

From the Chair

by Gary K. Hunter, Jr.

What an honor to author the “Chairs Column” to my colleagues in this Section. Officially, I’ve not yet assumed those duties thanks to the havoc of Tropical Storm Faye. Fortunately her fury was in the form of much needed liquid in many parts of the State impacted. I’m assuming a few of you shared responsibility in addressing legal complications of rising waters and damaged property.

Behind every cloud is a rainbow, demonstrated perfectly to our Section by the prolonged tenure of Michelle Diffenderfer as our Chair. In a decade plus of Section involvement, I’ve witnessed tireless volunteers leading our CLE, public interest, treatise, affiliates and other programs. None compare to the commitment and guidance Michelle has graciously provided to the ELULS. Despite her stated elation in joining our illustrious list of past chairs as ELULS Council “fossil,” we know it isn’t in her soul to ever abandon the life-long friends established through our Section – and if she were so inclined, we would deprive her the opportunity. Michelle, you are an impossible act to follow and the Section thanks you for your literally hundreds of hours of work on its behalf, your inability to say no and your always jubilant spirit.

Speaking of accolades, that “small” three day annual meeting, Affiliate’s workshop and CLE had to be planned twice, the second time in less than two months. CLE Chair Marti Collins (with new baby girl); Program Co-Chairs Tara Duhay and Bud Vielhauer; Affiliates Chair and Program Chair, Dave Bass and Erin Deady; and Section Administrator Jackie Werndli, deserve a huge debt of gratitude for their efforts in the nearly seamless

transition to our November dates. Amelia Island Plantation deserves recognition as well in its cooperation moving our dates on the single day notice offered by Mother Nature. Hopefully many of you reading this Column made it up or over — for those who could not, make plans early for the August 2009 Annual Update.

I would be remiss in failing to mention my first boss and Section Mentor Ralph DeMeo. Before I figured out RCRA and CERCLA were too complex for my South Georgia education, Ralph insisted I attend the Annual Update, encouraged Section involvement, provided guidance on articles and introduced me to the environmental and land use lawyers who forged the early development of Florida’s precedential environmental protection and growth management laws/regulations. In that same spirit, I encourage each of you to identify a young lawyer, and introduce them to the network of expertise and collegiality of our Section. Take them to a CLE, introduce them to a Section Committee Chair, work with them to co-author an Article or Treatise Chapter, or bring them along to one of our many affiliates mixers scheduled throughout the State. We are blessed with the energy and unprecedented intelligence of hundreds of young lawyers in our Section yet rely upon and welcome the faces yet to arrive (young, old or in between).

In closing, I thank our 2008/2009 Committee Chairs for their time and leadership. Should you wish to become involved or just have questions regarding any of the Committees, please call or e-mail me or the appropriate Committee Chair. Thank you for the privilege to serve as your Chair. I look forward to the challenge.

2008-09 ELULS Committee Chairs

Affiliate Membership	Erin L. Deady, Co-Chair Scott L. Burgard, Co-Chair	edeady@llw-law.com sburgard@waterandair.com
Continuing Legal Education	Carl Eldred, Chair Nicole C. Kibert, Vice-Chair	carle@hgslaw.com nkibert@carltonfields.com
ELUL Treatise	Enola T. Brown, Chair Gary Oldehoff, Vice-Chair	enola@enolabrown.com goldehoff@co.sarasota.fl.us
Florida Bar Journal Column	Gary Oldehoff, Co-Chair Kelly K. Samek, Co-Chair	goldehoff@co.sarasota.fl.us kelly.samek@dep.state.fl.us
Law School Liaison	James M. Porter, Chair Vivien J. Monaco, Vice-Chair	jim@jamesporterpa.com vivien.monaco@ocfl.net
Membership	David J. Bass, Chair Paul H. Chipok, Vice-Chair	dbass@esciencesinc.com pchipok@gray-robinson.com
Public Interest Representation/ Access to Justice	Jeanne M. Zokovitch, Chair	jzokovitch@mail.barry.edu
Section Reporter	Jeff Collier, Co-Editor Thomas R. Gould, Co-Editor	collierj@gtlaw.com thomas.gould@akerman.com
Land Use Committee	Kelly A. Martinson, Chair	kelly.martinson@dca.state.fl.us
Pollution Assessment, Remediation, Management & Prevention Committee	Kirk L. Burns, Chair	kburns@sfwmd.gov
Water, Wetlands, Wildlife & Beaches Committee	Keith W. Rizzardi, Co-Chair Harold G. "Bud" Vielhauer, Co-Chair	krizzar@sfwmd.gov harold.vielhauer@dep.state.fl.us
Young Lawyers Committee	Nicole C. Kibert, Co-Chair Drew T. Melville, Co-Chair	nkibert@carltonfields.com drewmelville@gmail.com