



# President

MAY/JUNE 2006 \* AMERICAN COLLEGE OF LEGAL MEDICINE

Dear ACLM Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

The strength of a membership organization, such as the American College of Legal Medicine, is, naturally and obviously enough, in its membership. In this vital regard, ACLM meets the criteria for being a strong organization. Not only does it produce nationally recognized publications, but also its recent Annual Meeting was attended by over one third of its members. This is an unusually large percentage for either a medical or legal organization. This clearly shows the interest of the ACLM members in interacting with one's peers and the in keeping current on the latest and the most important topics in their fields. It is also a testimonial to the success of the Program Chair Michael Raskin, in putting together sessions of interest to all of us who wish to keep up in this rapidly changing area.

These ACLM meetings are an opportunity for those of us with dual degrees to earn our required hours of continuing education in both the law and medicine or dentistry simultaneously. Special attention is also paid by the Program Chairs to being certain that we are all able to meet our requirements in Ethics, Pain Management and other legislatively or judicially mandated fields in which we need to gain hours of CME and CLE in order to maintain our licenses. ACLM members can get twice the value per hour by attending their college meetings.

The ability to attend these valuable ACLM Meetings will be increased by the addition of regular Mid-year Meetings to the Annual Meetings. Beginning next year these Mid-year Meetings will be held regularly in Chicago in the Fall. These sessions will be shorter than the Annual and will focus on a single area. At least initially, this will be on the medicolegal problems of a medical specialty. The 2007 Mid-year will concentrate on the problems of Radiology and the Law.

In the past, it has been difficult for members to plan ahead for when and where the Meetings would be, as well as in what fields.. However, this year, with the formation of a Long Range Planning Committee, it is now possible for ACLM members to know what is coming in future years and how it will be planned. The previous arrangement of having each President primarily responsible for the Meetings during her/his year's term of office is now replaced by a system in which we know who will chair future Meetings and where they will be held several years in advance. This will serve to further enhance their value to the members.

With the advent of Long Range planning, ACLM is able to get away from a past system that considered each year's agenda and budget separately. The planning process is much smoother now. In addition, the Committee is establishing multiyear protocols for ACLM activities. There are now structured guidelines which not only assure continuity of practices, but also ensure that no one will be surprised and discomfited by a sudden change in the rules; for example, deciding which, if any, speakers will be compensated for making a presentation.

The next opportunity for ACLM members to avail themselves of the benefits of attending College meetings, will be in Orlando, Florida from Monday, February 26 to March 3, 2007. The initial part of the week will be the international portion. For the first time in a generation, the United States will host a meeting attended by those interested in medicine and the law from around the globe. In conjunction with the World Association of Medical Law (WAML), the ACLM will present the International Congress on Medical Law (ICLM). The latter part of the week, beginning on Friday morning as usual, the ACLM will sponsor its own customary Annual Meeting. Members may attend either meeting for all or part of the week and receive CLE and CME credits for the time spent learning. Details can be found on our website and in future President's Notes.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Wilbur, MD, JD, FCLM

### 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.

### ACLM FOUNDATION DONATION FORM

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 your donation!*

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[www.aclm.org](http://www.aclm.org)