

ALA'S VENDOR ADVISORY PANEL UPDATE



The ALA Board of Directors recently appointed two new representatives to the Vendor Advisory Panel (VAP): Mike Meehan of OfficeMax Legal Solutions (top) and Phil Jones of The Gunlocke Company (bottom). The VAP



consists of representatives from six legal vendor organizations. Participants on this panel were selected through an application process and serve two-year terms.

Their objectives include helping the Vendor Relations Committee (VRC) prepare the vendor education at the ALA Annual Conference; providing suggestions and feedback regarding the exhibit hall at the Annual Conference, as well as regional and specialty conferences; working with the VRC to enhance the understanding and appreciation of mutually beneficial relationships between members, vendors, and ALA; and acting as a sounding board for the VRC's efforts to create a best practices environment at all levels of ALA.

NOTICE OF IMPENDING VOTE TO AMEND ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

ALA's Board of Directors has approved various amendments to the Association's Bylaws. Those include amendment of Article VII (3) of the Bylaws relating to qualifications for nomination to the position of President-Elect of the Association; the Amendment would require that candidates for President-Elect have served at least one full year on the Board before being eligible to be nominated to serve as President-Elect. Also approved is an amendment to Article V (6) to change the term of office for Directors; the change would specify a single three-year term of office, in place of the current two-year term and eligibility for election to a second consecutive two-year term.

Amendments to the Bylaws are effective only upon ratification by a majority vote of ALA chapter presidents casting written ballots. It is anticipated that information concerning the Bylaw amendments, including the full text of the amendments, will be provided to all chapter presidents in December 2007, with actual voting by the chapter presidents occurring early in 2008.

This notice is provided in accordance with the requirement that the Executive Director provide at least 30 days' written notice to all members of the impending vote of the chapter presidents.

- John J. Michalik
ALA Executive Director

ALA MEMBERS ON THE MOVE



Greg Grass joined the North Carolina firm of Hedrick, Gardner, Kincheloe & Garofalo, LLP, as Chief Operating Officer. HGKG is a litigation defense firm with 90 attorneys in four offices in the Carolinas. Grass spent the last eight years as the CFO of Sommers Schwartz, a Michigan law firm.



Needle & Rosenberg, P.C., recently named **Patricia S. Greco** Executive Director of its Atlanta, Georgia, office. She joined the firm as Director of Human Resources and Facilities in 2001 and has more than 40 years of experience. She joined ALA in 1978 and is a member of the Atlanta Chapter.

LAW FIRM NEWS

Best Lawyers, a referral guide to the legal profession in the United States, recently ranked the firm **Helms Mulliss & Wicker, PLLC (HMW)** No. 1 in the Banking Law practice area for Charlotte, as well as for the state of North Carolina, for its 2008 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*. In addition, 23 of the firm's lawyers will receive individual *Best Lawyer* citations in their practice areas. The firm employs five ALA members.

Little Mendelson, an employment and labor law firm, announced that Paul D. Weiner has joined the firm as its National E-Discovery Counsel. The firm employs more than 25 ALA members.

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP moved and now occupies the entire eighth floor of 1818 N Street NW in Washington, D.C. The firm employs one ALA member.

Are you an ALA member who has been recently promoted, changed jobs, or has other firm news? We'd like to feature you in this section of *ALA News*! E-mail your information and photo to Amy Dvorak at advorak@alanet.org.

ALA SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR VENDOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The ALA Board of Directors recognizes the value of the relationships between business partners, administrators, and ALA as an organization. In 1999, it created the Vendor Relations Committee (VRC) to further add value to the partnership between ALA members and vendors. The Committee works to facilitate communications, provide resources for feedback, and to emphasize the interdependence that exists among vendors, ALA members, their employers, and the Association at all levels.

The VRC meets monthly via conference call and generally has two in-person meetings per year – once at the Annual Conference and once in the fall. The VRC also works closely with representatives from six legal vendor organizations (the Vendor Advisory Panel).

ALA is seeking interested member volunteers to fill three upcoming openings on the Committee, all of which are appointed by the Board of Directors. One person will serve a two-year term, and two individuals will be appointed to serve three-year terms. Service and terms of office begin at ALA's 37th Annual Educational Conference and Exposition in Seattle, Washington, in May 2008.

If you wish to be considered for one of these positions, now is the time to volunteer! Please communicate your interest to ALA Membership Director Debbie Curtis, who serves as staff liaison to the VRC. Send a letter to Debbie at ALA Headquarters or an e-mail to her at dcurtis@alanet.org by no later than November 30, 2007. Please include relevant professional background information, the reason for your interest in serving on the Committee, and other information you believe is relevant to your candidacy.

