

the Association



press

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*H. Jeffrey Peterson
Virginia, Minnesota*

WAYNE?



As I write my first President's Column, I think to myself, why was I elected the President of this great organization? The first thought that came to mind was that I was elected by my peers because they heard what a great trial lawyer I am. To my great chagrin, however, I had to discount that theory since I have never tried a case with or against any of the past presidents, and although I have been fortunate to be on the prevailing side of a case or two, I came to the quick conclusion that no one in this group had ever heard of any of my cases. I next thought that it had to have been my charming and delightful personality; then I realized that I am neither charming nor delightful. Why then did **Bill Birmingham** call my room in Santa Fe and say, "Congratulation Jeff, you are going to be nominated for the Executive Committee, and I know you will do a fine job." Prior to that telephone call from Bill, no one had asked me whether I had any interest in being on the Executive Committee. One of the best things about our group is the fact that you cannot campaign, solicit, or run to be elected to the Executive Committee.

What have I done since I became a member in 1985? I know that Nancy and I have attended all of the meetings except one. Early on, I tried to let the leaders of the organization know that I would be willing to host an Annual Meeting and that I would do whatever is needed to help the organization.

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Nancy and I, along with our friends **Mike** and **Colleen Flood**, will have the privilege of hosting the first meeting of the new millennium at the Omni Tucson National Hotel and Golf Course from April 5-9, 2000. I not only have the honor of hosting a meeting, but I also have the honor of being the President during that meeting. We have been working on the meeting for the last four years.

What I did to become involved in the organization is what many others have done –offer to help –and thus, I get back to the question –Why Me? I realize that the reason I was selected was because of my best friend –my wife, **Nancy**. We all know that most trial lawyers like themselves, but I have a wife who likes me more than I like myself. Think about it. Can you honestly say that you like someone more than you like yourself? She rarely thinks of herself –she is always thinking of other people. I believe the reason this group wanted me to be President was so Nancy would be involved with our organization.

Why do I like the ADTA so much? First of all, we are the only defense organization that is made up strictly of civil defense trial lawyers. We do not have any corporate or insurance members. Although our livelihood is derived from representing insureds and self-insureds, we still have interests different from our insurance and corporate clients. This has come to the forefront recently with third-party audits and the increasing presence of house counsel representing what used to be our clients. My goal as your President is to try to convince the insurance industry of what we all know –namely, that private civil defense counsel such as our members are not only better attorneys but, in the long run, more cost effective than house counsel. I have worked with house counsel who come into my area and know nothing about the area or its people and don't even take the time to learn how to pronounce the ethnic names in our region.

Why do I like the ADTA? First of all, it's the people. Nancy and I have met so many warm and gracious people at the meetings we have attended. We have made many very close friends who will be friends for life. When you come to an ADTA Meeting, you are going to have great CLE and a great venue. You will not have to worry about hearing war stories concerning great defense victories since that is not a part of our conversation at an ADTA Meeting. You also do not have to worry about cozying up to the insurance company or corporate

counsel since they are not members of our organization. I assure you that if you do come to our meetings, you will meet friends for life, and also, you will receive business referrals.

How do you become the President of this great organization? First of all, it is necessary that you attend Annual Meetings so that the other members will get to know you. You can show your interest by talking to any of the officers or Executive Committee members and indicate your willingness to help the organization in any way you can. Also, think about hosting an Annual Meeting. The Presidency is a tough job and does require a commitment and significant time away from the office. The rewards far outweigh the work required and the time away. Where else could you not only be invited to attend but also actively participate in the meetings of our sister organization –the Defense Research Institute (DRI), International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC), and the Federation of Insurance Corporate Counsel (FICC).

All of the officers and Executive Committee members are committed to doing whatever they can to preserve our system of trial by jury and the representation of insureds and corporations by private defense counsel.

