

Technology Law and Policy Section Annual Report

The Technology Law and Policy Section is a new Section. It was previously a forum committee. In the first few months of its inception, this Section has drafted Bylaws which were approved by the Colorado Bar Association's Board of Governors on May 8, 2004. This Section has also elected Officers and formed subcommittees to handle various aspects of the Section's goals and objectives. One of those objectives is to further the Section member's knowledge through CLE educational opportunities. To this end, we are investigating various CLE topics of interest to our members. We are also assessing publication and presentation opportunities. Our Legislative Policy subcommittee reviewed the entire slate of bills from the last Colorado session, adopted a Legislative Policy Mandate, and will continue to review bills and areas of interest for Section members. This year, the Legislative Policy subcommittee specifically investigated the following bills: HBs 1004 (possible restrictions on Internet use on Public Library computers), 1034 (expanded use of the internet for Drivers License renewals), and 1122 (dealing with identity theft) and SB 76 (restrictions on SPAM) and determined that they were within the proposed mandate of the sub-committee, and that the Section should take a position on them if they seemed to be moving forward in the Legislature. The subcommittee also identified HB 1029 (addition of internet training programs to the definition of "Technical Schools") and SB 72 (Insurance Companies and investments in Nanotechnology) as bills that the subcommittee would "watch" to see how they developed in the Legislature. The Section holds bimonthly meetings at the Colorado Bar Association offices. For the upcoming year, the Section intends to be fully-functioning by offering CLE classes, performing an annual review of pending legislation, developing more resources for Section members on the Section's web page, and submitting articles of interest for publication. The Section is also exploring potential partnerships and co-sponsorships of educational opportunities with other Sections, committees, and business groups to bring members the latest available information on the intersection of technology and law, recognizing that in today's rapidly changing environment, "technology" goes far beyond the areas of copyright, patents and trademarks. Specific areas of attention include privacy and on-line civil liberties, transactions and licensing, telecommunications and technology regulation, information and infrastructure security, technological crime and civil liability, and social policy.

The primary CBA staff members this Section has worked with have been Michelle Gersic and Reba Nance. Both of these people have been absolutely excellent to work with. The entire Section is indebted to them for their never-ending assistance in getting this Section up and running.