

Dear Friend of the ABTL:

As 2008 comes to a close, we need your help. The Association of Business Trial Lawyers is commencing its annual membership drive, and we encourage you to join or renew your membership. Your modest ABTL membership dues help defray the expenses we incur in providing our signature lunch and dinner programs, and permit us to provide the best CLE programs offered in the Los Angeles area. Our programs also permit us to host state and federal judges at all levels, and permit attorneys -- whether new admittees or seasoned litigators -- to meet them.

2008 was an exceptional year for ABTL. We organized some of our most successful and innovative dinner and lunch programs, and our annual Fall seminar in Kauai was outstanding. This year has proven once again that no other bar group regularly convenes a more prestigious group of business trial lawyers and federal and state judges for educational programs, networking, and the improvement of the administration of justice in business cases. And, we expect 2009 to be even better.

There are many benefits to ABTL membership with which you may be familiar. However, we would like to summarize a few of the opportunities this unique bar association provides:

- The ABTL presents topical CLE programs with knowledgeable and interesting speakers addressing cutting edge issues of interest to the business litigator. These programs are presented throughout the year at our dinner and lunch events. In addition, the ABTL Annual Seminar, alternating each year between great locations in Hawaii and on the “mainland,” is always topical, educational, and fun for ABTL members and their families.
- ABTL members receive the ABTL Report, which contains articles from top business litigators and judges concerning recent cases, trends in the law, and other topics of interest to the business litigator.
- Our Courts Committee has been working with the judiciary in Los Angeles (state and federal, trial court and appellate) to initiate many new programs through which attorneys can help the judiciary in our common goal of providing legal services and resolution of cases efficiently without sacrificing the quality of adjudication.
- ABTL members gain access to ABTL’s on-line database of judicial profiles on federal and state judges. The profiles are prepared by ABTL members who are afforded a personal, one-on-one interview with federal and state court judges at all levels.
- ABTL members receive advance notice of and priority registration for the year’s most popular program -- the ABTL Annual Seminar.
- Networking opportunities with fellow ABTL members and members of the local judiciary are invaluable, and a hallmark of ABTL membership. Simply, the ABTL is one of the few bar organizations that has significant participation by both the bar and the bench, and the opportunities to develop professional relationships, and deepen respect

among our members and event guests, are unique. And certain events, like the annual Judicial Reception, are open to members only.

- ABTL membership provides opportunities to contribute, both to the ABTL, to our systems of dispute resolution, and to our community. Whether as a seasoned business trial lawyer, or someone in practice less than 10 years (and thus eligible for the Young Lawyers Division – or YLD – of the ABTL), examples include:
 1. Through the ABTL’s public service committee, participating in the ABTL Speaker’s Bureau serving local business and educational communities on legal issues of interest;
 2. Through the ABTL Reports, a members-only periodical with articles from top business litigation practitioners and judges concerning recent cases, trends in the law, and other topics of interest to the business litigator, developing and authoring pieces for publication articles;
 3. Through the YLD, arranging and attending member-only programs designed to develop and strengthen trial skills and relationships with the bench; and
 4. Contributing to the ABTL judicial profile library, interviewing local judges and preparing profiles on the way they manage and try business disputes.

Please visit our website for more information: www.abtl.org.

I hope you will join me as a member of the ABTL this year, and participate in the many committees and activities that have made the ABTL the pre-eminent organization for business litigators in Los Angeles for over thirty-five years.

A renewal notice is enclosed with this letter. Please complete and return it promptly. We look forward to having you join, or remain a member of, this dynamic organization.

Roland Tellis
ABTL Membership Chair