



President

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008 ■ AMERICAN COLLEGE OF LEGAL MEDICINE

Dear Colleagues,

It's hard to believe there are only a few short weeks left to my presidency and until we will all meet for the 48th Annual meeting in Houston. When I reflect back to my acceptance speech, I had outlined several goals for the forthcoming year. In the eleven months since then, nearly sixty-two hundred emails and many phone calls later, I feel that much has been accomplished, but more is left to do.

Our immediate focus is on the forthcoming annual meeting February 29 – March 2. Darren Mareiniss has surpassed all of my expectations developing an exciting, diverse and informational meeting in Houston. For the first time we will have a dental concurrent conference along with the poster sessions directed by Karin Zucker and multiple vendors to speak with. Many well recognized speakers will participate from the podiums, lecturing about all phases of where medicine and dentistry intersect with law. I encourage each and every one of you to make your plans to attend. Bring your spouse or significant other because Houston has so much to offer as a city and there will be a well known comedian performing at the annual banquet. Ann Marie Bray, our meeting coordinator, has worked tirelessly with the hotel and she promises that the facilities will meet all expectations for an awesome meeting. We are lucky to have her making our arrangements. You can register online at www.aclm.org or by mail to our offices in Schaumburg, IL.

This meeting marks the time when Immediate Past President Richard Wilbur rotates off the EC and BOG after many years of dedicated service to the College. We have all enjoyed and benefited from his wisdom and leadership. It is also the time of the year when the gavel of the presidency is turned over to new leadership. Michael Raskin will become the 49th president of ACLM. His organizational and leadership skills were proven in the two meetings he organized, his chairmanship of several key committees and his long time commitment to the College. I am convinced that I will leave ACLM in very capable hands and he, too, will continue my desire to take this organization to a higher level. As we move on, this is my last President's Notes.

I have enjoyed each and every day, working for the benefit of all the ACLM members. Although there is so much to report, I will save the details for my State of the College Address in Houston. However, it is appropriate to acknowledge the individuals on my team who helped make the year successful. We have accomplished a lot this past year because we have very enthusiastic committee chair people, committee members and Board of Governors. You should be proud of your dedicated leadership who have all served with honor, integrity and

honesty. The following members of the BOG Eugene Basanta, Gary I. Birnbaum, Francois M. Blaudeau, Victoria L. Green, Kent E. Harshbarger, Thomas R. McLean, Thomas T. Noguchi, Matthias I. Okoye, Martin J. Stillman, Robert W. Buckman, Marshall B. Kapp and your Executive Committee Richard S. Wilbur, Michael M. Raskin, Melvin A. Shiffman and Dale H. Cowan have addressed each and every issue with sincerity and integrity, no matter how involved it was. There were times when they were faced with difficult decisions, but I am proud of the way they thoroughly discussed the issues and made their decisions. It has been an honor to work with such distinguished individuals. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Executive Director Wendy Weiser and Associate Director Sue O'Sullivan and their staffs, for maintaining the continuity from year to year and for helping to make this year so enjoyable. Janet Ward has made sure that the budget remains balanced; Debbie Roller has kept the membership rolls and cleared applications of new members through membership chairman Marty Stillman; Ruth Gottmann has continued to keep our publication schedule on time and Marc Cakanic has maintained our web site.

I submit to you that the College stands strong in its commitment to our mission.

I challenged Membership Chairman Marty Stillman to recruit a minimum of one hundred new members. Marty met my challenge and we have accepted just under one hundred qualified new members in the past year. Recruitment and retention are instrumental to an organization's viability and perpetuity. Every organization suffers an annual percentage of attrition and this year our membership rolls decreased less than any previous year. Our retention is excellent. As a result, this past year we have had a net gain in membership rather than a net loss.

ACLM Foundation President Robert Buckman has reported that Moot Court fees were satisfied and certificates were given to each participant. Invitations were extended to all student participants to become student members of ACLM. All judges received a personal thank you letter for their participation. I reported on the success of the Moot Court in my last notes, but the memory still ranks high. The Foundation has designated several funds that will now be available to our members when they wish to make donations either in honor of someone or in memory of. Appropriate letters of acknowledgment will be sent to the recipient upon receipt of funds. The Foundation is in the process of establishing an endowment fund for named events and lectures, continuing and expanding our current policy.

ABLM President Sandy Sanbar reported increased activity and interest in the ABLM and the newly recommended ABMM. Once the fellows endorse the ABMM concept in March, the membership will enjoy a new benefit that will enhance their medical/dental credentials. There will be a review course and board certification examination in Houston.

Kent Harshbarger, Chairman of the Student Writing Competition reported that we have had a record number of submissions this year. I had asked Bob Buckman to chair a sub-committee to review the information we send to the schools/students outlining and clarifying our competitions' goals and rules. It was redesigned and as a result, we have had sixty-one submissions. Co-section chairs Alan Hoffman and Tom McLean and their committee reviewers are busy reading all the papers and will determine the 2008 winners.

Other committee reports are in the process of being submitted to the BOG and summations will be reported to the membership in my State of the College message in Houston.

At the 22nd Annual Olender Foundation Awards, Public Citizen President, Joan Claybrook and Public Justice President, Sandra Robinson were presented the Foundation's *Champion of Justice* Award by founder and ACLM member, Jack Olender. Both organizations were honored for their advocacy for the rights of consumers and the injured. Honors also went to D.C. Court of Appeals Judge Inez Smith Reid for her wise and compassionate service on the

bench and in the community and to seriously wounded Iraqi War veteran Capt. (Ret.) Ryan Kules for inspiring and assisting other wounded soldiers through his work with the Wounded Warrior Project. Scholarships were given to twelve students from Howard University School of Law and the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law.

If you have not yet registered for the Houston meeting, do so soon to take advantage of the special registration fees and to be eligible for CLE and CME credits. Dentists will be able to submit the attendance sheets to their states for CE credits. Please join us as we will also honor two of our members with the ACLM Gold Medal for Distinguished Service to the College: Marvin Firestone, MD, JD, FCLM, and Philip Cifarelli, MD, JD, FCLM.

The annual meeting will be an awesome meeting and experience — don't miss it!

Thank you for allowing me to serve ACLM this past year.

God bless you all, our country and professions and the American College of Legal Medicine. Our prayers continue for the health of our colleagues and family members who may be ill.

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

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**2008 Mid-Year Meeting
Primary Care and the Law**

W Chicago City Center
172 W. Adams Street
Chicago, IL 60603
September 27 - 28, 2008

**2009 49th Annual Meeting
Government, Law & Medicine**

Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino
3667 Las Vegas Boulevard South
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109
February 27 - March 1, 2009