ALA LAUNCHES NEW ANNUAL CONFERENCE LOGO

As ALA members may have noticed with the 2007 Annual Educational Conference and Exposition in Las Vegas, ALA's Marketing Department launched an initiative to brand the Conference with the use of a new logo.

"In the past, the Annual Conference logo has consisted of elements or landmarks representative of the location in which the meeting was being held," said Steve Carasso, ALA Assistant Director of Marketing. "However, from an identity standpoint we wanted to establish a new logo that represented the major aspects of the Conference, not just the destination itself."

While ALA recognizes that location is a factor for many who attend the Annual Conference, feedback from past attendees indicates that education, networking, and the exposition are the Conference's three most important components.

"We ultimately would like our members to immediately identify the Annual Conference by its new logo," Carasso said.



ALA Annual Educational
Conference and Exposition



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KEY EVENTS FOR ALA MEMBERS

The following calendar lists selected meetings and other events sponsored by the Association of Legal Administrators (ALA), its regions and its chapters. Also incorporated are educational programs, industry expositions and similar activities directed to the legal management profession. Please note that some events are by invitation only. Visit www.alanet.org/calendar for more information, including how to submit events for inclusion in the calendar.

OCTOBER 2007

- 1-5 Professional Legal Management Week**
- 10-12 ALA Corporate/Government Fall Forum**
*L'Enfant Plaza Hotel
Washington, D.C.*
- 11-12 ALA Intellectual Property Retreat**
*L'Enfant Plaza Hotel
Washington, D.C.*
- 11-13 ALA Large Firm Principal Administrators Retreat**
*Lansdowne Resort
Lansdowne, Virginia*
- 12-14 Community Challenge Weekend**
- 17 ALA Teleseminar – Lead Your Office to Become an Extraordinary Place to Work**
- 19-20 ALA Region 1 Educational Conference and Exposition**
*Hotel du Pont, Chase Center on the Riverfront
Wilmington, Delaware*
- 19-20 ALA Region 4 Educational Conference and Exposition**
*Sheraton Oklahoma City
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*
- 25-27 ALA Law Firm Financial Management Conference**
*Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City
Universal City, California*

NOVEMBER 2007

- 2-3 ALA Region 6 Educational Conference and Exposition**
*Loews Ventana Canyon Resort
Tucson, Arizona*

FLEXIBILITY INITIATIVES LAND ALA MEMBERS' FIRMS ON LIST OF BEST LAW FIRMS FOR WOMEN

Working Mother magazine and Flex-Time Lawyers LLC, a consulting firm advising attorneys and legal employers on work-life balance and the retention and advancement of women, recently announced the 2007 *Working Mother* & Flex-Time Lawyers Best Law Firms for Women. The winning firms are notable for their work/life and women-friendly policies – including flex-time, child care, and women-focused mentoring, leadership, and networking programs – as they set new standards to retain and promote top female legal talent. The winning firms are as follows:

<p>Alston & Bird Armstrong Teasdale Arnold & Porter Baker & Daniels Baker & McKenzie Bingham McCutchen Blackwell Sanders Bryan Cave Chapman and Cutler Covington & Burling Cravath, Swaine & Moore Debevoise & Plimpton Dickstein Shapiro DLA Piper US Dorsey & Whitney Duane Morris Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott Farella Braun + Martel Foley & Lardner Gibbons P.C.</p>	<p>Heller Ehrman Hogan & Hartson Holland & Knight Howrey Hunton & Williams Ice Miller Katten Muchin Rosenman King & Spalding Kirkland & Ellis Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP (K&L Gates) Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel Manatt, Phelps & Phillips Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw McDermott Will & Emery McGuireWoods Miller & Chevalier Chartered</p>	<p>Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo Morrison & Foerster Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe Patton Boggs Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman Reed Smith Sidley Austin Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal White & Case WilmerHale Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice</p>
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For complete information about the 2007 *Working Mother* & Flex-Time Lawyers Best Law Firms for Women – including profiles of the winning firms – visit www.workingmother.com and www.flextimelawyers.com.

ALA CHAPTER ANNIVERSARIES

The following ALA chapters will celebrate milestone anniversaries in November 2007:

35TH ANNIVERSARY
Columbus Chapter (Ohio)
Original Name "Capital City Chapter"
Chartered in November 1972

15TH ANNIVERSARY
Western Virginia Chapter
Chartered in November 1992

NEW CHAPTER WEB SITE UNVEILED

ALA's Utah-Beehive Chapter recently launched a Web site. Check it out at www.alautah.org.

