

# The Quarterly Report

FALL 2003

STATE BAR OF GEORGIA

## Message from the Chair

by Alan S. Clarke

This has been an exciting and eventful year for the section.

The Entertainment and Sports Law Section continues its relationship with Georgia Lawyers for the Arts (GLA), a non-profit organization providing assistance to artists who cannot afford legal representation. Together, we have established an entertainment law library, located in GLA's offices, for use by practitioners and artists alike. The Section purchased for GLA the nearly \$1000 annual updates to the multi-volume Matthew Bender series titled *Entertainment Industry Contracts: Negotiating and Drafting Guide* on CD-ROM. Attorneys who cannot afford to buy this essential guide for themselves use the library almost daily. The Section bought the original series two years ago. Lisa Kincheloe, the executive director of the GLA, recently joined the Executive Board as an at-large member. We look forward to expanding our relationship with GLA.

In October 2002, Section Secretary/Treasurer Frank White of Arnall Golden & Gregory LLP chaired our third annual half-day I.C.L.E. Entertainment & Sports Law "Basics Boot Camp" at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Buckhead. This seminar, made up of three one-hour panels, was co-sponsored by American Express and I.C.L.E. This was marketed to attorneys seeking to expand their practice into these areas, or just brush up on their knowledge of the basics. The section plans to continue to present this seminar annually.

We have continue our monthly luncheons featuring speakers and "hot topics" in the entertainment and sports law areas. Attendees normally receive one hour of CLE credit. In January 2003, Superior Court Judge Paschal English, of CBS television's *Survivor: Marquesas*, spoke at our luncheon held in conjunction with the State Bar's Midyear Meeting at the Swissôtel in Atlanta.

In April we held a panel on Independent Record Labels, featuring Section Executive Board At-Large Member Tanya Mitchell Graham, and attorneys William Ashbourne, Monica Ewing, and Ephraim Michael. The luncheon was held at the Clubhouse restaurant at Lenox Square Mall.

In May, we held a joint luncheon with the Intellectual Property Law Section on copyright law, with Georgia State Law School Professor Michael Landau as our speaker. This was held at the State Bar Headquarters in downtown Atlanta.

In February, Bedelia C Hargrove, the Section Vice Chair of Sports chaired our half-day seminar for sports attorneys, which was held at the Clubhouse Restaurant at Lenox Square Mall. The speakers included Lisa Rovinsky, Jeff Gewirtz, and James Dudukovich of the Coca-Cola Co. and local attorneys Charles Zirkle Jr., Jack P. Reale, Damien Turner, and Michael Hobbs.

The section held two seminars co-sponsored by I.C.L.E. outside of Georgia this year. The fourteenth annual Southern Regional Entertainment &

Sports Law Seminar was held in November 2002 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico for the second year in a row. This event was jointly sponsored by the entertainment and sports law sections of the state bars of Georgia, Tennessee and Florida, as well as the Intellectual Property Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia. This year, preeminent attorneys from around the country enlightened over 100 attendees, who obtained a full year's worth of CLE credits. The group again enjoyed oceanside banquets sponsored by music affiliated organizations, including BMI. We are delighted to announce that the IP Section has elected to join us again this year in co-sponsoring our annual seminar, which will be held at the Ritz Carlton in Montego Bay, Jamaica in November 2003.

Our other out-of-state event was held in conjunction with the Florida Bar's Entertainment, Arts & Sports Law Section's annual retreat, which was held at the Registry resort in Naples, Fla. during Memorial Day weekend.

The Section's holiday party was held at Buckhead restaurant Joel, and was a joint event with NATAS, the

National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. This is the organization that sponsors the Emmy awards. The event was also charitable, in that attendees were required to bring a toy donation for admission.

Social events have included an outing to see the production of section member Hank Kimmel's play, *Ms. Palsgraf's Dream Team*, at the Fourteenth Street Playhouse. The play, based on the famous tort case, was written by Hank while he was in law school. Section members enjoyed speaking with the playwright at Einstein's Restaurant and Bar in Midtown before the production.

The Executive Board consists of representatives from nine committees: Luncheon Lecture; Legislative; Newsletter; Social; Public Relations/ History; Internet; Greater Georgia (outside Atlanta); Community Service; and Law Schools. The Internet Committee is working with the State Bar to post Section events, newsletters, and flyers on the State Bar Web site. Be sure to get involved and we hope to see you at our upcoming events! ♦

## Upcoming Section Events

**Friday, Oct. 10, 2003**

**11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Luncheon Seminar

Topic: "Representation of Minors in the Entertainment Industry"

Speaker: TBA  
Maggiano's in Buckhead  
1 CLE Hour

**Nov. 13 - 17, 2003**

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Regional Entertainment & Sports Law Seminar (Tristate Seminar held in conjunction with the State Bar Intellectual Property Section)  
Ritz Carlton, Montego Bay, Jamaica  
12 CLE Hours (1 Ethics, 1 Prof., 1.5 Trial)

**December 2003**

Section Holiday Party  
Location: TBA

**Friday, Jan. 16, 2004**

**11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Luncheon Seminar (held in conjunction with the State Bar's Midyear Meeting)  
Topic: "The Music Industry in ~~Interesting~~ **Challenging** Desperate Times: Business and Legal Realities c. 2003"  
Speaker: **Bertis Downs**, UGA Entertainment Law Professor and attorney for R.E.M. Sheraton Colony Square, Atlanta  
1 CLE Hour

**Friday, Feb. 6, 2004**

Half-day Entertainment Law Seminar (co-spon-

sored by the Georgia Lawyers for the Arts)  
Topics: Digital Downloads, Entertainment Case Law Update, Trademark Law Update, Ethics and Professionalism Panel  
Speakers: TBA  
3 CLE Hours (1 Ethics, 1 Litigation)

**March 2004**

**11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Luncheon Seminar: Sports Topics and Speakers:  
TBA  
1 CLE Hour

**April 2004**

**6 p.m.**

Section Social Event: Artist Showcase and Mixer with Law

Students  
Location: TBA

**May 2004**

**11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Luncheon Seminar  
Topic: "Television and Film"  
Speaker and Location: TBA  
1 CLE Hour

**June 2004**

**11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Luncheon Seminar (Section Annual Meeting and Elections)  
Topic, Speakers and Location: TBA  
1 CLE Hour

**BE SURE TO ATTEND:  
SECTION ELECTIONS**