

CALIFORNIA
LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION

Business Law section



who
we
are

The Business Law Section serves its members and the public through its Standing Committees and Editorial Board, providing timely updates, opinion pieces, and MCLE opportunities of interest to all California business lawyers.

BLS Standing Committees and Editorial Board

AGRIBUSINESS COMMITTEE

serves those who practice in substantive areas affecting agribusiness, such as food safety, water, environmental, employment, intellectual property, tax, estate planning, corporate, contracts, marketing and distribution, and litigation. Practitioners address issues such as safe drinking water legislation, the future of the Bay Delta and water conveyance, actions on Proposition 65, climate adaptation and healthy soils, air regulations, packaging and incentives, and more.

BUSINESS LITIGATION COMMITTEE

focuses on issues facing litigators with broad commercial practices, including substantive areas such as unfair competition law, and procedural matters such as discovery, e-discovery, privilege, alternative dispute resolution, and international litigation.

COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS COMMITTEE

educates California lawyers, legislators, and others on current issues and statutes, recent developments, and proposed legislation pertaining

to commercial law and secured transactions. The Committee's venerable Hidden Liens Project and comments regarding revisions to the UCC focus on changes necessitated by emerging technologies such as Bitcoin and other virtual currencies, blockchain, and electronic documents.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

serves California consumer financial services attorneys. Recent presentations include: (i) a review of pending bills making progress in the state legislature that present significant changes to the California lending landscape (SB 472, AB 539 and AB 642); (ii) the constitutionality of the FDCPA and Rosenthal Act; and (iii) changes to California's Homeowner Bill of Rights. The CFSC also historically participates in joint Legislative Days at the California Legislature where Committee members have the opportunity to meet and discuss financial and lending issues with staff and legislators themselves.

CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE

members address California's evolving and growing business laws and regulations pertaining to corporate entities. Corp Com meets regularly with liaisons from the SEC, the California Department of Business Oversight, the California Secretary of State, and the business law bar of Delaware. Members routinely act as liaisons to the Internet & Privacy Law, Financial Institutions, and Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies Standing Committees of the BLS. Corp Com also authors publications, organizes events and tracks legislation and rulemaking by sponsoring bills, providing input on pending legislation, and commenting on federal and state rules.

THE BUSINESS LAW NEWS EDITORIAL BOARD

circulated to approximately 43,000 readers, publishes articles analyzing legal developments and trends and offers practical information for business lawyers. Joining the BLN editorial board offers members the opportunity to publish, collaborate with practitioners, and strengthen their research and writing skills.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

tracks legislative and case law developments affecting financial institutions, and presents cutting-edge educational programming to financial institutions and their counsel. The FIC co-sponsors an annual bank regulatory update with the Financial Women of San Francisco and San Francisco Bank Attorneys Association. The FIC and CFSC participate in joint Legislative Days at the California Legislature where members have the opportunity to meet and discuss financial and lending issues with staff and legislators.



FRANCHISE LAW COMMITTEE

is extremely diverse, with its members representing franchisees, franchisors and distributors in both deals and disputes. The FLC advises practitioners about multiple laws and regulations that govern franchises throughout California as well as other states, and regularly updates its constituency on emerging franchise law matters. The FLC also has a strong relationship with the CA Department of Business Oversight, and enjoys the participation of a DBO liaison at its meetings to benefit from the DBO's insight and commentary on the FLC's discussion.

HEALTH LAW COMMITTEE

members represent clients in all segments of the healthcare industry, including physicians, hospitals and other institutional providers. The HLC provides networking opportunities to influence healthcare laws by proposing and commenting on new and existing legislation. As part of the LA County Law Library's annual "Pro Bono Week" the HLC collaborates with Bet Tzedek Legal Services, the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association, and the California Minority Counsel Program to provide an Advance Directive program.

INSOLVENCY LAW COMMITTEE

provides a forum for attorneys specializing in debtor/creditor rights, restructuring and bankruptcy law to collaborate in the presentation of educational programs, publications, and proposed legislation. The ILC addresses insolvency-related issues specific to California, which would benefit from dialogue and/or action on a state-wide basis. Members include those representing debtors, creditors, trustees and receivers, involved in consumer and commercial bankruptcy and insolvency matters. The ILC's updated ABC Desk Guide is the fruit of the efforts of California's finest insolvency law practitioners. This convenient desk reference outlines the provisions of the relevant statutes affecting the operation of assignments for the benefit of creditors in California.

INSURANCE LAW COMMITTEE

serves as a forum to educate attorneys and the public on current issues and developments in insurance law, communicating with the State Legislature and other groups concerning proposed legislation, revisions, and other issues regarding current statutes and regulations. ILSC members practice in all areas of insurance law, from regulatory and transactional, to coverage and litigation. ILSC holds regular meetings covering all areas of insurance law that typically include case law, regulatory and legislative updates, as well as occasional guest speakers on topics of interest.

INTERNET AND PRIVACY LAW COMMITTEE (“IPLC”)

examines legal issues pertaining to the Internet and mobile applications, privacy concerns, security and enforcement as well as data protection, by providing updates and education and co-sponsoring numerous symposiums and programs with other organizations, including BLS Standing Committees and sister CLA sections. Notably, as privacy interests crystalize in the national consciousness, the IPLC has provided guidance to practitioners through its role in the establishment of the CLA Privacy Section and the passage of CA Prop 24.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTEE

serves nonprofit lawyers addressing the legal problems of not-for-profit corporations and other nonprofit organizations, including corporate formation, federal and state tax issues, lobbying and political involvement, trustee duties and liability, charitable solicitations, and investments of financial assets. The NPO Committee is known for its informative and relevant meeting presentations e.g., regarding campaign finance rules for multipurpose organizations. The Committee often presents collaborative programs with the Taxation Section of the CLA. The NPO Committee is known for its informative and timely topical

OPINIONS COMMITTEE

The Opinions Committee addresses the law through the customary practice of providing third party opinions, authoring reports and sample opinions to help guide practitioners and the public. It is influential in the national dialogue on opinion practice in close collaboration with the ABA TriBar Opinion Committee, and has produced a number of authoritative works, including without limitation “Third-Party Closing Opinions: California Limited Liability Companies and Partnerships, and its “Sample California Third-Party Legal Opinion for Venture Capital Financing Transactions.

PARTNERSHIPS AND LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES COMMITTEE (“PLLC”)

The “PLLC” focuses on legal developments in the areas of general and limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, and limited liability companies. Members diverse opinions and backgrounds work together in a collegial culture to drive PLLC’s escalating ambitions to clean-up legislation for the Revised Uniform LLC Act, publish legal handbooks and practice guides, and expand attorney educational services.



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