



President

Michael M. Raskin, MD, JD, MS, MPH, MA, FCLM

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008 * AMERICAN COLLEGE OF LEGAL MEDICINE

LAS VEGAS

The 49th Annual Meeting of the ACLM is just around the corner, so you better make your plans to attend soon. If you became a new member or Fellow in 2008 (or in 2009 prior to the annual meeting), please plan to attend the Annual Banquet on Saturday, February 28, 2009, as you will be officially recognized by the president and the ACLM membership in attendance. Come and enjoy the meeting in Las Vegas while catching up with old friends, as well as make new ones. The official program and registration information is on our website at www.aclm.org. Register today before our allocated block of rooms at the Planet Hollywood Resort is gone! I look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas.

READ A GOOD BOOK LATELY?

If you are a member and have authored a book, please send the title (in APA format) to Sue O'Sullivan at sueo@wjweiser.com to be listed as a link on our website under "Books Authored by Members." This section may also be expanded to include recent medical legal articles by members as well. Let me know your thoughts on this.

17TH WORLD CONGRESS ON MEDICAL LAW

The World Association for Medical Law (WAML), in conjunction with the China Law Society, held its 17th Biennial Congress in Beijing on October 18 - 21, 2008. More than 700 attendees came from over thirty countries. This was the first Congress held during the academic year as previous years' meetings have always been held in August. This was due to the 2008 Summer Olympics, which were in Beijing during August this year. This somewhat reduced the European presence.

Richard S. Wilbur, MD, JD, FCLM, reports that the ACLM was well represented. Thomas Noguchi, ACLM BOG member, is the WAML treasurer and a member of its four-person Executive Committee. He spoke on the history of WAML. Dale Cowan, ACLM treasurer, was named to head the powerful Audit Committee previously chaired by Dr. Terhi Hermanson of Finland, who had held the position for a decade. ACLM past president Dick Wilbur is to form and chair the Finance Committee and ACLM international member Jonathan Davies of Israel will chair the Steering Committee of the Council of Presidents. Wilbur will serve on this as well. All of them also chaired sessions and gave presentations during the four days of the meeting.

ACLM BOG member Tom McLean spoke, as did ACLM Fellow Jack Conomy, who also chaired a session. There were also lectures by ACLM Fellows: Ken Berger, David Donnersberger, William Hinnant, and Karin W. Zucker, so that the American presence was evident and appreciated, especially by our hosts.

WAML has always been an individual membership organization, but is now looking at ways in which to include the national organizations, such as ACLM, in its structure. At our 2009 Annual Meeting, the ACLM Board of Governors will be asked to discuss the feasibility of some such liaison.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Bruce H. Seidberg, DDS, MScD, JD, FCLM, met via teleconference to nominate the upcoming slate of officers and governors in accordance with the ACLM bylaws.

The following names are hereby presented to the College members in these President's Notes and will be voted on at the Fellows meeting during the 2009 ACLM Annual Meeting in Las Vegas:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:	Mel Shiffman, MD, JD, FCLM (Automatic)
President-Elect:	Dale Cowan, MD, JD, FCLM
Treasurer:	Gary Birnbaum, MD, JD, FCLM
Secretary:	Kent Harshbarger, MD, JD, FCLM
Immediate Past President:	Michael Raskin, MD, JD, FCLM (Automatic)

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

BOG (2 years):	Darren Mareiness, MD, JD, FCLM (to complete Dr. Harshbarger's term)
BOG (3 years):	Jim Hubler, MD, JD, FCLM (to replace Dr. Okoye who rotates off)
BOG (3 years):	Vicky Trompler, MD, JD, FCLM (completed Dr. Birnbaum's term and now eligible for her first 3 year term)
BOG (3 years):	Eugene Basanta, JD (eligible for his first 3 year term, completed vacancy)
New Positions:	(to be worked into a 3-year rotation; all will be eligible for re-nomination for regular rotation after their designated term)
BOG (1 year):	Chris White, MD, JD, FCLM
BOG (2 years):	Fred Levy, MD, JD, FCLM
BOG (3 years):	Leon Aussprung, MD, JD, FCLM
BOG (3 years):	Tom Smith, DDS, JD, FCLM (scientific member)

CONGRATULATIONS!

ACLM past president, Miles J. Zaremski, JD, FCLM, was recently written up as a distinguished alumni and prominent Chicago health care attorney by *In Brief*, a publication of Case School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio. It noted his efforts in having the American Bar Association prepare and file its first-ever state court *amicus* brief in the case of *LeBron v. Gottlieb Memorial Hospital*, currently pending before the Illinois Supreme Court. It concerns the constitutionality of the state's statute on capping non-economic damages in medical malpractice lawsuits. He was also selected again as a Leading, and "Super" Lawyer in health care in Illinois.

17TH ANNUAL NATIONAL HEALTH LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Third-year Chicago-Kent students Sarah Buck and Casandra Rdzak are the winners of the 17th Annual National Health Law Moot Court Competition that was held November 7 – 8, 2008 at Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Law in Carbondale.

As the only competition in the nation devoted to health law, it was co-sponsored by SIU's Center for Health Law and Policy, the SIU School of Medicine's Department of Medical Humanities, the American College of Legal Medicine, and the American College of Legal Medicine Foundation. Thirty-four teams from 25 law schools competed over two days.

The students argued a hypothetical case before the U.S. Supreme Court. At issue was the constitutionality of a state statute that created a process for a small rural hospital to withdraw life-sustaining treatment from a 72-year-old patient against the wishes of the patient and his family.

The final round of the National Health Law Moot Court Competition was judged by a prestigious panel that included Michael P. McCuskey as chief judge, from the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois; Ronald A. Guzman as district judge, from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; Thaddeus M. Pope, associate professor and member of the Health Law Institute at Widener University School of Law; and Michael Raskin, MD, MPH, JD, FCLM, president of the American College of Legal Medicine, who served as chief justice.

Mark Your Calendar!

LEGAL-MEDICAL CRUISE

American Board of Legal Medicine
January 17 – 24, 2009
Liberty of the Seas

2009 ACLM ANNUAL MEETING

Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino
February 27 – March 1, 2009
Las Vegas, Nevada

Call for Submission of Abstracts for Poster Session Presentations!

49th Annual Conference on Legal Medicine
February 27 – March 1, 2009
Las Vegas, Nevada

Deadline for Abstract submission:
January 9, 2009

Visit www.aclm.org for instructions
about abstract submission.

Tribute to Susan Flamm

It is with a sad heart that I inform you of the recent passing of Susan Flamm, loving wife of ACLM past president, Martin Flamm. Many of you will remember Susan from our Annual Meetings. Susan had a long struggle with cancer and passed away on Monday, November 24, 2008. Susan was a radiological technologist, and managed her husband's office practice in Metairie, Louisiana prior to their retirement. Following Hurricane Katrina, she and her husband relocated from New Orleans to Sun City, Arizona. A proficient home remodeler and gardener, Susan created their perfect retirement home prior to her succumbing to pancreatic cancer, which she fought bravely for almost two years.

As many of you know, we have established an education fund through the ACLM Foundation that is set up to receive donations in memory of our loved ones, it is a nice way to allow the memory of those who have passed to live on through ACLM educational programs. The fund was established when Dr. Cifarelli passed away. Donations to the Foundation can be made through the website at http://aclm.org/resources/donation_form.asp