Notes from the President:
Kent E. Harshbarger, MD, JD, MBA, FCLM

Dear ACLM Colleague,

With this "Notes from the President" I will try and update the membership on the activities of the College and I encourage your feedback and comments as we strive to achieve the goals of our membership. Please contact me or the College regarding any ideas, thoughts or concerns you may have regarding ACLM activities.

My role within the College leadership began by developing a robust relationship with law and medical students to foster their involvement at College meetings and thereby facilitate a long-term relationship with the ACLM. My interest in reaching out to the student population remains and has also turned to increasing awareness of our College on a bigger scale. The unique talents our organization’s membership possesses need to be amplified and, therefore, I am seeking feedback and interested individuals to serve on a "Medical School Curricula Committee". The charge will be to investigate and develop "legal medicine" medical school curricula that can be marketed as a turnkey inclusive program or offered in a modular fashion covering subject areas.

The College is also actively evaluating how to improve our public presentation through better use of electronic media, all as part of our strategic plan. We are investigating the development of a more robust website platform to better allow social media links such as membership profiles and the presentation/distribution of sponsored CME activities. As an example, at our last annual meeting many of the speakers agreed to have their talk recorded and our hope in the future is to offer select discussions on the website. These CME materials may also contain membership developed content for which the ACLM becomes the sponsor and distributor allowing for joint College/membership success. Many other possibilities of how the website can better serve the membership are also actively being pursued and investigated as part of the new platform.

This year, our management company, WJ Weiser & Associates, Inc., began helping the College to leverage our ability to co-sponsor CME activities. This is a labor-intensive process that must be carefully followed and meticulously monitored to stay within the guidelines of the ACCME. However, these activities have moved CME accreditation from a traditional large budget expense item to a useful tool generating non-dues income. To date, the College has approved approximately twelve programs and by doing so has successfully generated meaningful revenue helping to keep the College financially stable.

The 2013 annual meeting entitled, "Law, Medicine and Your Professional Practice" has been planned and organized by Dr. Thomas McLean. Due to his hard work, the meeting is already well into the final stages of the CME approval process. While still tentative as the approval process continues, there are many outstanding speakers and topics highlighted by the planned session titles. The titles are: Is the Health Care Market Friendly to Providers, Applied Technology, Ethics, Application of the Art to Life, Medical Malpractice: Dispatches From the Front, Globalization & Healthcare, Bioethics, Societal Impact on Healthcare and Regulator...
Issues.

On behalf of the ACLM, I would like to congratulate Eli N. Avila, MD, JD, MPH, FCLM, a Fellow of ACLM, for being elected as the Secretary of Health of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Dr. Avila sits on the Ad Hoc Committee for Legislative and Executive Affairs and is board certified in legal medicine by the American Board of Legal Medicine. He began his post earlier this year. Please let us know of any other "ACLM Members/Fellows on the move".

Finally, the new board and committee appointments have been completed. We have a newly composed Board of Governors (BOG) and have designated our committee chairs and members for 2012 and early 2013. You can go to www.aclm.org and click on the "About Us" icon to view the committee chairs and members. I ask that all committee chairs email their committee members and council chairs and set forth the objectives of their committee for this year. The purposes and scope of the committees may be found under the same icon on the website in the bylaws.

If you are interested in becoming actively involved in any of the ACLM committees we encourage you to contact Sue O'Sullivan at suo@wjweiser.com or myself at aclmpresident@gmail.com with the committee appointments you would be interested in.

Sincerely,

Kent E. Harshbarger, MD, JD, MBA, FCLM
President
American College of Legal Medicine