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2009-02-20 H. Thomas Wells, Jr. ABA Presidential Correspondence

H. Thomas Wells Jr.

University of Alabama School of Law

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CORRESPONDENCE LOG

H. Thomas Wells, Jr.

February 20, 2009

Origin	Correspondence	Date	Rcvd	Status (All suggested dispositions subject to review by TW)	CCs (Informational copies)
email	Carlos Loperena, Barra Mexicana <u>cloperena@prodigy.net.mx</u> Ltr: On Feb. 26 he will take office as President of the Mexican Bar Association; happy to look for common goals as discussed in Mexico City.	2/6		<i>NRN - Kash Sullivan sent response.</i>	
IL	Margaret H. Marshall, President Conference of Chief Justices Ltr: Thanks for providing closing remarks at the CCJ meeting in Scottsdale.	2/3	2/9	<i>Ira will draft response for HTW.</i>	
IL	Robert K. Walsh, President American Inns of Court Ltr - re: The Warren E. Burger Writing Competition	2/1	2/9	<i>NRN - Forwarded to Jeanne Gray, CPR.</i>	
IL	Lawrence T. O'Brien Chicago, IL Ltr - re: survey results of five professions	2/5	2/11	<i>NRN</i>	
email	Mark Wise <u>wisecrack@gmail.com</u> Ltr - re: dissatisfaction with book purchase from ABA Books	2/10		<i>TW sent email response 2/20</i>	

ABA President

From: Carlos Loperena [cloperena@prodigy.net.mx]
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 11:55 AM
To: twells@maynardcooper.com; ABA President
Subject: Barra Mexicana
Attachments: Asamblea 26-feb-09.pdf

Dear Tommy,

This February 26 I'll take office as President of the Barra Mexicana (Mexican Bar Association).

I'll be happy to look for common goals of our organizations as we talked about when we met in Mexico City.

Best regards,

Carlos

PRESIDENTES DE LA BARRA

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Fernando Nariaga (1925-26)	Manuel G. Escobedo (1963-64)
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Juan Rodríguez Gómez (1957-58)	Luis Enrique Grajeda Tago (2007-2008)
Antonio Martínez Haíz (1959-60)	Carlos Loysera Ruiz (2009-2010)

BMA

LA BARRA MEXICANA,
COLEGIO DE ABOGADOS, A. C.

INVITA A USTED A SU

ASAMBLEA GENERAL

Y

TOMA DE POSESION

DE SU NUEVO

CONSEJO DIRECTIVO

JUEVES 26 DE FEBRERO DE 2009
A LAS 19:00 HORAS

SALON DE FIESTAS DEL CLUB
UNIVERSITARIO

Paseo de la Reforma 150,
colonia Juárez, México, D.F.

ORDEN DEL DIA

- 1.- Informe del Presidente del Consejo Directivo,
Dr. Luis Enrique Graham Tapia.
 - 2.- Informe de la Tesorería.
 - 3.- Resolución definitiva sobre solicitudes de
ingreso de barristas y aspirantes.
 - 4.- Entrega de diplomas a los asociados
aceptados.
 - 5.- Protesta y toma de posesión de los consejeros
electos para el bienio 2009 - 2010
 - 6.- Mensaje del nuevo Presidente de la Barra,
Lic. Carlos Loperena Ruiz.
-

Conference of Chief Justices

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Brenda A. Williams
National Center for State Courts
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 259-1841
FAX: (757) 259-1520
E-mail: bwilliams@ncsc.org
www.ncsonline.org

February 3, 2009

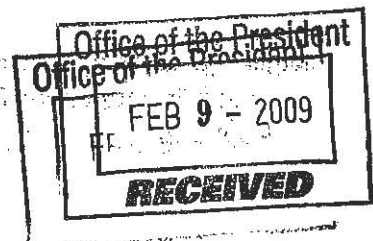
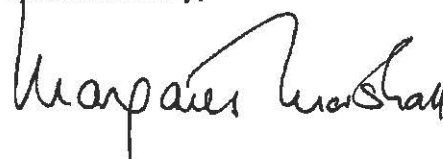
H. Thomas Wells, Jr., President
American Bar Association
321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654-7598

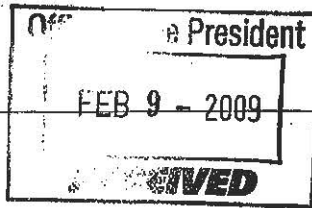
Dear President Wells,

As one president to another, I thank you for providing the closing remarks at the Conference of Chief Justices in Scottsdale last week. Your attendance at our midyear meeting certainly "raised the bar." I regret not hearing your address. As I know you know, pressing commitments at the Court in Boston on Thursday, caused me to fly home early because of weather warnings.

