



President

MAY/JUNE 2007 * AMERICAN COLLEGE OF LEGAL MEDICINE

Dear ACLM Colleagues,

Enthusiastically exciting, rewarding and satisfying! That is what the first two and a half months have been for me as your President. Let me take this opportunity to catch you, our faithful membership, up to date with some of our accomplishments since we last met. All standing committees and several important ad hoc committees have been appointed. All committee chairpersons and members have accepted their appointments and I am thrilled to inform you that they are already hard at work on your behalf. You can find a listing of committees, chairpersons and committee members on our website. Your Executive Committee has met telephonically at least once a month and electronically on a weekly or on a more frequently as need basis to discuss College activities and issues. Highlighting a few of our committees and activities this month is appropriate to communicate to you.

You all should know that the 2008 Annual Session in Houston is looking better each and every day. Darren Mareiniss has accepted the position of program chair from Judy Gic who had to step aside for personal reasons. She gave Darren a wealth of information so he was able to hit the pavement running. Darren is working closely with Gary Birnbaum, Chairman of the Education Committee, and is in process of a well designed and thought out educational program with wonderful speakers invited. For the first time in ACLM history and in over a decade, there will be a day and a half dental concurrent session regarding legal aspects of dentistry, which is also in the finalization stages. The overall theme of Houston will be "*Standards of Excellence in Legal Medicine*" so make sure you save the dates February 28-March 2, 2008. CME and CLE credits will be available for licensure as usual.

The Membership Committee under the leadership of Marty Stillman has been charged with recruiting new members and retaining existing members. From January 2007 to date, we have accepted twenty-eight new members. Of course there is a natural attrition due to retirement or other reasons and we are currently addressing those other reasons. The membership committee will also explore additional ways to expand our membership base. You can be aggressive and recommend to your colleagues who may have interest in our commonalities to visit our website and consider membership. An application can be submitted electronically from the site. Working with your Executive Committee, we will be looking for additional ways to provide increased member benefits to make your membership more valuable. If you have any specific requests or suggestions for benefits, please forward them to me at acclmpresident@aol.com. Marty is also busy reviewing ideas to increase activities of the Young Leadership Committee. Any thoughts you might have please pass them on to us.

While on the subject of benefits, make sure you contact our representatives at Treloar and Heisel for your insurance needs and the Zarin group for your legal research in *Jury Verdicts*. Purchases through both of our affiliates will benefit you and bring non-dues revenue to the College.

The Marketing and Public Relations Committee under the chair of Victoria Green has been investigating publications and areas to announce our activities and future meetings. She and her committee are open for suggestions. If you are aware of a special publication or organization for the committee to contact, please forward that information to Sueo@wjweiser.com.

The new Ad Hoc Committee on Policies, directed by Past President Richard Wilbur is busy reviewing all policies under which this organization functions. There are notable differences between policies followed as templates for meetings and the modus operandi of business and for policies requested for the organization to take a positional stand; they will be categorized properly. We do not want to reinvent the wheel every year.

Kent Harshbarger is busy with the CNN people to have ACLM exposure available for several of their high profile news shows. He is developing a list of individuals with credentials to appear on the controversial episodes that could involve our specialties. Of course, Cyril Wecht has been a pioneer and ambassador for us in that world of media.

Gene Basanta has redesigned the Moot Court brochure to be sent to all eligible institutions for increased participation and Kent Harsbarger, Alan Hoffman, Tom McLean and Bob Buckman are busy with their Student Awards Committee redesigning their brochures to encourage more submissions to our writing competitions.

In Orlando, there were numerous member requests for ACLM to become involved in the pain management arena. Listening to you, I have appointed Cyrene Grothaus-Day as Chairperson of the Pain Management Ad Hoc Committee. As she and her committee work through their charge, I will report to you the course they will recommend.

The Judicial Committee under Richard Wilbur and the Ethics Committee under William Hinnant, Jr. will work side by side to develop principles of ethics and judicial guidelines in the event they are ever needed. Having said that, I suspect once all guidelines are approved, these two committees will be silent; I have confidence that all of our members are ethical and there will not be a need to employ the processes outlined in our bylaws. Gary Birnbaum, Chairman of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee and newly appointed ACLM Parliamentarian has had his committee members reviewing the bylaws for grammatical, typographical, positioning and other errors so the document will remain clean and accurate. Also looking after our legal affairs will be a council of Counsels. John Sullivan continues as our Chief Counsel and our new Associate Counsels are Marvin Firestone, Vicky Trompler and William Hinnant Jr.

Marc Cakanic, our staff IT individual works closely with Dr. Bob to continually improve our web site design and include all information and

links as they become available. The latest additions you will see, when you visit the site, are links to all of our gold medal winners and past presidents.

Our editors Marshall Kapp (*Journal of Legal Medicine*), Judy Gic (*Legal Medicine Q&A*) and Chris White (*Legal Medicine Perspectives*) continue to provide our membership with premier and highly recognized publications. Our subscription base continues to grow.

