

Section Council Scope Notes

Revised May, 2016

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

The ADR Section Council is dedicated to promoting a greater understanding of alternatives to traditional court litigation in the resolution of disputes. The range of alternatives available is as broad as the innovation and creativity the parties may choose to explore. By opting out of traditional court litigation, parties retain control and ownership of the resolution mechanism. The ADR Section strives to aid practitioners and the public on the dynamics of alternative methods of dispute resolution, the risks, the benefits and the opportunities arising from their use. (4-02-16)

Animal Law

To produce live and recorded CLE seminars to educate members of the bar (and the public) on laws, regulations, and court decisions dealing with various issues related to animal law; to monitor the developments in the animal law field, and dissemination of topical information to members through newsletters and a list serve; serve as a resource for the public, organizations, law school animal law groups, and governmental agencies that wish to obtain information about animal law issues; evaluate and recommend existing and proposed legislation and regulations in the animal law field; and provide a forum for animal law attorneys to meet, exchange ideas, share best practices, and have a positive impact on the practice of law in this developing area.

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

The mission of the Bench and Bar Section is to forge a spirit of cooperation, collegiality and exchange among state and federal judges and the practicing bar, and to enhance the court system, the administration of justice for the public, and the relationship between judges and lawyers.

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.

Business and Securities Law

The mission of ISBA Business and Securities Law Section is 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; to inform the membership through appropriate means; 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.

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.

Construction Law

The mission of the ISBA Section on Construction Law is to enhance the ability and knowledge of general practitioners and those concentrating in construction and construction related areas of law by promoting communication among lawyers statewide; to disseminate information on current developments in construction law; to review and promote legislation and procedural changes affecting construction law and practice; to sponsor and participate in continuing legal education in the area of construction law; and to liaison with other groups or professions in the construction arena in, order to carry out the mission of this Section.

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.

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 estate 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; and 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 ISBA Energy, Utilities, Telecommunications, and Transportation Section is to inform and advise the members of the bar on current developments in public utilities and transportation law; to monitor and comment upon state and federal legislation and regulations affecting public utilities and transportation law; to propose remedial legislation in areas of perceived need; to encourage formal legal education in public utilities and transportation law; to promote continuing legal education through publications, conferences and seminars; and to provide a forum for consideration of any comment upon current issues in the field of public utilities and transportation law.

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; to respond through reasoned efforts directed toward the appropriate branch of government, and bar and/or the public; and 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; and 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

The Human Rights Section Council's mission is to educate the people of Illinois about their human rights and the human rights of others; inform the people of Illinois about the impact on such rights by existing or proposed laws, and the policies and actions of governments or other actors; assist the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) membership in understanding and protecting the human rights of their clients; encourage solidarity between the Illinois bar and all members of the national

and international legal profession as a means of strengthening human rights and the rule of law; advise the ISBA on issues related to human rights; and to promote the legal recognition and protection of human rights.

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; and 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.

Law Office Management and Economics

The mission of ISBA Standing Committee on Law Office Management and Economics is to enhance and develop the professional capabilities of Illinois lawyers in the

realization that the practice of law now requires the implementation of sound business practices; and to investigate, evaluate, develop and disseminate information and techniques that will make the legal services delivery team more effective, competent, ethical and responsive to the needs of clients and the public.

Legal Technology

The mission of ISBA Standing Committee on Legal Technology is to advise ISBA members on the implementation of technology in their law practices; to advise other ISBA section and committees on proposed projects; to advise other legal entities on the development of programs and systems to better circulate information to the public and expedite the practice of law on all levels; to develop a communications network for use of ISBA members, with membership on the system available upon membership in the ISBA; to serve as a clearinghouse for technical information; and to serve as a liaison between the ISBA and other bar associations, as well as non-legal entities which address technology issues.

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.

Mental Health Law

The mission of the Mental Health Law Section is to review proposed and existing statutes, legislation, rules and court decisions affecting persons with mental illnesses, substance abuse disorders and make recommendations to the Board of Governors concerning these matters; to provide training and education to lawyers concerning the interaction between mental illness and the law and legal practice; to provide information to mental health professionals and the public concerning laws and rules affecting persons with mental illnesses; to collaborate with other professional and advocacy organizations to promote awareness of mental illnesses and mental health and to increase mental health services.

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; and 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.

Senior Lawyers

The mission of the Senior Lawyer Section is to provide service to and to create opportunities for service by ISBA members who are age fifty-five (55) and up, or those members who have practiced for at least twenty-five (25) years.

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; and to promote improvement in the state tax system through proposed legislation and administrative action, preparation of newsletters and presentation of seminars.

Tort Law

The mission of ISBA Tort Law Section is to enhance the knowledge and professional capabilities of lawyers who devote their time to the practice of tort law in all its substantive branches both on behalf of Plaintiffs and Defendants; to disseminate current tort law information, such as proposed legislation and case law to members and explain any impact it may have on members' tort practices; to educate tort practitioners in the substantive branches of tort law through continuing legal education programs Tort Trends publications, and use of its listservs; to promote diversity among its membership; to encourage mentoring programs in conjunction with the young lawyers division encouraging and offering advice to younger lawyers desiring to investigate the practice of tort law; to promote and encourage the professional, civil, and ethical practice of tort law at all times; and to promote improvements in the tort system, to protect the rights of tort litigants, and ensure the administration of justice. (Revised 10/15/10)

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; and 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 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 to make recommendations on proposed legislation; to conduct conferences and seminars on topics important to section members; and promote communications between the bar and all personnel of the Industrial Commission.

Young Lawyers Division

The ISBA Young Lawyers Division serves as a resource for young lawyers practicing in Illinois to develop, enhance, and foster a balanced professional life. It consists of all ISBA members under age 37 and members admitted to practice under 5 years.