

2009 Annual Chair Report for Solo and Small Firm Section
Prepared by Joseph A. Sapien – 2009 Chair

1. Section meetings were held monthly with the exception of June, July, August and December. The Board will determine the schedule of meetings for 2010 at the January 2010 meeting which will be chaired by the incoming section chair Don Becker.
2. The Annual Section Meeting and the Second Annual Solo & Small Firm Ethics CLE was held on November 20, 2009 at Season's Restaurant. The Honorable Alan Malott presented the one hour CLE. A dinner reception was held at the conclusion of the CLE and annual meeting. In attendance were State Bar President Henry Alaniz and State Bar Executive Director Joe Conte. The event was attended by approximately 40 people and was well attended. The event was coordinated by co-chairs Brian Jennings and completed by past Chair George Weeth after the passing of our good friend and board member, Brian Jennings who passed away October 24, 2009. Special thanks to Brian and George for an outstanding job in coordinating this year end event for the Section. At the annual meeting we honored Brian and his significant other, Anne Simpson attended. We will certainly miss Brian as he was a good friend and colleague. The annual meeting was also co-hosted with the Elder law section.
3. Budget Balance as of November 30, 2009 was approximately \$ 3,128.42. The December 2009 year end report was not received as of the date of this report. The actual balance does not include the cost of the annual meeting held November 20, 2009.
 - Any remaining balance will be carried over to the 2010 Solo & Small Firm Section budget for; 1) hosting additional monthly speakers with the goal of providing complimentary lunch to section members in an effort to increase attendance to the speaker's series and; 2) covering the expense for the 2010 Annual Section Meeting and Third Annual Ethics CLE.
4. Our Section hosted a CLE presented by section member Willow Parks at the July 2009 State Bar Convention regarding starting and managing a solo or small firm practice. Congratulations to Willow for a job well done.
5. The section sponsored a luncheon on September 15, 2009 at the State Bar and the guest speaker was New Mexico Senate Majority Leader Michael S. Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez discussed issues with the budget and legislative process in the state of New Mexico. The event was well attended by our membership and local judges. The presentation also focused on professionalism and ethics in the legal profession and with the legislative process.
6. The Section will continue to discuss creative ways to increase membership and provide benefit to our section members. We will discuss scheduling a fewer number of section meetings in 2010 with the objective of sponsoring provocative speakers and topics that will attract more of the membership to attend. Our focus will be on quality instead of quantity.

7. Proposed projects for 2010 will include:

- a. CLE for the 2010 State Bar Annual Meeting; Directory of Members including contact information and areas of practice.
- b. Speaker series sponsored by the Section.
- c. Third Annual Ethics CLE at end of 2009 in collaboration with other sections interested.

8. Incoming Section Chair for 2010 is Don Becker. I will continue as the Immediate Past Chair in 2010.

It has been a pleasure serving as the section chair during 2008 and 2009. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the success of our section. Special thanks to both Henry Alaniz and Joe Conte for their outstanding and continued support of our section.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph A. Sapien". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.

By: Joseph A. Sapien, Esq.
2009 Chair - Solo and Small Firm Section