

COMMITTEE PREFERENCE SYLLABUS

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION: works with the Circuit and District Court to further the availability of mediation for dispute resolution. The committee has monthly meetings to establish goals and coordinate the mediation services provided by attorneys. The committee also assists in continuing legal education endeavors and monitors proposed Rules affecting mediators and the mediation process.

ADVOCATE: assists in the preparation of the Bar Association's monthly newsletter. The staff prepares articles on events and recent case law. Committee chairs take the responsibility for submitting articles on committee activities. In addition to coordinating the articles, the Guest Editors proof the newsletter and make follow up calls when necessary.

BENCH/BAR: works with the bench of the Circuit and District Court as well as the related departments such as The County Office of Law, The Office of the State's Attorney, The Public Defender, The Department of Sheriffs, and so forth to enhance the processing of cases in the County. They respond to concerns raised by the membership through monthly meetings and responding to letters from the membership. They are responsible for advising the membership of proposed Rule Changes as proposed from the Court of Appeals Rules Committee.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS: makes the necessary studies required whenever revision or amendment of the Constitution or Bylaws is suggested by any member of the association to the Executive Council, or on its own initiative if circumstances so warrant.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION: fosters the development and presentation of high quality, cost effective legal education programs to the membership. This is accomplished by the presentation of programs normally held on the third Wednesday of every month, except July and August, from eight to nine in the morning. Each committee member assists in the selection of a topic and speaker(s) to present a seminar, and also writes the article reviewing the event for *The Advocate*.

CRIMINAL LAW: provides a forum for those individuals interested in criminal justice and networking and aid for criminal practitioners.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: The Committee shall promote full and equal participation in the Association, our profession, and the justice system by all persons and eliminate bias in the legal profession, and the justice system. The Committee shall implement and review a Diversity Plan and report its findings and recommendations to the Executive Council.

ENTERTAINMENT: in conjunction with the Executive Director arranges for association participation in golf outings, as well as other events such as the Wine & Whiskey Fundraiser. The committee also explores other opportunities for sporting events for the membership.

ESTATES AND TRUSTS: addresses issues facing estates and trusts attorneys and to interface with the Register of Wills, Judges of the Orphan's Court, as well as the legislature on issues of common interest. The committee holds monthly meetings with occasional special educational programs either at dinner meetings, or morning legal education series. Each committee member accepts a monthly assignment of being available for phone calls from the membership for assistance.

FAMILY LAW: presents educational seminars through its evening dinner meetings. It also provides input to the Bench/Bar Committee and Family Division of the Circuit Court on matters affecting family practice. The committee prepares its reports and recommendations through subcommittees devoted to specific topics.

FEE ARBITRATION: resolves by way of arbitrating (either binding or voluntary) fee disputes between lawyers and clients. There is a twenty-five dollar charge for arbitration. This service is informal and routinely resolves matters where litigants are un-represented. Committee members participate by reviewing the concerns raised by the disputing parties and suggesting solutions to them.

HISTORICAL: seeks to preserve the history of the Bar Association and the local legal community as it unfolds. It also provides information of historical significance through the *Advocate* and other publications.

LAW DAY COMMITTEE: plans and produces the Baltimore County Bar Association Law Day Celebration, which includes a breakfast legal education seminar, and the noon-time ceremonies at the portico of the Circuit Court. The latter involves the presentation of the annual Law Day Award suggested by the Law Day Committee, and approved by the Executive Council, along with the High School Essay Contest and the Baltimore County Board of Education Mock Trial honors.

LAWYER ASSISTANCE: their purpose is to enhance the quality of life in the Baltimore County legal community by delivering education and assistance on mental/emotional, drug, alcohol, family, health and other personal and/or health problems. The committee is devoted to creating a workplace atmosphere that encourages professional growth, excellence and overall well-being.

LAWYER REFERRAL: promotes to the public availability of legal services and to provide qualified members of the public with affordable legal services. The committee formulates policies and supervises the operation of the Lawyer Referral Service of the association, subject to the direction of the Executive Council.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: gathers statistical data regarding the composition and needs of the membership, both for planning and historical preservation. This is done through surveys contained in the *Advocate* and new member questions. The committee meets on a regular basis to develop the questions to be utilized in surveys and to tabulate the results of the responses.

MEMBERSHIP: reviews the applications for membership for sufficiency and upon approval invites the new members to be active in the association. This is done by committee member phone calls to the new member with information about committee and bar activities. The committee also welcomes new attorneys to the practice of law by attending the Circuit Court Swearing-In Ceremonies.

MEMORIAL & RECOGNITION: plans the association's annual memorial program, which takes place in November each year, honoring the deceased members of the association. The members communicate with the family members for selection of appropriate speakers and the preparation of notices for the *Advocate*.

NEGLIGENCE, INSURANCE & WORKERS COMPENSATION: promotes knowledge and understanding of tort, workers compensation, and personal injury law.

PRO BONO: seeks to facilitate the delivery of pro-bono services by the membership to the indigent, and to raise the awareness among association members of the need for members to volunteer legal services on a pro-bono basis. This is done through direct request and by attendance at the Circuit Court Swearing-In Ceremonies. In addition, the committee enhances the image of the profession by publicizing pro-bono contributions of association members through articles in the *Advocate* and other publications.

PROFESSIONALISM: routinely publishes the Baltimore County Bar Association Code of Professionalism in *The Advocate*. In furtherance of the principles set forth in that document, this committee presents dinner programs in conjunction with the Family Law Committee and Solo and Small Firm Committee that focus on the practicalities and pitfalls of the practice of law.

PUBLIC AWARENESS & SPEAKERS: provides speakers on legal topics to local community associations and schools. It also coordinates the lawyer and judge volunteers for the Baltimore County Board of Education Mock Trial Program.

REAL PROPERTY/STATE & LOCAL LAWS: acts as a liaison between the Bar Association members and the Clerk of Court, Land Records Section to ensure the availability and accessibility of the County Land Records to the members, their associates and to address any issues which in any way affect the ability of the association to service the real estate needs of the public. focuses on local laws, zoning regulations and state laws. It does so by dinner meetings including educational seminars, and at least one trip to Annapolis to converse with the Baltimore County Delegation. The legislative session is highlighted by articles in the *Advocate* detailing the progress of new legislation and work with the Continuing Legal Education Committee on similar matters. Zoning matters are also covered in periodic articles in the *Advocate*.

SOLO & SMALL FIRM: provides a supportive network for the solo and small firm practitioner to promote professionalism in this group and to mentor attorneys making the transition to this type of practice. This is accomplished primarily through dinner meeting seminars on topics ranging from substantive areas such as District Court evidence to financial planning.

TECHNOLOGY: provides the membership with information concerning innovations and changes in technology, which affect the practice of law, including but not limited to, computer hardware and software, electronic copying, and communication systems. The committee makes recommendations to the Executive Council with respect to the technological operation of the Bar Association Office. In conjunction with the Continuing Legal Education Committee, the Technology Committee offers educational seminars concerning the use and implementation of technology as it relates to the practice of law.

YOUNG LAWYERS: sponsors luncheons, open to all members including short educational presentations by local judges and elected officials. It also hosts a charity Bull Roast and sponsors the Holiday Party and gift drive, which benefits the needs of local children. The committee meets on a nearly monthly basis to coordinate these events. Attorneys must be younger than 38 years old or 5 years out of law school.