



October 28, 2009

Dear Section Member and Colleagues:

The Labor and Employment Law Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association fosters attorneys in their efforts to further the interests of the labor and employment bar in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Indeed, the primary purpose of the Labor and Employment Law Section is to promote an understanding of the legal problems encountered in the field of labor and employment relations and provide its members with a means to share that information with others. In furtherance of that policy, the Section provides a multitude of outlets for members to discuss current issues in labor and employment law, through a member listserv, lunch and learn programs, continuing legal education presentations, and, this year, the Section is in the midst of planning its first ever Section retreat.

The Section Retreat is scheduled for June 25 – 27, 2010, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey Pennsylvania. In addition to having all the amenities of Hershey Pennsylvania at your fingertips, the Retreat will host seven hours of CLE credits, a Section meeting, and great food and hospitality, to share with colleagues and friends in the Section.

The Section's lunch and learn programs not only provide great food and conversation, but are informative as well, providing practical tips on presenting labor and employment cases before the courts and agencies. Our most recent lunch and learn speakers have included Chief Judge Donetta W. Ambrose, of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Judge Christopher C. Conner of the Middle District of Pennsylvania, U.S. Magistrate Judge Henry S. Perkin of the Eastern District, and Dorothy Moore-Duncan, Regional Director for Region 4 of the National Labor Relations Board.

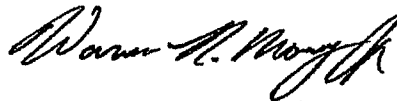
On a somewhat larger scale, the Section plans and sponsors CLE events through the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. Section CLE events provide the opportunity for Section members to plan presentations they believe are of importance to Pennsylvania's labor and employment bar, and an opportunity to share information and network with colleagues and speakers from across the state. In addition, the Section sponsors the biannual labor symposiums and annual employment law institutes presented through PBI, and I would be remiss not to mention the receptions hosted by the Section at these events, where members enjoy refreshments and networking with other attendees and speakers.

In addition, our members also sponsor law school students to attend Section events. Each year the Section solicits applications from the law schools throughout the state for students who have shown an interest in pursuing careers in labor and employment law, and invites them to attend one of the Section-sponsored CLE programs. Not only do Section members have the opportunity to meet with the new and upcoming attorneys in the field, but the students receive valued connections and an indispensable opportunity to learn a few things from Section members about labor and employment law that cannot be gleaned from the classroom.

The Section's activities include international projects, as well. Over the past few years the Section has been in the forefront of providing information and presentation about labor and employment law and practice in the United States to students, faculty, judges, and law makers in Poland. On one of the Section's firsts trips to Poland, several members participated in a joint conference which resulted in the publication of a collaborative treatise, printed in both English and Polish, entitled Arbitration and Mediation in Labor Law, Wydawnictwo KUL, Lublin 2005. Since then, the Section has returned to Poland, and Polish professors and judges have visited Pennsylvania's judicial system and administrative agencies. Currently, the Section is looking to return to Poland to assist in another collaborative conference, and possibly to teach a law school course on labor and employment law.

If you're already a member of the Section, or if you're just thinking of joining, I urge you to attend our next Section meeting on December 3, 2009 at 11:00 am at the Holiday Inn East in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to hear more about these and other activities of the Labor and Employment Law Section of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments about the Labor and Employment Law Section, you may contact me at wamowery@state.pa.us or (717) 783-6016.

Sincerely,



Warren R. Mowery, Jr.
Chair
Labor & Employment Law Section