Remember to mark the dates **April 5-9, 2000**, on your calendar so when the assignment clerks call and say they want to schedule you for trial during that period of time you can tell them that you already have a commitment to attend the **ADTA Annual Meeting in Tucson, Arizona**. I welcome your suggestions, criticisms, or complaints, and if you want to get involved, let me know at the Annual Meeting or send me an e-mail. You never know, you may some day be writing this column and have to answer the same question –“Why Me?”



E-MAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

Please check the ADTA membership book to confirm that your e-mail address is included with the other information about you and your law firm. If not, please send your e-mail address to our secretary, **Jim Gauthier**, at his e-mail address jdg@hurwitzfine.com or **Lynnette Crebo** at lcrebo@hrva.com.



ADTA DINNER AT DRI MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the DRI is scheduled for October 6-10, 1999, in New York City (yes NOOOO YORK CITY). We are planning to continue the ADTA's two-year tradition of getting our members together for a dinner, and preliminary plans are to have the event on either Wednesday, October 6, or Thursday, October 7, 1999. The final details will be made available by e-mail and on the web site. If you have access to neither and plan to attend the DRI Meeting, please contact our dinner planner, **Tony Tunney**, or our Secretary, **Jim Gauthier**. While our group is small, we usually can match or exceed the camaraderie, chicanery, claptrap and conviviality of groups five times our size.



ADTA QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

*Samuel J. Pace, Jr.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

With the invaluable assistance of Lynnette Crebo, a survey was sent to 685 ADTA members. 92 responses were received and the results were analyzed and a report prepared by me and delivered to the Executive Council at the Spring Meeting in Amelia Island. The 13% response rate was disappointing and reminds me of a law school professor who asked me if I was ignorant or apathetic. My response was I didn't know or care.

Responses came from 33 states. 99% responded site location was important to their decision to attend the convention. CLE was important to 94%. Proximity to a beach or major resort was important to only 49%. Networking opportunities were important to 70%. Golf or tennis were important to 37%. Gambling was important to 10%.

79% of the respondents felt the traditional Wednesday – Sunday schedule was optimal. 66% thought one meeting a year in the spring was best. 87% did not think that the presence or absence of children's activities would be a significant factor in the decision to attend a convention.

As to future sites, most popular suggestions were San Diego (7); Boston (7); Hawaii (6), and various Caribbean locations (7). The statistical significance of a suggestion from approximately 1% of the membership is obviously questionable.

One-half of the respondents identified "networking" as one of their primary goals in joining the organization. About 25% referred to fellowship, fun and socializing.

Many respondents identified potential new ADTA members. Those suggestions were referred to **Steve Crislip** who was very appreciative and would welcome additional suggestions.

Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the report should communicate directly with me.



THE FIRST "PHILADELPHIA LAWYER"

*Samuel J. Pace, Jr.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

August 4, 1999, marks the 258th anniversary of the death of Andrew Hamilton. If you don't recall the name, you probably are not alone.

Andrew Hamilton was a Philadelphia lawyer, perhaps the best of his time and one of the best the country has ever known.

He was one of the original champions of free press in America. In 1735, he traveled to New York and defended a very unpopular publisher by the name of John Peter Zenger in a famous freedom of the press trial. Mr. Zenger was charged with treason and sedition for printing articles regarding independence. No lawyer in New York was willing to take the case apparently for fear of reprisal.

Andrew Hamilton won the case and established a principle that is articulated in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and observed in many nations of the free world, i.e. that truth is not libelous. Since then, it has become idiomatic that a person with a difficult case needs a "Philadelphia Lawyer". When the idiom originated, the implications were much more favorable than today.



SPRINGTIME AT AMELIA GOOD TIMES – GOOD PEOPLE

*Gerry And Kathy Weeden
Jacksonville, Florida*

The 1999 ADTA Convention at the Ritz Carlton at Amelia Island is more than just a few pages in our photo album, but instead lots of great memories of the good times we had. All who came seemed to enjoy themselves. In true ADTA style it's getting to see old friends that sets this meeting apart from other gatherings. The luxury of the Ritz Carlton and the ambience of the Amelia Island setting were just extra bonuses.

