

# An Introduction to the Insurance Law Section



**John Travis**

Chair | Insurance Law Section

*John Travis is the chair of the Insurance Law Section. John manages the insurance practice group at Gallagher Sharp, where he also defends general litigation matters. He can be reached at (216) 522-1590 or [jtravis@gallaghersharp.com](mailto:jtravis@gallaghersharp.com).*

**I**n recognition of an unfulfilled need, the CMBA has created an insurance law section. As it begins its inaugural year, the section is seeking new members with varied perspectives on insurance law.

The creation of this section is timely. The Supreme Court of Ohio has announced that effective October 1, 2011 it is adopting insurance coverage as a specialty area. The Supreme Court defines insurance coverage law as the area of law involving issues between insurers and policyholders concerning the rights and responsibilities that arise under insurance policies. The CMBA insurance section will have a similar focus.

The insurance section ideally will be reflective of its membership and include practitioners who typically represent policyholders as well as ones who usually counsel insurers; those who consider themselves to be plaintiffs' lawyers in addition to the those who are defense attorneys; and lawyers who work for different employers: insurance companies, law firms, public organizations, and private businesses. Judges as section members also can provide insights.

The insurance law section, like any section of the CMBA, will strive to uphold the high standards of integrity and honor in the legal profession; encourage and assist lawyers in improving their competence so that they can better serve their clients and the public; and aid in educating

CMBA members and the public. Furthermore, the insurance law section will offer networking opportunities to its members who practice in this area.

In keeping with the foregoing, the section will hold monthly meetings at the CMBA, the second Tuesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. to chart its course. So far, the following action items are under consideration:

- writing articles on insurance law for the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Journal;
- offering C.L.E., especially for potential insurance law specialists;
- collaborating with other sections of the CMBA;
- conferring with other bar associations to explore joint undertakings;
- exploring pro bono and community service opportunities; and
- seeking additional members to accomplish the foregoing.

One thing is certain: the effectiveness of the insurance law section will be determined by the actions of its members. Please consider joining this section. You may do so by emailing CMBA's Carmen Dortch-Morris at [cdortch-morris@clemetrobar.org](mailto:cdortch-morris@clemetrobar.org); calling her at (216) 696-3525 extension 5006; or joining online at [www.clemetrobar.org](http://www.clemetrobar.org).