

# Section Council Scope Notes

*Revised September 2006*

## **Administrative Law**

To inform and advise the members of the bar who practice in the field on current developments in administrative law. To provide a forum for the interchange of ideas between governmental and private practice attorneys in the field. To study and make recommendations regarding proposed legislation and regulations. To present seminars, newsletters, conferences, and conduct other appropriate information dissemination activities in furtherance of these goals.

## **Agricultural Law**

To improve the knowledge and professional abilities of lawyers through continuing legal education programs, publications and other means. To engage in the practice of law as it relates to the business of agriculture; to review and research applicable laws and proposed legislation; to monitor developments in the various legal fields that are applicable to farming and agribusiness; to disseminate information about current developments in this area of the law, and in general to assist in the improvement of the practice of law in this area.

## **Alternative Dispute Resolution**

To inform members of the bar, the judiciary and the public about the benefits of alternative dispute resolution techniques in all types of disputes. To educate lawyers and others in the effective use of these techniques in representing clients at the highest level of skill and professionalism. To make available resources for researchers and practitioners relating to litigation alternatives, including a newsletter and Web page. To study and advise on proposed revisions to statutes and rules governing alternative dispute resolution. (3-26-04)

## **Antitrust & Unfair Competition Law**

To enhance the professional capabilities of lawyers in the following civil and criminal practice areas: antitrust, business interference, trade regulation and restraints, trade secrets, false advertising, franchise and distributorship issues, and unfair or deceptive trade practices, both generally and in e-commerce; and to disseminate information, make recommendations on proposed legislation, and promote communication among lawyers relating to these areas, through the study of proposed state and federal legislation, presentation of seminars and preparation of newsletters.

## **Bench and Bar**

To improve communication among state and federal judges, the Illinois State Bar Association and the practicing bar; to promote and work for modernization and improvement of the court system and the procedures therein, including but not limited to compilation and dissemination of minimum standards relating to judicial administration; to establish and carry out programs which address mutual concerns of the judiciary and the bar which are designed to improve relations between bench and bar.

## **Business Advice & Financial Planning**

To assist members of the section in developing their skills and resources in counseling their business-owner and business clients. To provide a forum for exchange of opinions and ideas among lawyers and the other disciplines serving the business community. To study the emerging role of lawyers in giving financial advice, and to formulate and evaluate legislative suggestions with regard thereto.

**Child Law**

The mission of the ISBA Child Law Section is: To inform all lawyers practicing in the areas impacting children, including but not limited to juvenile justice and child protection law, adoption, education, guardianship, and family law, of current and significant developments in these areas; to review , monitor and propose legislation in all legal areas impacting children; to enhance the professional skills of lawyers who practice in these areas through continuing legal education programs and publications; and to provide a forum for all entities, lawyers and other interested parties to work for the refinement and improvement of laws and systems impacting children.

**Civil Practice & Procedure**

To enhance the knowledge and professional capabilities of lawyers who devote time to the practice of civil law in all its substantive branches, to disseminate current information such as proposed legislation and case law and to explain ramifications of these changes on civil practice, to promote improvement in the civil law system, and to study other pertinent areas of reform.

**Commercial, Banking & Bankruptcy Law**

To promote professional excellence in the areas of commercial law and practice, banking law and practice and bankruptcy law and practice by providing a forum for the interchange of information, experience and available materials relative to commercial, banking and bankruptcy law. The section council will provide practical information, monitor fields of interest and anticipate problems for the profession through the practice and through the review of proposed new legislation and amendments to existing legislation. The section council further, would promote excellence in practice through presentation of continuing legal education programs in areas of current interest to the profession.

**Corporate Law Departments**

To inform attorneys of current developments in corporate law and corporate law department practice, procedure, function, organization and operation in the State of Illinois, and to provide an opportunity to exchange views on those areas of particular interest to corporate practitioners.

**Corporation, Securities & Business Law**

To monitor developments in legal fields that have particular application to all forms of business, charitable and professional entities, including the related fields of securities and commodities law, and to inform the membership of same through appropriate means available, to review and research applicable laws and propose needed changes, to review and comment on proposed legislation and regulations in these fields, to assist in the improvement of legal practices in these areas, and to contribute to the improvement of the legal climate in Illinois for business, charitable and professional entities.

**Criminal Justice**

To work for a system of criminal justice that fairly protects the accused, the accuser, and the public in general, to seek or oppose change, as considered appropriate, by legislative activity, recommendations on court rules and recommendations to agencies, and to educate and inform lawyers and the general public through newsletters, seminars and other appropriate channels of communication.

