



I write my first *Notes from the President* column as I return from Las Vegas, where the College held its 44th annual conference. With over 300 attendees, we set an all-time ACLM record. The Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino was an excellent venue and our program was substantively outstanding. A superb faculty, a hardworking and dedicated program chair, and the leadership of a tremendous group of officers and governors combined to make this meeting exceptional in every respect.

At the annual meeting of the Fellows, I offered my thoughts about the great strengths of the College and my vision for the coming year. The text of my presentation follows:

*I am pleased and honored to have the privilege of delivering the report of the President-Elect. As we move into the 2004 year, our College is very strong—there is strength in our educational programs, our scholarship, our national and international reputation, our finances, and our management. We have a vital and dedicated membership that is committed to advancing the goals, the objectives, and the stature of the College—a stature that is reflected quite vividly by the record attendance at this 44th Annual Conference on Legal Medicine. It is a credit to our Program Chair, Gary Birnbaum, and our President, Phil Cifarelli, as well as an exceptionally talented program faculty. We will continue to build upon this success during the coming year.*

*In early October, and for the first time since 1999, we will reinstitute the College's past practice of holding a regular mid-year meeting. Under the leadership of Program Chair, Dale Cowan, the mid-year meeting will focus on the topic of "Cancer and the Law." The program content is excellent and the program faculty is nationally renowned. This will be an outstanding meeting and I encourage you to mark your calendars for a Fall breakaway to the Bourbon Orleans Hotel in the fabulous New Orleans French Quarter.*

*In March of 2005, the College will hold its 45th Annual Conference in San Diego, at the magnificent Paradise Point Resort. Chaired by Mel Shiffman, the program will bring together yet another excellent faculty to address issues of significant medical legal importance as we move into the 2005 year. The working title for the program is "Legal Medicine 2005: Confronting the Challenges." I know you will want to block time on your calendar for what will be a terrific academic and social program.*

*The College's publications are enjoying what I can only describe as a banner year. Legal Medicine Sixth Edition has just hit the streets and it is absolutely superb. Under the leadership of Editor Sandy Sanbar, with the help of a dedicated textbook committee, a team of upwards of 90 contributors has published the nation's leading monograph on legal medicine—clearly evidencing the College's commitment to excellence in scholarship. It is my intention, before the close of this calendar year, and with the support of our Board of Governors, to negotiate and execute a contract with Mosby/Elsevier to publish Legal Medicine Seventh Edition in 2007. And I am pleased to announce that Sandy Sanbar has agreed to continue to serve as editor. In this regard, it merits emphasis that 2004 marks the 20th anniversary of the initial efforts on the part of Sandy Sanbar and his textbook committee to prepare the first edition of Legal Medicine, which was published in 1988.*

*The success of Legal Medicine Sixth is complemented by the ongoing strength of our bi-monthly and quarterly publications, which offer a diverse array of material intended to address the varied medical legal interests of our members. The Journal of Legal Medicine has just concluded its 24th volume and a copy of the December 2003 issue should have been available to you when you registered. This issue represented my final effort as the Journal's Editor and I was honored by the JLM Editorial Board and the ACLM Board of Governors to be named Editor Emeritus of the Journal after 22 years as its Editor.*

*I am pleased to say that, as we begin the 2004 year, Marshall Kapp, who has an international reputation for his scholarship in legal medicine, has assumed the role of Editor after serving most recently as one of the Journal's Deputy Editors. Clearly, the Journal will continue to be a flagship publication of the College.*

*It is complemented by our two bi-monthly publications, Legal Medicine Perspectives and Legal Medicine Q & A, edited by Tom McLean and Judith Gic, respectively. These publications offer practical and clinically relevant articles, abstracts, case-based analyses, and discussion of important medical legal principles, statutes, and case law. This coming year, it is my plan to make all three of these publications available to College members online at the Member's Only section of the ACLM website. Members will*

*be able to access and read the Journal of Legal Medicine, LMP, and LMQA in their entirety, online, in addition to receiving a hard copy of each of these publications through the regular mail. I see this as a very important undertaking that will round out our publications portfolio.*

*At the international level, in an effort to further enhance the College's stature, a delegation of ACLM officers, governors, and members will attend the 15th World Congress on Medical Law in Sydney, Australia in August. There, I will make a formal presentation to the Governors of the World Association for Medical Law in an effort to seek designation of the United States as the venue for the 17th World Congress on Medical Law in 2008—a Congress to be hosted by the American College of Legal Medicine. The process is highly competitive. However, if we succeed, the College will host the 2008 meeting in Chicago.*

