

## Minutes of the June 4, 2008 Real Estate Section Steering Committee Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Real Estate Section Steering Committee of the Boston Bar Association was held at the offices of the BBA on Wednesday, June 4, 2008 at 12:00 noon. Attending the meeting were Bruce Tribush, Co-Chair, Rob Parker, Peter Farrow, Ray Estes, Ken Gould, Dayna Hutchins, Deborah Eliason, Tim Pecci and Karen Douglass of the BBA. Participating via conference call were Andy Cohn and Sandy Moskowitz.

The discussion began with planning for an event to be held in September aimed at increasing awareness of and participation in the section's programming. An outline prepared by Dayna Hutchins following the Committee's brainstorming session at the May meeting was reviewed. A combination information/marketing session and reception will be held on a date to be confirmed. Dayna Hutchins, Ray Estes and Rob Parker volunteered to work on planning the event which promises to be a strong kickoff to the new BBA year.

Peter Farrow, co-chair of the Legislative and Public Policy Committee, presented a brief overview of proposed statutory housing restrictions which include statutory housing covenants, the statutory housing condition and statutory power of sale. If enacted, many believe these covenants and conditions would be effective enabling structures available to developers of affordable housing much like the statutory mortgage covenants and conditions are currently available to lenders. These restrictions are designed to serve the public interest by including specific representations as to title and promises to the instrument holder. Samples of proposed restrictions were reviewed and discussed.

Committee members discussed ways the Section could reach out to REBA in an effort to improve relations between the two groups, particularly in connection with legislative and similar initiatives that serve the interests of their shared constituencies. While many see the two organizations as competitors for members, programming and sponsorship of legislation, most Committee members feel that characterization is inaccurate and exaggerated and hope to find ways to work with REBA in a positive and productive way in the future.

Bruce closed the meeting with an announcement that the traditional "term limits" for committee co-chairs are being altered somewhat to allow for the continued involvement and participation by several valued Steering Committee members who will not be serving in a particular committee capacity in the coming year. A broader Steering Committee membership will enrich both the Section and the BBA as a whole by maintaining a highly motivated and vastly experienced base of professionals who bring to bear their respective energy and expertise for a common cause.

The Real Estate Section Steering Committee will resume its regular meetings in September. Best wishes for an enjoyable summer. Stay tuned for details about the Section event being planned for September.