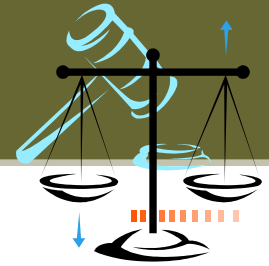




CRIMINAL LAW SECTION MONTHLY UPDATE

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THE FLORIDA BAR CRIMINAL LAW SECTION
651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399
www.flacsls.org E-mail: wgraham@flabar.org Phone: 850/561-5628

Message from the Chair

By: Donnie Murrell, Chair

Hello from the Criminal Law Section! You haven't heard from us in a while—maybe too long a while. You're getting this by email as part of our Section's efforts to demonstrate how new and improved we are. We are making efforts—small but sincere efforts—to take advantage of new technology and stay more in touch with our members.

We are also making efforts to demonstrate how relevant we are to your practice. Whether you are a prosecutor in Miami-Dade, a public defender in Orlando, a judge in Jacksonville or a private defense lawyer in Pensacola, we have something to offer you. Our Section has always offered excellent CLE programs as well as wonderful networking opportunities with lawyers from around the state. The crown jewel of our projects has always been the Gerald Bennett Prosecutor/Public Defender Trial Training Seminar. Every summer young assistant state attorneys and public defenders from around the State gather at the UF Law School for intensive NITA-based trial training. Faculty members are experienced volunteers from PD and prosecutor offices as well as judges, private attorneys and barristers from England. We are rightfully very proud of this program—the only one in the country that I am aware of that trains State Attorneys and PDs side-by-side. If you are new to the profession and haven't been, you should go. If you're a mossy-backed old-timer, you should teach.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Advanced Federal Practice	January 15, 2009
Masters of DUI	January 16, 2009
Mid-year Executive Council Meeting	January 16, 2009
Criminal Law Rules of Evidence	March 5, 2009
Criminal Law Update	Date TBD
Annual Executive Council Meeting	June 26, 2009
Gerald T. Bennett PPD Program	August 1-7, 2009

Criminal Law Alert

by Carolyn Snurkowski

[Criminal Law Alert issued on 09/17/2008](#)

[Criminal Law Alert issued on 09/11/2008](#)

[Criminal Law Alert issued on 09/04/2008](#)

We also have a new staff person: Paige Graham. Connie Stewart, our den mother for thirty years, retired last year, much to my horror as in-coming chair. Connie had nurtured us, protected us and made sure everything was right for so many years it did not seem possible the Section could function without her. I am happy and relieved to report that Paige has jumped in with both feet and doing a great job. She has enormous energy and really wants to see the Section do well. Connie must have had a hand in getting Paige to us.

So what has the Criminal Law Section done for you lately? How about trying to help with the court system budget crisis? The budget crisis in criminal justice is real and it affects us all. Judges cannot be expected to function without JAs. Young

prosecutors and PDs with crushing law school debts cannot be expected to go years without a raise. Senior lawyers cannot be expected to take a pay-cut disguised as a “furlough”.

Our Section is leading a round-table discussion of the “players” in the criminal justice system in an effort to put together a united front when dealing with the Legislature during the next session. Our hope is that by standing together we can effectively lobby for adequate funding for the entire criminal justice system without the various components having to fight each other for scraps. We have enlisted the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense (SCLAID) which agreed to provide funding for the Spangenberg Group to help us draft a final paper outlining our needs. Our Section voted to spend Section money to hire Rod Smith, former State Attorney for Alachua County, former state senator and former candidate for governor to lobby on behalf of the Section for better funding for criminal justice. The Florida Bar is getting on-board. The Florida Bar lobbying corp met with us and is trying to help us

in our efforts. It may work, it may not, but at least we are trying.

This is a long letter, we have a lot of catching up to do. Future messages will be shorter because we hope to be more current. Our Section is doing a lot. We are very busy, we’d love to have you involved. Please contact me, or Paige or any member of the Executive Council if you’d like to be more active.



THE FLORIDA BAR
CRIMINAL LAW SECTION
 651 East Jefferson Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399

 Phone: 850/561-5628
 Fax: 850/561-5825
 E-Mail: wgraham@flabar.org

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www.flacis.org

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