ATTORNEY JASON SCOBY APPOINTED CHAIR OF MBA'S CORPORATE, BANKING AND BUSINESS SECTION

Attorney Jason Scoby of O'Neil Cannon was recently appointed to serve as Chair of the Corporate, Banking and Business Section of the Milwaukee Bar Association ("MBA"). In this role, Attorney Scoby will focus on providing continuing legal education presentations and resources, as well as networking opportunities for attorneys and other professionals in the corporate, banking, and business field.

Some of the topics to be addressed in upcoming presentations may include:

- Choice of Business Entity and the Associated Business and Tax Implications
- Various Subjects in Mergers and Acquisitions

vLending Issues:

- Ethical Issues Involved in Business Transactions
- Contract Drafting

If you would like further information regarding an upcoming MBA event, of if you are interested in making a presentation for the MBA's Corporate, Banking and Business Section, please contact Jason.

Attorney Scoby is an associate at O'Neil Cannon, where he assists clients on a wide variety of corporate and business-related issues, including commercial transactions, mergers and acquisitions, franchising, business entity selection, and regulatory compliance.

O'Neil Cannon, founded in Milwaukee in 1973, is a full-service legal practice that primarily focuses on providing business law and civil litigation services to closely-held businesses and their owners. The firm represents corporations, institutions and partnerships at all stages of the business life cycle, helping them start, grow and transition from one generation to the next. We also assist business owners with their personal legal needs including tax and estate planning, family law and litigation—including personal injury litigation.

ATTORNEYS RANDY NASH AND JASON SCOBY

PUBLISH ARTICLE IN ABA'S HEALTH LAW LITIGATION NEWSLETTER

Randy Nash and Jason Scoby recently published an article in the Spring/Summer 2010 edition of the American Bar Association's *Health Law Litigation newsletter* entitled "New Rules Dramatically Affect Health Care Expert Witness Disclosures."

The article discusses the existing Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and a proposed change to Rule 26 involving the disclosure of expert witness draft reports and communications between the attorney and an expert witness in a case. This proposed rule change has the potential to impact expert witness disclosures before the federal courts. It is expected to go into effect on December 1, 2010.

Under the current rule, an expert witness's entire file with regard to the matter in litigation, including any drafts of the expert's report and any communications with the attorney, is discoverable by the opponent in the lawsuit.

The Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure has recommended that the current rule be amended, stating that the rule has caused "significant practical problems." The Committee described the problem as follows:

> Lawyers and experts take elaborate steps to avoid creating any discoverable record and at the same time take elaborate steps to attempt to discover the other side's drafts and communications. The artificial and wasteful discovery-avoidance practices include lawyers hiring two sets of experts—one for consultation, to do the work and develop the opinions, and one to provide the testimony—to avoid creating a discoverable record of the collaborative interaction with the experts. The practices also include tortuous steps to avoid having an expert take any notes, make any record of preliminary analyses or opinions, or produce any draft report. Instead, the only record is a single, final report.

Recognizing these issues, many have sought to change the discovery rules. The proposed amendment to Rule 26 attempts to avoid disclosure of experts' draft reports and attorney/expert communications. The goal is to permit the attorney to communicate freely with the expert about the attorney's thoughts and opinions relating to the case without fear of those communications being discovered by opposing counsel. The Rule also aims to avoid the unnecessary costs caused by hiring multiple experts and to prevent attorneys from taking other intricate maneuvers to evade the discovery of communications or drafts of expert opinions.

The Supreme Court recently approved these amendments to Rule 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. It is expected that Congress will approve the amended Rule, and if it does, the amended Rule 26 will go into effect on December 1, 2010. A full copy of “New Rules Dramatically Affect Health Care Expert Witness Disclosures” can be found here.

ATTORNEY SCOBY JOINS O’NEIL CANNON

Attorney Jason Scoby, a recent graduate of Marquette University Law School, *cum laude*, has joined the Corporate Practice Group of the Milwaukee law firm O’Neil Cannon He advises clients on a wide range of corporate and business-related issues, including commercial transactions governed by the Uniform Commercial Code, mergers and acquisitions, new business formation, and franchising.

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