



President

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Raskin's Last Issue

Well, here we are with my last President's Notes for my term as your president. The year has gone by quickly, like most years, as you get older. Being president of a diverse organization such as the ACLM is challenging indeed. Nothing in life is ever smooth sailing all the time and, as the "Chairman of the Board" would say, "regrets – I've had a few." However, my task was made easier by having a hands-on Board of Governors, dedicated Committee Chairs, and fantastic administrative support. Thank you all – you make me look better than I could ever be on my own.

Going Green

As you know, the Board of Governors voted unanimously to publish *Legal Medicine Q & A* on-line ONLY starting this January. In my last *Notes*, I asked for feedback from the members regarding this new format. No negative responses have been received. More importantly, the positive responses were enthusiastically in favor of doing this. I wanted to share one of the responses received from William Grant: "This works great! Thanks for doing this, much better than more paper on my desk!" At the last Board meeting in September, we decided to take small steps in "going green," rather than doing everything all at once. As I'm sure you're aware, the world is heading that way and, as a leader in the field of legal medicine, it is only fitting and proper that we do so. I am soliciting your suggestions as to how we can continue to stay "green" and still maintain the same high level of member services. One way you can help is to remember to return your name badges at the annual meeting for recycling. Not only does that save the College money, but it helps save the environment. Also, paying your dues online and on time avoids additional wasted letters and mailings. Using the ACLM website to answer "questions that bother you so" saves staff time and reduces costs to the College. I am sure that many of you can think of additional ways. In fact, I am announcing a contest for the best suggestions for the College going green. There will be prizes awarded at the Banquet in Las Vegas for the three top suggestions. Send your suggestions to me or to Sue O'Sullivan (sueo@wjweiser.com) in the next several weeks.



ACLM / ABLM / ABMM Cruise

Many ACLM past presidents, president-elect and myself were all speakers at a Malpractice Seminar and ABLM/ABMM Board Review Course on the recent Caribbean cruise aboard the fabulous *Liberty of the Seas* in early January. There were a total of 20 attendees at various times as competition with various shipboard activities was fierce. Several one-hour think tanks were held with the three members of the Executive Committee and numerous past presidents, thinking of ways to improve the ACLM and strengthen membership benefits. A robust discussion of the future and role of the ABLM and ABMM was also held.

Annual Meeting in Las Vegas

Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* starts with, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. . ." I know this is not the best of economic times for most of you, but this is the best time to attend the ACLM Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. Vicky Trompler, program chair, has created a stellar cast of speakers for cutting-edge provocative topics. Even in the worst of times you need to stay current in legal medicine, support your College, and have some FUN. I have personally chosen the banquet entertainment which is a recreation of the Rat Pack with jokes and songs that will certainly make you smile. It promises to be the best "free" show you'll see in Vegas! Nothing is ever as bad as it seems and, even when it is bad, you need to be with friends, see great entertainment, and eat good food!

2009 ACLM Annual Conference Program Highlights

Government, Law & Medicine

February 27 – March 1, 2009

Las Vegas, Nevada

ABLM & ABMM REVIEW COURSE: MEDICAL MALPRACTICE MOCK TRIAL

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2009

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Fee: \$195.00

The program includes commentaries and trial tips by various speakers throughout the mock trial. The mock trial is a practical method of medical liability education. It includes motions, opening statements, direct and cross examination of plaintiff and defense witnesses, final arguments, jury instructions, verdict, judgment and post-trial motions. The goals of the mock trial are to emphasize the importance of appropriate documentation and examine how medical records are often used in medical negligence litigation; to emphasize how physician–patient rapport and professionalism can reduce the likelihood of litigation; to provide attendees with a better overall understanding of litigation; to assist attendees in understanding what responsibilities they may have as witnesses in litigation; and to better understand the contributions of expert witnesses in a medical negligence trial. Earn a maximum of 5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™] and 5 CLE credits.

ABLM & ABMM EXAM

Date: Sunday, March 1, 2009

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.

For additional information and online registration for both the Review Course and the Exam visit the ABLM website at www.ablminc.org or contact Dr. Sandy Sanbar via email at: sssanbar@pol.net.

9TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LUNCH

Date: Friday, February 27, 2009

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

This popular forum will provide you with information about various careers available in the field of legal medicine. Audience participation will be encouraged, and many have found this to be a valuable session. *Please check the appropriate area on the registration form if you are interested in attending.*

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME RECEPTION

Date: Friday, February 27, 2009

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Meet and mingle with friends and colleagues at the annual Welcome Reception. Admission to the reception is included in your registration fee.

Attire: Business casual attire is appropriate.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2009

Time: 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Join us for the second annual Women's Leadership Breakfast. Share your career transition experiences and become more involved in the ACLM committees and educational programs. *Pre-registration is required to attend the breakfast.*

ANNUAL RECEPTION & BANQUET

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2009

Time: 6:30 p.m. Reception

7:30 p.m. Dinner

Enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow colleagues as you are treated to world-class cuisine and crooned to by the melodic songs of Frank Sinatra and other Rat Pack impersonators.

Attire: Business

Donate to the ACLM Foundation!

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. Such contributions are tax deductible and will go to finance such projects as the National Health Law Moot Court Competition, annual meeting speakers, Legal Medicine and Bioethics writing contests, and *Textbook* awards to outstanding medical and law school students. The donation form can be found on the ACLM website.