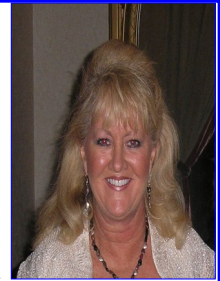


COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conference Committee

By: Marleen Young, D/NJ



Denver - Mile High City to be our Site for 2011

The "Big Easy" in 2010 will be hard to top, but I think as word gets out about how much the attendees take away from these conferences, we will be able to get record-breaking attendance again this year. We normally have about 45 to 50 attendees at the conferences, but last year we had a whopping 72 attendees (not even counting guests)! Thank you to everyone who took the time and effort to join us. I hope you were not disappointed.



Time once again to start planning your trip to the 2011 ABA Educational Conference. Denver will be the host for 2011. Denver has one of the "most walkable" downtowns in the nation. Within a mile radius of the Colorado Convention Center (the building with the Big Blue Bear peeking into the windows), there are three sports stadiums (Denver has a record eight professional teams), the nation's second-largest performing arts complex, two new art museums with a third under construction, a history museum, a U.S. Mint, a river offering whitewater rafting, the country's only downtown amusement park, a world-class aquarium, and more than 300 restaurants.

After you have visited some of these restaurants, Denver also has 500 rental bikes available for you at 40 downtown stations for you to ride over 850 miles of paved, off-street trails to burn off those calories! Each of the sturdy, three-speed, bright red Trek bikes comes with a wire basket, built-in light and lock. Denver visitors can purchase a \$5, 24-hour membership with a credit card at any B-cycle station. After becoming a member, riders can pick up a B-cycle from any station and drop it off at any other station. All rides of 30 minutes or less are free and rides up to one hour are only a dollar, with prices going up from there.

Denver is the gateway to the Rocky Mountains. The city itself is filled with adventures, shopping, cultural attractions and history. On day trips, it's possible to drive up the highest paved road in North America, ride narrow gauge steam locomotives, gamble in old mining towns, shop in quaint Victorian villages, go whitewater rafting or hike in national parks. The No. 1 free activity is riding the shuttle on the 16th Street Mall. Shuttle buses stop on every corner of this mile-long pedestrian promenade.



We selected the Doubletree Hotel Denver located in the Stapleton area of Denver. (Visit their website http://doubletree1.hilton.com/en_US/dt/hotel/RLDV-DT-Doubletree-Hotel-Denver-Colorado/index.do to take a tour of the hotel.) Although this hotel is not right in the middle of the city, it has offered us a ton of benefits to stay there and even without these extras this hotel fits us perfectly. It is a beautiful hotel with a warm, family atmosphere. They will give us free transportation to and from the airport (a \$45-\$60 value one way), and also will provide free of charge, the transportation to our off-site closing banquet. They have free transportation (takes about 5 minutes) that runs to the Shops of Northfield and Quebec

Square every half hour from the hotel's front door and also to the 29th Avenue Town Center with all of its great restaurants. Room rate will be \$139 single/double. Attendees staying at the hotel will also get a 10% discount for all restaurants in the hotel. (Sorry, not the bar!)



The CBA portion of the conference will be Tuesday & Wednesday, October 11-12, 2011. Opening reception, Wednesday, October 12, 2011; the ABA portion (Advanced Bankruptcy Seminar) will be Thursday, October 13, 2011, and regular ABA sessions on Friday, October 14, 2011; closing banquet - Friday, October 14, 2011. The location for the closing banquet will be a special treat in a unique venue.

A very useful website to visit prior to arriving is www.denver.org/tourism. This website is run by the Denver Convention & Visitors Bureau with links to everything you should need for your visit.

(cont'd. on pg. 19)

Conference ...*(cont'd. from pg. 18)*

Don't forget to check with your court to see if funding is available to offset some of your costs to attend. (See ABJA Newsletter of June 2008, page 20, for details or contact [Cindy Korbel@wiwb.uscourts.gov](mailto:Cindy.Korbel@wiwb.uscourts.gov) via email.)

Future newsletter articles will cover more information for planning purposes

NOTE TO CBA's - Don't forget to attach the CBA Certificate of Attendance Form when sending your CLE/CEU credits to Ann.



Certification for Bankruptcy Assistants Committee

By: Ann Virgadamo, ED/LA

Well, I for one can say I had a great time this year in my City. Unfortunately, I heard somewhere there are pictures of our crew in honor of Mardi Gras. We should be called, "The Krewe of the ABJA." Anyway, I hope everyone else had a good time too. I thank all of you who participated in both the ABJA Conference and the CBA Program and for supporting the City of New Orleans when we really needed it. Thank you for visiting the Big Easy!

Congratulations to the attendees who passed the exam! The number of Certified Bankruptcy Assistants (CBA) is growing each year. And kudos to our instructors who continue to make our CBA Program a success! We have a great group of instructors who traveled with this program for the past several years or more. They are the **Honorable Brian K. Tester**, Puerto Rico; the **Honorable Douglas D. Dodd**, Louisiana; **Claude C. Lightfoot, Jr. Esq.**, Louisiana; and **Tamara Blenkhorn, Esq.**, Florida. They instructors also have their own flare of teaching these courses and are always informative and interesting.

Once again, this year's comments taken from our survey were really good. Here are some of the quoted comments on the CBA program: "The training overall was excellent." "The training was wonderful and kudos to the speakers." "Very informative, humorous, and interesting." "It was an easy atmosphere, the friendliness of the ABJA members, and opportunity to meet colleagues." and "It was a great learning experience."

One comment that we get every year is that the Code and Rules class should be one full day. When we first started the program, the whole program was three days. The Code and Rules class was on the first day. Grammar and writing, legal research and ethics were on the second day. The exam was on the third day. As years went on, because of the hotel and other expenses of putting on the conference, the ABJA had to opt out of having the third day. Another reason that we changed it from three days to two days is to ease the financial impact on the many judicial assistants, legal assistants and paralegals who pay for this seminar themselves.

On behalf of the CBA Committee and the ABJA, we appreciate everyone's comments, and we thank all of you who attended. We try to improve our conference each year by listening to your comments and applying your concerns and needs. Your positive responses and encouragement is what we strive for as an organization. We continue to take pride in what we do and will try to bring you new opportunities in education to enhance your future potential and experience. You, the members and associate members, make this possible.

REMEMBER: For those who intend to take the Bankruptcy Certification Seminar, I **strongly** suggest that you register early and not wait until the last minute!
