



# BAR ASSOCIATION OF ERIE COUNTY

## COMMITTEE REQUEST FORM

The Bar Association of Erie County has long been known for its strong, active membership. Our comprehensive committee structure forms a solid foundation upon which this strength is built. With more than 15 substantive law committees, plus committees on the courts and other areas of special interest, there are opportunities for each and every member to be involved. You are invited to take advantage of those committees which are of greatest value to you and your practice.

Your participation in our programs and activities helps us to build a strong and effective forum for addressing the issues we face as practicing lawyers. Members frequently tell us that our committees offer an enjoyable way to connect with colleagues and keep pace with the profession. We value your involvement and as always, your comments, questions and suggestions are encouraged.

The following is a list of Bar Association committees. Please indicate your selection and return the request form to the Bar Association of Erie County, 438 Main Street, Sixth Floor, Buffalo, New York 14202, or fax to (716) 852-7641.

### COURTS COMMITTEES

- Appellate Practice Committee
- Federal Practice Committee
- Immigration Law Committee
- Justice Courts Committee
- Practice and Procedure in Family Court Committee
- Practice and Procedure in Surrogate's Court Committee
- Workers' Compensation Committee

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee
- Committee on Consumer Protection (Ad Hoc Committee)
- Committee on Veterans' & Service-Members' Legal Issues
- Committee to Assist Lawyers with Depression
- Health Care Law Committee
- Minority Lawyers Outreach Committee
- Senior Lawyers Committee
- Small Law Office Technology Committee
- Unlawful Practice of Law Committee

### PROGRAM COMMITTEES

- Admission to the Bar Committee
- By-Laws Committee
- Insurance Plans Committee
- Professional Continuity Committee
- Speakers Bureau Committee
- Young Lawyers Committee

### SUBSTANTIVE LAW COMMITTEES

- Banking Law Committee
- Commercial and Bankruptcy Law Committee
- Committee for the Disabled
- Committee on Eminent Domain and Tax Certiorari
- Cooperation with the Accounting Profession and Taxation Committee
- Corporation Law Committee
- Criminal Law Committee
- Elder Law Committee
- Environmental Law Committee
- Human Rights Committee
- Intellectual Property, Computer and Entertainment Law Committee
- International Law Committee
- Labor Law Committee
- Matrimonial and Family Law Committee
- Municipal and School Law Committee
- Negligence Committee
- Real Property Law Committee

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### PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**COURTS**  
**COMMITTEES**

**APPELLATE PRACTICE COMMITTEE**  
focuses on the advancement and identification of issues of concern to members of the bar who are engaged in appellate practice in state and federal courts.

**FEDERAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE**  
fosters an ongoing dialogue with the members of the federal judiciary who sit in this district. Each fall, the committee holds a dinner attended by all district, magistrate and bankruptcy judges from both Buffalo and Rochester. Meetings often consist of an informal discussion with one of the members of the federal bench. The committee provides regular input with respect to proposed changes to the Local Rules of Practice for the district, and conducts one major seminar each year.

**IMMIGRATION LAW COMMITTEE**  
provides programs for the immigration bar and mentoring for newer practitioners in the field. The committee works with the local chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers' Association on liaison projects with the Immigration Service.

**JUSTICE COURTS COMMITTEE**  
offers members the opportunity to discuss current Justice Courts issues with attorneys practicing in the towns and villages, as well as with many of the judges who are members of this committee.

**PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE  
IN FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE**  
serves as a communication link between the Bar Association and the bench, striving to better the quality of the practice of lawyers before the Family Court bench. The committee features guest speakers at its meetings and produces Noonday lectures and CLE seminars.

**PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE IN  
SURROGATE'S COURT COMMITTEE**  
meets monthly to discuss topics of interest and issues that affect Surrogate's practice. The committee provides educational seminars for Bar Association members on trust and estate issues as well as an annual Noonday Lecture on those topics. The Liaison subcommittee meets with Erie County Surrogate Barbara Howe and her court staff throughout the year to address issues of importance in Surrogate's practice.

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
COMMITTEE**  
meets periodically to discuss issues affecting practice before the Workers' Compensation Board. The committee takes an active role in working with the Board's administration by presenting ideas and concerns of the bar as well as responding to proposed legislation and Board rules.

**PROGRAM**  
**COMMITTEES**

**ADMISSION TO THE BAR COMMITTEE**  
reviews the prevailing methods, scope, and adequacy of legal education as it relates to admission to the bar and practice of law. *cont.*

**PROGRAM**  
**COMMITTEES continued...**

The committee designs and produces an annual educational program for new admittees including a welcoming reception to introduce new attorneys to the Association's leadership and members of the judiciary.

**BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**  
provides interpretations of the Association's By-Laws and drafts proposed amendments at the request of the Association's officers.

**INSURANCE PLANS COMMITTEE**  
receives information regarding existing and proposed insurance policies for sponsorship by the Bar Association. The committee reviews health, disability, life and professional liability insurance as well as other types of policies to be offered to members of the Bar Association.

