

ON-LINE ACCESS

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the task may often be too much to ask.

In this light, perhaps Florida cases that reach a certain level of public interest will someday be collected at a single court-run Internet site that offers access to important documents from each case's history. That way, those wishing to learn more about the case could examine its materials from

one location, without having to master the appellate system to find items from the circuit, district, and supreme courts. The public would be better informed, and the judiciary would appear as a more unified branch of government.

By any standard, the Florida judiciary remains a leader in the effort to provide public access to court materials. In high profile cases, such access benefits many and makes our court system responsive to the public's increasing curiosity and expectations.

The courts' work in this important area is greatly appreciated, and all who use the courts' sites no doubt look forward to continuing innovation in the future.

Endnotes

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Don't Miss the 2006 Appellate Practice Section Retreat!

May 12 - 14, Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort & Marina

by Susan W. Fox, Chair-Elect



Make plans now to attend the Appellate Practice Section's Triennial Retreat!

On Friday, the retreat will feature a substantive workshop on proposals to expand or realign Florida's district courts of appeal and a banquet followed by an informal jam session featuring the many talents of appellate lawyers (and perhaps a few judges); on Saturday, working retreat sessions discussing the betterment of the section and appellate practice generally, will be followed by a casual dinner; and on Sunday there will be an informal breakfast and officers' meeting. The Hutchinson Island Marriott was chosen as a central location to enable all of Florida's appellate lawyers to attend and bring their families to enjoy the beach and recreational facilities.

The retreat will kick off with a workshop on district court of appeal realignment and expansion. The

Section was honored to be asked to weigh in on this issue and therefore will hold a meaningful workshop to provide a detailed report. Section Chair Tom Hall will act as moderator of the discussion, and will appoint representatives from each affected district to discuss their specialized concerns. Moreover, the Section hopes to have involvement of the official committee appointed by the Supreme Court to study the matter.

Friday evening, the Section's social events will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. Dinner will follow at 7 p.m., capped by a keynote speech. After dinner, an informal music jam will convene. Believe it or not, we have quite a few musicians in the Section!

On Saturday, starting at 9 a.m., the work of the retreat will begin in earnest. We will briefly review the Section's mission statement, history, goals originating out of past retreats, and where we stand on implementing those goals. This review will be followed by an open discussion of top priorities of the Section, after which we will divide

into smaller groups to discuss and agree on old and new initiatives to improve the Section in particular or appellate practice in general.

Saturday evening will afford opportunities for casual gathering and an open house in the Chair's suite. Sunday morning will conclude the retreat with an informal breakfast and officers' meeting.

All members of the Section are invited and encouraged to attend. The retreat is an ideal opportunity to become involved in the Section. Several current officers and executive council members first became active with the Section by attending a retreat and then volunteering to assist in one of the implementation projects that arose out of ideas at the retreat.

The hotel is currently accepting reservations at the group rate and will continue to do so through April 19, 2006. Hotel reservations can be made by calling (800) 775-5936. A Section reservation can be made by returning the form on page 18, or by contacting the Section Administrator, Austin Newberry at anewberry@flabar.org.