Many other committees not mentioned here due to lack of space are busy at work. You will hear more about the committee activities and recommendations and our ambitious chairpersons as work in progress continues with them.

There are three arms of ACLM: the College, (the educational arm) the Foundation (the fund raising arm) and the ABLM (the certification arm). All are working in concert with each other to keep ACLM moving forward in the legal medicine educational arena and remain attractive for new members.

Bob Buckman has redesigned the ACLM Foundation, which partially supports the Moot Court financially and our ACLM educational mission. The Foundation now has increased visibility and activity. Please make sure that you send your pledges and contributions to our main office. Look for the link to the Foundation, which now appears on our web site.

Cyril Wecht and Sal Fiscina made the ABLM a reality, and now Sandy Sunbar has taken it to a higher level. There is a new ad hoc joint venture committee with ACLM and ABLM. The committee is busy designing a method for a Board Certification or recognition in Medical Malpractice for all Fellows of ACLM which will be supervised by ABLM. The MD/JD ABLM certification will not change. This additional arm of ABLM will become an open invitation for non MD/JD's who hold other scientific degrees for another member benefit, certification. The intent is to inform parties of interest that members of ACLM possess proficiency in the understanding of medical malpractice. Sandy and Dr. Bob will work closely with me to make it happen. Review courses will be scheduled at the midyear and annual meetings. Those courses will need study guides and the syllabus for the ABLM will be our standard text "*Legal Medicine*", now in its seventh edition and just out on the market for sale. Our new text "*Medical Malpractice Survival Handbook*", which was introduced in Orlando, will be the syllabus for the ABMM course and exam. I encourage you all to own a copy. See our web site for more information about the books and for the link to ABLM. More will be reported about the joint venture in the next "Notes".

This organization has a rich history of leaders. In the last President's Notes I mentioned several of the Past Presidents (Wilbur, Shelton, LeBlang, Cifarelli, Zaremski, Buckner, Flamm, Cohen, Reuter, Gibofsky, Firestone, Cullan, Sanbar and Wecht) who had encouraged my participation in ACLM and who had an open ear for change, but they were not alone; I would be remiss if I did not recognize many of the others who supported me and who were instrumental in making this College a legend. Jack Snyder has demonstrated the willingness to always be involved and give sound advice and John Anderson developed the first strategic planning session for ACLM in Chicago where our missions were redefined. What an eye opener that was and the precursor to our current strategic planning committee. Ed David, who has worked through various medical setbacks, never let the College or me down; he was always encouraging me to push on and, like me, wanted to take ACLM to another level. Ed made sure that ACLM did not stray from the newly developed strategic plan and put us on course to follow the redefined

missions. Fran Kittredge and Lee Goldsmith were our two ADA representatives for many years, and without their input, ACLM would not have been recognized as we are today. John Carlisle was our international import from Canada and the President when I first became a member. His influence has helped secure additional active members from north of the border; he continues to serve on the Judicial Committee. Carlisle, Chuck Hollen, Don Harper Mills, Dorothy Gregory and Sal Fiscina are usually in attendance at all annual sessions and visible for good advice, encouragement and history. Colleagues, we are fortunate to have their depth of wisdom and I am fortunate to have had them precede me and to help me navigate this year.

Last but not least, I apologize to those of you who also encouraged me to take this position and who have not been recognized; there are so many. The reason for exposing my recognition of so many individuals in the last *President's Notes*, and in this issue, is to encourage our younger members to become involved and to seek mentoring and/or encouragement from past leadership, don't be afraid or timid to step forward. We are a strong eclectic organization, diverse in specialties and interests. New members and retained members are our lifeline to success and I will do everything in my presidential position to keep you all happy and as excited as I am.

None of the above could have been accomplished without the dedication of our Associate Director Sue O'Sullivan, the management abilities of our Executive Director Wendy Weiser and the staff she has in place, or without the dedication of your Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Past President Fillmore Buckner has recently had a medical setback. He has informed me that he is recovering with minimal residual issues. We wish him a continued speedy recovery without complications.

I end these "Notes" with three reminders. One is for you visit our web site and link to logo items; please purchase hats, shirts or other items to showcase ACLM. The second is to mark your calendars to register and attend our midyear meeting in Chicago, October 13-14, 2007. The topic is "*Medical Imaging and the Law*" and it is being chaired by President-elect, Michael Raskin. The final reminder is to please make sure you pay your dues. Some of you have inadvertently overlooked your mail. You do not want to have your membership lapse during these exciting times due to an oversight. We do not want to lapse you, either. ACLM survival depends on member retention and retention is accomplished by our receipt of your dues.

I am available electronically for your recommendations, suggestions and comments at aclmpresident.com.

God bless you all, our families, our country, our professions and the American College of Legal Medicine.

Bruce H. Seidberg, DDS MScD, JD, FCLM
President, ACLM