stepdaughter, Rachel Cannon.

According to Bobby, Northwest Arkansas is in the midst of a giant building boom. Wal-Mart, Tyson Foods, Inc. and J.B. Hunt are headquartered there. All major Wal-Mart vendors are required to live in the area. The court system in Arkansas, like everywhere else, seems to try fewer cases and rely more and more on alternative dispute resolution to keep the civil case load under control.

In the fun department, Bobby recalls two stories. First, he enjoyed representing Ricky Nelson and the Stone Canyon Band in a concert no-show case that he won. Through Ricky Nelson, Bobby had the opportunity to meet rockabilly star Roy Orbison, Chet Atkins, and Sam and Dave. His

second story shows how fast Bobby is on his seat. During voir dire in a recent case, a prospective juror disclosed that he knew the plaintiff's attorney as that attorney had represented the prospective juror's ex-wife. Without missing a beat, Bobby quickly advised the judge that the prospective juror would be acceptable to the defense. The humor did not escape the jury panel.

On the subject of tort reform, Arkansas passed the Civil Justice Reform Act of 2003. It abolished joint and several liabilities and substituted only several liabilities where a defendant is now responsible for only its respective share of fault. It also added non-party fault where the fault of anyone who contributed to the injury is considered, regardless of whether that person/entity is or could have been named as a party to the suit. The new Act also placed limitations on punitive damages.

VIRGINIA



If you know **JENNIFER LEE PARISH** from ADTA meetings, you know her by her bright blue eyes and perky approach to life. She has served ADTA as Virginia's State Membership Chair since 2000 and as New Member Subcommittee Chair since 2001. She enjoyed last year's meeting in Galveston because her 9-year-old daughter, Cameron, hooked up with Jane Birk (daughter of Ed and Ceci

Birk of Jacksonville, Florida) and had a super time.

After graduating from the University of Virginia Law School, Jennifer's civil practice got off to a great start because she had the luxury of having Russ Roberts (former ADTA President and current weekly commentator to ADTA members) as her mentor. In addition to insurance defense, Jennifer defends multiple local governmental agencies through their combined self-insured program. One atypical case for those agencies involved a plaintiff who had been sentenced to one day in jail for a driving offense. He was temporarily confined in the courthouse lockup on Friday night before the Labor Day weekend. (Do you see this coming?) Somehow, he was left there until Labor Day with no food. Jennifer was able to convince the court that her clients (two of many) were not responsible.

For years Jennifer was active in the Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys attempt to chip away at the collateral source rule. She participated in a concerted, lengthy effort by many at the trial court level to prevent plaintiffs from putting inflated medical bill figures (figures they really did not

owe) on the blackboard. She mentions they were very successful at the trial court level until the Appellate Court caught up with them.

She reports that a Virginia Rule prevents the use of deposition testimony to receive a favorable ruling on a motion for summary judgment, a position probably contrary to a national trend of liberality in granting summary judgments. This philosophy of being tight in granting summary judgments can increase the cost of defense. Jennifer recalls a dog bite case she defended wherein the dog not only had not utilized his first free bite, he had not so much as used a first nasty snarl. The bad news was the case had to be tried to verdict. The good news was Jennifer won.

As the result of Russ Roberts' move into the "easy life" of a sole practitioner, Jennifer has found herself on the opposite side of the "v." part of the Complaint from the aforementioned Russ Roberts. Do you wonder who had the plaintiff? Jennifer closed the interview with the hope that she gets to see all of you in Puerto Rico.

LOUISIANA



BRIAN LEE COODY is a graduate of L.S.U. Law School and practices Insurance and Workers Compensation defense in Lake Charles. The hurricanes of the past year severely damaged Lake Charles and the surrounding area, and Hurricane Rita has provided a new line of work for defense lawyers. That line of work would be combating the cottage industry of hurricane damage insurance fraud.

The course of Brian's duties have taken him into homes where the male tenant punched three holes in the sheet rock wall and then used his wadded up dirty white socks to fill the holes. Brian thinks that picture might provide a new line to be added to the humorous Foxworthy routine about "you might be a redneck if . . ." One claim involved a home owner who had rented out the Louisiana property to a married couple. The owner claimed and collected compensation from FEMA and his own insurer on account of "evacuation" when in fact he had not done any such thing. He took the ill-gotten gain and put every penny into a new truck.

When the owner's misrepresentations were discovered, he explained that he was sleeping with the tenant's wife and thus technically did have to evacuate. That sleeping arrangement, he said, was okay with the tenant's husband when he returned home from a brief separation and allegedly allowed the claimant to sleep in the next room. His

explanation dissolved when Brian explained to him that he knew the tenant husband had since found him and blackened his eye.

