

It is a great honor and pleasure to have been chosen by you, the Fellows of the American College of Legal Medicine, to assume the presidency of this great organization. I joined the ACLM in 1973 as a law student (having already earned the MD). Here I am – 32 years later – serving as your president.

This is my chosen group because the members are the best and the brightest in Medicine and in Law. The meetings have both great depth and breath. This organization is the antithesis of the old saw that specialists know more and more about less and less until they know everything about nothing.

Congratulations are due to out-going president, Ted LeBlang, for his outstanding leadership and his many accomplishments. His travel to the World Congress on Medical Law in Australia has led to a stronger relationship on the international level. Ted's belief in our mission as leaders in promoting scholarship and excellence in the Legal Medicine and Bioethics arena is off to a fabulous start.

Every organization increases its longevity by seeking out new members. Thanks to the dedication and very serious efforts of Fellow Christopher White, approximately 400-500 MD/JD's have been identified outside the College. With effort, I trust that a reasonable number of them will join the ACLM.

A primary goal of my administration is to increase not only the number of members, but to increase the opportunities for every member to be an active participant. I thank all of you who signed up for committees, and the final lists of members will be ready within two weeks of our meeting in San Diego.

I try to learn something from everyone that I meet, and I will say the following about the last four ACLM presidents:

Ted LeBlang taught me and the Board the importance of being a "team player."

Miles Zaremski expanded the role of the College in the international area and also showed the importance of Amicus filings in increasing the prestige and the influence of the ACLM.

Phil Cifarelli showed us how to be admirably concise and even somewhat military in his thinking and acting, while still being kind and not at all brusque in his communications.

Finally, I learned so much from Fill Buckner, that I can only say that I consider him my friend and mentor.

In closing, I want to give thanks and recognition that the real work of the College is done by our committees. I have already appointed the Council Chairs and the working Chairs of our committees. The committee members will be notified with the next two weeks. Specific thanks and recognition go to Mike Raskin, who is working as Program Chair of an outstanding meeting for 2005 in Las Vegas, and Gary Birnbaum, who is the chair of the Education and Professional Committee. There are many other members who work unselfishly for the College and I am personally grateful to each and every one of them.

Our staff at W.J. Weiser and Associates is both professional and highly competent. The College could not function without them, and I sincerely thank Wendy, Sue and Jennifer, as well as the rest of the staff in Schaumburg, Ill.

Thank you ALL again, and I promise that I will endeavor to bring the College to an even higher level, where we will all continue to be proud of the ACLM.

Philip A. Shelton, MD, JD, FCLM

In Memoriam

by Bruce H. Seidberg, DDS, MScD, JD

Lou Dyll passed away suddenly one week before the annual meeting. He was a neurologist, attorney, expert witness and a friend. Lou Dyll was a friend of so many, a strong supporter of ACLM activities, a familiar mentor for young members in the College and to me; he always encouraged me to pursue activity in the College and become a leader. In July 1991, he and I started the "ACLM Communique and NewsBriefs" publication under then-president Charles Hollen. Lou was an editor who aimed for perfection while keeping the content controversial and cutting-edge. We had a hard-working staff but the publication was stopped in 1993 when the publication committee sought a different direction. Since that time, Lou and I served on the Board together and we always enjoyed catching up about families and life in general at each ACLM meeting. He enjoyed his time in his Montana hideaway. I will miss him, our conversations and his honesty about issues. The College has lost a loyal active Fellow and friend. He leaves his wife, Joyce; daughter, Kathryn; and two sons, Michael and Edward.

ACLM Foundation Corner

The ACLM Foundation is proud to offer the membership of ACLM a way to honor, memorialize, or wish a speedy recovery to friends, relatives and fellow members while contributing to the educational goals of ACLM. Each contribution will be acknowledged to both the honoree and donor, and hopefully will become a regular listing in Notes to the President. Such contributions are considered tax deductible by the IRS and will go to finance such projects as the National Health Law Moot Court Competition at Southern Illinois University School of Law, Annual Meeting speakers, Legal Medicine and Bioethics writing contests, and *Textbook* awards to outstanding medical and law school students. The donation form below may be clipped and copied or may be printed out from the ACLM website. Let us make this a growing part of ACLM's collegial life.

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