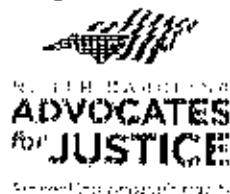


Andrea Davis

From: Stewart Clontz [ncaj@ncaj.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2009 7:45 AM
To: Andrea Davis
Subject: Read All About It! ATS July Newsletter



AUTO TORTS

Section Newsletter

July 2009

From the Communications Chair

Hello and Welcome to the July edition of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Auto Torts Section e-Newsletter.

In this edition you will find:

- Message from the new Section Chair, Jeremy Tanner
- Interrogatories by Danny Glover, Jr., Teague & Glover, P.A.
- Section Member Reports from Convention
- Upcoming Events - Save the Date!
- On Point - Topics from the Section Listserv
- Life and Law - Section Member Announcements
- 2009-2010 Section Officers

Thanks to all our present and past contributors! We would welcome any member willing to do an article of an area of law, practice or technology that they find useful in our area of practice. Please contact me if you have an interest in writing an article. We hope this Newsletter will assist you in your life and practice as an attorney member of the Auto Torts Section.

Thank you and please enjoy!
Stewart Clontz
Communications Chair, Auto Torts Section

Message from the Section Chair, Jeremy Tanner



We begin the 2009-10 year in the Auto Torts Section with many challenges but with the belief that we can meet those challenges head-on in a way that will not only put us in the best position possible to help our fellow members, but to also provide continued top-notch representation to our clients.

7/22/2009

As the 2009-10 Chair of the Auto Torts Section, I want to make sure that we, as a group, continue to be on top of what is going on in all areas that could possibly involve our section members and the clients we represent. This will be accomplished by our second-to-none desire to help each other keep up with potential changes in the law while also making sure we provide resources that will educate us in the areas we feel that are important to our practice.

For 2009-10, we have assembled another strong section leadership team to meet the high standards set by previous section leadership. As the Section Chair, I want to be accessible to everyone, to not only answer questions or address concerns where I can, but to, most importantly, facilitate communication with those members who have significant knowledge regarding specific questions or concerns posed.

The 2009-10 leadership is a good mix of members who have served in previous years and members who are new to a leadership role and have sincere enthusiasm about working with the section and helping everyone get the most from their membership. Please scroll down to "2009-2010 Section Officers" to find out information on each Section officer.

Despite the uncertainties we often face in our practices and with the potential changes in the law, it has never been a better time to be involved with NCAJ and the Auto Torts Section. There are so many brilliant and helpful people involved and I look forward to working with and learning from each of them so we can continue to help people see the great work we do for our clients thanks to the resources we have available to us as members.

On behalf of the Auto Torts Section leadership, I thank you for being section members and look forward to serving as your Chair in 2009-10.

Jeremy Tanner
Chair, Auto Torts Section

Jeremy Tanner is the principal in the firm of Tanner and Romary, P.A. with an office in Clayton, NC. Jeremy concentrates in the areas of personal injury, workers' compensation, and general civil litigation. He has tried cases in the Superior and District Courts as well as before the Industrial Commission and Administrative Law Judges. In 2003, Jeremy received the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Highest Civilian Honor. Jeremy was born and raised in San Diego, California. Jeremy received his undergraduate degree from St. Andrews College in Laurinburg, North Carolina and his law degree from Widener University in Delaware. Jeremy also is certified as a mediator and serves as an arbitrator in UM and UIM cases. His contact number is (919) 359-1103 and email is Jeremy1Esq@aol.com.

Interrogatories



Each month an Auto Torts Section member responds to a few questions regarding their practice and experience, growth and changes in the auto torts practice area. This month, the "Interrogatories" spotlight is focused on **Danny Glover** with *Teague & Glover, P.A. I*, on behalf of Auto Torts Section members, would like to send a huge THANK YOU to Danny for his excellent article. Enjoy!

I am 38 years old. I grew up in Kentucky as the son of a Southern Baptist preacher. I went to Cumberland College where I played baseball. I then went to UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law and graduated in 1995. I moved to Elizabeth City and began working with Keith Teague in 1995, and became a partner several years ago. We

practice primarily criminal defense in State and Federal misdemeanor court and serious personal injury cases.

