

CBA Committee/Section Chairperson Annual Report/Review

To: Melissa Nicoletti (melissan@cobar.org)

From: Michael Goodbee
(Chairperson)

Criminal Law section
(Committee/Section)

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Annual Report

(Please send to CBA by May 15, 2008 - Fax: (303) 861-5274)

Name of Committee/Section: Criminal Law Section

1. Report on projects that the Committee/Section has completed:

One notable project has been: Our section has worked with the members of the criminal sentencing committee to pursue potential and substantive changes that we hope will improve efficiencies in the justice system without compromising community safety.

2. Report on projects that are continuing and/or incomplete at this time, and suggested length of project:

See above. I would like our executive council to endeavor to take a more proactive approach to legislation impacting criminal law. The challenge is that the council is broken down: Six prosecutors (state and federal); Six defense counsel (public and private); Six judges (county District and Appeals) and finally- two academic positions. Given this breakdown we often cancel each other out, with the judges deferring.

3. Report on CLE programs

We successfully completed a Spring CLE and are have a Fall CLE we are currently working on: Forensic Investigations- Searching for Truth and Justice. We anticipate that it will incorporate classes on DNA, crime scene processing, understanding autopsy reports and computer crimes. Priscilla has been helpful.

5. Report on any legislation the Committee/Section has worked on and/or sponsored (only need bill number, topic and result)

Given the breakdown described above you may be able to understand when I say that we could not reach consensus on many bills- one in particular, was an important bill to many (pro and con) SB 205- which ultimately died (PI'd I believe). Individual members testified for and against bills. There were a number of other bills we tracked, and again some of us testified for or against, but the executive council did not weigh in unified on bills in 2007. Michael does an exceptional job for the CBA.

6. Recommendations regarding goals and tasks by Committee/Section for ensuing year. Please note the name of potential future leaders:

I would like to see a Colorado Lawyer dedicated to criminal law in 2009. My opinion is that There isn't a single member of our committee that isn't a leader in criminal law in this state.

7. Sunset Analysis: Should the Committee/Section be retained in its present form and for its present function. (Explain views of the chairperson and the committee members and state consensus reached, if any):

Yes- It is very important for leaders in our often very adversarial profession to sit, break bread and talk. This committee provides that great opportunity. Thinking out loud... I wonder if we might consider breaking the executive council into prosecution and defense segments for purposes of endorsement of proposed legislation perhaps, e.g., to say that the prosecution or on the other hand, the defense segment of the executive council supports or opposes certain legislation.

8. Successes or problems encountered during the past year. (Include recommendations for future):

See above.

9. Comments on CBA staff that has worked with your group:

All wonderful. Thank you.

Signed Michael Goodbee
Dated 6/1/08 (Late- sorry)

Cc: Chuck Turner, CBA/DBA Executive Director