

**Association of Municipal and School Solicitors**

2010-2011 Year-End Report

Submitted by: W. Ronald Stout

The Association of Municipal and School Solicitors (“Section”) had a successful 2010-2011 year. The Section continued to meet monthly at noon on the third Thursday of the month for the period September through May. At all of our monthly meetings during this period we had speakers addressing topics of interest to our members. We had good attendance at our monthly meetings with many members and guests attending for the first time. This appears to be the result of our speaker format. Speakers for the year 2010-2011 addressed the following topics:

- \* Navigating the Jungle of Zoning Issues with Large Commercial Play Sets in Residential Areas
- \* The Added Responsibilities of E-Discovery for Public Officials and Solicitors
- \* The Pittsburgh Neighborhood Community and Information System: Parcel-Level Looks At Our Local Communities
- \* Drafting Issues for Municipal Zoning Ordinances Regulating Marcellus Shale Drilling
- \* Intergovernmental Consensus & Conflict Resolution Program (Local Government Academy)
- \* District Attorney Stephen A. Zappala, Jr., Esq., Nuisance Properties Task Force
- \* Recent Developments in Land Use Law
- \* A Different Point of View: Enrollment, Transportation and Other Sticky Issues for Students Experiencing Homelessness and Others Returning from Dependent and Delinquent Placements

In addition to speakers at our monthly meetings, reports were received from various subcommittees of the Association including legislation, ethics & sunshine, right to know, and police, civil service and labor relations. In addition, members reported on other topics of interest to municipal and school solicitors.

On April 7, 2011, the Section co-sponsored with the Federal Court Section a seminar on “Valuing Civil Rights Cases”. The Section’s contribution to this seminar was agreeing to be listed as a co-sponsor and to promote the seminar to our members. The Section had no financial risk or reward for this seminar. It was well-attended. An article relating to the history and activities of the Section appeared in the ACBA Lawyers Journal. The Chair and other members of the Section were interviewed for this article. The Section published a newsletter for its members in May 2011.

The Section held its annual holiday party at the HYP Club which was attended by over 20 members. The Section’s financials continued to be good. The Section donated \$750.00 to the Attorneys Against Hunger campaign which was an increase over the 2009-2010 donation. The Section also updated its Directory of Municipal and School Solicitors which is also published in the ACBA Legal Directory.