

The Tax Section has been busy this fiscal year, but due to the pandemic, it has not quite been business as usual. The section held its organizational meeting virtually from July 1-3, 2020. This annual event starts the new year for the Tax Section and has traditionally been a family-oriented event at which many spouses, significant others, and children of section members have attended. The advantage of holding the meeting virtually is that more members were able to attend the division and section meetings.

Due to the pandemic, this year's fall meeting was held virtually from September 22-24, 2020. In addition to the usual division and committee meetings, there was virtual Bingo organized by Leslie Reithmiller and virtual trivia organized by Joel Maser and Joe Schimmel, as well as a virtual happy hour. There was also a virtual CLE program on September 25, which was organized by Cristin Keane and Mark Brown. The CLE program, "Practical Estate Planning in Uncertain Times," was very well attended.

The Tax Section once again collaborated with the FICPA to present the popular International Tax Conference (ITC), which was held virtually beginning on January 13 with the ITC Boot Camp and continuing on January 14 and 15. IRS Commissioner Charles P. Rettig was a keynote speaker at the 2021 ITC, sharing insights into upcoming IRS initiatives. Steve Hadjilogiou is the Tax Section's chair of the ITC.

The section was scheduled to have a directors' meeting in New Orleans in January, but instead it was held virtually. As part of its annual meeting, the section held a long-range planning mini retreat. The section held a long-range planning retreat in January 2018. Every year since 2018, in conjunction with the directors' meeting, the section has held a mini retreat to be sure the new long-range plan is being implemented and to consider new long-range planning issues.

Our annual meeting had originally been scheduled in Miami, but the location was changed to Tampa. However, the in-person annual meeting was eventually canceled, and it will now be held virtually by Zoom from April 27-29. There will also be a CLE program focused on real estate taxation scheduled for April 30, which is being organized by Chris Callahan and Abraham Smith. The Tax Section will honor the 2020-2021 Gerald T. Hart Outstanding Tax Attorney of the Year, Michael Lampert, in October at the Breakers in Palm Beach.

The Tax Section will have approximately 12 free one-hour phone CLE programs on various tax topics this fiscal year. The section will partner with the Stetson University College of Law to host a Tax Moot Court program. The competition brings 16 teams to Florida from law schools around the country to compete on a tax-related topic. The event was held virtually April 1-3.

Each year, the section publishes a monthly e-newsletter, three issues of the *Tax Section Bulletin* newsletter, and one article for each issue of *The Florida Bar Journal*. The section continues to submit comments to proposed federal tax regulations and also monitors state tax issues. The section is totally revamping its website, so that will soon be an even better resource for information about the Tax Section and its publications.

Harris L. Bonnette is the current chair-elect and Mark R. Brown is the chair-elect designee.

D. Michael O'Leary, *Chair*