I am the former chair of the NCAJ AutoTorts Section, and I am now completing my second three-year term on the NCAJ Board of Governors. I spent two years as a Trustee of the NCAJ PAC. I have served on the NCAJ DWI Task Force and the NCAJ Nominating Committee for two years. I have lectured at NCAJ CLEs on topics including AutoTorts, especially State Tort Claims Act claims and the Public Duty Doctrine, and DWI laws, including seized vehicles.

1) What was your first personal injury trial and how did it go?

In my first jury trial we (my partner Keith Teague and I) represented a lady who had been riding as a passenger in a van being driven by her husband. They were riding down the road behind a log truck when a piece of a log flew through the windshield, striking her in the chest, severing several arteries and veins near her heart. The log hit her so hard that the impact basically clamped the arteries and veins, which helped slow her blood loss, which the doctors said was the only reason she did not die. She was airlifted and required emergency surgery to basically reconstruct several of the vessels with nylon. Because it was unclear whether the log truck was negligent or whether the husband was following too closely, we sued both. During the course of the litigation the truck's insurance company eventually offered our client several hundred thousand dollars, despite the fact that the evidence against the truck was shaping up to be very weak. Our client, who had been very difficult to deal with throughout the case, turned down that offer, against our strong advise to the contrary. After a two-week trial in conservative Chowan County involving numerous accident reconstructionists and several animated reenactments, the jury determined that the log truck driver was not negligent but found our client's husband negligent for following too closely. As a result, our client recovered very little beyond her costs and the balances owing on her medical bills. That trial occurred during my first year of practice, and, if nothing else, taught me the importance of 1) developing enough trust with my clients so that they are comfortable taking my advise about their cases, and 2) the unfortunate necessity of firing those rare clients who are unreasonable and, without good reason, refuse to listen to my counsel.

2) What was your most memorable personal injury trial and why?

In 2007 we tried a case for a man who was riding a motorcycle when a 16 year old pulled out right in front of him. The young defendant had received his license only 9 days earlier, but had still been entrusted with a company's construction truck during rush hour. Our 65 year old client suffered numerous permanent orthopedic injuries, and his medical bills totaled approximately \$120,000.00. At the time of the wreck our client was still working as an aircraft mechanic and had numerous hobbies which he could not do anymore, including carving, painting, classical guitar, archeology and wooden boat building. Three months before trial the insurance company offered \$350,000. After a 4-day trial, the jury deliberated less than 10 minutes and returned a verdict of \$1.1 million dollars, which, with interest and costs, ended up equaling a \$1.25 million recovery.

3) What did you learn most from mentoring lawyers when you started?

My partner Keith Teague is by far my biggest mentor, and the most important things he has taught me are that 1) practicing law is just a job - it is not my life; and 2) as with most things, how you treat people is the most important thing about practicing law.

4) What would you share with a young lawyer now?

Treat everyone, including ALL insurance adjusters and ALL defense attorneys, the way you want to be treated. Be 1) polite, 2) cooperative AND THEN 3) firm - don't skip steps 1 and 2. Make sure you maintain a life outside of the office. Both you and your work will benefit. Make it a priority to pay off your debt as quickly as possible, and avoid the temptation to spend more money than you make. Your staff is the most important asset you have - treat them like it.

5) How has the insurance defense bar changed?

The biggest change I am seeing in Northeastern North Carolina is the centralization of defense attorneys by the insurance companies. When I first started practicing in 1995, there were several defense attorneys in my area that handled almost all of the cases for all of the carriers. Now, I have to deal with defense attorneys from Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Raleigh and other "foreign" places on even smaller cases. The other big change is how willing almost all carriers are now to lowball even good cases, even against the advise of their own attorneys sometimes, and take their chances with a jury.

6) Please comment on the state of the auto injury practice in NC.

