

Law School Liaison Committee Report

The Law School Liaison Committee provides outreach to Florida's law schools to ensure faculty and students are aware of the work of the Section and to encourage students to pursue careers in environmental and land use law. This article provides a brief update on some of the recent work of the Committee.

With the approval of the Executive Council, the Committee recently awarded over \$15,000 in block grants and special funding requests to support environmental and land use programs at the schools. Eight schools applied for and received \$1,000 block grants to be used for moot court travel, speaker honorarium, conference expenses, and activities sponsored by the schools' various student environmental organizations. In addition, the Council approved a request from St. Thomas and Barry for \$2,500 to defray a portion of the cost of their Distinguished Lecture Program, and awarded \$1,000 to Coastal for its Environmental Summit, \$1,000 to FSU for the Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law, and \$3,000 to UF for its Public Interest Conference.

The Committee is also working with others on the Executive Council to promote the Section's two fellowship programs. The Section agreed again this year to jointly sponsor two fellowship positions with the ABA. The purpose of those fellowships is to encourage students from underprivileged and disadvantaged backgrounds to study and pursue careers in environmental and/or land use law. More information on this fellowship program can be found at www.abanet.org/environ/committee/lawstudents/2009fellowship/florida.shtml or by contacting Francine Flokes at Francine.Flokes@DEP.state.fl.us. The Section's other fellowship program is designed to create public interest opportunities for Florida law students and to encourage them to pursue careers in public interest law. Information on this fellowship opportunity can be found on the Section's website. Applications for the fellowships will be accepted through January 30, 2009.

Finally, the Section is again sponsoring the Dean Maloney Memorial Writing Contest. The contest, which is open to all Florida law students, awards cash, free admittance to the Annual Update and other recognition to the top three papers submitted on topics relating to environmental, land use or zoning law. The deadline for submission of papers is June 8, 2009, and more information is available on the Section's website.