

2009-1010 ACBA Arts & the Law Committee Report:

The ACBA Arts & the Law Committee sponsored several events in the 2009-2010 year in furtherance of its mission to educate its members on legal topics of concern to the arts community, as well as to unite the legal and arts communities in Pittsburgh.

First, the Committee began inviting artists and arts organizations to present at the Committee meetings. This not only provided exposure to local organizations, but also educated Committee members as to local artistic offerings. Our guest speakers this year included representatives from the ToonSeum, Attack Theater, the Renaissance City Winds and the Pittsburgh Opera to name a few.

The Committee also hosted a networking reception at the Art Institute for ACBA members and local artists and arts organizations. This after-work reception drew approximately 75 attendees, and provided a great introduction for artists and lawyers.

In addition, the Committee sponsored a CLE program on the topic of copyright law and take-down notices under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Bryan Clark, a member of the Committee prepared and presented this lunchtime course to approximately 35 attendees.

In the upcoming 2010-2011 year, the Committee plans to expand its activities and methods of pursuing its above stated mission. In addition to inviting artists and organizations to present at Committee meetings, the Committee plans to interact more regularly with the local arts community by adding an arts appreciation component to its agenda. The Committee plans to encourage its members to attend arts events together and actively network with members of the arts community at such events. This will raise the visibility of the Committee within the arts community and will also provide a new avenue for interaction between Committee members and the arts community.

The Committee also plans to host two networking receptions this year—one in the fall and one in the spring. In order to host an additional reception this year, the Committee has attempted to obtain commitments from arts organizations to host the receptions free of charge. The ToonSeum has already offered to host the fall reception at its Cultural District location and the Committee has had discussions with other arts organizations regarding a possible location for the spring reception.

The Committee plans to sponsor another CLE program as well this year. Although the topic has not yet been chosen, it will be one that is of interest to the arts community or that attorneys may confront when representing members of the arts community. The Committee has also discussed the possibility of presenting on the same topic directly to members of the arts community.

Finally, the Committee also plans to focus on increasing membership enrollment and participation in Committee activities. The Committee plans to achieve this goal by changing the methods and formats used to communicate with its members. Additionally, active Committee members will be encouraged to seek out potential new Committee members and communicate with inactive Committee members to promote increased participation.