Our opening reception on the wind-swept lawn of the Ritz was preceded by the New Member Reception. We had the largest number of new members at this meeting that anyone could remember. The elegant reception on the lawn was highlighted by an airplane which flew overhead pulling a banner welcoming all the ADTA members to the meeting.

The CLE, run by **Tony Tunney**, **George Walker** and **Larry Fischer**, was first-class with an emphasis on strategies for success in the office and in the courtroom. The technology demonstrated by the speakers was quite remarkable and a "wake-up" call for some to the new millennium.

The first event for the spouses was the Second Annual Breakfast and Fashion Show. This event which has grown in popularity, gives the spouses a chance to relax and catch up on news of the families on the first day of the meeting. A fashion show featuring some of our own ladies as models was a great success. During the rest of the week walking tours and boat tours filled the mornings for the spouses and tennis and golf occupied the entire group in the afternoon.

On Thursday night we enjoyed an oyster roast – "The Buccaneer Ball" at the beautiful Walker's Landing at the Amelia Island Plantation. The sunset was made to order and quite spectacular. Afterwards, the crowd enjoyed libations and a feast of the oysters, shrimp and fish – oh, and grits, too. We all enjoyed the country rock 'n roll of the Red River

Band. The highlight of the evening was an "alligator rasslin" show. After the show each guest was able to have his picture taken holding a baby alligator as a souvenir of the evening.

Our water theme was really carried out on Friday night when a rainstorm kept us from dancing on the roof of the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Jacksonville. However, the scenic drive down the Buccaneer Trail from Amelia Island was shortened with wine service on the buses. Thanks to **Johnny** and **Grace Sarber** and **Frank Perritt** for helping with the pouring. We had a great dinner at the museum, plenty of time for socializing and a planetarium show. We were serenaded throughout by a jazz quartet from the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. Thanks to **Suzanne Perritt** a founding "mother" of our Museum for her help with this event.

On Saturday our speaker was the best-selling author **Lisa Scottoline**, a former trial attorney from Philadelphia who has been dubbed the "female John Grisham" by People Magazine. Miss Scottoline was thought-provoking and entertaining in her thoughts on the media and the law.

On Saturday night we enjoyed our King Neptune Ball, a fabulous banquet at the Ritz, and some hot rockin' to the party band KTG. We have some new members who know their way around and on top of the dance floor. (We have pictures of the gatorers – you know who you are!!). The evening lasted into the wee hours as the hard chargers closed down the hospitality suite for another year.

On Sunday, the brunch at the Ritz made us all take a little more than we had planned to fortify ourselves for the trip home.

We had a great time with all the plans for the meeting and hope that everyone had as much fun as we did. Many thanks to **Russ** and **Martha Roberts** for their patient assistance and the **Lynnette Crebo** and her daughter for their constant help and to **Jim** and **Gloria Rinaman** for all of their help - always at the right time and place. **Peter McLean** was as always a steadying influence.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Tucson next April.



ALL YA'LL FROM ADTA ARE SHO'NUFF WELCOME !





SCOFIELD (TX), KEPLINGER (KS), AND PURCELL (NY) ELECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



Louis M. Scofield, Jr., is a senior shareholder in the law firm of Mehaffy & Weber of Beaumont, Texas. Mehaffy & Weber is a 40-attorney law firm with branch offices in Houston and Orange, and has had a presence in Southeast Texas as a major defense firm since its inception over 50 years ago.

Lou is a product of Midland, Texas, but graduated from high school in Fullerton, California. He attended the University of Michigan where he received his degree in 1974 in geology with "Highest Honors and High Distinction". He was honored as a James B. Angell Scholar and was Phi Beta Kappa.

Following his graduation from Michigan, he returned to Texas. In 1977 he graduated from the University of Texas Law School with Honors. He began the practice of law in his current law firm in 1977 and became a shareholder five years later in 1982.

