

ASCLS Committee: **Government Affairs**  
Strategic Action Plan (2009-2010)

**ASCLS Mission/Vision:**

ASCLS serves as the voice of all clinical laboratory professionals, creating a vision for the advancement of the clinical laboratory practice field, and advocating the value and the role of the profession ensuring safe, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient centered health care.

Core Values:

- Promoting the value of the profession to healthcare and the public;
- Uniting the profession to speak with one voice;
- Advocating on behalf of the profession;
- Promoting professional independence;
- Enhancing quality standards and patient safety;
- Ensuring workplace safety;
- Providing professional development opportunities;
- Promoting expanded roles and contributions of clinical laboratory professionals to the healthcare team;
- Increasing the diversity in the profession and expanding the voice and role of under-represented individuals and groups.

ASCLS Committee Purpose:

Assists ASCLS in achieving objectives of influencing the formulation of appropriate public (governmental) policy on health care issues vital to the profession and the public.

<p><b>1. 2009-2010 Committee Charge #1: <i>Identify an individual from GAC to work with the ASCLS office staff in planning and support of the Legislative Symposium. Give name to President and Executive VP by September 1, 2009.</i></b>  <b>Charge Outcome (if defined):</b> The Committee Chairs and Vice Chair have agreed to work with the ASCLS Office Staff in planning the 2009 Legislative Symposium</p>			
<p><b>Background &amp; Current Established Activity(s) related to charge:</b>                  Had conference call with GAC Chairs, Vice-Chair and Elissa Passiment on June 18, 2009 to discuss charges and plans for implementation and communication strategies. Monthly GAC conference calls will be scheduled</p>			
Strategic Actions: (Year/Action)	Step Summary to Accomplish Action:	Assigned Responsibilities:	Completion Timeframe:
2009-2010 Participate in planning 2010 Legislative Symposium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conference Call to Plan Symposium</li> <li>▪ Assist in developing materials as requested</li> <li>▪ Develop timeline and organizational assignments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rick Panning and Cindy Johnson</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Planning Timeframe will be established by the ASCLS Office Staff.. <b>Progress:</b> Planning conference call held Feb 2, 2010 with development of Draft agenda and writing assignments.</li> </ul>

**2. 2009-2010 Committee Charge #2: Write columns for the Clinical Laboratory Science Journal and ASCLS Today (in collaboration with the ASCLS Legislative Consultant) as requested; post GAC updates on the ASCLS Website. Specifically target how to's such as how to use [www.Thomas.gov](http://www.Thomas.gov) and CapWiz**

**Charge Outcome (if defined):** A grid and schedule of articles for ASCLS Today, CLS (Washington Beat) and monthly emails will be developed

**Background & Current Established Activity(s) related to charge:**

- The GAC is asked to provide authors for the Washington Beat column in the CLS Journal published quarterly. In addition, GAC is asked to prepare articles for 5 issues of ASCLS Today. We will also be developing a monthly membership GAC email.

Strategic Actions: (Year/Action)	Step Summary to Accomplish Action:	Assigned Responsibilities:	Completion Timeframe:
* GAC Subcommittee to develop monthly membership email  * Schedule/Assignments for ASCLS Today and CLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Authors identified</li> <li>▪ Identifying, collating, and developing materials to be placed on GAC page of the ASCLS website</li> <li>▪ Continuing to identify authors to write articles</li> </ul>	Don Lavanty (Washington Beat) Rick Panning and Cindy Johnson (write ASCLS Today articles) Judy Davis - editing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meet publication deadlines.</li> <li>- <b>Progress: 5 ASCLS Today articles have been submitted, 2 CLS articles have been submitted, 3 E-newsletters were published and posted. ASCLS Advocates for You used as the site to post all GAC information</b></li> </ul>

**3. 2009-2010 Committee Charge #3: Identify members of the committee who will work with the ASCLS Office to maintain and update the alerts posted on CapWiz.**

**Charge Outcome (if defined):** Identified contacts and a subcommittee to help prepare alert/letter narratives.

**Background & Current Established Activity(s) related to charge:**

- This is a new initiative that will be coordinated by Elissa Passiment.
- ASCLS GAC needs to identify committee resources to keep site updated

Strategic Actions: (Year/Action)	Step Summary to Accomplish Action:	Assigned Responsibilities:	Completion Timeframe:
2008-09 Participate in the implementation of Cap Wiz as requested by EVP Elissa Passiment 2009-2010: Identify resources from the committee to keep site updated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identified first contact individuals and coordinators for this activity</li> <li>▪ Identified subcommittee to assist in the development of materials (alerts, letters, etc) as needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Leslie Martineau, Judy Davis, Linda Commeaux, Cindy Johnson</li> <li>▪ Patrick Cooney – Federal Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As requested.</li> <li>▪ As requested</li> <li>▪ <b>Progress: CapWiz utilized in August 2009 for advocacy against a proposed imposition of a Lab CoPay. Leslie Martineu developed a CapWiz tutorial.</b></li> </ul>

