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THE UABA ENJOYS THE MAGIC OF WALT DISNEY WORLD !

BY: Steve Grogoza, *Chairman of the Board of Governors of the UABA*

The Ukrainian American Bar Association held its 33rd annual convention on October 28 to 31. Continuing its tradition of superb substantive legal presentations and discussions, while providing opportunities for mixing and networking in a vacation setting, the UABA gathered this year at the spectacular Walt Disney World Grand Floridian Resort and Spa in Orlando, Florida. Over 50 attendees and their families from U.S. and Ukraine enjoyed two mornings of seminars on interesting current subjects, while leaving late afternoons free for family fun to explore Disney's amazing theme parks and other attractions.

Thursday evening kicked off a welcome reception hosted by UABA President George Pazuniak and first lady, Maria, at Mizner's Lounge where everyone renewed friendships and shared anecdotes from the past year. Friday session began with Myroslaw Smorodsky announcing and explaining the new UABA website, with all its new "bells and whistles," including a new focus on member-only portal which will be the main communication conduit for the UABA. The UABA is truly indebted to Myroslaw for developing and establishing this new website. Thereafter, Walter Hanchuk, co-chair of the IP practice Group of the international



law firm of Chadbourne & Parke LLP, practicing from the firm's New York City office, discussed the Ever-Changing Landscape for the Protection of Global Intellectual Property Rights, which included the newest IP issues of interest to all attorneys and Ukraine's place in the IP world. He was followed by a roundtable chaired by Markian Selecky, partner in the international law firm Salans, working from both the firm's Kyiv and



New York offices. The topic dealt with Allegations of Takeover of the Ukrainian Economy by Russian National Companies and Individuals, and produced discussions so heavy and intense that there was an impromptu session at the conclusion of Friday's session to continue those discussions. Friday's final session was an in-depth presentation regarding the Next Generation Of Litigation Technology, which was presented by Tom Sinclair and James Vazquez of West/Thomson Reuters.

On Friday evening, the UABA sponsored an outside cocktail reception overlooking Disney's Seven Seas Lagoon where we enjoyed the trademark Magic Kingdom fireworks. All the kids attended to enjoy the ice-cream "bar" while watching the fireworks and their parents' enjoying the other "bar."



Saturday's session had George Pazuniak, Wilmington, Delaware give a presentation on mediation tools. He was followed by Taras Rudnitsky, of Lake Mary, Florida, who gave a fascinating presentation on Developing a Law Practice From Your Roots, and included a multi-media review of automobile air-bag litigation, a practice where Taras has created a national niche. Prof. Yuriy Boshytsky, rector of Kyiv University of Law of the National Academy of

Science, gave a short presentation about his law school. Myroslaw Smorodsky returned to podium to chair a

discussion of the Aftereffects from the Seventh Meeting of the World Congress of Ukrainian Jurists and UABA's Continuing Participation; and the sessions concluded with a roundtable discussion of Allegations of Ukrainian Judiciary's Role in Fraudulent Business Transactions.



Saturday evening featured our gala banquet which was held at a special setting at the American Experience in Epcot. During the banquet, the UABA's president and the Rector of Kyiv University of Law of the National Academy of Science proudly signed a Memorandum of Cooperation providing for future exchanges between the organizations. The UABA also announced the law student winners of the UABA

annual scholarships: Petro Kostiv, a third year law student at the University of Michigan Law School and Steven Pawlyshyn, a second year law student attending Ave Maria School of Law in Naples, Florida. The banquet concluded with our featured speaker, Dr. Orest Subtelny, a noted Ukrainian historian. Dr. Subtelny addressed our members about the current political situation in Ukraine with a historical perspective and projections for the future.



Our banquet concluded with the members being escorted to a VIP area where we were all thrilled by Epcot's IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth. This extravaganza is a spectacular nightly show filled with pyrotechnics, lasers, fire and fountains in the heart of Epcot's World Showcase Lagoon. This award winning show featured and was accompanied by dazzling lighting effects projected onto the surrounding pavilions and depicts the history of the earth and its people. This remarkable show is absolutely

something to behold leaving all attendees speechless. The UABA thanks Disney's Grand Floridian Resort and Spa for providing conference facilities and great rooms for our members. The Grand Floridian is a Victorian-style resort distinguished as the flagship hotel of Walt Disney World, which offers world class dining and luxury on the sandy beaches of the Seven Seas Lagoon just a short monorail ride to the excitement of the Magic Kingdom and other theme parks. The location made it easy and convenient for our members to make our 2010 convention a truly magical experience.

We all look forward to meeting again and seeing what our 2011 convention holds in store for us.

This article recently appeared on the UABA website blogs. You are invited to visit our new redesigned website which we hope will spark your interest to become a member. We plan to expand our website publications in the future to make the site more interesting but we need your input and participation in our organization. If you are a member, please keep your membership status current; if you are not a member but are interested in our organization, then we invite you to please join.



Please visit www.uaba.org !!