The Lake Charles Courthouse was not severely damaged but was closed by FEMA until the building could be inspected for mold. Workers' compensation proceedings were postponed for approximately six weeks for similar concerns. In the aftermath of the storms, Governor "I never saw a hurricane event I couldn't make worse" Blanco suspended all legal deadlines (statutes of limitation, deadlines for filings, trial dates) indefinitely throughout the entire State. This has since been corrected.

Brian notes that his two sons, Cameron and Christian, aged 16 and 13 respectively, had great football seasons. At 6'2" and 195 pounds, his 16 year old will move to defensive end next year and is looking forward to the change. The 5'9" Dad hates having to look up to lecture him.

Brian advises the plaintiff bar in Lake Charles is trying to extend homeowners coverage to flood damage to owners who did not purchase flood insurance. They are arguing the "valued policy law" from Florida should apply to Louisiana homeowners insurance policies. Under that law, if a carrier pays for some damage (wind for instance), they have to pay for all damage (such as flood damage that is expressly excluded). So far the plaintiff lawyers seem to be unaware of the fact that Louisiana's valued policy law only applies to fire damage claims.

During the days immediately following Katrina, many volunteers went to New Orleans to try to help, but that was cut short by Rita. Many New Orleans residents being helped in Lake Charles had to evacuate a second time. Brian says he was extremely proud of the ADTA membership who, upon very gentle prodding, opened up their hearts and wallets and contributed over \$200,000 to the American Red Cross for relief purposes in the New Orleans area. "ADTA is an organization of great and generous people" concluded Brian.



LONG RANGE PLANNING

President Dan Formeller convened the Executive Council as a long range planning committee and appointed Past President Gordon Broom to chair the meeting and prepare the agenda. Gordy Broom talked with a number of the Past Presidents and prepared a detailed planning agenda and the Executive Council met on Friday, November 11, 2005, and again on Saturday, November 12, 2005. Numerous topics were explored including membership, finances, elections, structure and change.

Following this meeting, direct action was taken regarding membership efforts and additional regions and regional chairs to support the Membership Committee. A long range working group was thereafter appointed to continue a discussion of the future management of the organization at the upcoming Executive Council meetings.



BOOK REVIEW

PATRICK G. CULLEN (MD)

The Lawyer's Guide to Creating a Business Plan; a step by step software package, available through ABA Law Practice Management Section (phone 800 285 2211) \$206.00 (includes shipping and handling).

This review is about a CD program to help you (or your designee) draft a business plan for your law firm. Some years ago, I took it upon myself to draft a business plan for my law firm. I did it in one very long day. My firm approved the plan with little substantive discussion. I cannot recall a simple decision made by the firm from that day on that could be traced to the plan. My/our mistakes included not having my partners (a) accept the need for a plan and (b) participate in the drafting of it.

Upon that background, I obtained from the ABA a CD to help in the process of creating a business plan for our firm. While the CD is not technically a book, you will have a book by the time you get done printing out the various sections outlined on the disk.

It took me a while to get started with this program (about two hours. I first printed and read the "read me" file. It told me to read the "Quick Start Manual" on the CD as the next step. I could not find the "Quick Start Manual" on the CD. I called the suggested help numbers, and received assistance.

Each section of the Plan contains detailed instructions and examples. The Plan can be divided into two parts: (a) the written portions and (b) the spreadsheet portions. Each of those two parts has its software elements. The written portions are not done in Word or Word Perfect but in some other word processing software. That software works like that with which you are familiar. The toolbars are extremely familiar and do not involve any big learning curve. The spreadsheet sections look and act like Excel. The spreadsheet package is integrated. That means entries on page 1 are automatically carried over to page 2 (or wherever they are supposed to go.) Excel users will be familiar with this concept but there seems to be very little flexibility permitted in modifying the formulas used. To address this concern, the program claims to permit the incorporation of Excel spreadsheets. I did not put that to the test.

Part two of the written portion of the Plan gives the user an option: to select either the basic plan (with 12 pages of instructions, suggestions and outline) or the advanced plan (25 pages of materials). Subjects such as Target Market, Competition, Advertising and Pricing are sub topics.

The integrated spreadsheet workbook seems to generate a great document to submit to a lender for financing. It also gives the user a handle on such here and now items of interest as developing a profit and loss statement for last year.

Obviously, if you get involved with this software to any extent, you are far beyond the "back of a napkin" plan adopted by some ventures.



