

Chair's Welcome Message From Mindy Mora



I am delighted to welcome all BLS members, sponsors, spouses, guests and children to the 2011 Annual Retreat at the beautiful Ritz Carlton Beach Resort in Naples over Labor Day weekend, September 2 - 5. The Retreat Committee, chaired by Alan Aronson with Vice Chairs Lori Vaughan and Michael Chesal, continues the tradition of providing an outstanding schedule of meetings, CLE, social, and recreational events.

We are starting with a drafting session of the Chapter 608 LLC Drafting Task Force. Everyone is welcome to sit in and— if the spirit moves you— to contribute to this important project. CLE credit will be available for lawyers who attend. In addition, the Bankruptcy Judicial Liaison Committee will meet Friday afternoon from 4:00 – 6:00, for some thoughtful discussion about issues impacting the bankruptcy bench and Bar statewide.

We will begin the “official” retreat activities on Friday evening with the Welcome Reception and Dinner Dance. “The Derek Trenholm Band” will be providing dinner music during the buffet dinner, and then progressing to dance music, for those of us who enjoy kicking up our heels on the dance floor. Ritz Kids will be available for children on Friday night for an additional charge billed directly to your room account. In addition, on Friday night, the Section will be hosting a separate get-together for our teenage guests at the retreat.

On Saturday, we have scheduled committee meetings to maximize free time for family and recreational activities. We are combining some of the Saturday committee meetings into joint morning sessions to provide free time in the afternoon. During our luncheon meeting on Saturday, we are honored to welcome the Hon. Justice Peggy A. Quince, a member of the Florida Supreme Court, who has agreed to address the Section. The business court judges roundtable will be held at the conclusion of the Section luncheon, which will be moderated by our own Rick Gross.

Saturday evening is our traditional Family Reception, Dinner and Casino Night Extravaganza, which is always an entertaining family event. We will again have a hospitality suite for post-dinner libations and stimulating conversation with your fellow Section members and their significant others until midnight or so.

On Sunday, we start with the popular Family Omelet Breakfast, followed by a morning of CLE programming put on by our Platinum and Gold Sponsors. There will be four concurrent sessions, which will conclude by mid-day. Sunday afternoon is free time for you to enjoy golf, tennis, beach, spa activities, or just lazing around the pool.

Sunday evening we will have an indoor reception, so folks can meet up before heading out to a night on the town of Naples – many of the finest restaurants in the area will be reserved for groups of 10 or 12, and sign-up sheets for the restaurants will be available throughout the weekend. This will give you an opportunity to get together with some old friends and make some new friends to enjoy the Naples fine dining scene. Special thanks to Jeanne Seewald for coordinating our Naples night out. When you get back to the hotel, the hospitality suite will be open and serving your favorite beverages.

On Labor Day Monday, we will hold our Executive Council meeting from 8:30 –11:30 am, although we will do our best to finish our meeting early so that we can get to enjoy more time with our families at the resort before heading home.

This is a special weekend and the hotel room block always sells out, so please make your hotel reservations now. The hotel has provided a 20% discount on all spa services, so be sure to request this discount when you take advantage of the spa. We strongly recommend that you make your spa reservations early to secure an appointment.

Please note that registration is required for all retreat scheduled activities, so please register your guests and children as well.

Special thanks to all of our sponsors, particularly our Platinum Sponsors, for their generous contributions to making the Retreat such a memorable week-end. Please be sure to get to know our sponsor representatives.

Platinum sponsors: Berger Singerman, Messina, P.A., Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod LLP, Navigant, Lexis-Nexis, Management Planning, Inc., Michael Moecker & Associates, and PCE.

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