

November 2011

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## Letter from Chair

Greetings! The Executive Council of the TBA Construction Law Section has been meeting regularly to plan activities for this Section since the bar year began in July. We have four new members of the Executive Council and are looking for one more member from West Tennessee. If you are interested, please let me know.

One exciting event that we host each year is the Construction Law Section CLE on January 27, 2012 in Nashville at the Tennessee Bar Center. David Taylor is our program facilitator, and he is, as always, planning a great program focusing on construction law remedies. In addition to the intriguing program, we plan to host a luncheon so the attendees and section members can fellowship and network during that time. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

If you have not yet heard about Online TN Justice, it is a program allowing lawyers to provide pro bono assistance *without leaving your desk*. To date, 285 lawyers have signed up to give limited legal advice to eligible Tennessee citizens who have posted legal questions. The attorneys answer anonymously through the online system. There are many times when questions arise about contracts with contractors, home improvements, or other legal issues that are directly in line with our expertise. I encourage you to participate in this worthwhile program. If you have not signed up, please do so today. If you are signed up, remember to log on regularly to see if you can answer any of the questions.

This is our first Construction Law Section newsletter. I would love to have articles from you or information to include in the next quarterly newsletter, or if you are interested in serving as the editor, please let me know. I hope to hear from you throughout the year if you have suggestions on how we can better serve you. Thank you for being a member of the TBA Construction Law Section.

Best wishes,  
Mary Beth Hagan, Chair  
Blankenship, Blankenship & Hagan, PLLC  
[marybeth@blankenshiplawoffice.com](mailto:marybeth@blankenshiplawoffice.com)

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## January 27, 2012 Construction Law CLE

Please make plans to join us at the TBA Construction Law Section CLE - Remedies for Recovering Construction Claim Damages. This exciting 6-hour CLE program will be held on January 27, 2012 at the Tennessee Bar Center in Nashville. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., with the program set for 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

This seminar will address those issues that trip up even the experienced lawyer, such as:

- Using the mechanic's lien law; rescission; delay damages
- Consumer Protection Act and Contractors Licensing Act
- Liquidated damages; and damage limitation of liability clauses like waiver of consequential damages and delay.

Breakfast & Lunch will be provided!

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## 2010 - 2011 TBA Construction Law Section Executive Council

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If you have not yet registered, you may register online at [https://www.tnbaru.com/CLE/catalog\\_course\\_details.php?course=6897](https://www.tnbaru.com/CLE/catalog_course_details.php?course=6897) or you may register by contacting TBA at 1-615-383-7421. Don't forget that you can save money when you register for this program by using your three hours of prepaid CLE credits that come with your TBA Complete Membership!

We hope to see you there!

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## OnlineTNJustice.org

OnlineTNJustice.org is based on the walk-in clinic or dial-a-lawyer model where clients request brief advice and counsel about a specific civil legal issue from a volunteer lawyer. Lawyers provide information and basic legal advice without any expectation of long-term representation. The website was created in order to eliminate barriers to lawyer pro bono (such as geographic location, work schedule or family obligations), expand pro bono to the most rural areas of Tennessee and provide assistance to eligible Legal Aid clients who are turned away due to lack of resources (there are only 79 Legal Aid attorneys in the state). The online system screens potential clients for eligibility and, if qualified, allows them to post a legal question to a private messaging system. Clients have the ability to check the system for answers at any time. Only the name of the client is shared with the volunteer attorney. All other information is anonymous to ensure privacy. Lawyers have the ability to log into the site 24 hours a day and answer questions at a time that best suits their schedule. Lawyers receive CLE credit for the time they spend researching and answering questions and are covered by professional liability insurance maintained by the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services. Currently, 285 lawyers have signed up to help 712 clients. New questions are posted every day, so check back often to see which ones you can answer.

To sign up to participate or for more information, visit us online at: [OnlineTNJustice.org](http://OnlineTNJustice.org)

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## News About You

Let us know if you are changing jobs, have been honored in some way, or have celebrated a milestone in life. We will post that news in each quarterly newsletter. It's also ok to send in news about your colleagues! Send your news to Lynn Pointer at [Lpointer@tnbar.org](mailto:Lpointer@tnbar.org).

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