I look forward to seeing you in Boston next week.

Yours sincerely,





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Ex Officio
- Michael A. McConnell, Esq.**
Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP
Ex Officio

February 1, 2009

H. Thomas Wells, Jr.
President
American Bar Association
321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60610

Dear Mr. Neukom,

The Warren E. Burger Writing Competition is designed to encourage outstanding scholarship that "promotes the ideals of excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism within the legal profession," the core mission of the American Inns of Court.

Chief Justice Burger was a lifelong advocate of legal ethics and civility and a "founding father" of the American Inns of Court movement. The American Inns of Court is a national association of judges, lawyers and professors of law and their students who endeavor to maintain the highest standards of the legal profession.

The American Inns of Court invites judges, lawyers, professors, students, scholars and other authors to participate in the competition by submitting an original, unpublished essay of 10,000 to 25,000 words on a topic of their choice addressing issues of legal excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism.

The winning entry will be decided by a panel of judges comprised of Dean Stephen Gillers of New York University School of Law; Professor Geoffrey C. Hazard of the University of Pennsylvania Law School; Professor Robert M. Wilcox of the University of South Carolina School of Law; and, Professor Nancy J. Moore of Boston University School of Law.

The author of the winning submission will receive a cash prize of \$5,000 and the winning essay will be published in the *South Carolina Law Review*. The Warren E. Burger Prize will be presented to the author at the American Inns of Court annual Celebration of Excellence at the United States Supreme Court on October 17, 2009. Other submitted works may also be eligible for law journal publication or featured in *The Bench*, the national magazine of the American Inns of Court.

Complete rules of the Warren E. Burger Writing Competition are enclosed. Additional copies may be downloaded from the American Inns of Court Website, www.innsforcourt.org. Click Awards and then Burger Writing Prize.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Walsh
President

BG David P. Carey, USA (Retired)
Executive Director



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WARREN E. BURGER PRIZE

The American Inns of Court sponsors the Warren E. Burger Prize to encourage thoughtful consideration of the practical application of the highest principles of professionalism in the American legal community. Through this competition, significant contributions to the body of scholarship in the areas of excellence, civility, ethics and professionalism will be recognized and rewarded.

RULES

Topic

The author should address one or more aspects of legal excellence, civility, ethics or professionalism within the legal profession. The selected issue(s) should be of contemporary significance with clear relevance to the legal community at large.

Dates

Deadline for submission of materials: postmarked by June 15, 2009

Announcement of winner: September 1, 2009

Presentation: October 17, 2009 at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, DC

Submission Information

Submissions must be original and unpublished works of 10,000 -- 25,000 words including footnotes. Either independent or collaborative submissions are allowed. All participants in drafting the final submission must be designated as co-authors. Research assistants shall be acknowledged by name in an appropriate footnote.

Each author or co-author may participate in only one entry per year. A complete submission will include a completed cover page, one original copy of the paper, and 3.5" diskette or CD containing both the cover page information and paper in Microsoft Word or Corel Word Perfect format for PC. Incomplete submissions will not be considered. Submissions shall not be stapled or bound. A single binder clip should secure the cover page and the article.

Cover Page

All blanks should be typed or legibly printed. The original, signed cover page should be attached to the submission.

Contact Information

Submissions should be addressed to:

Cindy Dennis
Awards and Scholarships Coordinator
American Inns of Court
1229 King Street, Second Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

For information or questions, please contact Ms. Dennis by phone at (800) 233-3590 ext. 104 or by E-mail to cdennis@innsofcourt.org



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STYLE REQUIREMENTS

Authors should submit entries on 8½ x 11 white paper, double-spaced, 1" margins. Use footnotes, not endnotes. The body and footnotes will be of the same font – Times New Roman (or equivalent), 12 point.

Only the first page of the paper will contain the name of the article. It shall be in bold face, centered in the first line of the paper. The author's name or other identifying marks or references must not appear anywhere in the body of the paper. Do not include page numbers.