A WORD FROM LOU

Lou Scofield (TX)

Allow me a moment of shameless self-promotion: I have just been named a "Texas Super Lawyer." *Law and Politics* and *Texas Monthly* magazines conduct a survey and publish a list of Texas Super Lawyers, every year. [I trust the Texas delegation will not disclose to the rest of you how easily one becomes selected as a Super Lawyer.]

Since being notified of my new status as a "Super Lawyer" I have been working on striking poses in front of the mirror. I quickly found that my experience in pose striking was quite limited and I will probably need some professional help. I have also been shopping for some tights with a large "S" emblazoned on the chest. I am hoping to find something light and stretchy. Not too garish, but cut in such a way as to flatter my Super Lawyer physique. Red seems to be the most popular color, but I can't seem to find my size . . . even on EBay. Why do you suppose that would be?

At one store I was posing in front of a mirror, when others began to look into the mirror at me. To me their eyes looked like those of a fish, with the comfortable stupor of ignorance, while powerful forces of nature, the seasons, solar system, galaxy, and universe are at work all around. Before I became a Texas Super Lawyer I did not have such intrusive thoughts about others. Now I find myself victim of a creeping desire to use my remarkable powers to save everyone's undeserving neck. I am going to have to get over this. It's naturally reasonable to limit myself to saving only the necks of those who can pay. And now that I am a Super Lawyer, perhaps they should have to pay a lot . . . don't you think so?

Along these lines one runs into the 'problem of superlatives'. Like famous British under/overstatement ["The Battle of Britain was a *bit of a scrape* you know...say, do you mind if I have another of those *extraordinary* scones?], use of the term "Super" to describe a defense lawyer runs the risk of not being taken seriously. It is important that this not happen and not just because serious regard for the label justifies higher fees. One of the real benefits of others believing you are "Super" is that the designation, alone, obviates the need to demonstrate one's superness. Think about it, you don't have to act tough or even ask an intelligent question of a witness if everyone in the courtroom knows you can melt ice sculptures from 50 feet using your vision alone. So now I am burdened with behaving in such a way as to avoid bringing disgrace to the moniker "Super." I will maintain its dignity!

Of course, modesty constrains me to say that I am not THE Texas Super Lawyer, but rather A Super Lawyer. It turns out that there are quite a few of us, even though you haven't seen a lot of us flying around. Setting aside the air traffic control concerns that dozens of flying Super Lawyers would pose, there are very good reasons for we Super Lawyers to avoid calling attention to ourselves by crowd-

ing the skies. Across the country the profession is engaged in a substantial push to enhance the image of lawyers and the legal system. We are attempting to develop reasonable restraints on some of the obnoxious advertising done by Plaintiff's lawyers. It would be somewhat hypocritical to be flying in one's maroon leotard with taffeta stripes and yellow lettering across the butt reading "Super" on one cheek and "Lawyer" on the other . . . all the while wagging one's finger in the face of some Plaintiff's lawyer for calling himself "The Texas Hammer."

So I suppose snappy television ads are out of the question. Besides, if I did advertise my "Super" status, some egotistical lawyer would probably contend it raised my standard of care.

For those of you who are not Texas Super Lawyers, and must satisfy yourself with membership in the American College and ABOTA, don't worry. I am the same humble courtroom lawyer I have always been. At the San Juan meeting you can comfortably approach me and speak with me, and I will act as though I am just as interested in you as I am in the other little people. See you there.



NEW MEMBERS

- Michael G. Descalso** - San Mateo, CA
- Clayton U. Hall** - San Luis Obispo, CA
- Christopher J. Beeman** - Pleasanton, CA
- Edward J. Wasmuth, Jr.** - Atlanta, GA
- Dana M. Richens** - Atlanta, GA
- Aleen R. Tiffany** - Crystal Lake, IL
- Robert T. Varney** - Bloomington, IL
- Ann M. Asiano** - Larkspur, CA
- Daniel J. Crawford** - Larkspur, CA
- Eric A. Gale** - Larkspur, CA
- Randall S. Hanson** - Grand Forks, ND
- George S. Arata** - Modesto, CA
- John M. Drath** - San Diego, CA
- Debra A. Reece** - Bangor, ME
- Kimberly Ann Leegan** - Westfield, NJ
- Michael J. Leegan** - Florham Park, NJ
- Brian H. Ratcliff** - El Dorado, AR
- Douglas A. Sears** - Sacramento, CA
- John E. Riddle** - San Jose, CA
- Andrew R. Weiss** - Fresno, CA
- Pamela A. Treadwell-Rubin** - Tucson, AZ
- Serieta G. Jagers** - Princeton, KY
- Leon Beukman** - Vancouver, BC
- George B. Wilkinson** - Cincinnati, OH
- Jason R. Vendsel** - Minot, ND
- Grant W. McGuire** - Newark, NJ
- John B. Stewart** - Springfield, MA



