

TRIAL PRACTICE SECTION
2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Section Title: Trial Practice Section

Date: December 30, 2009

Chair: Lance D. Richards

Activities Undertaken Since Last Report:

- The National President of the American Board of Trial Advocates, John Holcomb, spoke at this year's Bar Convention on July 11, 2009, at Buffalo Thunder Casino. He was sponsored by the Trial Practice Section and his topic was "The Diminishing Civil Jury Trial." ABOTA is a national organization of trial lawyers committed to the promotion of the Seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution, the Right to a Jury Trial. The CLE was slated as a headliner and was very well attended.
- Terrance McCarthy presented a CLE entitled "Tag Team Clydesdales in the Courtroom" on November 19, 2009, at the State Bar Center that was co-sponsored by the Trial Practice Section. McCarthy was joined by Dale Cobb who, along with McCarthy, has been on the faculty of the National Criminal Defense College since the 1970's. McCarthy was named as "Defender of the Century" in 2000 by Federal Defenders from across the nation. This full day conference featuring two national experts in trial advocacy was well attended.
- The Annual Meeting of the Section took place on November 19, 2009, at the State Bar of New Mexico.
- In 2009 we awarded \$200.00 to the high school Mock Trial Program. We have proposed increasing the high school award to \$500.00 in 2010.

On-going Activities:

- The section will solicit résumés from UNM law students that are members of the Trial Practice Section. Two students will be selected in 2010 to compile District Court Judge's Court decorum information. This information will be uploaded to our website. The UNM law students who are selected will each receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship.
- The section will actively solicit a speaker of national recognition to facilitate a CLE sponsored or co-sponsored by the Trial Practice Section at this year's bar convention in Ruidoso at the Inn of the Mountain Gods in July. The section plans to pay board members' expenses for those who miss two or fewer board meetings. (Cost not to exceed \$2,500.00).

- The section has voted to increase budgeting for our website, due to additional information that will be added this year.
- The section will again solicit a speaker of national prominence to put on a fall CLE.
- The section will hold its annual meeting in November 2010 at the State Bar of New Mexico.
- The section meets every other month on the third Friday of the month.

Issues Requiring Board of Bar Commissioner Action:

- Request is made that the section be allowed to keep any excess funds that would allow us to bring our budget for 2010 to \$8,500.00. This money would be used for the above-mentioned scholarships to UNM law students and the New Mexico Mock Trial Team, and would assist us in providing the bar convention and our own sponsored CLE with speakers who are nationally recognized.