Guidelines for the body of text should generally conform to any good style guide, such as The Chicago Manual of Style.

Footnotes and citations should conform to The Bluebook – A Uniform System of Citation, 16th Edition – 1996.

REVIEW PROCESS

Submissions will be received, registered and checked for completeness. Cover page information will be entered into a database and the manuscript will be assigned a tracking number, which will be used to identify it during the entire review and judging process.

Incomplete submissions and submissions postmarked by June 15, 2009 will not be considered.

Authors will be notified via E-mail (usually 7-10 days) that their submissions have been received.

The winner will be announced on or before September 1, 2009 and all authors will be promptly notified.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Entries will be reviewed according to a uniform system of evaluation. Review criteria will include:

1. Incorporation of the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and civility in the paper.
2. Perspective and objectivity.
3. Organization in a clear and logical manner.
4. Appeal and persuasiveness.
5. Presentation and quality of literary construction.

RESTRICTIONS

The Warren E. Burger Writing competition is open to all authors, scholars, judges and lawyers. Membership or affiliation with the American Inns of Court is not a requirement for consideration.

Current and former Trustees and employees of the American Inns of Court, and their immediate families may not serve as authors or co-authors of papers submitted.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional copies of the rules may be downloaded from the American Inns of Court Website, www.innsforcourt.org. This Website also provides a link to previous winning essays.



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COVER PAGE

Submitted By: _____

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Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Title: _____

Word Count: _____

Co-Authors: _____

Synopsis (200 word maximum)

I certify that the enclosed entry is an original work of the author(s) shown; that the enclosed work has not been published or accepted for publication and that I have not assigned or agreed to assign the copyright to the enclosed entry. If this submission is selected for publication, I certify that I am able to grant publication rights to the American Inns of Court or its designated publisher and hereby grant such rights.

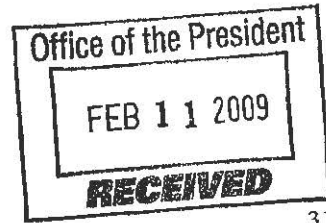
I have read the rules and guidelines of the Warren E. Burger Writing Competition and agree to abide by them and the decision of the judging committee.

SUBMITTED:

Author's Signature

Date

Law Offices of
LAWRENCE T. O'BRIEN
Suite 2200
321 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610



312-464-1424

February 5, 2009

Honorable E. Kenneth Wright
President
Chicago Bar Association
321 South Plymouth Court
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Jack C. Carey
President
Illinois State Bar Association
424 South 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

H. Thomas Wells, Jr.
President
American Bar Association
321 N. Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60654

Gentlemen,

I thought you should be informed that pursuant to the enclosed article lawyers are now being denigrated by Illinois soybean farmers.

Very truly yours,

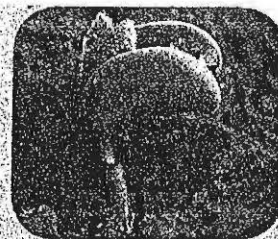
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence T. O'Brien".

Lawrence T. O'Brien

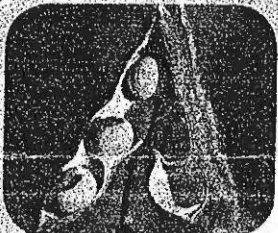
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Encl.

Illinois Soybean Farmer

LEADER NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2009



Survey Signals Favorable Farmer Views

Illinois metro-area consumers have favorable impressions of grain farmers, edged out only by teachers in a recent survey conducted on behalf of the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA). Survey results will be used to craft tactics for ISA's Farmer Imaging Campaign to reach urban/metro markets with information about soybean farmers.

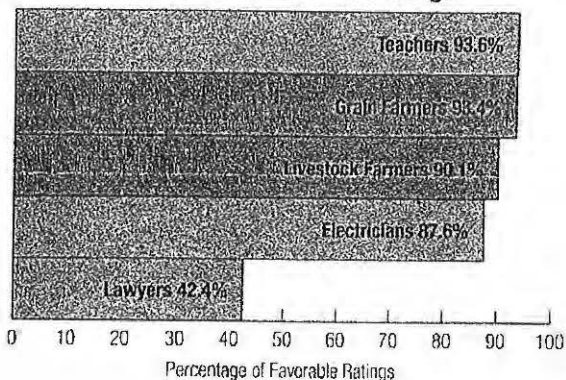
Nearly 400 people, ages 19-70 years old and 56 percent female, responded to email invitations asking for input in early August. The survey pool consisted of consumers in 16 Illinois counties in and around Chicago and St. Louis.