In addition to the ADTA he is a member of American Bar Association, State Bar of Texas, Association of Defense Trial Attorneys, Defense Research Institute, Texas Association of Defense Counsel, Jefferson County Bar Association and American Judicature Society.

Lou has served as an Officer and Director of the Texas Association of Defense Counsel. He has been active in the State Bar of Texas as well as a frequent speaker on a variety of professional topics to both private and public organizations. In addition, he has published a number of articles which have appeared in ABA publications as well as the publications of several Texas professional associations.

Lou is married to **Colleen** and they have three children; **Christopher** (16), **Nicholas** (13) and **Emma** (6 months). His activities and hobbies include golf, gardening, fishing, and travel. As often as not, however, you will find him running the roads with the kids and his 11-year old German Shepherd, Aspen.



Patrick J. Purcell is the founding partner of the law firm of Purcell & Ingrao located in Mineola, New York. The law firm was founded in 1961 and consists of four partners and two associates. The law firm concentrates its practice in insurance litigation and the trial of property, casualty, inland marine, general and automobile liability, medical malpractice, products liability and specialty risks and coverage disputes.

Pat was born in New York City. He graduated from Fordham University in 1952 and New York Law School in 1955. In addition to his practice as a civil-defense trial attorney, he is also a Special Prosecutor for Nassau County District Attorney in narcotics related prosecutions.

He is a member of American Bar Association, New York State Bar Association, New York State Trial Lawyers Association, Nassau County Bar Association, Suffolk County Bar Association, Nassau-Suffolk Trial Lawyers Association, Association of Defense Trial Attorneys, Defense Research Institute, Eagle International Associates, Inc., and the American Arbitration Association.

Pat has over 40 years experience in all phases of defense related litigation, commercial litigation and general practice including estates, real property, criminal trials, corporate litigation and appellate review.

Patrick and his wife, **Joan**, have been married 40 years. Joan is a housewife. They have a 35-year old daughter, **Colette**, who is in business for herself.

Pat's hobbies include golf, occasional fishing, gardening and travel. He has been a member of ADTA for 15 years.



Bruce Keplinger is the managing partner of the law firm of Norris & Keplinger in Overland Park, Kansas. His law firm has eight members and is a defense trial firm concentrating in all types of civil litigation. Although Bruce has tried lawsuits in all

types of civil litigation, he specializes in the defense of professional malpractice lawsuits. Bruce has been a member of the ADTA since 1993. He is licensed to practice in both Kansas and Missouri.

Bruce is a Past President of the Kansas Association of Defense Counsel (1993-94). He is also an active member of the Kansas Bar Association, currently serving as Chairman of its Kansas Lawyers Service Corporation, a post he has held since 1992. In addition to the State Bar Association, he is a member of the American Bar Association, the International Association of Defense Counsel, Defense Research Institute and the Supreme Court Historical Society.

Bruce's skill as a trial attorney has been recognized by his being selected as one of the "Best Lawyers in America". In addition, he is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and a member of the Kansas Inn of Courts. He is listed in Who's Who in The World, in America and in American Law.

Bruce has authored over 13 articles on trial topics which have appeared in both Missouri legal publications as well as National publications. In addition to his writing, he has been asked to make numerous presentations, including a presentation at the ADTA Annual Meeting in Bermuda, "Topics in Federal Multi-District Litigation".

Bruce received a BA in philosophy from the University of Kansas in 1974 which was granted with "highest distinction". At KU he was Phi Beta Kappa and admitted into Omicron Delta Kappa. Bruce attended law school at Southern Methodist University where he was a Hatton W. Sumners Scholar. He graduated in 1977 cum laude and as a member of the Order of the Coif. While in law school he was Notes and Comments Editor of the Journal of Air Law & Commerce and Chief Baron of the "Barristers".

After law school Bruce worked with some of the largest law firms serving Kansas and Missouri before founding his own law firm in 1994.

