

STATE BAR OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Committees and Sections Mission, Vision, and/or Purpose Statements

Committees

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

The Administrative Law Committee of the State Bar of South Dakota will seek to enhance the professional development of lawyers who work for, interact with, or study government entities, and further the public interest in effective, efficient, and fair administration of programs and governmental regulation at all levels. The Committee will do its best to serve these goals through education, dialogue, and proposals for reform. It is the mission of the Administrative Law Committee of the State Bar of South Dakota to (1) provide professional development opportunities for current and future administrative law practitioners; (2) lend the Committee's expertise to the resolution of important administrative law issues to members of the State Bar of South Dakota and the state; (3) provide authoritative and practical analyses for the improvement of administrative law and practice; and (4) provide settings in which government, private, and academic lawyers, hearing examiners, and the judiciary can exchange insights and information.

AGRICULTURAL LAW

To provide a forum to identify unique, challenging and/or problematical issues that South Dakota practitioners are dealing with which are peculiar to their agricultural clients within the general areas of law e.g. regulatory, environmental, property law, debtor/creditor, etc. and communicate as appropriate to the South Dakota Bar membership, and to evaluate existing and proposed South Dakota laws, make recommendations to address the legal needs of agricultural clients, and communicate recommendations to the South Dakota Bar.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

To educate South Dakota lawyers, judges and the public regarding non-judicial dispute resolution processes such as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration, and to promote their use in South Dakota.

ASK-A-LAWYER

Organizes the state bar annual Ask-A-Lawyer program held in the spring. The members of this committee handle all media and venue contacts, attorney volunteer organizing, and week-of operation.

BUSINESS LAW

Provides guidance to the bar commission and Executive Director on statutory changes proposed during the legislative session that will impact business law practitioners. Educates membership and the public on business law-related issues.

CLIENT ASSISTANCE FUND

To furnish a means of offering some protection to the reputation of lawyers in general from the consequences of dishonest acts of a very few and to furnish a means of limited reimbursement to clients for financial losses occasioned by dishonest acts of lawyers, but only: (1) to the extent that the Fund is capable of making reimbursements, (2) if there has been sufficient demonstration of hardship, and (3) in the opinion of the Committee the client is entitled to reimbursement.

CLE

To increase the competence of lawyers practicing throughout South Dakota and foster a sense of community, making participation an essential part of practice.

CRIMINAL LAW

To provide networking, mentoring, education and information sharing opportunities for criminal law practitioners in the private and public sector.

DEBTOR/CREDITOR

This committee is comprised of lawyers who practice or have an interest in debtor-creditor issues, including, but not limited to: bankruptcy, collection, debtor rights and creditor rights. They assist in educating members of the bar on debtor-creditor issues as well as provide suggestion and comment on legislative changes.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Committee aims to instill the core values of diversity and inclusion within the State Bar of South Dakota and our profession. We seek to promote a membership and leadership that is inclusive of lawyers, judges, and law students of varying gender, national origin, disabilities, religious belief, age, socio-economic status, racial and ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientation, and gender identity. We seek to promote full and equal participation in the State Bar of South Dakota, our profession, and the justice system.

EDUCATION

To foster the identification, discussion, and interchange of ideas relative to education law matters from pre-K through higher education impacting education institutions within the state of South Dakota.

ELDER LAW

The mission of the Elder Law Committee of the State Bar of South Dakota is:

1. To inform and advise the members of the bar whose practice involves representing older persons in such areas as estate planning, public benefits, nursing home residents' rights, elder abuse, age discrimination, real estate issues, senior housing and guardianships;
2. To review and make recommendations regarding proposed legislation that may affect older persons;
3. To promote the legal rights of older persons to enjoy their communities, families and lives to the fullest extent possible and to inform older persons of these rights;
4. To provide a forum for the exchange of views and information in furtherance of these goals.

ETHICS

Interprets the South Dakota Rules of Professional Conduct, SDCL 16-19-20 through 16-19-99, case law, ABA Ethics Opinion, statutes, and South Dakota practice in order to provide opinions as to whether a described course of conduct is professionally proper. Members are invited to submit individual problems to the Committee. The Ethics Committee proscribes conduct; the Disciplinary Board enforces the rules.

EVIDENCE

Monitor state and federal case law and related changes that may impact South Dakota Rules of Evidence.

FAMILY LAW

Addresses family practice issues that impact upon practicing lawyers, their clients, the judiciary, and the public.

IMMIGRATION LAW

The Immigration Law Section shall provide a forum to discuss and address issues in the area of immigration law, and to promote the understanding of immigration related laws, regulations and court decisions among Section members and members of The State Bar of South Dakota.

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

Develop and enhance the network of bar members working in private business, government, and non-profit settings, and provide programming opportunities devoted to their unique needs.

INDIAN LAW

To advance the understanding, study, application, adoption, interpretation and improvement of federal laws, tribal laws, and, to the extent applicable, state laws, rules, and regulations which pertain to Indians, Indian tribes, or to Indian Country. To understand and improve the relationships of these bodies of law and to encourage and support mutual respect for, and understanding of, the cultures, values, customs and heritage which underlie them.