*At the national level, the work of our Amicus Curiae Ad Hoc Committee, under the leadership of Miles Zaremski, has continued to showcase the College's efforts to promote the administration of justice at the state and federal level. In January of this year, the College filed a brief in consolidated cases pending before the U.S. Supreme Court (*Aetna Health Inc. v. Davila* and *Cigna Healthcare of Texas, Inc. v. Calad*). The Supreme Court will hear arguments in these cases on March 23rd and we hope to influence the thinking of the Court through our amicus brief. A copy of this brief is available at the ACLM website and also appears in your program course materials. During the coming year, as new opportunities arise for the College to help influence the thinking of the courts, the Amicus Committee can be counted on to continue its outstanding work.*

*Additionally, at the national level, we will again be cosponsors of the National Health Law Moot Court Competition—the nation's most highly regarded law student competition addressing issues at the interface of medicine and law. This competition, which began in 1992, will again be held on the campus of Southern Illinois University School of Law. Last year, 24 teams from 18 law schools competed and we expect a similarly strong level of law school participation this coming year.*

*Consistent with our efforts in this context, to recognize and reward oral advocacy in the area of legal medicine, we will also continue our commitment to recognize and reward written advocacy and written scholarship on the part of law students, medical students, and allied health professions students across the country. Moreover, we will again sponsor the Greenwall Bioethics Writing Competition, which has brought Jeremy Hochberg, a talented young scholar, to this annual meeting where he will present his paper tomorrow morning on the topic of "Regulating Internet Pharmacies."*

*Along with the bioethics writing competition, the College will continue to take pride in its ongoing sponsorship of the LeTourneau, Schwartz, and Hirsh writing competition awards. Authors of winning papers in these contests not only receive a generous stipend, but there is the possibility that their award-winning manuscripts may be published in the Journal of Legal Medicine. Through these writing contests, our visibility at law schools, medical schools, and health professions education programs throughout the country continues to grow. We are, and will continue to be known as an organization that fosters and encourages legal medicine research and scholarship by talented students involved in graduate professional education.*

*And to further our efforts this year to reach out to students of law and medicine, I will ask the College's Graduate Student Ad Hoc Committee to facilitate meaningful dialogue among our student members with a view toward ensuring that there is a clear place within the College for their enthusiastic commitment to our goals and objectives. The Committee also will work to recruit new student members, who will hopefully find a future professional home within our organization.*

*As a related undertaking, the Board of Governors has approved funding to conduct preliminary research during the coming year in an effort to determine the number of M.D./J.D. dual degree holders in the United States. This research project, to be led by Christopher White, will seek to identify and obtain as much detailed contact information as possible about these individuals. Once compiled, this database will facilitate outreach by the College with a view toward increasing networking opportunities for these individuals, and potentially recruiting them to membership in the College. We anticipate completion of this exciting project by February 2005, to be followed by a formal presentation at next year's annual meeting detailing the results of this research effort.*

## ACLM Foundation Corner

The ACLM Foundation held its annual meeting in conjunction with the Annual College meeting in Las Vegas. A completely reorganized and revitalized Foundation emerged from that meeting. The Foundation's status as a tax-free corporation has been confirmed. New Bylaws were adopted providing for closer interaction between the College and the Foundation. Committees to develop guidelines for contributions/bequests and priorities for distribution of funds were established. The following officers were elected: Fill Buckner, President; Phil Cifarelli, Treasurer; Bruce Wilder, Secretary.

*To conclude, our College is very strong and the projected activities during the coming year will ensure that our organizational strength is maintained, if not enhanced. I ask all of you to continue to be actively involved in the work of the College—by attending our mid-year meeting in New Orleans or our next annual meeting in San Diego, by writing for our publications or speaking as a faculty member at our meetings, by supporting the work of our committees, by recruiting new members here in Las Vegas or throughout the course of the year in other professional venues, by networking with fellow members, both personally and online through our increasingly active legalmednet, and by continuing to let us know where you are and what you're doing, which begins by checking and regularly updating your member profile on our ACLM database. I look forward to working with you during the coming year in the continuing pursuit of excellence. Thank you.*

The annual meeting traditionally has been a time for recognizing distinguished service to the College. This year was no exception as more than 20 individuals received various awards. The College's highest honor—the Gold Medal—was awarded to Arnold "Skip" Rosoff, JD, FCLM, and Sal Fiscina, MD, JD, FCLM, individuals whose record of service to the College not only spans multiple decades but has been truly extraordinary. Honorary Fellowship was awarded to Michael Baden, MD, and Barry Scheck, JD, both of whom are nationally and internationally renowned for their work in the field of criminal justice.

President's awards for exemplary service to the College were given to: Gary Birnbaum, MD, JD, FCLM; Fillmore Buckner, MD, JD, FCLM; Dale Cowan, MD, JD, FCLM; Alan Dorian, MD, DSc, FCLM; Judith Gic, RN, JD, FCLM; Alan Hoffman, JD, FCLM; Marshall Kapp, JD, MPH, FCLM; Tom McLean, MD, JD, FCLM; Michael Raskin, MD, JD, FCLM; Ila Rothschild, MA, JD; Sandy Sanbar, MD, PhD, JD, FCLM; Mel Shiffman, MD, JD, FCLM; Marty Stillman, MD, JD, FCLM; John Sullivan, DDS, JD, FCLM; Cyril Wecht, MD, JD, FCLM; and Miles Zaremski, JD, FCLM, all of whom are well known within the College for their unselfish commitment to our committees, our publications, our programs, and our projects. WJ Weiser & Associates also was recognized for their unparalleled contributions to the success of the College.