Bruce is married to **Carol** who graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in music education. When not engaged in her full-time occupation of raising children, Carol is actively engaged in numerous civic and charitable organizations.

The Keplings have five children. **Mark**, 22 years old, will enter law school in August at the University of Texas. **Marie**, 18, graduated from high school in May of 1999. Where she was elected High School "Female Athlete of the Year", will at-

tend the University of Kansas this Fall. **Kristin** is 13 years old and just completed the eighth grade. **Kailyn** is seven years old going into the third grade and six-year old **Courtney** has just completed the first grade.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Daniel R. Formeller
Chicago, Illinois

As might be expected, the Congress has turned its attention to the Year 2000 and the numerous problems that are likely to arise as we enter the New Millennium. Both the House and the Senate have passed Year 2000 legislation although each has taken a slightly different position. Both Houses of Congress have appointed members as part of a Conference Committee to resolve the differences so that a bill can be sent to the President for signature. The White House has already signaled that it will veto either of the bills unless major changes are made.

Both versions of the legislation encourage businesses to remediate Y2K-related computer problems while discouraging legal actions when companies take proper actions to fix the problems. The provisions of the legislation would discourage frivolous lawsuits related to Y2K by preserving the enforceability of existing contracts, establishing a "cure" period for Y2K disputes and allowing a "reasonable efforts" claim into evidence in contractual disputes.

A number of states have already passed Year 2000 legislation. Practitioners in this area should pay close attention to the state legislatures during the remainder of the year because it is anticipated that a number of statutes will be passed before December 31, 1999. The exact language of each statute will be important when analyzing choice of law issues in future litigation.

The Federal Judicial Conference has taken up proposed amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and they are expected to make favorable recommendations for amendments to Rules 26, 30 and 34. Under the proposed amendments the scope of the disclosure obligation is substantially reduced and disclosure is required only of the identity of witnesses and documents that sup-

port the disclosing party's position. In addition Rule 34(b) would be amended to emphasize the power, now explicit in Rules 26(b)(2) and explicit in 26(c) to allow a party to pursue a discovery request that otherwise would violate the limits of Rule 26(b)(2) only on condition that the requesting party pay part or all of the reasonable costs of responding.

In addition, the United States Judicial Conference Committee on Rules and Practice is expected to recommend changes to Federal Rules of Evidence Rules 701 – 703 concerning expert witness testimony. The revisions to these rules of evidence clarify the scope of the Daubert decision and end confusion among the circuits by applying the trial court's gate keeping function to testimony by any expert.

These proposed amendments are generally favorable for the practicing defense lawyer. Many defense bar leaders testified before the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules during the past 12 months to help effect these changes. It is expected that the United States Judicial Conference will act upon these rule changes in the very near future.



NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

JAMES O. DUKES ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

James O. Dukes (MS), partner in the Gulfport, Mississippi, law firm of Bryant, Clark, Dukes, Blakeslee, Ramsay & Hammond, was sworn in as President of the Mississippi Bar Association at its Annual Meeting on July 17, 1999. In addition to serving as President of the State Bar Association, Jimmy also serves as Vice President of the Defense Lawyers Association of Mississippi. He will assume presidency of that Association once he completes his term as the Chief Executive Officer of the State Bar Association.

Jimmy and his wife, Leslie, have two children, a daughter Macon and a son Will. Macon has com-

pleted a Master's degree at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, and Will is a sophomore at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. Jimmy attended the University of Mississippi where he received a Bachelor and Master degree in mathematics in 1968 and 1970 respectively, and his law degree in 1975. In addition to having held offices in numerous local and State Bar Associations, he is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the American Board of Trial Advocacy, the Defense Research Institute, and currently serves as President of the Local Chapter of the American Inn of Court.

At the swearing in ceremony, Jimmy declared the theme of his term would be "Professionalism and Collegiality". Congratulations to ADTA member Jimmy Dukes and best wishes for a successful year.