**PROFESSIONAL  
CONTINUITY COMMITTEE**  
assists an attorney's clients in obtaining other counsel when that attorney's practice is interrupted without an appropriate successor.

**SPEAKERS BUREAU COMMITTEE**  
serves as a panel of speakers on various topics for schools, civic and social organizations.

**YOUNG LAWYERS COMMITTEE**  
consists of attorneys who have been practicing for 10 years or less. The committee provides leadership, networking and social opportunities and periodically produces educational programs on topics of interest to young lawyers. In addition, the committee is charged with coordinating the annual High School Mock Trial Tournament.

**SPECIAL**  
**COMMITTEES**

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE  
RESOLUTION COMMITTEE**  
educates both attorneys and the public about alternative processes that exist for the resolution of disputes without resort to litigation, and the resulting benefits and / or risks of using any such ADR procedures. This goal is accomplished by CLE programs sponsored by the committee, public education programs, and various special projects.

**COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION**  
monitors developments and changes in both federal and state law governing sales and credit practices involving consumer goods and finances. The emphasis of the committee will be on issues relating to among other topics, credit card practices, debt collection abuse, foreclosure and mortgage servicing abuse, changes in regulations of financial institutions and mandatory arbitration clauses. The committee will provide ongoing legal education to its members in these areas, and present both a Noonday lecture and a CLE seminar on current topics.

**SPECIAL**  
**COMMITTEES continued...**

**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AND  
SERVICE-MEMBERS' LEGAL ISSUES**  
creates a network of lawyers knowledgeable in veteran and service members' law and produces programs and publishes articles to keep attorneys abreast of relevant legal issues. The committee also coordinates community outreach to increase awareness of legal issues particular to veterans and service members.

**COMMITTEE TO ASSIST  
LAWYERS WITH DEPRESSION**  
coordinates, assists and supports activities and resources dedicated to assisting lawyers in the Association who suffer from depression.

**HEALTH CARE LAW COMMITTEE**  
educates members and others about developments and trends in the field through CLE seminars and speakers at monthly meetings. Consideration is given to all legal and ethical issues affecting physicians, hospitals and other providers of health care services. Among these issues are medical staff and physician relations; antitrust, fraud and abuse, tax exempt and other related issues; reimbursement and payment; hospital and physician liability; professional licensure and disciplinary actions; risk financing and insurance strategies; patients' rights; legal issues raised by AIDS and HIV; and the confidentiality of medical records. A Liaison Committee between the Health Care Law Committee and the Medical Society of the County of Erie, which meets monthly, has developed guidelines for interprofessional relations between physicians and attorneys.

**MINORITY LAWYERS  
OUTREACH COMMITTEE**  
is charged with devising ways to enrich professional opportunities for lawyers of color. The committee works to enhance career objectives and make the practice of law more meaningful to minority attorneys. It also develops programs and activities to assist law students of color with internships and employment opportunities.

**SENIOR LAWYERS COMMITTEE**  
serves the interest and needs of the legal profession and the public by sharing the accumulated knowledge and experience of its members.

**SMALL LAW OFFICE  
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**  
is designed to provide sole practitioners and those in small law offices with a forum to discuss technology and how it can enhance the efficiency of their law practice. Whether it be computers, software, hardware, the Internet, telephones, or any other type of device that may be helpful, the committee members will offer advice on how best to use technology. Each meeting will provide members with an opportunity to ask questions and, hopefully, get answers to their most perplexing technology problems. The committee will also have speakers on a wide variety of technology topics.

**SPECIAL**  
**COMMITTEES continued...**

**UNLAWFUL PRACTICE OF  
LAW COMMITTEE**

seeks to protect the public against the unlawful practice of law by investigating allegations of unlawful practice. It may receive complaints, take evidence, and upon Board approval, present cases for prosecution, present complaints to the state attorney general, and have charge of actions instituted by the Association for the unlawful practice of law.

**SUBSTANTIVE**  
**LAW COMMITTEES**

**BANKING LAW COMMITTEE**

monitors developments and changes in both federal and state law governing the activities of financial institutions and serves as an educational forum for its members and the bar at large. Its emphasis is primarily on issues relating to commercial credit transaction, including the perfection of security interests in Uniform Commercial Code and non-Uniform Commercial Code collateral, the structuring of credit transactions, and the rights and obligations of lenders and borrowers. It also addresses issues related to consumer retail banking.

**COMMERCIAL AND BANKRUPTCY  
LAW COMMITTEE**

deals with current substantive and procedural issues concerning bankruptcy law and the bankruptcy courts and commercial and business litigation in both state and federal courts. The committee provides ongoing legal education to its members in these areas, and each year also presents both a Noonday lecture and a CLE seminar on current topics. The committee also serves as a liaison for the local bar to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of New York.