<p><b>4. 2009-2010 Committee Charge #4: <i>Develop a network of contacts so that GAC members communicate issues to every state.</i></b>  <b>Charge Outcome (if defined):</b> Appointed GAC members to serve as liaisons to all ASCLS Regions.</p>			
<p><b>Background &amp; Current Established Activity(s) related to charge:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Liaisons have been assigned and communication strategies discussed.</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>			
Strategic Actions: (Year/Action)	Step Summary to Accomplish Action:	Assigned Responsibilities:	Completion Timeframe:
2009-2010 Assign GAC members as liaisons to all ASCLS Regions.	<p>Establish email communication network in each region.</p> <p>Identify state contact in each constituent society</p> <p>Send correspondence as need arises.</p> <p>Regional Liaison to become member of Regional Council</p>	<p>Region I – Leslie Martineau  Region II – Kyle Riding  Region III – Angela Phillips (Judy Davis, mentor)  Region IV – Paula Garrott  Region V – Cindy Johnson  Region VI – Judy Yeager  Region VII Dave Falleur  Region VIII –Linda Comeaux  Region IX – Donna Reinbold  Region X – Karen McClure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communication network established by September 15, 2009 and distributed on September 18.</li> <li>▪ Send communications as needed</li> <li>▪ <b>Progress: Regional and state network developed. Regional liaisons from GAC asked to communicate information monthly to Regional and state liaisons</b></li> </ul>

<p><b>5. 2009-2010 Committee Charge #5: <i>Respond to legislation, policies and other issues that have the potential to affect the laboratory profession. AND Continue to work with CLMA and other laboratory professional organizations to develop alternatives to the current Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule. Provide support and lead advocacy efforts for the Alternative Fee Schedule legislation.</i></b>  <b>Charge Outcome (if defined)</b></p>			
<p><b>Background &amp; Current Established Activity(s) related to charge:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing activity as needed arises</li> </ul>			
Strategic Actions: (Year/Action)	Step Summary to Accomplish Action:	Assigned Responsibilities:	Completion Timeframe:
<p>2009-2010 Respond as need arises</p> <p>2009-2010 Identify co-sponsors Lobby for bill in House and sponsors and co-sponsors in Senate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communication networks established in advance to facilitate response when needed</li> <li>▪ Engage key contact network to contact Congressional members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ See network above.</li> <li>▪ EVP, Elissa Passiment and Legislative Consultant Don Lavanty will keep the GAC updated on events related to this legislation.</li> <li>▪ GAC will participate in lobbying efforts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As need arises</li> <li>▪ <b>ASCLS GAC has responded to key legislative , regulatory and workforce issues.</b></li> </ul>

<b>6. 2009-2010 Committee Charge #6:</b>			
<b>Charge Outcome (if defined):</b> Passage of legislation to update the laboratory fee schedule			
<b>Background &amp; Current Established Activity(s) related to charge:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The bill has been introduced but no action is expected until the new Congress is seated in 2009.</li> </ul>			
<b>Strategic Actions: (Year/Action)</b>	<b>Step Summary to Accomplish Action:</b>	<b>Assigned Responsibilities:</b>	<b>Completion Timeframe:</b>
Work mto include this legislation in the healthcare reform bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop informational materials</li> <li>▪ Engage key contact network to contact Congressional members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Don Lavanty to counsel GAC on how and when to advocate for this inclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TBD</li> <li>▪ <b>Progress: Up until Feb. 12, there has been no movement on the fee schedule legislation. It might possibly be tied in with healthcare Reform and Don Lavanty communicates the need to involve the lab industry in any fee schedule adjustments.</b></li> </ul>

<b>7. 2009-2010 Committee Charge #7: <i>Support ASCLS Executive Vice President in responding to Legislative and Regulatory initiatives.</i></b>			
<b>Charge Outcome (if defined):</b> Response to requests from the EVP			
<b>Background &amp; Current Established Activity(s) related to charge:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The GAC largely relies on EVP, Elissa Passiment and Legislative Consultant, Don Lavanty to keep them abreast of legislative and regulatory activities. The GAC responds as requested to issues providing information relative to their areas of expertise and initiating communications with regional and state GAC contacts.</li> <li>▪ Regular conference calls will be used to facilitate this activity.</li> </ul>			
<b>Strategic Actions: (Year/Action)</b>	<b>Step Summary to Accomplish Action:</b>	<b>Assigned Responsibilities:</b>	<b>Completion Timeframe:</b>
2009-2010 Respond to identified legislative and regulatory issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conference calls to stay abreast of activities</li> <li>▪ Develop responses as requested</li> <li>▪ Initiate communication network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GAC Co-Chairs and Vice-Chair will schedule regular monthly GAC Committee conference calls with Elissa and Don.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monthly and as needed based on legislative and regulatory activity.</li> <li>▪ <b>Progress: ASCLS, through the GAC has provided input re: legislative and regulatory issues and scheduled monthly conference calls</b></li> </ul>

<p><b>8. 2008-09 Committee Charge #9: <i>Work with AGT leadership to integrate their organization into the GAC committee.</i></b></p> <p><b>Charge Outcome (if defined):</b></p>			
<p><b>Background &amp; Current Established Activity(s) related to charge:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AGT has requested to participate with the ASCLS Government Affairs Committee</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>			
<p>Strategic Actions: (Year/Action)</p>	<p>Step Summary to Accomplish Action:</p>	<p>Assigned Responsibilities:</p>	<p>Completion Timeframe:</p>
<p>2009-2010 Two liaisons from AGT have been appointed to the GAC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Involve AGT liaisons in all GAC conference calls, meetings and other activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GAC Co-Chairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On-going</li> <li>▪ <b>Progress: AGT representatives (2) are included in all communications, participate in conference calls and distribute our materials to their members.</b></li> </ul>