

April 30, 2009

Online links to the Bar sections and committees to be easier to access

It will soon be easier to go to the online sites of [Bar sections and divisions](#), following action by the Bar Board of Governors.



At its April 3 meeting, the board approved the recommendation of the Communications Committee to make it easier for visitors to the Bar's Web site, [floridabar.org](#), to find links to section and division Web sites.

The change, committee chair **Ray Abadin** told the board, will mean when a Web page visitor moves the cursor to the "Sections and Divisions" item on the homepage, one click will take the user straight to a page with links to all section and division Web sites.

The board approved the suggestion, and Abadin said that is only the starting point for a planned overhaul of the Bar Web site in the coming year.

"We want to move forward in the next year to explore how to make the use of our Web site easier and more flexible for our members and nonlawyers," he said. "We have been throughout the year in active discussion and getting comments on changing the look and feel and navigation aspects of our Web site."

The committee has met with the Citizens Forum, he added, which told the committee some of the terms used on the site are confusing to nonlawyers.

Bar President Jay White said the goal of the review is to make the site easier to use not only for lawyers but for lay visitors as well.

One likely improvement, Abadin said, will be with the site's search engine, which he called "pretty arcane." For example, if a user types in the name of a lawyer and gets one letter wrong, the search will fail.

The Google search engine, Abadin said, will in similar situations provide a suggested list of correct spellings, and the Bar hopes to offer the same service.

"It's really an ease of use and access issue," he said.

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