

value: a committee meeting, seminar, and ethics credit at no cost.

This year's Federal Judicial Roundtable Program, to be held June 28th in Orlando, may be the best ever attended — by both judges and practitioners (and students). Also a no-cost event, this year's program features at least 22 federal judges from all three federal districts in Florida. Very brief mini-lectures on evidentiary problems common to both criminal and civil attorneys will spark the four rotations of roundtable discussions. Three hours of CLE credit will be awarded attendees. Subcommittee chair Lawrence D. Goodman and his subcommittee have created a marketing plan that is aimed at offering the program to all federal practitioners as well as law students at nearby law schools — although seating is limited and on a first-come, first-reserved basis (RSVP to dstewart@flabar.org). Kudos go to Daniella Friedman, Patricia D. Barksdale, Tucker H. Byrd, Barbara M. Arco, James M. Craig, Sarah H. Bohr, Sheila D. Norman, Stephanie H. Luongo, and Luis A. Cabassa for their consistent attendance to the many details of offering the program. A reception, also no cost, will follow the program to allow for more informal interaction between judges and attorneys.

Finally, the committee will soon embark on updating the online *Florida Federal Court Judges' Practice Guide*, an invaluable tool for adhering to the "know thy judge" maxim of effective practice. The electronic age now permits the judges to update their individual questionnaires and practice pointers online as frequently as they wish. Our committee will make sure that the judges know how to do this with a minimum amount of angst. This publication is a service of the committee and is free to the public.

The committee would not function as cohesively as it has this year without the efforts of vice chairs Griscti and Craig and the countless hours of work by Goodman. And, of course, the committee would not be able to function at all without the ever-present and reliable help of Bar staff liaison, Gerry Rose.

Did I mention that all the great programs of this committee are free? CATHERINE PEEK McEWEN, *Chair*

Florida Bar Journal and News Editorial Board

The Florida Bar *Journal* and Florida Bar *News* offer relevant, high quality articles about Florida law, the legal community, and Bar activities to over 80,000 readers.

It is the responsibility of the Editorial Board to review articles submitted to the *Journal* for publication and evaluate the articles on the basis of relevance, style, and substance. Board members offer a critique of each article, including an assessment of the quality of writing; substantive content, including thoroughness of research and analysis; style; reader appeal; and technical expertise. It is this rigorous review process that ensures the quality of feature articles published in the *Journal*.

This year, the board recognizes the work of Michael D. Starks, author of "Deconstructing Damages for Destruction of Evidence — Martino Eradicates the First-party Tort of Spoliation of Evidence," (July/August 2006), as the recipient of the 2006 Florida Bar *Journal* Excellence in Writing Award. Each year, a committee of volunteers from the editorial board selects a recipient of the award based on the quality, difficulty, and style of the article. Thank you to those Editorial Board members who served on the selection committee.

The *Journal* also featured two special issues this year — one on law-related education and a second on appellate practice.

The law-related education special issue, which highlighted the importance of civic education to democracy, the electoral process, and the legal system, was published in November 2006. A focus on civic education has been a priority for Bar leaders, members of the judiciary, and the legislature. In addition to our regular circulation, the issue was distributed to school boards and education leaders. I thank the members of the Editorial Board who reviewed the articles for this special issue: Erin Larrinaga, Jay Lechner, Kristi Bergemann, Scott Fingerhut, Juan Gomez, Wendy Loquasto, Chris McAdams, Lisa Macci, Mark Osherow, Michael Shafir, and Sorraya Solages. I would also like to thank Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis, Annette Boyd Pitts who is the executive director of The Florida Law Related Education Association, Inc., and the authors who contributed

their knowledge of this important subject for their time and dedication in the creation of this issue.

The appellate practice special issue was published in April 2007 and featured a wide range of articles for the novice and seasoned practitioner alike. Some of the topics covered include standards of review, effective brief writing, motion practice, e-filing, and extraordinary writs. I thank the review committee of this special issue for their diligence and dedication: Jay Lechner, Kristi Bergemann, Carrol Cherry, Scott Fingerhut, Juan Gomez, Elysha Luken, Julia Luyster, Chris McAdams, Alyssa Ruge, and Sorraya Solages. Finally, I thank Bill Snihur and May Cain for serving as guest editors and for putting together a great special issue.

In addition to its 10 regular issues, in 2006, the *Journal* again published the annual directory, which features listings for active and inactive members, state and federal courts, certified lawyers, and service providers. The information published in the directory, particularly the court section, also is available online in both Web-based and printable PDF formats. Both the *Journal* and *News* are available online at www.floridabar.org and have searchable databases for back issues.

At the annual convention in June 2006, Cheryle Dodd, editor of the *Journal*, presented the Deborah M. Smoot Memorial Editor's Award to Pearl Goldman for six years of outstanding service as a member of the editorial board. Staff also reported that they continue to keep page counts down in both the *News* and *Journal* in compliance with budgetary requirements set by the Board of Governors.

The Florida Bar *News* continues to be the primary means by which the Bar communicates topical information to its members. The twice-monthly tabloid is produced by a staff of professional journalists and has been both lauded by Bar members for its editorial independence and acknowledged nationally as a model vehicle for information about association activities. The *News* strives to publish news, columns, and other information that help advance the education, competence, ethical practice, and public responsibility of Florida lawyers and increase their awareness of the official and informal activities of the profession.