

**ACBA Real Property Section Report**  
2010-2011 Year-End Report  
Submitted by: Terrence Dalton Wright

## ACBA REAL PROPERTY SECTION MEMORANDUM

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The Real Property Section holds monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month at noon in the Trial Academy Lawyers Conference room located on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the City-County Building. The section arranges for speakers at each meeting and focuses upon CLE opportunities for section members, Pro Bono programs involving real estate issues and recently serving to mentor new attorneys and law school students that express an interest in real estate law.

The section started the term in September 2010 with State Senator Wayne Fontana as the key note speaker. The October meeting invited attorney Roger Matthews to share his expertise in the topic of representing Homeowner Associations. The November meeting fell on Veterans Day and the section arranged for attorney Frank DeCarlo to serve as the guest speaker. Mr. DeCarlo was deployed to Iraq and is a highly decorated Army officer that is involved in Veterans organizations. The December meeting was combined with the Construction Litigation Section and the two sections offered combined CLE and celebrated the holiday season together at the end of the program.

The January 2011 section meeting focused upon real estate litigation and a comprehensive update was provided by Dwight Ferguson, Esquire. The February meeting featured a presentation on negotiating commercial leases and tenant representation moderated by attorney Nathan Hunter. The March meeting was an update by the Recorder of Deeds Office with speaker Valerie Roberts presenting. The April Meeting featured a presentation by Brett Woodburn, Pennsylvania Bar Association Real Property Section member on Adverse Possession and pending legislation. The May meeting was a discussion led by Timothy Holzhauser, Certified General Real Estate Appraiser. The topic was using the appraiser effectively in real estate litigation. The keynote speaker for the Sections annual meeting was Economist Stuart Hoffman. The presentation was a look at the housing market and real estate in the near future.

The Real Property Section with the approval of the ACBA Board of Governors endorsed House Bill 1022 which provided for changes to the time period Pennsylvania requires for an adverse possession action. The Real Property Section Pro Bono Committee accomplished two major objectives this term.

1. The Pro Bono Committee established a collaboration between the Real Property Section and Neighborhood Works ® Western Pennsylvania that allows the Real Property Section members to provide pro bono as guest speakers at Home Buyer Education Classes.
2. In Partnership with the ACBF Pro Bono Center, the Pro Bono Committee developed a Real Property Section Pro Bono Protocol for Organizational Representation that allows pro bono representation of Community Based Organizations including Community Development Corporations with less than \$500,000.00 operating budgets.
3. The Pro Bono Committee also focused upon two additional sub- projects this term. The Equity Protection Legal Clinic (Tangled Titles.) and Blight Bar (Organizational Pro Bono Representations.)

The Pro Bono Committee is made up of senior attorneys mentoring young attorneys and law students that wish to gain experience while helping those in need. As Chair, I personally volunteered to mentor two law school students from Duquesne University School of Law. I continue to meet with them and guide them when they have questions. The Real Property Section welcomes Law School Students from any law school and there is a standing invitation for them to join us and participate in our meetings while sharing in the fellowship of lunch.