I am hopeful that NCAJ's work on the UATRA bill will eliminate contributory negligence. If that occurs, the state of auto injury practice will change dramatically as we move from a contributory negligence to a comparative negligence state. While I personally believe this will result in more jury trials, I believe this will be a good thing because juries will be returning a verdict with crooked and straight numbers, instead of the "0" verdicts that we all-too-often see in questionable contributory negligence cases.

7) Who was the first personal injury client who touched you and why?

A lot of times we get so focused on fees and litigation issues and insurance adjuster games that we forget about the true impact we very often make on our clients' lives. About 8 years ago I represented an old, poor man who lived with his wife in what I would generously describe as a run-down shack. He was a wonderful, hard-working but uneducated man who served as a deacon in his church. In the middle of the afternoon he was driving his farm tractor well off of the shoulder of the highway. A tractor-trailer approached him from the rear, and the driver testified in deposition that when he got close enough to my client that he could no longer see over the hood of his truck, he leaned down to the right to get a drink out of his cooler, and in doing so apparently his left hand pulled the steering wheel to the right and he hit my client in the rear. The impact broke the farm tractor in half and threw my client across the ditch and into a telephone pole. My client suffered numerous fractured vertebrae and other non-life threatening injuries. He made a miraculous recovery, and we obtained a good settlement, after overcoming a bogus contrib. defense. With the settlement money he was able to purchase the first house he and his wife had ever owned. He told me afterwards that, in obtaining him the settlement that we did, we were able to help him accomplish something (the house) that he had been unable to accomplish in his entire life.

Danny Glover, Jr. is a principal with the law firm of Teague & Glover, P.A. The firm is located in Elizabeth City, NC. Danny's practice concentrates on serious personal injury cases throughout the state, especially in northeastern North Carolina, including Elizabeth City, the Outer Banks and the surrounding seven counties of Dare, Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan and Gates. Danny also works with partner Keith Teague on all of the firm's criminal, traffic and DWI cases. Danny has been certified as an administrator of the NHTSA Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and owns and operates an Alco-Sensor III. Danny recently received the honor of having been selected as a North Carolina Super Lawyer for 2009. His contact number is (252) 335-0878 and his email is drq@teagueandgloverlaw.com.

Section Member Reports from Convention

NCAJ held its annual Convention at the Sea Trail Resort in Sunset Beach, NC on June 19-24, 2009. Convention provided opportunity for discussion, learning and socializing with colleagues in the Auto Torts and other sections of NCAJ. For those of you who could not attend Convention, below please find Section member reports or brief summaries from the different happenings that occurred at Convention. Enjoy!

Sean Cole - Summary of his CLE presentation on recent case developments

In the auto torts case law update, we discussed cases that will help ensure that you get interest on your arbitration award, as well as a couple of cases dealing with tricky service issues interwoven with voluntary dismissals and re-filing. We also discussed Jackson v. Garland, which, while it was ultimately reversed after Plaintiff's win, has an excellent discussion and contains citations to back up arguments for including hit and run testimony at trial, and for making certain all your testimony regarding lost earning capacity comes in, as well as lost future earnings.

J. Brett Davis - Summary of on-going status regarding UATRA

NCAJ continues to work to promote our legislative agenda in the General Assembly. The effort to abolish the contributory negligence doctrine (HB 813/SB 679) passed the House 72-43 in May and is now in Senate Judiciary Committee I. The primary sponsor is Senator Brunstetter (R-Forsyth). Cosponsors are Senators Clodfelter (D-Mecklenburg); Hartsell, Jr. (R-Cabarrus, Iredell); Snow (D-Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Transylvania); Stein (D-Wake); and Stevens (R-Wake). We are hopeful to get a bill this year. There is still time to contact your legislators and write letters to the editor.

Douglas Nauman and Chris Nichols - Summary of proposed changes in UM/UIM arbitration provisions

NCAJ has been successful in working with the North Carolina Rate Bureau and the Department of Insurance to redraft the UM/UIM arbitration provisions of the North Carolina personal auto policy. The language changes

reinforce and clarify the right to arbitration under the policy and reduce the risk of waiver to the insured. The changes were approved by the Department of Insurance on June 24, 2009 to be effective January 1, 2010.