JUDICIAL-BAR LIAISON

To promote communication and cooperation between Bar and bench.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

The Labor & Employment Law Committee's mission is threefold. *One*, to enhance civic understanding of labor and employment laws through multiple public outreach efforts. *Two*, to provide practitioners with simple access to labor and employment lawyers, for purposes of referrals, mentorship, guidance, or otherwise. *Three*, to provide the State Bar with service opportunities and regular educational content regarding significant issues or developments in labor and employment law.

LAW SCHOOL

Works to assist the Law School such as urging the Legislature to fund various aspects the educational programs and facilities. It advises the Law School on curriculum and works cooperatively with them to determine the best policy concerning the diploma privilege. The Committee has no authority over the Law School but cooperates with it for the purpose of producing better lawyers and preserving the accreditation of the Law School.

LAWYERS ASSISTANCE

The Lawyers Assistance Committee's mission is to promote professional competency, civility and sustainability in the South Dakota Bar through lawyer health and well-being. LAC fulfills its mission by providing South Dakota lawyers, judges and law students with educational programs, information, motivation and resources that foster general wellness. LAC also offer confidential support to State Bar members whose ability to practice in a competent manner may be compromised because of health-related issues.

LEGAL SERVICES

Encourages and monitors the delivery of legal services to low income and indigent clients.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Strives to be the forum for natural resource and environmental law lawyers in the state of South Dakota, where they can learn, educate, and contribute to the ever-changing developments within natural resources and environmental law.

NEGLIGENCE AND TORT LAW

Studies the procedures, rules and statutes which embody the law of negligence and tort law to promote scholarship among its members and to promote the fair, equitable and speedy administration of negligence litigation in South Dakota.

PATTERN JURY INSTRUCTIONS – CIVIL

Considers case law and legislative changes as well as proposals from committee members to review and edit civil pattern jury instruction revisions.

PATTERN JURY INSTRUCTIONS – CRIMINAL

The mission of the Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions Committee of the State Bar of South Dakota is to provide accurate and understandable instructions for use by the judiciary and members of the State Bar of South Dakota.

PRACTICE RULES REVISION

Examines all procedural aspects of the practice of law and makes recommendations for improvement.

PROJECT RURAL PRACTICE

Collaborates with the Unified Judicial System on the implementation of the Rural Attorney Recruitment Program to assure that all citizens within the State of South Dakota have access to

quality attorneys. Promotes practicing in rural South Dakota by hosting events at the law school and throughout the state. Provides news and resources to South Dakota rural practitioners.

SOLO AND SMALL FIRM

The Solo & Small Firm committee is the state bar voice for solo, small firm and general practice lawyers, providing them with a welcoming and inclusive home to ask questions of other solo or small firm practitioners within the State Bar of South Dakota.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITTEE

Reviews the progress and makes recommendations to the Bar Commission for any revisions to the State Bar Strategic Plan.

VETERANS COMMITTEE

The Veterans Committee of the State Bar of South Dakota welcomes attorneys who have served or are currently serving in all branches of the Armed Forces as well as members who work for an organization that provides support to veterans. The Committee members provide direct legal assistance to veterans and their families and work to educate state bar members, the judiciary and other stakeholders in assisting veterans facing legal issues.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

To act as a resource to improve and maximize the use of the State Bar's website in order to serve the members of the State Bar of South Dakota, the legal profession, and the public through the gathering and dissemination of relevant information and resources in support of the mission of the State Bar of South Dakota.

WOMEN IN LAW

To improve the practice of law and the delivery of legal services by and for women in South Dakota. This shall include providing active mentorship and career support to women lawyers and judges, and providing education to the Bar and to South Dakota citizens about the intrinsic value of diversity in the South Dakota legal system.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Comprised of lawyers who practice or have an interest in worker's compensation law, the worker's compensation committee promotes and provides education in the field and keeps members apprised of court rule changes, proposed legislation and significant decisions.

SECTIONS

YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

The general purpose of the Section shall be to foster the identification, discussion, and interchange of ideas relative to the rights, duties, responsibilities, and concerns unique to young lawyers of the State of South Dakota. Members of the Section shall also aid and promote the advancement of young lawyers and encourage their interest and participation in the activities of The State Bar of South Dakota; promote the activities of The State Bar of South Dakota; and further the purpose and objectives of The State Bar of South Dakota.

REAL PROPERTY, PROBATE, AND TRUST LAW SECTION

The general purposes of the Section shall be the promotion of the objectives of the State Bar of South Dakota within the particular field designated by the name of the Section.

PUBLIC SECTOR LAWYERS SECTION

The general purpose of this Section shall be to foster the identification, discussion, and interchange of ideas relative to the rights, duties, responsibilities, and concerns unique to public sector lawyers of the State of South Dakota as defined herein and members of the Section; to aid and promote the advancement of public sector lawyers and encourage their interest and participation in the activities of the State Bar of South Dakota; to promote the activities of the State Bar of South Dakota and further the purpose and objectives of the State Bar of South Dakota.