Separately, student achievement through scholarship was recognized, as awards for excellence in writing were given to the following individuals: *Bioethics Writing Competition*—First Place, Jeremy Hochberg; Second Place, James S. Lyle; and Third Place, Lori Adams; *LeTourneau Award* (law student)—Yuri Walker; *Schwartz Award* (medical student)—John Caskey; and *Hirsh Award* (allied health professions student)—Sandeep Rao. Congratulations are very much in order to all of our 2004 award winners.

Finally, as we know so well, the work of our College is a product of the efforts of our executive committee, our board of governors, and our committees. I congratulate and welcome Bruce H. Seidberg, DDS, JD,

FCLM to the Executive Committee following his election as ACLM Secretary. I also congratulate and welcome back Bob Buckman, PhD, FCLM, Dale Cowan, MD, JD, FCLM, and Tom Noguchi, MD, to second terms on the Board of Governors, as well as Dick Wilbur, MD, JD, FCLM and Kent Harshbarger, MD, JD, FCLM, to continuing terms as our AMA delegate and alternate delegate, respectively. Committee chairs for 2004-2005, all of whom will bring tremendous expertise and talent to the activities of the College, are as follows: *ACLM Logowear Ad Hoc Committee*—Bruce Seidberg, DDS, JD, FCLM; *Amicus Curiae Ad Hoc Committee*—Miles Zaremski, JD, FCLM; *ByLaws and Resolutions Committee*—John Sullivan, DDS, JD; *Directory and Cybernet Committee*—Bob Buckman, PhD, FCLM; *Education and Professional Development Committee*—Gary Birnbaum, MD, JD, FCLM; *Ethics Committee*—Dale Cowan, MD, JD, FCLM and Ila Rothschild, MA, JD, Co-Chair; *Finance Committee*—Art Cohen, MD, JD, MBA, FCLM; *Graduate Student Ad Hoc Committee*—Kent Harshbarger, MD, JD, FCLM; *Honorary Fellowship & Gold Medal Committee*—Dorothy Gregory, MD, JD; *International Members Ad Hoc Committee*—Tom Noguchi, MD; *Judicial Council*—Ed Hollowell, JD, FCLM; *Marketing & Public Relations Committee*—Mitch Nudelman, MD, JD, FCLM; *Membership and Credentials Committee*—Michael Raskin, MD, JD, FCLM; *National Health Law Moot Court Competition Ad Hoc Committee*—W. Eugene Basanta, JD, LL.M.; *Nominating Committee*—Philip Cifarelli, MD, JD, FCLM; *Publications Committee*—Marshall Kapp, JD, MPH, FCLM; *Senior Members Ad Hoc Committee*—Cyril Wecht, MD, JD, FCLM; *Student Awards Committee*—Alan Hoffman, JD, FCLM; *World Congress on Medical Law Meeting Ad Hoc Committee*—Theodore R. LeBlang, JD, FCLM and Tom Noguchi, MD, Co-Chair; and *Young Leadership Ad Hoc Committee*—Marty Stillman, MD, JD, FCLM.

In closing, I look forward to an exciting year that allows our College to continue to demonstrate its greatness in national and international venues. We have much to be proud of!

Warmest personal regards,

Theodore R. LeBlang  
President



**Help us Stay in Touch with You!**  
Please visit the ACLM website regularly to update your member profile, particularly your mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address.



Past-president Sandy Sanbar is praised for his excellent work as editor of *Legal Medicine* 6th.



Incoming president Ted LeBlang congratulates outgoing president Phil Cifarelli for his exceptional leadership.



The College recognizes the distinguished career of Dr. Michael Baden by awarding him Honorary Fellowship.



*JLM* Deputy Editor Skip Rosoff and Dr. Jill Pierce pause to enjoy his recognition as a 2004 ACLM Gold Medal Award winner.



Past-presidents Don Mills and Chuck Hollen pose for a photo after past-president Sal Fiscina receives a 2004 ACLM Gold Medal Award.

**Look for more 2004 Annual Meeting photos online at [www.aclm.org](http://www.aclm.org)**

## Mark Your Calendars

### **Cancer and the Law: A Program Primarily for Physicians**

A Mid-Year Educational Conference of the American College of Legal Medicine

October 1 - 2, 2004

Bourbon Orleans - A Wyndham Historic Hotel

New Orleans, Louisiana

### **45th ACLM Annual Meeting**

March 3 - 6, 2005

Paradise Point Resort

San Diego, California