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

GLENN S. MORGAN (VT)

Once again I find myself looking out at snow-covered mountains with freezing temperatures and my thoughts drift back to the sunshine and beaches of Puerto Rico. Having traveled to our 2006 venue, I can report it is truly a great location. Hopefully, there will be a large turn out of both old and new members for the meeting. We have lost nineteen members to retirement, resignation or unpaid dues as of January 25, 2006. I have contacted the state chairs requesting their assistance to fill those vacancies.

We have added several new members as a result of our membership drive that is now in its seventh month. We only have 2 more months to get more new members so please contact your state chair with any new prospects. If any member has anyone in mind they would like to recommend, please feel free to contact me directly. Be an ADTA Ambassador and help your state and regional chairs put a big push for new members over the next few weeks as we need 60 new members to meet our goal.

I am looking for increased membership in all states. Even though you may not be from a state where you know a good candidate for ADTA membership practices, please get that information to the State Chair, Regional Chair or myself. At our November meeting, the Executive Council voted to establish 8 Membership Regions in place of the 3

we had previously. The new regions and chairs are below. Give these folks a hand so we meet our goal.

Northeast chaired by David Zizik:
ME; NH; VT; MA; CT; RI; NY

Mid Atlantic chaired by Pat Cullen
PA; NJ; DE; DC; WV; VA; MD

Southeast chaired by Jerry Weedon
NC; SC; GA; FL; AL; TN; MS

No. Central chaired by Lou Leonatti
KY; OH; MI; IL; IN; MO

Midwest chaired by Doug Johnson
MN; WI; SD; NE; IA; KS

Mountain chaired by (Nominee agreed but pending approval)
WY; MT; ID; CO; UT; ND

Southwest chaired by Barry Beck
TX; OK; NM; AZ; AR; LA

West chaired by Steve Mitchell
CA; OR; WA; NV; HA; AK

MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION

I would like to nominate _____ for (prime)(associate) membership in
(proposed members' name)
 the ADTA. Please send an application to _____
(name)
 at _____, _____, _____
(city) (state) (zip)
 Office telephone: _____ Office fax: _____
 Year admitted to practice in my state: _____

Name of Member (Print)

Signature of Member

Return to:

Glenn S. Morgan, Ryan, Smith & Carbine; Mead Building, 98 Merchants Row, P.O. Box 310, Rutland, VT 05702

Tel.: (802) 786-1045;

Fax: (802) 748-8502;

Email: gsm@rsclaw.com

Membership Requirements

A trial lawyer doing principally defense work in insurance and self-insurance activities, with more than five (5) years defense trial experience is eligible.

Prime Members: The first lawyer member from a firm is the prime member. There can only be one Prime Member from any town, city, or metropolitan area of less than a million population. One additional Prime Member is allowed for each additional one million population, or portion thereof, for a city or metropolitan area.

Associate Member: Partners or associates of a Prime Member are eligible and encouraged for membership as Associate Members, at the will of the Prime Member.



ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Edward L. Birk (FL) has been elected President of the Jacksonville Association of Defense Counsel for the 2006 term.

Victor M. Halback, Jr. (FL) was recently honored by the Jacksonville Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates as their 2005 Lawyer of the Year. He follows **Jerry Weedon (FL)** in earning this award.

Robert Thomas Bodkin (IN) has been elected President elect of the Defense Trial Counsel of Indiana.



2007 ADTA ANNUAL MEETING SAN DIEGO

The 2007 meeting will be held at the LaJolla Torrey Pines Hilton Hotel April 18, 2007 to April 22, 2007.

The Hilton LaJolla Torrey Pines is located 15 miles north of downtown San Diego with a beautiful view of the Pacific Ocean and Torrey Pines Preserve and Golf Course.

Your convention hosts have an exciting meeting planned for you which includes an evening at the Miramar Air Force Base with a flight line inspection and dinner in the Officer's Club. Miramar is formerly the Navy Flight pilot training facility featured in the movie "Top Gun". We also planned a special event at the world famous San Diego Zoo, to be followed by a dine around in the Gas Lamp District in downtown San Diego.

Plan now for an exceptional meeting in San Diego in 2007. Come and enjoy the spectacular weather, scenery and hospitality of San Diego and your fellow ADTA members.

THE ASSOCIATION PRESS

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