

## 2009 Annual Report

**Division/Section/Committee Title:** International and Immigration Section

**Date:** December 30, 2009

**Chair/Co-chairs:** Rebecca Kitson

### **Activities Undertaken Since Last Report:**

- **Manual on Immigration Consequences of New Mexico Offenses**
  - In the *Paredes* decision, the New Mexico Supreme Court has effectively obligated criminal defense attorneys to determine the immigration status of their clients and if their client is a noncitizen, the attorney must advise them of the specific immigration consequences of pleading guilty. The manual's purpose will be to assist attorneys in fulfilling their obligation under *Paredes* and provide informed and accurate advice to their clients.
  - In 2009, the Immigration Section and Criminal Law Section began collaborating with the Criminal Law Section to develop a series of manuals to assist New Mexico criminal defense attorneys in providing accurate advice on immigration consequences of crimes to their immigrant clients. Two law students, working under the supervision of a section member, were hired to assist with the preliminary research and writing of the manual. With additional time and management the manual is scheduled for completion in 2010.
  
- **CLE "Immigrant Rights in New Mexico: Civil Liberties, Detention, and Collateral Consequences of Crimes," Friday, October 23, 2009**
  - This was a full-day CLE program organized by our section. The CLE provided 5.5 General credits and 1.0 Ethics credit. The issues discussed were on the Civil Liberties of Immigrants, Law Enforcement and Immigrants, and the Detention of Immigrants. Additionally, this CLE was crafted to explore the Immigration Consequences of Crimes in Our Courts and Jails. The CLE closed with a discussion of the ethical challenges of immigrant representation. Approximately 30 people attended the CLE.
  - An Immigration Reception followed the CLE where participants were able to network and discuss issues impacting Immigrants and their Legal Practice.

- **CLE “How To Represent Immigrants Pro Bono” Considerations for the Multicultural Client,” Wednesday, December 16, 2009**
  - This was a 1 hr. Professionalism CLE which our section organized. The CLE focused on attorney’s professional obligations and professional conduct when representing immigrants. The CLE was presented through a Panel Discussion where presenters discussed the professionalism challenges of immigrant representation. Approximately 20 people attended the CLE.
- **Annual Meeting, Wednesday, December 16, 2009**
  - This was an opportunity for section members and other attorneys to learn about our section’s activities or projects in the year 2009 as well as future endeavors for the 2010 year. This was also an opportunity for members to meet one another and network.
- **Immigration Law Section Mixer, July 23, 2009**
  - Our section organized a Mixer at Garduños for members to socialize and interact and cultivate networks. Members were able to share their ideas, suggestions for improving the section and ideas on increasing membership and member participation.

**Ongoing Activities:**

- Membership Outreach and Recruitment
- Immigration related CLE(s)
- Immigration Section Manual on Immigration Consequences of New Mexico Offenses
- Publish in the New Mexico Lawyer
- Pro-Bono CLE Immigration Initiative
- Monthly Board Meetings
- Annual Meeting

**Issues Requiring Board of Bar Commissioner Action: (Provide supplemental materials when applicable.)**

- **Carry over remaining Section funds into 2010 (Please see attached Proposal for Excess Funds)**