

INDIAN LAW COMMITTEE

ANDREW HOULDING, CHAIR

PURPOSE

The Indian Law Committee focuses primarily on developments in the law applicable to the federally-recognized Indian tribes in Connecticut, the laws enacted by those tribes, and practice and procedure in the tribal courts established by the Mashantucket Pequot Indian Tribe and The Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut. Most Committee members practice in the tribal courts, or litigate issues related to tribal interests.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Indian Law Committee successfully organized and held a CLE program on “Indian Gaming in Connecticut,” October 21, 2008, that included an outline of the federal recognition of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes, the negotiation of state gaming compacts and the development of gaming casinos, an introduction to the sovereignty of federally-recognized Indian tribes, a summary of the regulatory environment in which the casinos operate under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and a description of the state’s role in tribal gaming operations.

LAW-RELATED EDUCATION COMMITTEE

NORMAN K. JANES, CHAIR

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Law-related Education Committee is to plan and build the CBA’s Law-related Education (LRE) programs. The LRE programs include but are not limited to: the Connecticut Court Visitation program, the Bill of Rights in Action program, Mock Trials program, the Street Law program, and the Adult Civic Education program.

ANNUAL REPORT

This year one of the committee focuses was how to expand our Adult Civic Education program and increase public attendance. Adult Civic Education programs are now taking place in communities throughout Connecticut. The committee is also working on writing new Adult Civic Education scenarios based on Connecticut cases to increase public interest and attendance.

There were 17 Adult Civic Education programs throughout the state this year; Mansfield, Harwinton, and Clinton are just a few of the participating towns. The Adult Civic Education programs were held at libraries, adult education centers, and ESL classes. We hope to expand to even more venues next year.

The CBA partners with the New Britain public schools each year for Law Day with an essay contest for middle school students, grades 6-8. This year’s essay question chosen by the committee was: President Abraham Lincoln, in his famous Gettysburg Address, spoke of “a new birth of freedom.” With the idea of this freedom in mind, do you think cell phones should be banned in school? Why or why not?