NCAJ continues to work with Senator Clodfelter and others to amend the language of Senate Bill 749 (S749) which seeks to revise the requirements of uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage under the Financial Responsibility Act. S749 includes provisions to eliminate the mandatory UM/UIM requirements under the Act. NCAJ has sought to retain the consumer protections inherent in the Act by including provisions requiring insurance industry accountability in the policyholder's selection of UM/UIM coverage and providing default UM/UIM coverage on every North Carolina auto policy.

The changes to the UIM/UM policy require that the lawyer make an early determination to arbitrate within 30 days of filing a complaint or the right to arbitration accruing. You can view the [Rate Bureau Circular](#) here.

Chris Nichols - Summary of the Amicus Matters

The Amicus committee is considering requests for assistance with several Williams type UM/UIM Selection Rejection Form cases where auto insurers have not produced signed Selection/Rejection forms, but have argued that they have provided notice of the right to purchase UM/UIM by other means such as "stuffer" mailings and in-person meetings. If you have a case that may go on appeal involving a Williams issue, please contact [Chris Nichols](#).

Julie Bell - Summary of The President's Gala

Did you miss the last night of the Convention, the President's Gala? If so, you missed a chance to see the changing of the guard and enjoy an elegant evening with a complimentary bar courtesy of Blanchard, Miller, Lewis & Styers, P.A. and good conversation courtesy of your fellow Advocates members. When you attend the Gala, you get to hear what the theme will be for the incoming President of our organization. Dave Pishko, our newest fearless leader, gave a great speech with his usual brand of humor that I wish I could capture for you. One of the themes I heard was participation. He would like to see more of us involved in the organization. For the old-timers who aren't participating (my words, not his), he wants to see you re-engage and recommit to the organization. For the old-timers who are participating, he would like you to try to bring others into the fold. For instance, ask others to join your committee, to participate in or help sponsor an event, or to be a speaker. And for the newcomers, he would like to see you become involved without waiting to be asked. If there's something you're interested in doing, ask to participate. The more the merrier, as far as I'm concerned. I was awfully glad I attended the Gala this year, particularly when I discovered that the Wake Forest Alumni breakfast was back on the schedule thanks to Dean Blake Morant's intervention (Go Deacs!). Anyway, if you missed the event, you missed a fine time and I hope you can be there next year!

Stewart Clontz - Summary of recent Auto Torts Section meeting

The Auto Torts Section Meeting at Convention was held on Sunday 8/21/2009. Jeremy Tanner opened the meeting and a vote was taken among those members present approving the new slate of candidates for the 2009-10 Auto Torts Executive Committee. Jeremy thanked Julie Bell for her fine leadership for the past year. Most of the former and new officers were present along with a number of other members. Dick Taylor, NCAJ CEO, Todd Barlow, NCAJ Political Affairs Counsel and Phil Baddour, NCAJ President-Elect, appeared to discuss a number of important issues. The major topic of discussion was the proposed UATRA Comparative Fault Bill, its progress, the likelihood of getting it passed this year or next and possible issues that might arise in any legislative compromises to get it passed. A lively discussion was had regarding possible changes to the collateral source rule that had been mentioned as a possible change to get the necessary backing for UATRA. This discussion lasted some time with a number of differing opinions about UATRA, the importance of the collateral source rule and desirability or undesirability of certain potential considerations. Committee reports followed and then the meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Events -- Save the Date!

Upcoming CLEs

- September 2009 - annual Auto Torts CLE
- February 2010 - Civil DUI/DWI Case/Punitive Damages Claim
- April 2010 - Using Psychodramatists

Request for Information: If you have experience in any of the topic areas listed above, or with comparative negligence due to prior experience practicing in another state, or, if you have any suggestions for CLE topics (one-hour lunch program, half-day or full-day programs) please contact [Adrienne Blocker](#) or [Michelle Clifton](#), CLE Co-Chairs.