### **Education Law**

To enhance the knowledge and professional capabilities of lawyers who are engaged in one or more aspects of school law whether from the perspective of a public or private educational institution or agency, school board or district, union or association, certified or non-certified employees and administrators, parents or guardians, students, taxpayers, or the public generally; to monitor developments and disseminate information on all relevant legal matters; to assist in the improvement of legal practices in school law-related areas; to study and recommend solutions to various problems involving school law; to study, prepare, make recommendations, oppose, or promote proposed legislation and regulation in the field; to explain the ramifications of legislation, regulations, or case law; to promote communication among lawyers in this field; and to present seminars, newsletters, and conferences in furtherance of these goals.

### **Elder Law**

To inform and advise the members of the bar whose practice involves representing older persons in such areas as estate planning, public benefits, nursing home residents' rights, elder abuse, age discrimination, real estates issues, senior housing and guardianship. To review and make recommendations regarding proposed legislation that may affect older persons. To promote the legal rights of older persons to enjoy their communities, families, and lives to the fullest extent possible and to inform older persons of these rights. To provide a forum for the exchange of views and information in furtherance of these goals.

### **Employee Benefits**

To study, educate the profession, comment on legislation and regulation and perform other appropriate activities assigned to it by the Association with respect to the following as they relate to the compensation (current or deferred, direct or fringe benefit) of persons for employment type services: 1. Rights between employers and employees; 2. Rights between contractors; 3. Tax and estate planning; 4. Reporting and disclosure; 5. Benefit administration; 6. Investments and fiduciary duties; 7. Age and sex discrimination; and 8. Other appropriate and related matters.

### **Energy, Utilities, Telecommunications and Transportation Law**

The mission of the section is: To inform and advise the members of the bar on current developments in energy, utility, telecommunications, and transportation law and regulation; to monitor and comment on state and federal legislation and regulations affecting energy, utility, telecommunications, and transportation service providers; to propose remedial legislation in areas of perceived need; to encourage formal legal education in energy, utility, telecommunications, and transportation law and regulation; to promote continuing legal education through publications, conferences and seminars; and to provide a forum for consideration of any comment on current issues in the field of energy, utility, telecommunications, and transportation law and regulation.

### **Environmental Law Section**

To monitor developments in the environmental law field and disseminate topical information through newsletters and seminars to lawyers and business, industrial, governmental, and agricultural interests; to evaluate and make recommendations regarding existing and proposed legislation and regulations in the environmental law field; to enhance the professional capabilities of members of the bar who engage in the practice of environmental law; and, to promote the responsible utilization of the environment that fairly protects the interests of present and future generations.

**Family Law**

To encourage and support a high level of professional and ethical commitment and expertise among those who practice family law in all its substantive branches; to remain sensitive to the changing needs and mores of families and individual family members in our society and to respond, through reasoned efforts directed toward the appropriate branch of government, and bar and/or the public, to accomplish understanding of the law as it exists and is applied, or change of that law, where it is needed.

**Federal Civil Practice**

To enhance knowledge and professional capabilities of lawyers who devote time to the practice of civil law in the United States District Courts in Illinois; to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among and between practitioners and federal judges; to review and make recommendations concerning federal legislation and proposed changes to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and federal district court rules which affect federal civil practice; and to promote communication through presentation of seminars and preparation of newsletters.

**Federal Taxation**

To inform and advise the members of the bar on current developments in federal taxation and their ramifications. To review and comment on federal tax laws, regulations, court decisions, and Internal Revenue Service pronouncements and practices. To monitor improvement and understanding of the federal tax system through proposals of, and changes in, tax laws and regulations; and through writings, testimony, conferences, and seminars.

**General Practice, Solo & Small Firm**

To promote professional excellence among those engaged in the general practice of law through education relating to substantive legal practice areas and by providing opportunities for the exchange of information particularly pertinent to the needs of solo and small firm practitioners.

**Health Care Law**

To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information concerning health care law and the health care industry; to inform the public about important health law developments; to initiate, promote and review federal and state law relating to health care matters; and to further these goals through seminars, publications and other activities.

**Human Rights**

To inform and advise the lawyers and citizens of Illinois about the nature of individual rights and about the impact on such rights of proposed or existing laws or other actions and policies of government, to assist the membership in understanding and protecting, through legislative or other appropriate activity, individual rights of clients and Illinois citizens, and to generally promote legal recognition of, and protection for, individual rights and responsibilities.

**Insurance Law**

To inform all lawyers interested in the field of insurance law of the current and significant developments in that area, to review, monitor and suggest proposed legislation which might impact insurance, to increase the professional capabilities of lawyers who deal with insurance or questions affected by insurance or which insurance affects through continuing legal education programs, and to provide a forum for all entities interested in insurance to work for the refinement and improvement of our insurance laws.