Respondents were asked to rate five professions: teacher, electrician, lawyer, livestock farmer and grain farmer. Teachers were rated most favorable at 93.6 percent and grain farmers at 93.4 percent, followed by livestock farmers, electricians and lawyers.

When asked about the positive aspects of Illinois grain farmers, consumers noted, "it is one of the hardest jobs out there...they add so much to the state's economy...and love the fact there are farmers in Illinois working the land and growing food."

YOUR INDUSTRY

Favorable Profession Ratings



Upcoming Farm Shows

- January 18-20 Quad-Cities Show, Rock Island
- January 28-29 Midwest Ag Expo, Gifford
- Jan. 31-Feb. 1 Western Illinois University Mech Show, Macomb
- February 6-7 Mid-West Truckers Show, Peoria (biodiesel promotions)
- February 11-14 National Farm Machinery Show, Louisville, KY
(in partnership with USB and Kentucky soybean growers)
- February 15-16 Illinois Grain and Feed Association, Peoria

More Notable Survey Findings

- Nearly two-thirds agree or strongly agree grain farmers responsibly grow food with their best interest at heart.
- While consumers understand commodities make up a small portion of food's final cost, 46 percent do not understand that contribution to total cost.
- More than half agree farmers help address U.S. energy needs by producing crops that can be converted into fuel.
- More than three-quarters agree energy costs, among other factors, drove food price increases.

ABA President

From: ABA President
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2009 9:51 AM
To: 'Mark Wise'
Subject: RE: Complaint - Bad Advice from the ABA

Dear Mr. Wise:

Thank you for taking the time to express your concerns about the publication you purchased from ABA Publishing. It is always helpful to hear from our members, whether the message is positive or negative. I will be sure to share your thoughts with my colleagues at the ABA.

Though I am sorry you weren't satisfied in this instance, we look forward to continuing to serve you as a valued member of our Association. Thank you again for conveying your views.

Sincerely,

H. Thomas Wells Jr.

From: Mark Wise [mailto:wisecrack@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 08, 2009 9:54 AM
To: ABA President
Subject: Complaint - Bad Advice from the ABA

Mr. Wells,

I'm writing to express great concern and frustration over the missteps and poor judgment being exercised at ABA Books. I recently purchased a new (and actively promoted) title, 50 Unique Legal Paths, published directly by ABA Books

Candidly, the book was a dud, but that's not why I'm writing. I'm writing because the book is a \$59.95 paperback, and it is a mere 150 pages of self-help drivel. Comparable self-help career books are routinely sold at bookstores and mass marketers for less than \$20. I really can't complain about this - it's my mistake. However I made this mistake because I expected that an ABA publication would be of higher quality, but this one isn't, and it's triple the price. That's an ABA problem.

More importantly, this particular book, was written by a JD who has little career experience as a lawyer, and DIDN'T GO TO AN ABA LAW SCHOOL. I find that particularly ironic and perplexing, given that the book was published by the ABA.

I have already returned the book, but I wanted to make you aware of this silliness. ABA Books offers a terrible value proposition when it promotes low quality and overpriced product. Even worse, it puts the credibility of the entire ABA at issue when these kinds of products are offered to an audience of primarily ABA-educated lawyers. I contacted Tim Brandhorst about this, but he doesn't seem to see a problem. I believe he's made some significant missteps that undermine the mission and credibility of the ABA. I'm sure I won't be purchasing any more books from the ABA, but more worrisome is whether I'd continue my ABA membership.

Kind regards,

W

Tim,

2/20/2009

**ABA
PRESIDENTIAL
CORRESPONDENCE LOG
2008-2009**

1. August 22, 2008
2. August 29, 2008
3. September 12, 2008
4. September 26, 2008
5. October 3, 2008
6. October 10, 2008
7. October 17, 2008
8. October 29, 2008
9. November 14, 2008
10. November 21, 2008
11. December 5, 2008
12. December 19, 2008
13. January 9, 2009
14. January 16, 2009
15. January 23, 2009
16. January 30, 2009
17. February 6, 2009
18. January-February 2009 -- **Complaint Letters re: Medical Device Safety Act**
19. February -- **Domestic Violence Issue Log**