Mountain Magic, October 22-25, 2009, Grove Park Inn, Asheville

Don't miss out on the opportunity to network with other NCAJ members, attend the Auto Torts Section meeting and participate in stimulating and informative workshops and case law updates. Registration information for Mountain Magic will be sent shortly!

ON POINT -- Topics from the Section Listserv

Membership in the Section listserv is a tremendous and valuable (and free) benefit of being an Auto Torts Section member.

If comparative negligence does ultimately become the law, the Auto Torts Section listserv will be the most valuable resource for you to ask questions, brainstorm and provide information.

Below is a list of wide-ranging topics that have been recently discussed by Section members on the listserv. As you can see, these topics greatly benefited all members of the Section listserv.

- Faith Bureau Motion to Intervene
- Black Box
- Forsyth vs. Franklin
- Future Medicate on Knee replacement
- LinkedIn
- Pretrial Incident
- Trial Next Week! Advice Sought
- Medicare Lien Changes on 7/1
- Nationwide iPhone Wrecking App
- Sexual assault on School Bus
- WC Distribution Question
- Motion to Withdraw on Ethics
- Coverage Question
- Attorney representation of Witness
- Davis Legal Funding
- Chancery Class Action
- Valuation Right Wrist Fusion
- Dram Shop Discovery
- Med Help finding NC Building
- Polley Limits Case
- Punitive Case Settlement
- Codes for Checks
- Telling Agreement
- Courier Fall - Letters to the Editor
- MIL Your Dire - Plaintiffs Alcohol Use
- Lawyer caught over GM/Chrysler
- Carteret County Conf. Item
- Clarifying Use of Medical Records
- ERISA Dilemma
- Verdict in Davie County
- Charlotte Neurologist
- Surry County Soft Tissue Verdict
- OWI Causation
- Ethics of adversarial contact ... Facebook, MySpace...
- Attributable Excess Verdict in Davidson County
- Go-by Complaint for Negl. of Co-Employees

In addition to these topics there are often lawyer, expert, doctor, accident reconstruction, mediator, judge and other recommendations.

So don't delay - make the most of your Section membership, contact [Andrea Davis](#) today to set-up your Section listserv account.

LIFE AND LAW -- Member Announcements

E. S. "Buck" Newton, III was elected as assistant legal counsel for the North Carolina Republican Party during the State convention in Raleigh. Newton is also the Republican County Chairman for Wilson County and has been active in politics for many years. In other news, Newton was elected to the Board of the Wilson Education Partnership for a two-year term. The Wilson Education Partnership is a community-based, nonprofit organization linking education with Wilson's businesses, industries, organizations, and individuals. The Partnership's main objective is to provide financial support, leadership ability, and professional expertise to supplement the resources available in the Wilson County School System.

Newton is a principal and managing partner of Newton, Lee & Boyd in Wilson. He focuses his practice primarily in personal injury, wrongful death, estate and real property litigation. *Congrats Buck!*

The firm of **Lewis & Daggett** in Winston-Salem is proud to announce that **David D. Daggett**, a managing partner of the firm, was recently presented with the Ford Everyday Ironman Award at the 2009 Ford Ironman Coeur d'Alene. This prestigious honor is bestowed upon full-distance Ironman participants who contribute to a person, charity or organization in a significant way while continuing the challenge of training for arduous Ironman competitions. Daggett's relentless dedication to Safe Sober Prom Night, a program conceived by Lewis & Daggett, has inspired over 400,000 students in almost 20 years to remain safe and sober on prom night.

This past spring alone, Daggett made more than 50 appearances ranging from school ceremonies, other related community assemblies, and Safe Sober Prom Night pledging events at 38 high schools in 10 counties. Every year he is steadfastly involved with the Safe Sober Prom Night program while continually helping his clients and tirelessly training for upcoming Ironman and other triathlete competitions.



David Daggett was also selected to be a part of the exclusive Ironman Executive Challenge (XC) in the Ford Ironman Coeur d'Alene. This is the inaugural year for this program and provides the ultimate Ironman experience for the world's top business leaders. Daggett was the oldest competitor in this category and placed fourth in the Ironman Executive Challenge with an overall time of 11:35:43. This Ironman Challenge was Daggett's eighteenth Ironman competition and his 151st triathlon.