MICHAEL J. CORSO RECOGNIZED BY THE FLORIDA BAR

Michael J. Corso, a senior shareholder with the Fort Myers, Florida, law firm of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A., and a member of ADTA since 1988, has recently been recognized by The Florida Bar as a board certified business litigation lawyer. Certification is designed by The Florida Bar to provide the public with an indication of a lawyer's competence and to identify skills and proficiency by meeting educational, practice, testing, and peer review standards.



THE ASSOCIATION PRESS

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Robert L. Jones, III Fort Smith, Arkansas	Clayton H. Haley Nacogdoches, Texas



ADDTUR

Dan and Connie Flatten –Proud first-time grandparents of **David V. Fenstra III**. Born March 6th, Seattle, Washington –5 lbs. 8 oz.

Born to member **Molly Hood Craig**, daughter, Marcy. Grandparents: **Bobby** and **Bernice Hood**, Charleston, SC.

T.V. and A.A. Miller –Proud grandparents of **Austin Monroe Pointer**. Born March 26, 1999.

Bob and Muggs Murnane –Proud to introduce their 13th grandchild, **Ryan Patrick Murnane**.

Jim and Gloria Rinaman announce the birth of their second granddaughter, **Grace Taylor Hinricks**, born April 12, 1999.



LEGAL LINES

*Steven Enochian
Redding, California*

The United States Supreme Court has just recently decided four employment cases of significant benefit to employers. In Albertsons, Inc. v. Kirking Berg decided on June 22, 1999 the court held that an employer who requires as a job qualification that an employee meet an otherwise applicable Federal Safety Regulation need not justify enforcing the regulation even though on a case by case basis the standard can be waived. In this case a grocery store chain was sued when it refused to rehire a truck driver who did not meet the federal vision standards for commercial truck drivers. The failure was discovered only after the driver had been working for the grocery store chain for several years and the driver argued that his eye condition qualified him as a disabled worker and since he had been able to perform the job before the employer found out the true condition of his eyesight he should be eligible to be rehired. The grocery store chain's primary contention was that even if the truck driver was disabled he was not a "qualified" individual with a disability because the grocery store chain was simply insisting on the minimum level of visual acuity set forth in the Department of Transportation's Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. The US Supreme Court agreed.

In Murphy v. United Parcel Service, Inc., also decided on June 22, 1999, United Parcel Service had hired the petitioner as a mechanic which was a position that required him to drive commercial vehicles. In order to drive he had to satisfy certain Department of Transportation Health Certification requirements which included having no clinical diagnosis of high blood pressure. Again the petitioner's high blood pressure was not noted and he was erroneously granted certification and commenced working. Thereafter, the error was discovered and United Parcel Service fired him. Petitioner brought suit under the Americans with Disability's Act. The District Court granted United Parcel Service summary judgment and the Tenth Circuit affirmed. The United States Supreme Court affirmed and basically held that since medication could control the petitioner's high blood pressure he was not "disabled" and that therefore, he was not denied employment because

of his disability but rather because he was unqualified to work because he was unable to obtain Department of Transportation health certification.

In Sutten v. United Airlines, Inc., also decided on June 22, 1999, the US Supreme Court held in favor of United Airlines who rejected the petitioner's applications for jobs as commercial airline pilots because they did not meet the airline's minimum requirement of uncorrected visual acuity. The petitioners filed suit under the Americans with Disability's Act claiming that they were being discriminated against because of their poor vision which was correctable to the required standard but uncorrected did not meet the necessary standard. The District Court dismissed the petitioners' complaint and held that the petitioners were not "disabled" because they could fully correct their visual impairments. The court concluded that the airlines was not refusing to hire them simply because of their lack of visual acuity but because they could not meet the accepted visual acuity standard set by the airline for any pilot applicant. The Tenth Circuit affirmed and the US Supreme Court also affirmed.