### **Intellectual Property**

To enhance the professional capabilities of Illinois lawyers who devote their time specially to the practice of patent, trademark and copyright law and associated areas concerning trade secrets, unfair competition and antitrust law; to disseminate information about these areas of law to other lawyers and to interested businesspersons, authors and inventors, particularly as such information may affect their practices and the manner in which they conduct their affairs in Illinois, or nationally and internationally; to promote improvement in the applicability of the principals pertaining to these areas of law, especially through legislative efforts; and to facilitate communication among Illinois lawyers concerned with these areas of law.

### **International & Immigration Law**

To improve the knowledge and skill of Illinois attorneys in the fields of international business law and immigration law and to inform the general public about these growing areas. To raise the awareness of section members about the legal and political issues of international law, both public and private. To raise the consciousness of Illinois lawyers representing the foreign born in general legal matters. To publish newsletters and sponsor seminars and conferences in furtherance of these goals.

### **Labor & Employment Law**

To inform section members and the public of important developments in labor law through meetings, newsletters, public appearances, news releases, etc.; to review and comment on proposed legislation and regulations in the labor law field; to foster opportunity for informal contacts between attorneys representing labor and management to promote increased candor and less contentious relationships between them and their clients; to foster improvement in the efficient and equitable administration of federal and state labor legislation.

### **Local Government Law**

To enhance the knowledge and professional capabilities of lawyers who devote time to the practice of the law relating to units of local government; to disseminate information and comment on legislative and judicial developments and their impact on units of local government; to make recommendations on legislation; and to develop and communicate ideas to improve the functioning of units of local government.

### **Mineral Law**

To inform and advise the members of the bar on current developments in mineral law; to monitor and comment upon state and federal legislation and regulations affecting minerals and their development; to propose remedial legislation in areas of perceived need; to encourage formal legal education in mineral law; to promote continuing legal education through publications, conferences and seminars; to provide a forum for consideration of and comment upon current issues in the field of mineral law.

### **Real Estate Law**

To enhance the ability of general practitioners and those concentrating in real estate law by promoting communication among lawyers statewide, disseminating information on current developments in real estate law and practice, participating in continuing legal education programs in the real estate law area, review and promotion of legislation and procedural changes affecting real estate law and practice, education of the lay public in the rights and procedures connected with the purchase, leasing and ownership of real estate, cooperating with other groups of professionals and business persons in the real estate area, such as real estate brokers, commercial and bar-related insurance companies, and lenders.

### **State & Local Taxation**

To enhance the knowledge and professional capabilities of lawyers in the practice of state tax law, to disseminate current information such as proposed legislation, case law and administrative procedures to members of the section and explain the ramifications of these changes to the members, to promote improvement in the state tax system through proposed legislation and administrative action, preparation of newsletters and presentation of seminars.

### **Tort Law**

To enhance the knowledge and professional capabilities of lawyers who devote their time to the practice of tort law in all its substantive branches, to disseminate current information such as proposed legislation and case law to members of the section and explain the ramifications of these changes on members' tort practice, to promote improvement in the tort system through reform where it is needed, and to study other areas of reform of tort law about which there is much concern.

### **Traffic Laws & Courts**

To promote professional excellence among judges, prosecutors, defense counsel and administrative officials in all phases of traffic court and motor vehicle proceedings, through the presentation of continuing legal education programs, promoting conferences highlighting developments in the law and the publication of an informational newsletter. To review proposed legislation and recommend new legislative initiatives. To advocate administrative and procedural regulations as they relate to the administration of Illinois' vehicle codes or similar local traffic provisions.

### **Trusts & Estates**

To be responsible for activities relating to the education of probate, estate planning and trust law practitioners, to promote and work for the development, modernization and improvement of legislation relating to the estate planning, probate and trust areas of the law, to review relevant matters and issues, and to study and recommend solutions to various problems involving the public, the courts, and attorneys insofar as the areas of concern of the Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Section are involved.

### **Workers' Compensation Law**

To promote improvement in the workers' compensation system and the administration of justice under the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act and Illinois Occupational Disease Act. To enhance the professional capabilities of lawyers who practice before the Industrial Commission of Illinois by disseminating information relevant to the practice, making recommendations on proposed legislation, conducting conferences and seminars on topics important to section members and promoting communications between the bar and all personnel of the Industrial Commission.

### **Young Lawyers Division**

The Board of Governors approved in 1980 a change in the name of the Young Lawyers Section to Young Lawyers Division. The division now consists of all members under the age of 36 on the first day of the new fiscal year and members who have been admitted to practice less than five years. Members who meet these qualifications are automatically members of the division. The governing council consists of the chair, vice-chair and secretary as ex officio members and 16 additional members who have their principal law offices within the Association elective areas that they represent.