

February Events

SMALL LAW FIRM LUNCHEON

Business Opportunities Through the Association's Legal Referral Service

February 16, 2006 12:30 - 2 pm

Are you looking to expand your client base? Would you like to join the panel to receive referrals from the Association's Legal Referral Service (LRS), which is the oldest and largest referral service in New York State and receives 300 to 500 calls each day from people looking for legal representation?

Please attend this luncheon program, presented by Allen Charne, Director of LRS, to learn how LRS works and how it can help you.

Registration by February 6 is necessary. The fee, which includes lunch, is \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members. Please register online at www.nycbar.org. Supported by LexisNexis.

SAVE THE DATE

SMALL LAW FIRM LUNCHEON

Law Firm Operational Technology

What Small Firm Practitioners Need to Know About Today's Technology

MARCH 16, 2006
12:30 - 2 PM

How to Resolve an Ethical Quandary?

A lawyer is a person who writes a 10,000-word document and calls it a "brief."
- Franz Kafka

Charles Dickens' novel "Bleak House" features an obscure lawsuit, called Jarndyce and Jarndyce. It involves apportionment of inheritance among possible heirs, lasts for decades, enriches lawyers and destroys families. The ultimate pyrrhic victory of its winner, Richard Carstone, is that he dies insolvent due to legal fees that have consumed all assets he may have inherited.

Throughout the centuries, from Shakespeare and Dickens to Mark Twain and Franz Kafka, writers have criticized lawyers for unnecessarily prolonging cases and draining clients of their resources.

We all know that a lawyer must withdraw from representation if he knows that his client is planning to commit a crime. But what should an attorney do when the situation isn't as clear cut? What if the client's case simply has little merit? Or what if the lawyer is aware that his client is solely filing a suit "out of spite"? What if the attorney knows that after years of litigation and exorbitant legal fees wasted by the client and his proclaimed "enemy", the client's claim would most likely be dismissed? What if the claim is legitimate, but the money ultimately recovered would drown in the sea of legal fees? Do we, as lawyers, have an obligation to refuse such cases?

Over the years, the New York City Bar Association has extensively focused on such difficult questions of legal ethics. In addition to offering dozens of ethics CLE courses, the Association provides "hands on" help to lawyers who face ethical dilemmas. If you are a New York attorney with a question about your own prospective conduct, you can call the New York City Bar's Ethics' Hotline at (212) 382-6624. The hotline is operated by the Committee on Professional and Judicial Ethics and is staffed by committee members who answer telephone inquiries.

In addition, the New York City Bar's Committee on Professional and Judicial Ethics authors Formal Opinions on a variety of topics. For example, if you would like to understand the extent of a lawyer's duty to disclose a client's fraud, you can simply go to the Ethics' Section of the Association's website and scroll down the alphabetical list of topics to Duty to disclose client fraud; duty to preserve secrets of former client.

The Ethics Committee's website also provides a list of Ethics FAQs. One of them actually addresses an attorney's withdrawal from representation.

Thus, in order to avoid hearing that "it is the trade of lawyers to question everything, yield nothing, and to talk by the hour" (Thomas Jefferson), we should be mindful of one thing. The practice of law is not just a business. It is an honor-

Forms and Information Available Online

CD-ROM Forms at the Library

Just click on the desktop icon "CD-Rom Titles for Members" at any library computer terminal and you can obtain current federal tax information and forms; federal practice treatises and formbooks such as Moore's and Bender's forms; American Jurisprudence legal forms; NY Codes, Rules and Regulations; West McKinney forms; New York Supplement 2d cases; real estate transaction information and many others. Access to this online information as well as the FREE lexis and Westlaw access will make researching a snap.

Free Real Estate Forms

Free real estate forms prepared by the Association's real estate committees are available from the Association's website by visiting www.nycbar.org or click here to access the pages directly.

Free Member Postings

Members of the New York City Bar Association have the added benefit of posting free listings on the Small Law Firm Center section of the New York City Bar website. To post a free listing, send an email with content and your member information to aroytberg@nycbar.org.

Your Comments Are Welcome

If you have any comments concerning the Small Law Firm Center facilities, the Small Law Firm Center portion of the New York City Bar Website, or suggestions on how the New York City Bar could better address the needs of Small Law Firm Practitioners, please send an email to the Small Law Firm Center Director, Alla Roytberg at aroytberg@nycbar.org.

able profession. When we represent clients, we should analyze all possible moral issues which may arise. We should obtain guidance from respectable sources on how to deal with ethical dilemmas. We should confirm the statement that "a law is valuable not because it is law, but because there is right in it." (H.W. Beecher)

Small Law Firm Center Facilities - a Unique Benefit to Members of the Association

The Small Law Firm Center facilities operate as a free benefit to members of the Association. They include a Conference Room in which attorneys can privately meet their clients and a separate Attorney Work Space equipped with computers, printers, copier and a fax machine. LexisNexis has sponsored the renovation of the Conference Room, which should be completed in early 2006. The Center is located on the third floor of the Association's House. While Attorney Work Space is available on a walk-in basis, members should contact the Library reference desk (212) 382-6666 to reserve the conference room. Please refer to the following schedule for hours of operation:

Attorney Work Space	Mon-Fri 9 am - 8:45 pm Sat 10 am - 4:45 pm
Conference Room	Mon-Fri 9:30 am - 7:30 pm Sat 10:30 am - 4:45 pm

For questions about the Center, you may contact Ronald Mirvis at (212) 382-6748 or rmirvis@nycbar.org.

CLE Programs of Interest

Beyond Strangi: Coping with the Current State of Gift & Estate Taxation of Family Partnerships

February 7, 2006 6-8 pm

Lawyers in the Dock: When Does Good Lawyering Become Criminal Conduct? Ethical & Practical Concerns

February 16, 2006 6-9 pm

Immigration Law Federal Courts: How to Get in Under the New Rules

February 22, 2006 6-9 pm

Legal Ethics: Ounces of Prevention that Avoid a Ton of Trouble

February 23, 2006 6-9 pm

Article 81: Certified Training for Guardians, Court Evaluators & Attorneys for Alleged Incapacitated Persons, February 24, 2006 9 am-4:30 pm

ABC's of Financial Statements, February 27, 2006 6-9 pm

For information on the Association's CLE programs visit www.nycbar.org.