

Report from the Appellate Practice Retreat

by Susan W. Fox, Chair-Elect

The Appellate Practice Section met May 12 and 13, 2006, at Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort, for the Section's retreat which takes place once every three years. This article will summarize the goals established during the work sessions of the retreat.

1. Public Advocacy and Legislative initiative:

With so many events in the public arena affecting appellate practice, the Section will increase its advocacy

within the legislature, The Florida Bar, the Governor's office, the JNCs, and the courts with regard to issues important to appellate practitioners. Tom Warner has agreed to chair this committee and issues to be addressed include the district court of appeal's assessment and work load issues, pay raises for judges and court personnel, electronic e-filing procedures, rule-making powers of the supreme court, and nomination of qualified appellate practitioners by the JNCs.

2. Financial Restructuring:

The Section will attempt to secure its financial future and independence by affiliating with an appropriate non-Bar organization, probably a 501c3 corporation whose finances would be independent of The Florida Bar. Tony Musto agreed to chair this initiative.

3. Local Chapters and Outreach to Government Lawyers:

Starting with Tallahassee and Central Florida, the Section will attempt to host local section meetings and



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reach out to government lawyers. In addition, the Section will use existing local bar appellate groups and seminars to publicize the Section and its activities. Wendy Loquasto is organizing a meeting in Tallahassee; Chris Carlyle and Angela Flowers will attempt to organize a local gathering in Central Florida.

4. Web-Based Discussion Groups:

To increase day-to-day communication and education of members, the Section is studying the feasibility of using the website for message boards and discussion groups. The message boards will probably be broken down into substantive law areas such as: civil, criminal, family, land use, etc. Lucretia Pitts agreed to chair a com-

mittee to organize this initiative.

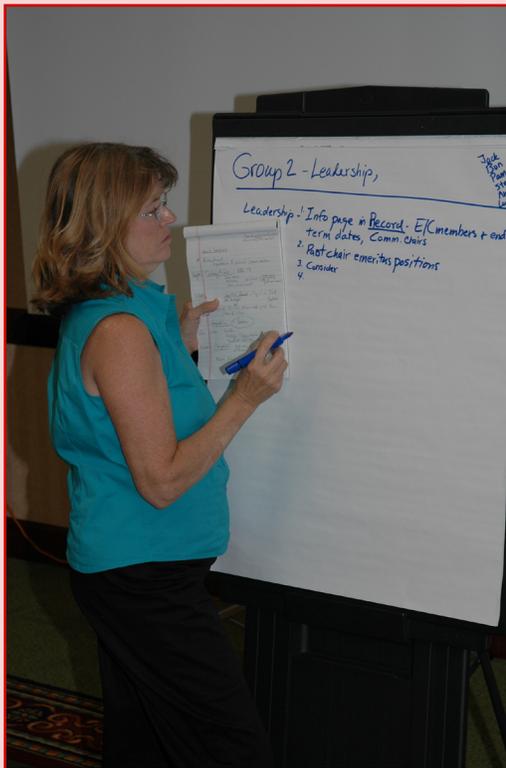
5. Website Enhancements:

As organizations move more and more information to the internet, the Section will continue to upgrade its website. Henry Gyden has agreed to chair the committee. Due to the workload involved, this committee will no longer be assigned to an executive officer. Some planned enhancements are: additional information and photographs of officers, a history of the Section, discussion groups, and identification of members by a sub-specialty area.

6. Hospitality, Recruitment, Open Leadership, and Transparency:

The Section will continue to encour-

age members to be actively involved in the work of the Section. Recruitment will be a responsibility of every executive council member. In addition, a hospitality committee to be chaired by Barbara Eagan and John Crabtree will endeavor to make sure that each member who attends a Section meeting is given a serious opportunity to serve on a section committee. In addition, a nominating committee will be appointed to establish an application process and criteria for choosing officers, executive council members, and committee chairs. While committee chair appointments remain discretionary with the chair, the nominating committee will be authorized to make suggestions.



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