

REPUBLICAN TRIAL LAWYERS



CAUCUS

Winter 2008

Supplement to TRIAL

Upcoming Events:

Please make plans to join us in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Register at:

www.justice.org/convention

Monday, January 28, 2008

10:30 a.m.- 12:00 noon

Palominito Room,

El Conquistador Resort

Republican Trial Lawyers Caucus
Business Meeting

Consider joining the Republican List Server for information about other upcoming events and to network with fellow Republicans.

Follow this link to join:

<http://www.justice.org/Lyris/index.aspx>

From the Chair

Michael Wise, Oregon

As some of you may know, I have accepted the difficult task of filling the shoes of former Republican Trial Lawyer Caucus Chair Kevin Meenan. I say this for two reasons: (1) Kevin was a terrific Chair, who tirelessly worked to promote the interests of lawyers in general, and in particular Republican trial lawyers; and (2) I have been asked to lead a (minority) group of attorneys within a larger Democratically dominated organization, while the Democrats control the House, the Senate, and quite-likely the Presidency.

In Kevin's last article to the Caucus, he quoted an AAJ magazine article which stated "AAJ is a non-partisan organization that supports both Republicans and Democrats, and is interested in only one thing: preserving the right of every American to hold a wrongdoer accountable in the civil justice system." Boy that sounds wonderful...bipartisanship at its best.

However, in order to achieve such bipartisan cooperation, we have to hold up our end. In order for our Republican organization to remain strong and viable, we need to act and interact with one another. Thus, my call to you all: **please participate in our Caucus**, if you have any interest at all. Your participation will make our group stronger, our overall organization stronger, and even your own practice stronger. Even more importantly, it is free.

Upcoming Events: the AAJ Republican Trial Lawyer Caucus



Michael Wise

meets at least four times per year, always at an enjoyable location. Two of our meetings logically coincide with the annual AAJ summer and winter conferences. The other two annual meetings occur in Washington D.C. and in a rotating city venue. In addition to the above, the RTALC has periodic telephonic conferences and fairly routine email correspondence. In other words, the RTALC is a valuable resource both to your practice, and also your (larger) political views.

At the upcoming Puerto Rico winter conference, the RTALC will be holding a formal business meeting, and I hope you can join us. In addition to a business meeting, we are making plans for a social event in Philadelphia as part of the AAJ summer meeting and I welcome your input as we put this event together.

I look forward to seeing/meeting all of you either in Puerto Rico or Philadelphia in 2008.

Michael

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Republican Caucus' Election and Business Meeting

Saturday, July 14, 2007

Outgoing Chairperson Kevin Meenan presided over the Republican Caucus' Election and Business Meeting at the Chicago Convention on July 14, 2007.

Among the highlights of the meeting were Officers Anthony Tarricone, Gibson Vance, and Gary Paul attending the meeting and voicing their support for the Civil Justice System and the Republican Caucus. Also, AAJ's CEO Jon Haber attended and provided an update on the current events of AAJ.

Congressional Candidate Todd Long attended the meeting, and voiced his continued support to the Civil Justice System. Kristin Keckeisen, who is the AAJ Director of Grassroots Development, attended the meeting and provided valuable information about the People over Profits Grassroots Action Center. In addition, AAJ's Associate Director for Public Affairs, Elizabeth Humphrey, offered a recap of the legislative session and the impact on the Civil Justice System.

Elections were held, and the following occurred:

- Chair Elect Mike Wise was nominated and approved for Chairperson;
- Vice Chair Morgan Adams was nominated and approved for Chair-Elect;
- Secretary Mitch Tyner was nominated and approved for Vice-Chair;
- Dan Brown was nominated and approved for the open position of Secretary; and
- Phil Bourdette was nominated and approved for the Republican's Caucus' representative to the Board and Governors.

Outgoing Chairperson Kevin Meenan then introduced Mike Wise, the new Chairperson of the Republican Caucus. Mike

thanked Kevin for a job well done, and stated his goals of increasing our membership, getting more state members involved in AAJ's Republican Caucus, and continuing having fundraisers and raising money for candidates committed to the Civil Justice System.

The members of the caucus spoke enthusiastically about our sponsorship of the reception for AAJ Veterans, which was occurring the following day. Chair-Elect Morgan Adams was able to secure the services of Lieutenant General Dennis McCarthy to speak at the reception. AAJ's Associate Director for Public Affairs, Elizabeth Humphrey, provided the posters informing the members attending the convention of our reception. Also, Vice-Chair Mitch Tyner created and provided stickers for the event.

The members of the caucus then discussed our Republican Lobby Day, which would normally occur in July, 2008. Unfortunately, this event has been postponed due to the scheduled move of the AAJ's offices during this month. The Republican Lobby Day will be rescheduled at a future date. Upon doing so, further information will be provided.

Congratulations to the new officers for the Republican Caucus, who are:

Chairperson: Mike Wise, Portland, Oregon
Chair-Elect: Morgan Adams, Chattanooga, Tennessee
Vice-Chair: Mitch Tyner, Sr., Jackson, Mississippi
Secretary: Dan Brown, St. Louis, Missouri

All the members of the AAJ's Republican Caucus encourage our membership to attend our upcoming meeting during our Winter Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico. With this, the meeting was adjourned.

Women's Lobby Days – both sides of the aisle.

Dawn Mefford of Missouri, Tommie Ann Gibney of New Jersey and Julie Ferraro of Massachusetts were among the seventy eight women trial lawyers who gathered in Washington on May 23-24, 2007 for Women's Lobby Days. All three were first time participants and all three are Republicans.

Dawn Mefford wrote about her experience, "I attended Women's Lobby Days for the first time in May, and it was an event I'll never forget. It was such a terrific experience lobbying Representatives and Senators on issues such as preemption that are important to me not only as a trial lawyer, but as a Republican. I intend to bring two other women (both Democrats) from my office next time."