Finally, in Colstad v. American Dental Association, also decided on June 22, 1999, petitioner sued her employer for sexual discrimination and sought punitive damages. The District Court denied petitioner's request for a jury instruction on punitive damages and the Court of Appeals affirmed holding that petitioner had failed to demonstrate that the defendant had engaged in some "egregious" misconduct. The US Supreme Court affirmed and held that punitive damages are limited to cases in which the employer has engaged in intentional discrimination and has done so "with malice or with reckless indifference to the federally protected rights of an aggrieved individual". The court then went on to discuss the circumstances under which punitive damages could be awarded in an action under Title 7.



BOOK REVIEW

*Patrick G. Cullen
Baltimore, Maryland*

Final Appeal, by Lisa Scottoline. Harper Paperbacks, 1994. \$5.99.

Lisa Scottoline, a former practicing attorney, was an entertaining speaker at the 1999 ADTA meeting

at Amelia Island. Her book Final Appeal, was an award winner and the price certainly was right so I bought a copy after her presentation. The cover announced that People Magazine called her "the female John Grisham". The main character in the story is Grace Rossi, a divorced parent and clerk for the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She becomes romantically involved with that judge and shortly thereafter he is found dead. Thus begins Grace Rossi's hunt for the killer (if there was one). The story is filled with credible courthouse situations and adventures by the heroine that are somewhat less credible.

The author is a composite of John Grisham, Danielle Steele and Irma Bombeck: legal mystery, love story and good humor. If you are looking for those three elements in a fast moving, easy to put down and then resume reading story, Final Appeal is for you.



FROM THE EDITOR

*Gordon R. Broom
Edwardsville, Illinois*

The Association Press is a newsletter about our members for our members. The strength of our Association, as so aptly stated by Jeff in his President's Message, is the relationship we have with each other. The more we know about each other, the better and stronger will be our Association. You will see that in this issue, we have broadened our news about our members to include some personal notes as well as the important professional news. We, your Publication Committee, welcome news from you that you would like to share with the membership. Please send any item directly to myself or any other member of the Executive or Publication Committees. Every member of our ADTA family wants to know about and share in your good news.

MEMBERSHIP

I would like to nominate _____ for (prime)(associate) membership in
(proposed member's 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:

Stephen R. Crislip, Jackson & Kelly; 1600 Laidley Tower, Post Office Box 553, Charleston, WV 25322

Tel.: (304) 340-1180;

Fax: (304) 340 1050;

Email: scrislip@jacksonkelly.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.*



ADTA * TUCSON * 2000

W. Michael Flood
Phoenix, Arizona

MILLENNIUM MEETING JOINS
CIRCLE OF FRIENDS IN TUCSON

The Association of Defense Trial Attorneys Annual Meeting for 2000 will be held in Tucson, Arizona, **April 5th through 9th**, at the Omni Tucson National Golf Resort and Spa. The Omni sports a championship golf course (home of the Tucson Open), tennis, swimming, blue skies, sunshine and wide open spaces.

This is the first time ADTA has held a meeting in Tucson, which is one of the fastest growing cities in the sunbelt but remains the solitary beauty of the desert with panoramic mountain views. Many

nearby attractions abound and whether its hiking, horseback riding or touring such sights as Tombstone, the mining town of Bisbee or Nogales, Mexico, the Tucson meeting promises to be an unforgettable event.

Convention highlights will include a Wednesday night welcome reception at the Omni enjoying a western sunset as ADTA members and guests celebrate the new millennium, joining new and old amigos in a "Circle of Friends" theme for the meeting. There will also be a night for Levi's and cowboy hats and having fun as we roll back to the days of the Birdcage Theater and swinging saloon doors. But elegance and tradition will not be lost when the black-tie dinner-dance takes place amidst the splendor of the desert. Your hosts for the ADTA Tucson 2000 Meeting are Nancy and Jeff Peterson and Colleen and Mike Flood.

Don't miss out- - circle the date for the ADTA's millennium "Circle of Friends" Meeting on April 5th through 9th, 2000 in Tucson, Arizona.

THE ASSOCIATION PRESS

ATTN: GORDON BROOM

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