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“THEORETICALLY QUARTERLY”

**Young (and Young at Heart) Lawyers Committee
The Maritime Law Association of the United States**

Message from the Chair

I considered starting off this message with by saying “Houston, we have a problem” – but, as we all know, that is not the case for our Committee. Rather, we as a Committee, have a lot to be proud of and a lot to celebrate.

We are only one week away from our Fall Meeting in Houston, and the past several months since we last met in New York have flown by. Our Committee remains busy, which certainly is a good thing. However, we could be, and should be, doing more as a Committee. To that end, it should be our Committee’s goal to make this happen.

With regard to this upcoming week, it has always been my belief that the meetings that are held in cities other than New York provide unique opportunities for the members of our Committee. Such meetings allow our membership to meet attorneys affiliated with the Admiralty Bar that may not be actively, or regularly, involved in the normal affairs of the MLA. As a result, it provides our YLC members the ability to expand their base of contacts and it provides each one of us the opportunity to add perspective to our own practices.

We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to make it to Houston, and for those that actually do make it we look forward to seeing you next week.

YLC Fall Meeting in Houston

The Young Lawyers’ Committee will be meeting next week at the law offices of Royston, Rayzor, Vickery & Williams:

**Young Lawyers’ Committee Meeting
Friday, November 12, 2010
11:00 a.m. CST
Royston, Rayzor, Vickery & Williams
711 Louisiana, Suite 500
(Conference Room 1)
Houston, Texas 77002
Tel: 713-224-8380**

As part of our Agenda, we will plan to discuss pending business items, but unlike the typical business meeting that we host every Spring in New York we expect that this meeting will be a little more casual. The meeting should present more of an opportunity to get to know other attendees, especially those individuals that we do not see on a regular basis.

Committee Liaison Program

Our Committee’s Vice Chair, **Betsy Bundy**, undertook the responsibility of reinstating a program that has not been in practice for some time – the Committee Liaison program.

As you may have noticed recently, a chart identifying the appointed Liaison volunteers was circulated to the Committee’s membership and it will also be posted on our page of the MLA website for everyone’s future reference.

In short, the theory behind the Committee Liaison program is that we assign young lawyers to serve as liaisons on each of the MLA's standing committees. The obvious goal of this program is to increase the flow of communication between the standing committees and our Committee, which hopefully will lead to opportunities for our members in those standing committees as well as allowing for the mobilization of our membership to assist in projects being undertaken by the standing committees. Going forward, it is our expectation that the Liaisons will provide a brief status report at each YLC meeting pertaining to the work of that particular standing committee.

If you have any questions regarding the Committee Liaison program, please feel free to contact **Betsy Bundy**.

YLC Social Outing

The YLC will host its latest edition of our usual "dutch-treat" social event while in Houston.

Special thanks goes to **Richard Branca** of the Royston Rayzor law firm for coordinating this event.

Date: Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010

When: Following the MLA's Thursday night event at the Houston Museum of Natural Science

Where: Le Mistral
1400 Eldridge Parkway
Houston, TX 77077
(832) 379-8322

Transportation: Arrangements for transportation from the Museum of Natural Science to Le Mistral are being contemplated.

RSVP: If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Rich Branca at Richard.Branca@roystonlaw.com or (713) 890-3230 as soon as possible.

Current Ongoing Projects

MLA Resolutions Project - The Secretary of the MLA, **Hal Watson**, requested the assistance of the Committee for a project to research and compile all of the Resolutions passed by the Association since its formation in 1899. The work is well underway with the assistance of the following members: **Anthony Banker, Patricia O'Neill, Joseph Peck, Luis Raven, Patrick Ward, and Draughn Arbona**. We have already assigned responsibility for MLA Document Nos. 1-600, but we still need volunteers to address MLA Document Nos. 601-800.

MLA's Model Local Admiralty Rules (MLAR) - MLA Practice and Procedure Committee Chair, **Joshua Force**, requested the assistance of the Committee to provide volunteers for a project to survey the various federal District Courts around the country to determine if they have adopted some form of the MLA's Model Local Admiralty Rules (MLAR). The work has recently been completed by the following volunteer members: **Sam Blatchley, Brandon Bigelow, Daniel Cragg, Lafcadio Darling, and Ricardo Rivas**.

Call for Projects

To the standing committees: Please let us know how we can help with your projects. If you have projects in need of research or have writing opportunities that are well-suited for younger lawyers, please keep our committee in mind. Additionally, we can usually find a YLC member to assist with staffing your meeting (handling CLE paperwork, sign-in sheets, handouts, and assisting with presentation set up, etc.).

Publication Opportunities

Do you have any war stories from your practice you wish to share with others? Do you think you have a sense of humor? Consider submitting your written piece for consideration for inclusion in the **Benedict's Quarterly Maritime Bulletin**. You may write to Phil Berns at pberns@embarqmail.com.

Proctor Status

Any Associate member of the MLA who has been a member of the MLA for four years or more is eligible to apply for Proctor status with the MLA. The advantages of Proctor status are numerous, not the least of which is that a member cannot serve as a committee chair, vice-chair or director unless s/he is already a Proctor or Non-Lawyer member. Proctor applications may be obtained from the MLA Membership Secretary or may be downloaded from the MLA website (www.mlaus.org) in the "Membership Forms" section.

YLC Membership List on Website

As we announced in advance of the Spring 2010 meeting, we would very much like to clean up the Membership

List that appears on the Young Lawyers page of the MLA website. In reviewing the list, which is generated by the selections made by each of you in your own profiles, it is apparent that some individuals who are currently identified as a "Voting" member of the Committee probably should be a "Listening" member instead, and there are other individuals where the opposite should be the case.

We have noticed that many of you responded to our previous request, but there is still work to be done. Therefore, we ask again that everyone please review their profiles and to make the necessary changes to help us identify the core, active members of our Committee.

We look forward to seeing you in Houston next week!

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