The Women Trial Lawyers Caucus ascends the Hill every other year and undoubtedly is AAJ's most successful lobbying event. Women Trial Lawyers do not equate with the images of greedy trial lawyers, sharks or

evil manipulators of the lottery system of justice that fill the minds of most Republicans and many Democrats in Congress. Imagine the cognitive dissonance when Republican Members meet Republican Women Trial Lawyers!

Julie Ferraro "... really enjoyed being a part of the Women's Lobby Day in Washington D.C. It was a great opportunity to inform the members of Congress about important issues facing us today. The Republican members of Congress with whom I met actually were receptive to our issues and genuinely interested in hearing from us. I am looking forward to the next Lobby Day!"

Miriam Bourdette who is active with both the Women's and Republican Caucuses was delighted to have other Republican Women attend and hopes that at least one dozen women show up for Republican Lobby Day in Spring 2008 and again in 2009 for the next Women's Lobby Day.

Republican Caucus' Reception for AAJ's Veterans

Salute to AAJ's Veterans



Veterans from various branches of the military were represented at the AAJ Republican Caucus reception in Chicago.

The Republican Caucus hosted a moving tribute to AAJ's Veterans on July 15, 2007 at the Caucus Reception during the Annual Convention in Chicago. Sixty AAJ members showed up to thank twenty veterans who served during World War II, in Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf Wars and the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Among those present were father and son Marines John and Todd Romano, Richard Bieder, combat veteran Skip Faulkner and our ubiquitous photographer Carl Murray. What makes these Vets unique is that they served this country and continue to serve by fighting for the rights of ordinary citizens every day. No cynics dwell among these men. This opportunity to say, "Thank you for your service" was appreciated by

all present.

A presentation by Lt. General Dennis McCarthy (US Marines) was another significant part of the Caucus Reception. Lt. General McCarthy is the Executive Director of Reserve Officers of America, a Trial Lawyer, a former ATLA member and former President of the Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers. He outlined two ways Trial Lawyers can help returning veterans. One is to provide advocacy in the excruciating long VA disability process. The law has been amended. Lawyers can now charge fees for providing legal services early in the process, before the record is too messy to accomplish anything; it no longer is a misdemeanor to charge a fee for providing these legal services. Another avenue is representing veterans whose em-

ployers have failed to rehire them upon their return from active duty or who face other employment discrimination in violation of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA.) USERRA cases can be handled by standard contingent fee agreements. If you are interested in using your advocacy skills to assist veterans, go to www.ROA.org or e-mail DMcCarthy@roa.org. Morgan Adams of Chattanooga arranged for Lt. General McCarthy's presentation.

The Caucus will host another Reception at the 2008 Annual Convention in Philadelphia. We again will take the moment to thank our AAJ Veterans and present another notable speaker. The Caucus Board members look forward to your presence.

Profile of Lieutenant General Dennis McCarthy



Lieutenant General Dennis McCarthy addresses a group of AAJ members who have both served our country in the military and are now serving clients in the civil justice arena.

The military background of General McCarthy started when he graduated from the University of Dayton and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1967. Upon graduation from The Basic School, he was transferred to the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade in the Republic of Vietnam, where he served as a Platoon Commander and Communications Officer in First Battalion, 13th Marines.

Upon return to the United States in 1969, General McCarthy served as an assistant S-3 at Quantico, Virginia and on Inspector-Instructor duty with the 25th Marine Regiment in Worcester, Massachusetts. He was then selected to attend law school on the Excess Leave Program. After graduation, he served as a Judge Advocate at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. After promotion to Major, he resigned his Regular commission in 1978 and transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve.

As a Reserve officer, General McCarthy commanded the Third Battalion, 25th Marines and was Executive Officer of the 25th Marine Regiment. He commanded Headquarters Detachment 2, 4th Marine Division and was called

to active duty during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm for duty at Twentynine Palms, California, as Director of the Tactical Exercise Evaluation Control Group. He then served as G-3, 4th Marine Division in 1991, and commanded U.S. Joint Task Force, Chile in 1992. He was selected for promotion to the grade of Brigadier General in 1992.

From 1993 until 1995, General McCarthy was Commanding General of the Marine Corps Reserve Support Command. In 1995 he assumed command of the Augmentation Command Element of the First Marine Expeditionary Force. He was concurrently assigned as Deputy Commander, I MEF. He was promoted to Major General on October 1, 1996, and was appointed to the Defense Reserve Forces Policy Board.

In 1997, General McCarthy assumed command of the Third Marine Division, becoming the first Reserve General Officer to command an active duty Marine Division. He served in that post from July through October. He was then assigned to the United States Atlantic Command, where he served as the Vice Director of Operations, and then in 1999

as Director of Operations & Plans. He served as the Director, Reserve Affairs Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, from 1 Jan 2000 until 14 May 2001. On 1 June 2001, he was promoted to the grade of Lieutenant General. He assumed his current duties as Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, on 2 June 2001 and as Commander, Marine Forces North, on 13 September 2004.

General McCarthy has served with distinction on the Capital University Adjunct Faculty; National College of Advocacy; Diplomat, National Board of Trial Advocacy; Advocate, American Board of Trial Advocates; Member, National Panel of Arbitrators of the American Arbitration Association; Chairman, the Military Law Section of The Association of Trial Lawyers of America; Secretary and Trustee of the Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers; and Member, Executive Committee, Franklin County Trial Lawyers Association.

General Dennis M. McCarthy rejoined Columbus, Ohio-based Volkema Thomas in the role Of Counsel in 2006. His current practice includes insurance bad faith law and cases involving the Federal False Claims Act.