

## Workers Compensation Section

### Activities and accomplishments:

The section held its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on May 18, 2007, at the Salishan Lodge at Gleneden Beach, Oregon. At the meeting, the section elected the following officers and members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee:

#### Officers:

Holly Somers - Chair  
Matthew Roy – Chair Elect  
Meg Carman – Treasurer  
Matthew Fisher – Secretary  
Linh Vu, Past Chair

#### Members-at-Large:

Rob Guarassi  
Mustafa Kasubai  
Dean Lederer  
Julie Masters  
Chuck Mundorff  
Jill Reichers  
Jennifer Roumell  
Arthur Stevens, III  
Mark Thesing  
Geoffrey Wren  
Dale Johnson

The meeting was held in conjunction with a two-day seminar. The seminar was approved for an unprecedented 9 MCLE credits. The program included various legal and medical speakers covering topics relevant to practitioners of workers' compensation on both sides of the Bar.

The section also sponsored a Bench/Bar Ethics CLE on November 9, 2007, free of charge to its members. The conference covered two hours of discussion regarding ethical dilemmas faced by practitioners of workers' compensation law. The Campaign For Equal Justice also presented a discussion regarding access to justice that was approved for one elimination of bias credit. The CLE was held at the Willamette Valley Vineyards in Turner, Oregon.

#### Budget:

The executive committee has approved the section's budget for 2008. Generally, the largest expenditures relate to the seminars sponsored by the section. In the past two years, the section has also experienced a budget surplus, due largely to its well attended annual meeting and CLE at Salishan Lodge. The executive committee has been and continues to consider how best to apply the budget surplus to benefit the section.

## Recommendations for 2007:

The executive committee will continue with monthly meetings held in accordance with the section bylaws. The standing committees will continue to meet on an as-needed basis to function with the following general goals:

- **Legislative/Rules:**  
Monitor proposed and potential legislation and rules under the Board and Department; provide advice to the committee regarding the advisability of proposed legislation or rule changes, and review current workers' compensation laws to keep the committee apprised of new developments.
- **Professionalism:**  
Advance the interests of section members by sponsoring seminars and programs dealing with professionalism and ethics; consider means by which the section can improve relations between the membership and those providing services to injured workers and employers, clients and members of the public. The goal for 2008 is to put on at least one Bench/Bar ethics CLE at Willamette Valley Vineyards.
- **Race/Ethnic:**  
Identify means by which the section can facilitate the use of the workers' compensation forum by practitioners and members of the public; educate lawyers, judges and those providing services to injured workers and employers regarding the potential impact of cultural differences upon use of the workers' compensation system.
- **Salishan/CLE:**  
Plan and coordinate the annual section business meeting and CLE. The 2008 annual meeting/CLE will again be held at Salishan Lodge on May 16-17.
- **Communications:**  
Monitor the development and production of the section's website and continue efforts in getting relevant practice information to all section members.
- **Douglas Daughtry Award Committee:**  
This committee is made of the most recent three past section chairs and meets to make recommendations to the full committee on the merit of nominations for the award. This committee will begin meeting in March 2008 to start accepting nominations and making recommendations to the full committee for the award, which, if given, will be presented at section's Annual Meeting at Salishan on May 16, 2008.

Respectfully submitted: Linh T. Vu (CH), Holly J. Somers (CH-Elect), Martin L. Alvey (Past CH), Meg Carman (TR), Matthew Lansing Roy (SEC), Matthew M. Fisher, Robert J. Guarrasi, Mustafa T. Kasubhai, Dean J. Lederer, Julie Masters, Charles R. Mundorff, Jill M. Riechers, Jennifer R. Roumell, Arthur Wilber Stevens III, Mark Thesing, Geoffrey G. Wren, Bette L. Worcester (BC), Suzanne Cushing (BL).