**COMMITTEE FOR THE DISABLED**

serves the interests of mentally and physically disabled persons by: educating the legal community about the special needs of the disabled; encouraging the legal representation of the disabled; advocating for accessibility of services; and advocating for the rights of disabled persons by monitoring legislative and judicial trends.

**COMMITTEE ON EMINENT DOMAIN  
AND TAX CERTIORARI**

meets to update members on changes in the law and procedures in the fields. The committee invites guest speakers to meetings and holds CLE seminars for Bar Association members.

**COOPERATION WITH THE ACCOUNTING  
PROFESSION & TAXATION COMMITTEE**

Formerly two separate committees, the Accounting and Taxation Committee has a twofold purpose. The first is to maintain a continuing dialogue with members of the accounting profession, promoting matters of joint concern, exchanging information and cultivating a better understanding between the two professions. The second purpose is to keep pace with new

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**SUBSTANTIVE**  
**LAW COMMITTEES continued...**

developments and practical applications of federal, state and local laws relating to taxation of every kind. This committee co-sponsors an annual Tax Institute and presents seminars and discussions related to accounting and taxation matters. Committee members also review pending legislation and provide relevant information for dissemination to the bar at large.

**CORPORATION LAW COMMITTEE**

is comprised of members who are business law practitioners with expertise in various business entities including partnerships and corporations. The committee observes and considers developments, changes and practical applications of state business laws.

**CRIMINAL LAW COMMITTEE**

is a group of attorneys primarily engaged in criminal practice, both defense and prosecution, who meet on a monthly basis to discuss and/or consider matters which impact on the criminal justice system and the practice of criminal law. The committee also sponsors CLE seminars and Noonday lectures and is charged with coordinating the Annual Stop DWI Student Assembly Program.

**ELDER LAW COMMITTEE**

shares information among its members, other Bar Association members, and the public regarding issues of major concern to the elderly and to practitioners representing them. Such issues include access to health care, Medicaid, asset planning, housing, community resources and institutional placement, pension benefits, health care decision making, private and Medicare health insurance, administrative proceedings, attorneys' fees, veterans' benefits, and exploitation of the elderly.

**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW COMMITTEE**

provides environmental practitioners and other attorneys with a forum for discussion of current environmental legal trends, DEC/EPA regulatory, statutory, and enforcement initiatives, and current or emerging case law. It also provides aggressive education and community/ academic outreach programs. The committee has frequent speakers on a wide variety of environmental topics and also participates in CLE programs.

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**

is concerned with the human rights of people. The committee has examined the conditions of local jails, followed local cases that have human rights implications and heard from experts on the problems of refugees.

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY,  
COMPUTER AND ENTERTAINMENT  
LAW COMMITTEE**

shares information about contract issues in the music, film and sports industries; publicity rights; Internet and computer law issues; copyrights; trademarks; patents; trade secrets; and unfair competition. About half of each meeting is devoted to a presentation from a committee member or guest speaker on a current topic of legal interest.

**SUBSTANTIVE**  
**LAW COMMITTEES continued...**

**INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMITTEE**

promotes the practice and study of international law in Erie County and the City of Buffalo, acting as both a producer of programs and activities and a point of contact for members of the Bar. Acting through the board of directors of the Association, the committee reaches out to the Bar, the business community, and institutions of higher education and acts as a catalyst for dialogue, education and the development of international legal practice. The committee remains open to all areas of international law, giving due regard to both private international law public international law and human rights issues. The committee oversees the continued development of the Bar Association's Sister Cities Program with the President of the Association and, through that program, promotes the development of the Bar's international interests and objectives.

**LABOR LAW COMMITTEE**

consists of attorneys involved in all aspects of labor and employment law. This includes employment discrimination law and private and public sector labor and management relations. The monthly meetings tend to be educational, usually featuring a presentation by a committee member or by an outside guest speaker.

**MATRIMONIAL AND FAMILY  
LAW COMMITTEE**

is one of the largest and most active committees of the Bar Association. Committee activities include monthly meetings featuring discussions of new substantive law, court rules and guest speakers on topics relevant to the practice. Seminars featuring presentations by experts on issues important to matrimonial practitioners are held annually.

**MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL  
LAW COMMITTEE**

consists of attorneys involved in all aspects of federal, state and local laws related to municipalities and schools. The committee provides a forum for these attorneys to share information on issues of common concern and interest and to consider current developments and changes in the law.

**NEGLIGENCE COMMITTEE**

fosters cooperation between the plaintiffs and defense bar in order to encourage the efficient administration of justice. The committee updates and educates the general bar about recent developments in the field of negligence law through continuing legal education seminars. It also considers and makes recommendations about proposed legislation affecting the practice of negligence law.

**REAL PROPERTY LAW COMMITTEE**

considers the development and practical workings of the law relating to real property, conveyancing, mortgages, foreclosures, receiverships and other related subjects.

*Questions?*

*Donna Dalka, Committee Coordinator*  
*852-8687*