David Daggett is a man dedicated to being a husband, a father, an athlete, an attorney helping others in need and a leader in the community. He lives every day as a hero to all who know him through his commitment to God, his family, his friends, his firm and the community. The Ford Everyday Hero is quite an honor; it is truly an affirmation of the life of David Daggett. *Great job David!*

The firm of **Lewis & Daggett** in Winston-Salem was a course sponsor for the new 36th North Sprint Triathlon that was held June 7, 2009 at Tanglewood Park in Clemmons, NC. Combining a 300M swim, 20K bike and 5K run it was a great competition for veteran triathletes as well as beginners as this competition allowed participants to compete as teams. Lewis & Daggett is committed to the community and believes in the promotion of active and healthy lifestyles. Lewis & Daggett's own **David Daggett**, a managing partner at the firm, took sixth overall and third place in the Overall Male Masters group.

2009-2010 Section Officers

Below please find your Auto Torts Section leadership for the upcoming year - I'm surrounded by a wonderful pool of talent and expertise. Please feel to contact any Section officer with questions or concerns.

Thanks so much and I look forward to the upcoming year!

Jeremy Tanner, Chair (Clayton)

Don Higley (Greenville) will serve as **Vice Chair** and **Ethics Chair**. Don will monitor State Bar Ethics Committee activity and help our members to be more aware and have a better understanding of what may be submitted to the State Bar for an official opinion. If you have any concerns regarding ethical issues, Don would be the first person to contact and he will be more than happy to help.

With the strong likelihood that we will be move from contributory negligence to comparative negligence on January 1, 2010, CLE will be as important as ever. After serving in 2008-09 as CLE Chair, in 2009-10, **Adrienne Blocker** (Greensboro) will be the **CLE Co-Chair** with **Michelle Clifton** (Winston-Salem) joining Adrienne as 2009-10 **CLE Co-Chair**. If you have any suggestions about CLE topics (full-day, half-day or lunch programs) or questions or concerns about CLE contact Adrienne or Michelle. I want to make sure, as a section, we educate ourselves on what this new standard of negligence means when deciding how to evaluate future cases. Adrienne and Michelle will make their best efforts to arrange CLE programs that can help us all.

To keep up with these potential changes in the law that are not limited to just the contrib/comparative issue, we have strong leadership for Legal Affairs and Legislation. **Chris Nichols** (Raleigh), whose experience in Auto Torts and in this section is invaluable, has again signed on to be the **Legal Affairs Chair** while **Brett Davis** (Raleigh) and **Doug Nauman** (Winston-Salem) will serve as **Legislative Co-Chairs**. Chris will again be coordinating the amicus brief assistance needed in certain cases where the end-result means important case law. If you need assistance contact Chris. Doug and Brett will keep the section leadership updated with the legislative changes or proposals that no doubt will arise. Brett continues his leadership service from last year, where he got immediate exposure to important issues such as the UM/UIM changes and this year, both Brett and Doug will stay on top of the contrib/comparative issues. Please contact Brett or Doug if you need help or have questions regarding these issues.

This section is only as strong as its members so we want to continue to grow the section and help people understand why joining the section will benefit them and their clients. Tom Ainsworth served as 2008-09 Membership Chair. With such a large section membership, leadership decided to expand the Membership position to regional Co-Chairs in 2009-10 to make sure that all section members are being serviced statewide.

2009-10 Membership Co-Chairs are:

Charlotte & Surround - **Tom Ainsworth** (Charlotte)
 Western - **Brian Davis** (Asheville)
 Triad - **Kevin Williams** (Winston-Salem)
 Triangle - **Gavin Rouff** (Durham)
 Eastern - **Meredith Hinton** (Greenville)

In addition to recruiting new section members, each Membership Co-Chair will help coordinate meetings in their local area so members can get to know each other better. If you would like to have a meeting in your area, contact the Membership Co-Chair in your region.

