



Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel

May 1, 2017

THIRD QUARTER REPORT By Michael McCarty Harrison

As the third quarter of my tenure as the President of the Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel draws to a close, I wanted to provide an update to our members as to the current status of the AADC.

First, membership is at an all time high with 261 members, 32 of which have joined during the 2017 calendar year alone. Welcome to all our new members! An updated Membership Directory is attached hereto. Please take a moment to peruse it and see who are your fellow members. If one or more of your partners or associates are not members, please extend them an invitation to become a member or let me know and I will be glad to do so.

Concerning the Membership Directory, we have worked diligently to update it as to all of our members' firm affiliations and contact information. However, please take a moment to assure yours is correct and, if not, let Tracey or I know so we can correct it. As a result of all new members, as well as our long standing ones who have timely paid their annual dues (hint, hint to those who have not, you know who you are), financially we are doing very well and will have more than sufficient funds for the annual meeting in August, even with the added lunch and dinner on Friday night and the band at the cocktail reception.

In that regard, preparations for the annual meeting, scheduled for August 4 -5 at the Rockefeller Institute atop beautiful Petit Jean Mountain are almost complete. We have an impressive slate of speakers lined up on a wide range of topics. A copy of the Agenda is attached hereto. As you can see, there is truly something for everyone. Vendor Exhibitors will once again be on hand with "goodies." Cooking classes are available on both Friday and Saturday (just note your interest on your application so we can reserve you and/or your spouse or significant other a spot). It's going to be a great meeting! Please sign up for it today. When you do so, be sure to also reserve your room at either the Rockefeller Institute or the Mather Lodge and select the type or room you desire (there are several different types from which to choose). I look forward to seeing you there.

The AADC Lawyer of the Year and AADC Judge of the Year have been selected. You have to come to the annual meeting though to find out who they are. Additionally, the 2017-2018 AADC officer slate has been finalized. Again, come to the meeting to find out who is on it and vote on their election.

I know you are all glad the 2017 Legislative session has drawn to a close. During it, our Legislative Committee, spearheaded by Bryan Burns, worked tirelessly to educate us all about the good, the bad and the ugly of the proposed Bills. Further, it joined with other special interest groups to help block

legislation contrary to our members and their clients' interests. It was amazing how much bad law was almost created (though still a lot was I'm sad to say). This was the first time the AADC had a presence or impact on proposed legislation. It was a nice foray into that field which I believe can be expanded upon in future Legislative sessions. Thank you to all of our Legislative Committee members for their hard work and dedication.

If you've not checked out the new AADC website, please do so. It contains the Membership Directory, applications for membership and all the prior weekly Newsletters on it should you have missed or want to re-read one. In that regard, if you have not yet submitted a Newsletter, please do so. I've had multiple members tell me how informative and helpful they are. If nothing else, please have your associate or law clerk submit one. It is very easy, just email it to me at mharrison@wdt-law.com and I will make sure it gets published to the members. I welcome all lengths, topics and authors.

A theme (I know I've harped on) these past nine months has been our members taking a more active role in the Arkansas Bar Association's governing bodies. If we don't step up, we have no one but ourselves to blame if ATLA members do and steer the Bar in directions contrary to our's and our clients' interests. In that regard, I am proud to report, mostly due to Tom Curry's efforts (nagging), that more AADC members than ever before have applied for positions on both the Board of Governors and the House of Delegates. For the first time in longer than many can remember, there were almost no vacant positions left unfilled and/or ATLA members running unopposed. Ballots have gone out, so please vote for all AADC members in your district for both the Board of Governors and

House of Delegates. If you are unsure which applicants are AADC members, please consult the attached Membership Directory. Hopefully we will have many in positions of leadership in the years to come who can steer the Bar in a direction to better serve us.

Bryan Burns and Jamie Huffman Jones were recently appointed to the Bar's Jurisprudence and Law Reform Committee. Further, Tom Curry was appointed its Chairman, which also makes him a member of the Bar's Legislation Committee. The AADC's presence in the legal community in Arkansas continues to grow. The Arkansas Bar Association has asked more and more for our input and participation. At a recent DRI meeting, the DRI leadership noted our growth and involvement in the Legislative session and Bar leadership. Let's keep up the good work in the months and years to come. We are better together!



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We are better together: Support the AADC