



As I sit down to write this column we begin the halcyon days of summer; well, for many of us anyway. It's the traditional time for family vacations, summer camp for the kids, catching up on reading and so on.

In this loose and relaxed mood I thought I would indulge my philosophic side and share some of my thoughts and feelings concerning one of my top priorities. That is, education and educational activities.

First, allow me to express my concern and consternation that more of the college members do not attend our annual educational conference. I have not been able to figure this out. Attendance allows us to enjoy the fellowship of our eclectic group, gain CME and/or CLE credits, network with peers and also enjoy the hospitality of a great American city. I urge you to make an extra effort to attend our next annual conference on Legal Medicine in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 4-7, 2004. We'll be at the Rio All-Suite Casino Resort. If you haven't been there before you're in for a treat. It's an exciting property with great accommodations. And, at a reasonable price.

Gary Birnbaum is the program chair and he's planning and developing an exceptional program. You will not be disappointed. ACLM's mission to promote and present educational programs in Legal Medicine and Bioethics to influence and shape public policy in these areas is a serious undertaking. I remain fully committed to this endeavor, and we in the American College of Legal Medicine are uniquely qualified to address these very important issues. The upcoming 2004 annual meeting will meet and exceed our high standards for excellence in education.

With our publications, Amicus Briefs and educational meetings, ACLM is front stage center in Legal Medicine education, and properly so. Our textbook, *Legal Medicine*, is in its 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition is due in early 2004. *Legal Medicine* has enjoyed extraordinary success over the years and is now the principal text in the field.

Kudos goes to Sandy Sanbar for his tireless efforts in connection with this project.

While I'm handing out kudos, allow me to thank Marshall Kapp, Editor of *JLM*, Tom McLean, Editor of *LMP* and Judith Gic, Editor of *Legal Medicine Q&A*. These three publications show off our best side to the world of legal medicine and bioethics. There is a daunting task; deadlines recur regularly and quickly. Thank you all.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Physician Legal Issues was held in Chicago, June 13-14, 2003. This conference was co-sponsored by ACLM and the American Bar Association, Health Law section. The agenda contained relevant and valuable information about the laws and regulations that directly impact various aspects of healthcare in the United States. The conference was a success on all counts.

Warm regards to all; and I wish you and your families a safe, healthy and happy summer season...

Phil Cifarelli

Washington malpractice attorney, Jack Olender, received the Washington Bar Association's President's Award at a ceremony held at the National Council for Negro Women's Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Olender was recognized for his years of dedication and service to the Washington Bar Association and the legal community.

## *44th Annual Conference on Legal Medicine*



March 4 - 7, 2004

Rio All-Suite  
Casino Resort



Las Vegas, Nevada