A big thanks goes out to **Meredith Hinton** as she will be serving double duty on the leadership team. In addition to Membership Co-Chair, Eastern, Meredith is the **Auto Torts Section Liaison for the Young Lawyers Division**. Meredith will not only be on the Auto Torts Section leadership team, but she will also serve on the YLD leadership team. With many young lawyers new to the practice, we want to be able to have a relationship with their group so they can understand not only the benefits of membership, but to encourage them to participate, especially with the listserv, so they can get help and important practice tips from the more experienced members who regularly take their time to help out by answering posted questions and encouraging fellow members.

One of the most challenging positions is the **PAC Chair** that will be handled by **Jason Orndoff** (Hickory). With less than half the section members actually contributing to our PAC, Jason will be making sure members understand the importance of donations to help support the legislative issues that are important to our section. Any contributed amount helps support the PAC so please contact Jason today to arrange for your donation. Jason will be recognizing those members who support PAC.

Mike Jordan (Durham) will serve another year as **Publications Chair**. Our section members have written or edited books that are helpful to our practice and Mike will continue to be responsible for helping to develop new ideas. Mike will be participating in *Trial Briefs* publication and updating our Online Trial Notebook. This tool, located on the section subportal, allows members to access sample complaints, motions, discovery etc. that they can use as a guide for needs that arise within their own cases. Mike encourages section members to check out the OTN

and provide him with any information/samples that can help other section members. If you have any ideas that can help Mike get important information to our members or if you have new ideas for potential publication, please contact him. In addition to serving as Publications Chair of the Section, Mike will also be the NCAJ Publications Chair in 2009-10. As Chair of NCAJ Publications Committee, Mike will be overseeing the publications agenda for NCAJ. Congratulations Mike!

As many of you are likely aware, one of the biggest tools that helps member day-to-day, 24/7, is our section listserv. The listserv is a valuable tool where members can pose questions, get answers, or often share stories and humor about issues that are related to our clients' cases. Because many of these issues involve litigation or opposing counsel, leadership decided to have a Listserv Security Officer. **Sean Cole** (Durham) will be returning as **2009-10 Listserv Security Officer**. Sean is the ideal person to serve in this position because of his years of experience working with the section. He will make sure all participants are complying with certification. If you have any questions regarding listserv security, please contact Sean (and not post your concerns to the entire listserv).

Section leadership will continue to be committed to making sure all of our members are informed about what is going on. **Al Patrick** (Greenville), **Secretary**, will keep minutes of all section meetings. If you are unable to attend a section meeting or just want to keep up-to-date by reviewing the minutes, Al will keep a detailed record of each section meeting and post the section meeting minutes on the Auto Torts Section subportal.

This E-Newsletter you are reading is a relatively new venture started last year by **Stewart Clontz** (Durham), who will return to serve as 2009-10 **Communications Chair**. In addition to creating this monthly E-Newsletter, Stewart will serve on the NCAJ Communications Committee, which meets 3-4 times annually. Stewart's organizational and people skills will insure the continued growth of the newsletter and the awareness the membership has about what the NCAJ does and can do to help people.

Lastly I want to give a big THANK YOU to **Julie Bell** (Winston-Salem), **Immediate Past Auto Torts Chair**. Her leadership has helped not only to strengthen the work of all the officers, but her efforts have made the work all of us do that much more meaningful. As with all past Chairs, Julie will continue to participate in section leadership meetings and offer guidance to those of us who are following in her footsteps. Please feel free to contact Julie, just to say Thank You for a job well done! or if you feel she can help you make the most out of your membership.

For all the efforts made by folks in these leadership positions, there is so much work done behind the scenes at the NCAJ so I do want to mention **Andrea Davis**, who is the **NCAJ Sections & Divisions Director**. Andrea helps organize the Sections & Divisions and provides the Section & Division leadership with up-to-date information so that we can best perform our leadership responsibilities. Andrea is also NCAJ listserv administrator. Andrea can be contacted anytime if you want to learn more or join an NCAJ Section or Division or if you want to join an NCAJ listserv.

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