

# **We Got Ourselves a PAC!!!!**

## **FACDL Forms Committee of Continuing Existence**

The Board of Directors of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers has voted to establish a Committee of Continuing Existence to help further our legislative agenda. A Committee of Continuing Existence, or "CCE," as it is known, is a form of political action committee permitted by Florida law for organizations such as FACDL. The formation of a CCE will enable us to continue and expand our efforts to ensure that Florida's criminal statutes do not become more unjust. That is why we are calling our CCE the "Floridians Associated to Insure Responsible Laws," or "FAIRLAWS."

Many of our members are not familiar with the work of our Legislative Affairs Committee, and the successes FACDL has had in Tallahassee. Your continued ability to take depositions in criminal cases and the fight to preserve the sandwich closing argument are just two important areas where our legislative efforts have been at least partially successful. The formation of a CCE gives us a new and powerful tool to continue that fight.

In the upcoming legislative session we can expect to address a range of issues which will affect the way every single one of our members practices. We will be advocating mandatory recording of interrogations, fair revision of the statutes governing payments to court-appointed counsel, open discovery in DUI cases, and unanimous death verdicts in capital cases, just to name a few.

In addition to our current, exhaustive lobbying efforts by FACDL Lobbyist Linda Cox and the FACDL Legislative Committee, we believe we can make a greater impact in advancing our legislative agenda and have a greater voice in the legislature by actively participating in the political process through member contributions. To help finance this important effort, the Board has voted to earmark \$10.00 from the annual dues of each non-public defender member of the Association to finance FAIRLAWS. **Annual dues will not increase.** This is a voluntary contribution and members may choose not to participate. Membership dues will remain the same, either way.

There are additional ways to help with FACDL's legislative efforts. Members who are willing to go to Tallahassee to appear before legislative committees or sit down with local legislators and talk about our issues, may contact Executive Director Kathryn Bradley at [kbradley@facdl.org](mailto:kbradley@facdl.org). She will give your name to FACDL's Legislative Committee Chair, who will get in touch with you. We look forward to you becoming an important part of this new dimension of our organization.